

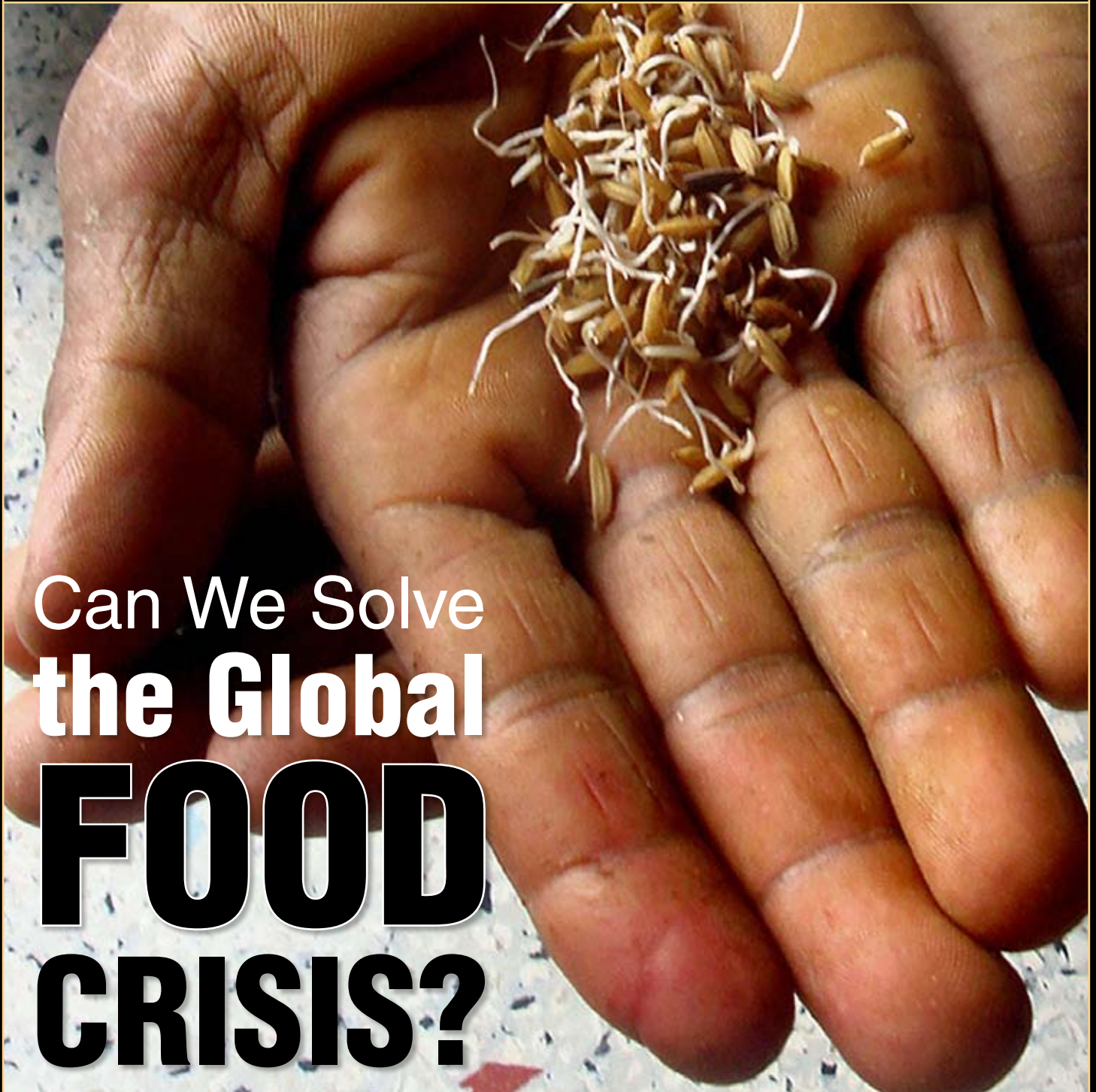
JUNE-JULY 2008

THE

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



Can We Solve
the Global
FOOD
CRISIS?

THE REAL TRUTH

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VOL. VI | NO. 6 | JUNE-JULY 2008

A R T I C L E S

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Sign of the Times?

What did Jesus Christ say about natural disasters—such as Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and China’s May 12 earthquake—and other prophetic trends and conditions at “the end of the age”?
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■ **A MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Relief workers briefly halt their recovery efforts in quake-devastated Beichuan, China, to mark the week since the May 12 earthquake hit the region.

PHOTO: MCT

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ABOUT OUR COVER: In Myanmar, a farmer displays damaged rice seeds that won’t be usable for the new planting season. Myanmar is at risk of famine in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Published 10 times per year, with online news updates throughout the week.

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Their ancient origins are unknown to most—yet are key to understanding what lies in their future!

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The preparation and production of this magazine involved the work of editors, proofreaders, graphic artists, illustrators, writers, researchers and those who support the Work of God.

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Scriptures are quoted from the King James (or Authorized) Version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.

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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Pack



Understanding the Book of Revelation

UNREST GROWS DAILY around the world. Terrorism mounts. Bad news increases, while good news is increasingly *scarce*. Conditions worsen daily!

Man has tapped the power of the atom. Science and technology have seemingly run amok, producing more horrific new inventions. Now, more and more countries possess weapons of mass destruction. This danger is compounded because mistrust and strife between nations has never been greater.

Also, human decadence and immorality, famine, disease, racism and competition among ethnic rivals, and crime and violence are exploding. Where are these downward trends leading? Will human life survive?

What does the future hold? All want to know. Many have opinions, but few recognize where to find the ANSWERS. Others *think* they understand the prophecies of the Bible—and this is probably most true of the book of Revelation.

Yet all popular human interpretations of this book, at best, border on ridiculous. They are a complete jumble of ideas where a little truth is mixed with much error! They are almost painful to read—yet major magazines report that great numbers do believe these dangerous, counterfeit scenarios.

What is the *truth* about prophecy? What does the Bible really say about events preceding Christ's Return? His disciples wanted to know. They asked Him, "What shall be the SIGN of your *coming*, and of the *end of the world* [age]?"

Sobering world conditions make this question loom

larger than ever before. Nothing that has occurred over the past 6,000 years even remotely compares to what is yet to come upon this world!

The Bible foretells a time of world peace, happiness, abundance and universal prosperity. Many may think there is no hope for this world—but there is! Wonderful good news lies beyond today's bad news. The great Creator God will soon intervene and save humanity from itself.

But before this occurs, world trouble will greatly increase—intensifying to staggering proportions. This will be followed by unexpected and cataclysmic events that will *shake* the whole world! Civilization as we know it will forever change.

But God has not left mankind without a SOURCE of answers that reveals in detail what lies ahead. Tragically, believing things will eventually "turn out alright," many hide their eyes, choosing to pursue pleasure and the accumulation of material goods. But for the short term, things will *not* turn out alright. World conditions are—and will become—far more serious than most realize.

God understands human nature and where it always leads when left to its own devices. This allows Him to know, and to *guide*, the awesome future events that will occur from now on!

It has become God's time to REVEAL what lies ahead. The stage is set and He has lifted the curtain on the future. This world must be WARNED while there is still time! And so must *you* be warned. Revelation describes soon-coming terrible plagues and world-shattering—truly earth-shaking—events! Take heed. If you

do, you can *escape* them (Luke 21:36).

Mystery Book

Signs, seals, symbols, vials, visions, trumpets, thrones, plagues, angels, beasts, heads, horns, witnesses, woes, wars, numbers, multitudes, messages and *mystery*! Revelation contains all of these terms. But what do they *mean*?

Most believe that the book of Revelation is sealed, *closed* from understanding. It is called a MYSTERY BOOK *without meaning*. Yet it is an entire book of important—vital—MEANING. It is filled with answers. The above terms *can* be unlocked! They *can* be understood—and my eye-opening booklet *Revelation Explained at Last!* contains the necessary KEYS!

You will be intrigued—even fascinated—by the clarity of what *can* be known from the book of Revelation. Events are building to a final culmination—a tremendous CLIMAX! You can know them.

One-third of the Bible is PROPHECY—the future written in advance! The Bible is approximately 750,000 words, with about 250,000 devoted to many, many prophecies. Almost half the books of the Old Testament are included in either the so-called “major” (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) or “minor” *prophets* (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Micah, etc.).

The apostle Paul explained that the New Testament Church was “... built on the foundation of the apostles and *prophets*” (Eph. 2:20). Recognize that, since the Church *stands* on the words of the prophets, Christians must understand prophecy. If God commands men to “live by *EVERY WORD* of God” (Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4; Deut. 8:3), He would not *exclude* the full third that is prophecy!

The prophet Daniel spoke of a time when “...many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (12:4). Then, speaking of

the end time, he said, “...*the wise shall understand*” (vs. 10).

Christ directly paraphrased Daniel in the New Testament Olivet prophecy. This is where He answered the disciples’ question about the sequence of events to occur at “the end of the age.” He reinforced Daniel’s statements about those events by saying, “Whoso reads, let him UNDERSTAND” (Matt. 24:15).

God has opened up—REVEALED!—to His servants what lies ahead. He wants *you* to understand. He does not want you confused, ignorant or fearful of the future.

Then *what* are the wise to understand? Important KEYS exist, which OPEN UP Bible prophecies. But the world knows nothing of them! No wonder so many claim that the meaning of Revelation cannot be explained. How *could* they understand without the KEYS?

Imagine. Forty-two percent of Americans actually believe that they can consult *the dead* about matters involving the future. But mankind refuses to seek and consult *GOD*. Only *He* can reveal the future. Mankind cannot, through intelligence, human reasoning or scientific discovery, know or discern events to come. And many “religious” people believe that the book of Revelation offers no help anyway, because it cannot be understood.

But God *is* working out a supreme Master Plan, involving every human being. However, Daniel 12:10 adds, “...but *none* of the *wicked* shall understand,” because God will not reveal His plans to those who do not obey Him!

Psalms 111:10 says, “A good *understanding* have all they that *DO His commandments*.” God only gives understanding to those who *do* what He says!

Revelation Means a Revealing

After Daniel finished recording the prophecy, he asked God to explain what it meant. Though Daniel was

used to *record* the book, even he did not *understand* it (12:8): “I heard, but I understood not.” God answered, “Go your way...the words are *CLOSED UP* and *SEALED* till the time of the *END*” (vs. 9 – the Moffatt translation is even stronger by rendering this “till the crisis at the close”).

While Daniel was not allowed to understand it, those who live in the time of the end *can*! And we have seen that the wise DO!

This awesome revelation of future events was sealed with seven separate seals. It is crucial to understand another KEY point: *The seven seals in God’s hand essentially span all but the last two chapters of the book!* The seven seals are opened one by one, in sequence. Each reveals future events before they happen. Only Christ is qualified to remove the seven seals and *open* the book to understanding.

The Greek word *apocalypse* is translated “revelation.” This English word actually means to *reveal*—not *conceal, hide, veil or close up*. The dictionary definition of *revelation* is: “The act of revealing or disclosing; something revealed, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realized.”

In the first verse of the book, the apostle John recorded Christ’s words, “The Revelation of *Jesus Christ...to show* unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.” Near the end of the book, Revelation 22:10 states, “*Seal NOT* the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the *time is at hand*.”

Comprehend John’s words. The time for understanding the book of Revelation IS now at hand!

God reveals a basic *framework* for understanding future events. This framework is primarily laid out in Daniel and Revelation. Daniel, recorded over 600 years earlier, sets the stage for the larger and more

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FRANCE, BELGIUM and the NETHERLANDS

Identities Foretold Millennia Ago

Their ancient origins are unknown to most—yet are key to understanding what lies in their future!

BY KEVIN D. DENEÉ

THE REAL TRUTH often writes of the sons of the biblical patriarch Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh—and the nations that descended from them. The Bible also says a great deal about the modern “house of Joseph,” foretelling—thousands of years in advance!—today’s conditions, trends and problems plaguing the British and American peoples. Scripture also explains what they will soon experience: a time of great trouble, immediately followed by an awesome future.

The book *America and Britain in Prophecy*, written by David C. Pack, reveals with great detail from the Bible and history the modern identity of these two peoples: the United States of America (“shall be great”) and Britain, with its commonwealth (“a multitude of nations”). The facts reveal that these two nations received the birthright promises and unprecedented material blessings. Recent history, however, also shows that these blessings are slowly being removed.

Thousands of years ago, God gave His servant and friend, Abraham (at

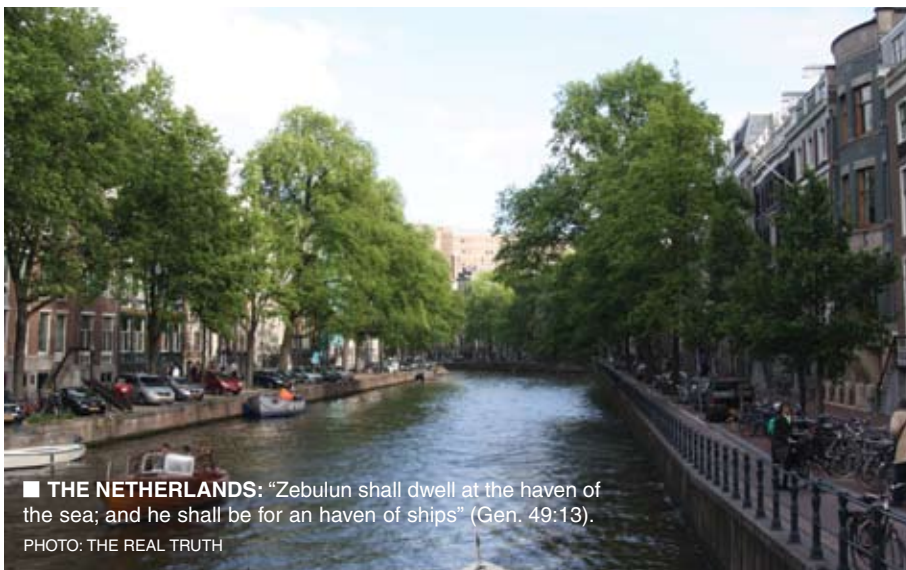
the time called Abram), the following promise: “I will make of you a GREAT NATION, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curse you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed...And I will make your seed [descendants] as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall your seed also be numbered.”

Later, this great promise was reiterated: “I will multiply you exceedingly,” and “you shall be a father of MANY NATIONS.” It was also stated another way: “And I will make you exceeding fruitful, and I will *make nations of you*, and KINGS shall come out of you.”

God’s promise was part of a covenant—an agreement or contract—between two parties. The dividends for Abraham were obvious: His descendants would receive much. To remove all doubt that this promise of national prosperity was intended for thousands of years to come, the exchange also included, “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed [descendants] after you in their generations for an *everlasting* covenant...”

The Being who promised Abraham these things was the Creator of all things—God! The full accounts of these exchanges can be found in Genesis 12, 13 and 17.

Imagine if you were promised the same things. Could you comprehend them? What greater promise, given early in man’s history, would have a



■ THE NETHERLANDS: “Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships” (Gen. 49:13).

PHOTO: THE REAL TRUTH

greater impact on our world today—if it were fulfilled?

Did the God of the Bible promise something that did not come to pass? Did the tribes of Israel, which descended from Abraham, just fall into obscurity and are now lost to antiquity, as most believe? Would the God that more than a billion people profess to follow be incapable of keeping His word?

Most professing Christians are ignorant of the identity of the peoples descended from Abraham, who received the promises quoted above.

Are you?

The Birthright Nations

Here is a brief overview of how God's expansive promise of national, material blessings was passed down through generations. Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob. God later changed Jacob's name to Israel, and Israel had 12 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. Their descendants became the 12 tribes of Israel.

Of these 12 sons, one would receive the birthright, and the blessings along with it. As was custom, this would have been given to the eldest son, Reuben. But since he sinned against his father in an appalling and shameful manner, the birthright was given to Joseph (I Chron. 5:1).

At the end of his life, Israel had Joseph bring his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, before him. Israel explained to Joseph that he was given a promise by God and that he was now going to pass along the birthright promise and blessings to Joseph's sons.

Referring to the elder son, Israel explained that Manasseh "shall become a people, and he also shall be GREAT: but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a MULTITUDE OF NATIONS" (Gen. 48:19).

But what about the other tribes—what happened to them? Are they simply lost to history? Some professing Christians, and the world at large,

refer to the "ten lost tribes of Israel." But why *ten*?

After the death of King Solomon, Israel split into two kingdoms: the house of Judah (which included Judah, Benjamin and Levi) and the house of Israel.

Judah was never considered lost, and is understood to be the Jewish peoples of today. The Jews never lost sight of their biblical identity—because they generally continued to observe the seventh-day Sabbath, a sign that identifies God's people. Notice: "Verily My Sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a SIGN between Me and you *throughout your generations*; that you may *know* that I am the LORD that does SANCTIFY [set apart] you" (Ex. 31:13). Observing God's weekly Sabbath and annual Holy days *automatically* sets apart ["sanctify"] God's people from all others, and identifies the true God of the Bible and those who faithfully obey Him—"a SIGN between Me and you."

Again, Judah (for the most part) never lost sight of this. Yet the first thing the house of Israel did when it split from Judah was set up its own holy days, laws and other religious observances. In effect, Israel rejected the identifying sign that would have, over the centuries, reminded them of their ancient origin. Today, those descended from Israel—the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh (Joseph), Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali and Issachar—believe they are gentiles! The overwhelming majority have no idea that the vast material blessings their nations have enjoyed are the result of God fulfilling His promise to Abraham.

Let's now examine the identity and condition of three of these tribes, represented by the following countries: Reuben (France), Zebulun (the Netherlands) and Asher (a significant part of Belgium).

"Dignity" and "Power"— But "Unstable"

As well as passing down blessings to Ephraim and Manasseh, Israel also passed along some things to his sons and their modern descendants: "And



Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you *in the last days*"—our time now (Gen. 49:1).

Most Christians (who, like the house of Israel, do not observe God's Sabbaths, but keep Sunday and worldly holidays instead) believe these are the "last days"—but have never stopped to consider that *all* the tribes of Israel actually exist today or that the nations descended from them could be identified by the prophetic events that will "befall" them!

Having recently traveled to Europe, I had the opportunity to spend time in four great cities of the world: London, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. Each city was different and distinct.

In Genesis 49:3, Israel outlined



■ **PALACE OF VERSAILLES:** “Reuben, you are...the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power” (Gen. 49:3).

PHOTO: THE REAL TRUTH

certain prophetic details of France: “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power.”

This “excellency of dignity and power” is clearly evident in Paris. Each building, each palace and street, revealed an excellency of dignity and power found nowhere else.

Take the Palace of Versailles, for example. Considered one of the grandest palaces in the world, it truly shows the power and dignity that Reuben would be known for “in the last days.” Walking through the hall of mirrors, with its beautifully detailed painted ceilings, marble-lined walls, and gold-leafed ornate trim, causes visitors to stop and think of the power and global influence this nation once possessed.

Each room of Louis the XIV’s living and working area was just as impressive as the next. Then there were the expansive gardens, with statue after statue, fountain after fountain, including a manmade lake for boating parties, tree-lined walkways, beautiful terracing, and much more.

But Versailles is just one example. Throughout Paris, one cannot doubt that France, once called the “queen of culture,” represents a national dignity and class that remains unsurpassed. Whether it is the Opera house, the Notre Dame cathedral, the Arc de Triomphe or the Louvre, these all tell the same story.

However, Israel also explained that Reuben would be “unstable as water,” and therefore, “you shall not excel” (vs. 4). In his book, *America*

and Britain in Prophecy, Mr. Pack writes, “The *Encyclopedia Americana* notes that, ‘during the 70 years of the third republic [1875-1945]...more than a hundred cabinets succeeded one another, in France, with an average tenure in office of less than eight months. The main cause of this ministerial instability was the lack of disciplined parties...’ This ‘unstable’ and fickle French political system has also produced eleven constitutions since 1791!”

“Haven of the Sea”

Another nation, the Netherlands, has also fulfilled descriptions foretold thousands of years ago. Israel stated, “Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships” (Gen. 49:13).

The Dutch people are famous for reclaiming land from the sea. In fact, 27% of the Netherlands is under sea level! For centuries, the Dutch have been building dikes and draining the terrain dry to create fertile farmland, called polders. (In fact, many of the picturesque windmills found in certain areas of Holland, were built to pump water out of low areas.) A large bay in Holland, called the South Sea, was reclaimed last century, and within it a relatively large province, Flevoland, was created. Driving through this area—which was entirely underwater just a hundred years ago—seeing developed forests, cities and roads, caused one to consider that these peoples truly had settled in a “haven of the sea.”

Deuteronomy 33:19 explains that Zebulun shall “suck of the abundance of the seas and of treasures hid in the sand.”

The Netherlands has done this in several ways, such as through international commerce through the nation’s shipping fleet, and through reclaiming land from the sea. The rich, green fertile ground, which seemingly goes forever—a clear example of the “abundance of the seas and of treasures hid in the sand” that only the Dutch have been able to reclaim on such a large scale.

The Netherlands has also been a “haven of ships.” In fact, for decades Rotterdam was the busiest port in the entire world. Due to the giant rivers that flow through it, the nation serves as an important artery into the heart of Western Europe. (The latest statistics reveal that Rotterdam still ranks third in total volume, behind Shanghai and Singapore, with 370 million tons handled.)

“Royal Dainties”

While traveling from France to the Netherlands, my wife and I briefly stopped in Brussels, Belgium. Again, a group of peoples within this nation can be identified as descended from Asher, of which Israel stated, “Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties” (Gen. 49:20).

Belgium is world-renowned for its chocolate (as well as its waffles). Along the streets of Brussels scores of shops offer these high quality chocolate “royal dainties”—visited by countless patrons from nearly all parts of the earth.



■ **BELGIAN CHOCOLATES:** “Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties” (Gen. 46:20).

PHOTO: THE REAL TRUTH

While this description of Asher is brief, it should be no coincidence to those who believe the Bible that even such a small description specifically matches this modern nation—millennia after the description was originally given. Consider: What other nation is so internationally celebrated for such “royal dainties”?

Much More to Know

This article contains just the briefest descriptions of contemporary Reuben, Zebulun and Asher. Much more could be said.

As we traveled through France, Belgium and the Netherlands, it became apparent that each nation had received tremendous material blessings. Their wealth, prosperity and advanced infrastructure were seen everywhere we turned.

But something else—something far less glamorous—was also evident. As our trip drew to a close in Amsterdam, a city infamous for its drugs and prostitution, it was painfully obvious that the peoples of these prosperous First World nations are not obeying God. While only one city, it was still representative of all nations of the West, many of them Israelite.

In *America and Britain in Prophecy*, Mr. Pack writes, “But understand this. God does not and has never *owed* blessings to anyone. He may *choose* to bless individuals or nations, for His own purposes, but no one automatically *deserves* prosperity, wealth, abundance and a generous portion of God’s bounty.

“The Bible says that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), which means all have qualified themselves for *death* (Rom. 6:23)—and nothing more!”

All the beauty, splendor and prosperity on display throughout the modern nations of Israel cannot continue without end. Having forgotten their ancient identity—as well as the laws, statutes and judgments that would have ensured lasting success (Deut. 4:5-9)—the future of modern-day Reuben, Zebulun and Asher grows ever dim.

These nations have prospered *materially*—yet they now are besieged by *spiritual* problems, the result of straying away from being the model nation God expected His people to become. Difficult times are in the future.

The Bible reveals what lies ahead for France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and their sister nations. You can learn more by reading *America and Britain in Prophecy*. □

SIGN of the TIMES?



What did Jesus Christ say about natural disasters—such as Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and China’s May 12 earthquake—and other prophetic trends and conditions at “the end of the age”?

BY H. CHRIS LOMAS

AS NATURAL DISASTERS increase and world events spiral out of control, man still believes he can solve all the world’s problems. Humanity refuses to accept that its attempts to rectify the world’s ailments through committees, councils and resolutions are failing and that the end result will be disastrous.

In May 2008, for example, two major disasters struck Asia, resulting in many outside nations rushing to alleviate the plight of millions.

The first occurred in Myanmar, where Cyclone Nargis caused severe loss of life and damage to infrastructure. It

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Myanmar Rice Production

Cyclone damage to rice crops in Myanmar's Irrawaddy delta may impair its ability to export around 600,000 tons of milled rice in 2008.

Rice importance

- Major agricultural product
- Covers 60 percent of total cultivated land area
- Accounts for 97 percent of total food grain production by weight
- Rice production employs 40 percent of the total labor force

Irrawaddy delta
Rice-growing region worst hit by cyclone

Annual production

(Milled rice, million tons)

1950	5.2
1987	14.0
1996	19.0
2007	18.9

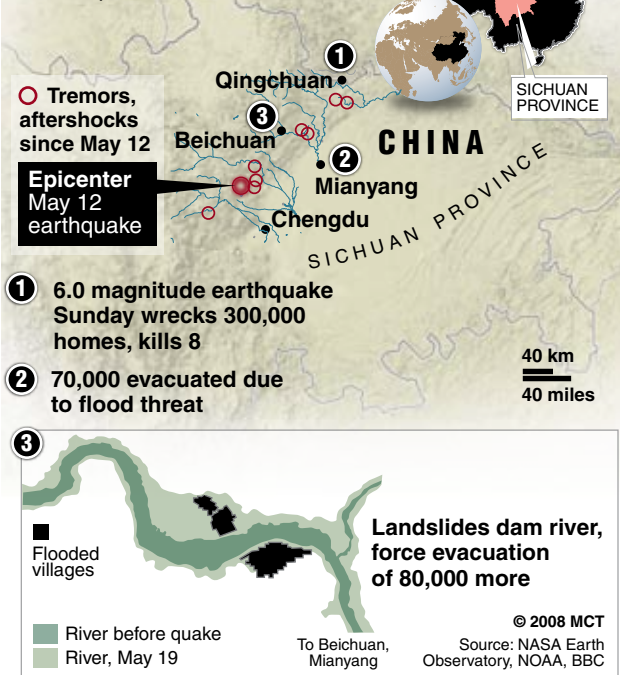
Production areas

Rainfed lowlands	52.8%
In irrigated water	18.0%
Upland areas	14.9%
In deep water	14.3%

© 2008 MCT
Source: International Rice Research Institute, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, Reuters, ESRI Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Morten Lyhne

China Floods, Aftershocks

Rain, tremors and landslides continue to displace and threaten thousands more people in the aftermath of China's quake.



made landfall on May 3, with winds exceeding 130 mph, followed by a 12-foot tidal wave that destroyed the coastal region. The aftermath: more than 130,000 dead and millions more displaced.

Destroying entire rice crops, Nargis was the worst cyclone to hit the region since 1991, when 140,000 people died.

In a country with 90% of its population surviving on less than a dollar a day, at least two million are in need of food and shelter due to Nargis. According to Unisys Weather, when the cyclone made landfall it brought two feet of rain to a region prone to flooding.

In the aftermath, desperate survivors blocked roads to request assistance from motorists. Canals once used for fishing were flooded with debris and the decomposing bodies of both people and animals.

The second disaster occurred on May 12, when an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale struck China's Wenchuan County, devastat-

ing the Sichuan province. The quake occurred at 2 p.m., when schools, offices and other facilities were filled with people. Buildings collapsed instantly, killing thousands and trapping alive others under the debris. So far, almost 63,000 have died, nearly 24,000 are missing, and an estimated 21 million homes are destroyed.

The earthquake formed 35 "quake lakes," with some caused by landslides; these have become a major problem. More than 150,000 people were evacuated from Sichuan province in fear of a dam giving way and releasing more than 130 million cubic meters of water. Engineers worked frantically to delay a river that rose two meters per day.

Disasters such as these bring to mind the apocalyptic visions recorded in the Bible, in which destruction is foretold to occur in the "end time," prior to Jesus Christ's Second Coming. Two questions come to mind: *How close are we to the "end of the age"?*—and *what events will precede Christ's Return?*

False Leaders, False Religions

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ's disciples privately came to Him and asked that He reveal the conditions that would precede His Return and how those events will affect the generation living in the end-time. "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3).

Throughout Christ's ministry, He preached the "gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14-15)—that is, the government of God, through which Christ will rule all nations upon His Return. The disciples were expecting the kingdom of God to be established in their lifetime. Even after Jesus had ascended to heaven, the apostle Paul still thought that Christ would return in his lifetime to setup God's government on the earth. He wrote: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thes. 4:17).

But Paul and the other apostles came to realize that Christ's Second Coming would not happen until much, *much* later. Over the past 2,000 years, many have expected Jesus to return during their lives, not fully understanding that certain events must first take place.

Let's take a closer look at some of the events recorded in the "Olivet Prophecy" (recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21) to see what conditions will prevail just before Jesus will set up His world-ruling SUPERGOVERNMENT.

In Matthew 24, Christ lifts the veil over the final years preceding His Return: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (vs. 4-5).

This passage has double meaning: (1) There will be deceivers claiming *to be* Christ, and (2) false ministers and leaders will claim to *represent* Christ—to "come in My name," taking Jesus' authority to themselves to preach false doctrines. Such people existed in the first-century Church—"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ... transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13, 15). They are also at work today.

There are thousands of denominations and sects professing to represent the true Christ—yet their teachings are vastly different from what is revealed in the Bible! Christ says of them, "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, *but their heart is far from Me*. And in VAIN they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the *commandments of men*" (Matt. 15:8-9).

Referring to the end-time, Jesus clearly stated, "Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name? And in Your name have cast out devils [demons]? And in Your name done many wonderful works?" (Matt. 7:22).

Verse 23: "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity."

Wars, Famines, Diseases and Natural Disasters

Next, Jesus said, "And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matt. 24:6).

Few countries have been exempted from war and widespread violence. Watching international and regional news, we are constantly faced with images of wars taking place around the globe. But Christ says, "The end is not yet."

Continuing, Jesus said, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers [various] places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (vs. 7-8).

The rendering for "nation" in verse 7 (the New Testament was originally written in Greek) is *ethnos*, the root word for "ethnic." More and more ethnic wars *are* occurring. The main reason is that as political competition increases within countries, ruthless leaders use ethnic violence as a tool to ensure they have the advantage over their opponents. Examples of this can be seen in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sudan, etc.

In the wake of changed global climatic conditions and other factors, food production and reserves have dwindled; increasing millions now face malnutrition and starvation. The United Nations is finding it difficult to keep up with the demand from poverty stricken countries. The increase of food prices has already resulted in "food wars" around the globe as the poor reach out to their leaders to help them.

China's May 12 earthquake is one of many that have devastated the country in recent times. In the last three decades the severity of earthquakes has increased all over the world. In 1976, an earthquake that struck Tangshan, China, killed 255,000 people. In 2004, an earthquake measuring 9.0 occurred beneath the ocean off the west coast of northern Sumatra, triggering a tsunami that killed some 225,000 people in 11 nations, with many missing.

Myanmar Disease Risk



The primary risk following the Myanmar cyclone is diseases spread by contaminated water:

Initial risk

Diarrhea

Acute watery diarrhea causes dehydration
Most at risk: Age five and younger, the sick, the old and the pregnant



Cholera

Causes severe diarrhea, vomiting, organ failure

Risk: Can spread rapidly in areas with poor sanitation; bacterium spreads in human feces

Typhoid

Causes fever, headache, abdominal cramps, diarrhea

Risk: Passed on by contaminated food, water

Hepatitis A

Flu-like symptoms, high fever

Risk: Passed on by contaminated food, water

Within two weeks

Malaria

Can kill by causing anemia or clogging capillaries

Risk: Can spread rapidly in areas with poor sanitation; bacterium spreads in human feces

Dengue Fever

Causes severe diarrhea, vomiting, organ failure

Risk: Passed on by mosquitoes; disease is endemic in Myanmar

Source: World Health Organization

2008 MCT



■ **WARS AND VIOLENCE:** Top, nearly 300 people were arrested following an outbreak of xenophobic violence in Johannesburg, South Africa's economic capital.



■ **WIDESPREAD POVERTY:** Left, two people lay in a makeshift open air camp among some 34 adults and 106 children in the town of Mutare in eastern Zimbabwe, after their homes were burnt down following an attack blamed on militant supporters of Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe. Right, most victims of Myanmar's devastating cyclone went without emergency food for nearly two weeks after the storm, aid agencies said.

ALL PHOTOS: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Saved From Mass Genocide!

More and more, the events outlined in Matthew 24 are coming to pass before our eyes. Take time to read the entire chapter, along with Mark 13 and Luke 21, to see how these will impact *your* life.

“For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION,” Christ warned, “such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:21-22).

“Saved” is not referring to eternal salvation—rather, it means “no flesh saved *alive*.” In other words, global events will become so horrific, so devastating, that only the Return of Jesus Christ will prevent mankind from destroying itself!

As prophetic events escalate, they serve as a sign that humanity is entering the final years of man’s governments, systems and societies—soon to be replaced with a perfect system, a perfect government, led by a perfect Ruler (Isa. 9:6-7)!

Until then, the greatest work ever seen will continue to “teach all nations...to observe all things whatsoever I [Christ] have commanded.” His servants will be preaching the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20)—literally the GOOD NEWS—of the soon-coming kingdom of God: “And this GOSPEL will be preached in the entire world as a *witness* to all the nations, and THEN the end will come” (Matt. 24:13-14)!

Christ’s gospel IS being proclaimed today to “all nations,” through *The Real Truth* magazine, as well as through *The World to Come* program, presented by David C. Pack, and the thousands of pages of books, booklets, articles, reports and lessons archived and freely accessible at www.thercg.org.

To learn more, read our booklet *Are These the Last Days?* or visit *The Real Truth* website (www.realtruth.org) for additional information about the most important events soon to take place. □

14 STATEMENTS of JESUS

ALMOST NO ONE BELIEVES
And Your Minister Doesn't Want You to Understand!

BY GABRIEL N. LISCHAK

Similar in style to our “Seven Questions” articles, this three-part series analyzes 14 statements made by Jesus Christ, found in the Bible. Some are well-known; others are overlooked. Hundreds of millions who claim to be Christian assume they understand and therefore accept—believe!—these statements, but the reality is that virtually no one does.

Do not allow yourself to discount this series or any of its explanations simply because you are accustomed to a particular belief system, even one you have held your entire life. And do not permit your minister to use shallow assertions or smooth “answers” (or non-answers) to dismiss this series. Instead, diligently investigate in the pages of your own Bible what is stated herein, and ask God for understanding. Throw aside all preconceived ideas. Be like the Bereans in the book of Acts, who “received the word [Paul’s preaching] with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Recognize that a three-article series cannot address every conceivable issue pertaining to each of these 14 statements. To gain a fuller picture of each, it is imperative you study the referenced literature. This material will expound upon each subject in thorough detail.

In our “Seven Questions” series, we addressed 14 questions ministers do not want to be asked. Based upon numerous letters we received from our readers, we have found that many, including ministers, hastily jump to conclusions before thoroughly reading a particular explanation in its entirety, with some assuming their church agrees with our positions, when this is *not* the case. It is evident that few took the time to study the literature referenced in both articles—or even to read each article closely.

Again, do not draw conclusions before (1) reading an entire explanation with an open Bible—and open mind—and (2) studying the referenced material. Otherwise, you will do yourself a great disservice.

MILLIONS BELIEVE that when they die they will “go to heaven to be with the Lord.” Did Jesus teach that *no one* has ascended to heaven? If so, what is the reward of the saved?

Millions also believe a gospel *about* Jesus—that *He* is the gospel. But did Christ preach something different?

Millions believe Jesus came to bring peace. Is it possible that He came to bring a “sword” and divide families?

And millions believe they are disciples of Jesus—but are they? How can you know for sure? Did Christ clearly state how to identify His true disciples?

In the final part of this series, we will examine four more statements almost no one believes. As was the case in Parts One and Two, be prepared to learn what very few understand!

JOHN 3:13 – “NO MAN HAS ASCENDED UP TO HEAVEN, BUT HE THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, EVEN THE SON OF MAN WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.”

Newspaper obituaries often speak of people who “passed away” and “went

home to be with the Lord.” Others write that their departed loved one is “looking down on us right now” from heaven.

Many speak of being “bound for glory in heaven,” but are unsure of what this really means. The most common ideas are that everyone will “ride clouds,” “play harps,” “walk the streets of gold in front of the pearly gates,” “sit in rocking chairs” and just “roll around heaven all day.”

No matter what one may believe will occur in heaven, *nearly everyone* believes they will go there upon death.

Yet, in John 3:13, Jesus clearly states that no one has ascended to heaven! This statement is most plain. No one means NO ONE! There should be no room for confusion.

You might be wondering, “If no one is in heaven, then what is a Christian’s reward?”

Several verses later, Jesus begins to reveal the answer: “I go [to heaven] to prepare a place for you” (14:2). Most assume Jesus is referring to preparing a place in heaven. Yet in the very next verse, Jesus said, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again [to the earth], and receive you unto Myself; *that where I am, there you may be also*” (vs. 3).

Where is this?

Many are familiar with Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount.” A clear statement on a Christian’s reward is found in this series of scriptures. However, it does not contain the word “heaven.” While most know of this sermon, few know of this important verse: “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit *the earth*” (Matt. 5:5).

Psalms 37:11 states the same thing. It would not have been strange for Jesus to reference Psalms, since all His listeners would have been familiar with this scripture. But to have said that “the meek shall inherit heaven” would have been strange to their ears. Amazingly, the opposite is true today! Most think it is strange to believe that Christians will inherit the earth!

Consider what the apostle John recorded in the book of Revelation:

“And has made them [true Christians] unto our God kings and priests: and they shall reign *on the earth*” (Rev. 5:10).

The reward of God’s saints is future rulership “ON THE EARTH”—as “kings and priests.”

How obvious!

In Matthew 25, Jesus describes His Return to “sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations” (vs. 31-32). Jesus is pictured in this parable as ruling all the nations of the earth—*on the earth*, not in or from heaven! At that point, He says to the saints, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom PREPARED for you” (vs. 34).

Right now, Jesus is in heaven preparing a kingdom for His people to inherit on earth! Christians will *not* join Jesus in heaven. He will “come again” to earth, where true Christians will join Him!

Very few people understand this fundamental biblical teaching. Has anyone ever taught you that God’s purpose for Christians is to inherit and reign on earth?

Will you believe the plain words of Jesus Christ? Will you believe His statements that “NO MAN has ascended up to heaven”—and that the meek “shall inherit THE EARTH”?

For much more information on heaven and a Christian’s reward, read *Do the Saved Go to Heaven?* and *What Is Your Reward in the Next Life?*

MARK 1:15 – “THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND: REPENT YOU, AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.”

Immediately after overcoming Satan for 40 days in the wilderness, the first thing Jesus preached to the public was to repent *and* believe the gospel (Greek: “good news”). But what gospel are we to believe?

The majority would say something similar to the following: “The gospel is the good news of the forgiveness

of sins through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ,” and would perhaps cite I Corinthians 15:1-4 as proof (for the correct explanation of these scriptures, read *Which Is the True Gospel?*).

Is this the gospel you believe? If so, then you do not believe Christ!

One verse earlier, Mark reveals which gospel Jesus is referring to: “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching *the gospel of the kingdom of God*” (vs. 14).

How plain! *This* is the gospel we are to believe—about the kingdom of God! Yet billions believe a man-made, fictional gospel *about* Jesus and His sacrifice.

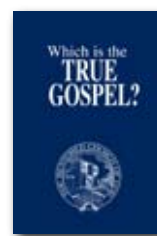
Notice that Mark did not say, “Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of forgiveness of sins through His sacrifice”! While Jesus’ death is immensely important—since without it no one would have the opportunity to receive eternal life—it is NOT the gospel.

Consider. If this were the gospel, then Jesus would have *had* to preach about Himself. But this would contradict His own words (John 7:18). Contrary to what false ministers might have you believe, you will not find Jesus referring to His sacrifice as the gospel anywhere in the New Testament. Instead, throughout the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus talked constantly about the KINGDOM OF GOD. Here is but a tiny sampling:

■ “And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, *preaching and showing the glad tidings [gospel] of the kingdom of God*: and the twelve were with Him” (Luke 8:1).

■ “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and *preaching the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people” (Matt. 4:23).

■ “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and



preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people” (Matt. 9:35).

■ “And He said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables” (Mark 4:11).

■ “And He said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent” (Luke 4:43).

■ And the people, when they knew it, followed Him: and He received them, and spoke unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing” (Luke 9:11).

Many more scriptures could be cited showing that Christ’s message was about the kingdom of God—not the forgiveness of sins, as most assume. Many of Jesus’ parables were about God’s kingdom. This term is found dozens of times in the New Testament.

So what is the gospel of the kingdom of God?

In short, it is the message that a world-ruling SUPERGOVERNMENT led by the glorified Jesus Christ is coming to earth to smash the governments of men and rule all nations and peoples in righteousness—and that human beings may qualify to inherit God’s kingdom and rule with Him.

Notice what the prophet Daniel wrote: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand FOREVER” (Dan. 2:44).

The kingdom of God will reign over the entire earth—ALL nations—and the resurrected saints shall share with Christ’s reign. “The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever” (Dan. 7:18).

Verse 22 states, “Until the Ancient of Days [Christ here, and the Father in verse 13] came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High;

and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”

Also notice verse 27: “And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions [rulers] shall serve and obey Him.”

Will you believe the correct gospel—of GOD’S KINGDOM—as Jesus commands? Or will you cling to a false gospel invented by men?

For more information on the true gospel and the kingdom of God, read *Which Is the True Gospel?* and *What Is the Kingdom of God?* You will be surprised at what you learn!

MATTHEW 10:34-35 – “THINK NOT THAT I AM COME TO SEND PEACE ON EARTH: I CAME NOT TO SEND PEACE, BUT A SWORD. FOR I AM COME TO SET A MAN AT VARIANCE AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND THE DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND THE DAUGHTER IN LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER IN LAW.”

The majority of professing Christians believe that Jesus came to bring peace. Many feel it is their Christian duty to spread “love” and “peace,” because “that’s what Jesus did.” Yet, in these verses, Jesus Christ states something entirely different: He reveals He came to bring “a sword” and set “at variance” (Greek: make apart, sunder, alienate) family members. In verse 36, Jesus adds, “A man’s foes shall be *they of his own household.*”

In other words, Christ divides families! How is this possible?

To come to a proper understanding of this statement, we must first recognize that God is calling only a *small number* of people into His Church at this time. Yet most believe that God is trying to save *everyone* now, in this age; the thinking is that God and the devil are at war over the fate of man-

kind. There is supposedly a desperate struggle between good and evil—God and Satan.

IF God were calling everyone now, then He is failing miserably in His battle with the devil for control over the fate of all men. Of the estimated 6.7 billion people on earth today, only about one-third believe, to one degree or another, in the name of Jesus Christ. This represents a total that includes every conceivable brand of the over 2,000 different forms of professing Christianity. If the war to “win souls” is as most professing Christian ministers depict it, then the devil is much stronger and much more effective in his effort than is God.

Of course, God *is* stronger than Satan, and He is not in a war to “save souls.” He simply is not calling a large number of people in this age. Rather, He is calling a tiny few to qualify to rule in the kingdom of God during the Millennium, when He will begin to call *all* human beings (Jer. 31:31-34; Dan. 7:14)!

In the book of John, Jesus stated, “No man can come to Me, except the Father which has sent Me draw him” (6:44). However, billions believe they *can* come to Jesus on their own volition. They assume the choice is theirs to make. But Jesus says it is not!

Nineteen verses later, Jesus repeated to His audience, “Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto Me, except it were given unto him of My Father” (vs. 65). In the next verse, John records, “From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.”

The many thousands who heard Jesus simply could not understand that the Father has to “draw” people and that a calling is something “given” to them. Otherwise, they *cannot* come to Jesus and understand His words. It is simply impossible! It is not natural for human beings to seek God and obey Him—“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).

Please see **14 STATEMENTS**, page 18

Can We Solve the **GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS?**

Rising food prices—failing crops—starving citizens turning to riotous violence—governments and leaders scrambling to find solutions. A crisis of biblical proportions has slammed into nations around the world, affecting rich and poor alike. Could this have been foreseen? What can be done to stop it?

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER



“A silent tsunami threatening to plunge more than 100 million people on every continent into hunger.”



A MIDDLE-AGED farmer surveys his fields, square patches of differing hues of green, as the sun creeps toward the dark blue mountains on the horizon. He checks on his water buffalo and sets his sights on his hut in a small village, many miles from the nearest city. As he approaches home, he can smell the evening meal and hear the pleasant sounds of his small family. Later, while drifting off to sleep, he thinks of the planting season coming in only a few weeks.

In less than 24 hours all of this is gone—the area in Myanmar decimated by the 120 mph winds of Cyclone Nargis.

The farmer looks out at his flooded fields, his life in ruins. His family is either dead or missing, as are his livestock, and lost are the seed for the upcoming crop season and food stores from the spring harvest. His future swept away in a 12-foot tsunami-like storm surge.

He stares, exhausted, at the heap of vegetation that was once his home. He is only one of five people left in his village, where there were once 200. Bodies of the dead are everywhere, grasping hands reaching out from the floodwaters. The future is bleak.

But there is a more pressing need—he has no food to survive.

Cyclone Nargis created an immediate crisis. The worst hit was the Irrawaddy delta region, also known as Myanmar's Rice Bowl, which produces 65% of the nation's rice. The cyclone put nearly two million people in need of immediate aid. Satellite images showed the area was utterly inundated; the lush, green delta, which

once had winding rivers, now bore the likeness of tiny islands in the ocean.

Aid agencies scrambled to avert an even broader crisis: missing the next harvest. They located new pigs, ducks and chickens, and researched rice seeds from Thailand capable of standing up to the salt water brought ashore with the storm surge. In lieu of immediately replacing Myanmar's 149,000 draft buffaloes, aid agencies began buying up new Chinese-made tractors, or "iron buffaloes," to assist with the upcoming harvest. Fields would have to be drained, ruined irrigation systems fixed.

The deputy country director for the World Food Programme (WFP) in Myanmar, Hakan Tongul, said just days after the cyclone that 50,000 tons of rice would be needed to feed survivors for the next six months. He only had 3,000 tons at hand.

"I think we're going to miss it, we're going to miss the harvest," he said. "Time is short."

Mr. Tongul estimates that, if the WFP is unable to deliver supplies on

time, and the window for planting is missed, 50,000 *additional* tons of rice will be required.

Also, experts project that a missed harvest will lead to a further strain on the world's food supply.

Sadly, the above example is just one of many localized crises making up the current global food crisis. Similar accounts could be recorded of malnourished Cambodian children, the millions starving in Ethiopia, Somalia and nations throughout Africa—the list could go on.

Even before Cyclone Nargis made landfall in Myanmar, an international food crisis was already looming. In April, the WFP said global increase in food prices is creating "the biggest challenge" it has faced in the organization's 45-year history—what the WFP terms as "a silent tsunami threatening to plunge more than 100 million people on every continent into hunger."

"The New Face of Hunger"

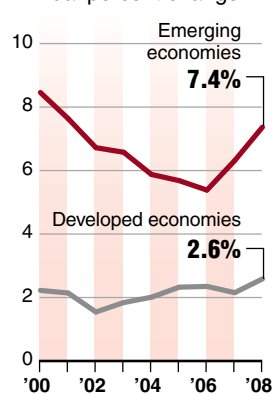
After returning from Myanmar (also known as Burma), Henrietta

Inflation Rate Picks Up

Rising prices for food and energy are causing inflation rates to spike, and many expect it to continue.

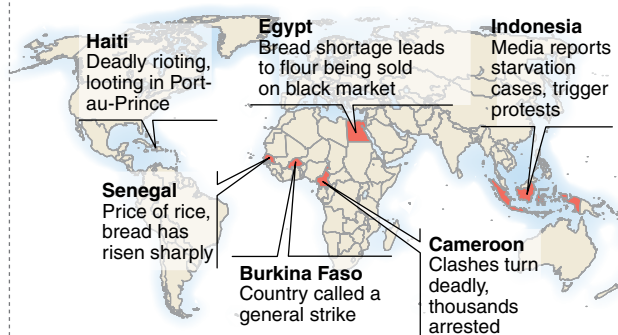
Consumer prices

Annual percent change



Food prices skyrocket

Some countries with protesting because of price hikes:



Source: International Monetary Fund, AP, Reuters

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■ **RIISING FOOD AND ENERGY COSTS:** Top, in 2007, rising demand for U.S. grain to make fuel, food, and livestock feed has helped push the prices of Illinois corn and soybeans up 40% and 75%, respectively, from 2006. Left, in Myanmar, a farmer displays damaged rice seeds that won't be usable for the new planting season. Myanmar is at risk of famine in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, which destroyed rice stocks in a major agricultural region, EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Louis Michel said to *AFP*. Bottom right, locals build a hut at the isolated village of Myasein Kan, Myanmar, in the Irrawaddy delta. It has been estimated that more than 100,000 people were killed by Cyclone Nargis. International aid agencies are continuing efforts to deliver aid into Myanmar to assist up to one million people made homeless. Middle right, a man in Haiti searches through garbage as street activity resumes, a day after Haitian President Rene Preval's televised address to the country about economic conditions in Port-au-Prince.

PHOTOS: COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GETTY IMAGES; STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; GETTY IMAGES; MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Holsman Fore, Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance and the U.S. Agency of International Development Administrator, said, "The catastrophic cyclone in Burma, hitting that country's major rice producing region in the middle of the rice harvest, is a reminder of the fragile food situation we face in many developing countries.

"We are in the midst of a global food crisis unlike other food crises we have faced, one not caused simply by natural disasters, conflict or any single event such as drought. It is not localized—but pervasive and widespread, affecting the poor in developing nations around the world."

She pointed out that the international food price index rose 43% in 2006, immediately affecting the world's poor the worst. "For our poorest one billion, living on just a dollar per day, very high food prices mean stark choices between taking a sick child to the clinic, paying school fees, or putting food on the table."

The WFP estimates that one billion of the world population subsists on less than a dollar per day. Of these, 162 million live on less than 50 cents per day. These households generally spend 50-60% of their income on food.

Meeting with the British government in April, WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran described the millions now priced out of the food market as "the new face of hunger." Within the last six months, price increases have left millions in urban areas around the world hungry, unable to afford rising grocery store prices.

In February, WFP announced a \$500 million deficit in its budget, and urged wealthy nations to increase contributions. In April, Ms. Sheeran announced that the gap had risen to \$755 million. At that time, she said the WFP was "putting out an urgent appeal for the world to help us meet not only our base budget to meet the accessed needs of people from Darfur to Uganda to Haiti and beyond, but also to meet this gap."

Unless that money is pledged, the WFP will be forced to scale back

many of its humanitarian assistance programs.

To make matters worse, food commodity prices continue to rise. With each passing day, aid agencies—and individuals—are able to buy less food with each dollar.

In response to the request for funds, the U.S. government, which contributes half of all global aid, gave an additional \$200 million to the WFP. (President George W. Bush has asked the U.S. Congress to approve an additional \$775 million for food aid for 2009.) Also, the British, Spanish and German governments have promised more assistance. The European Union has also approved \$183 million to help fight the crisis.

Results of the "Perfect Storm"

This "new face of hunger" has a violent side. In cities across the globe, riots are breaking out. As Josette Sheeran put it, "A hungry man is an angry man."

Last month, at least six protesters died and 268 were injured in food-related riots in Haiti. In one episode, protestors looted shops and fired on UN peacekeepers, damaging a UN gate. During the past year, the island country has seen a 50% increase in food prices of staple items, including rice, beans and fruit. The Haitian prime minister was pressured to resign after being unable to deliver food to the increasingly discontented public.

Food riots have also occurred in Morocco, Yemen, Mexico, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal and Uzbekistan. All together, an estimated 33 nations are at risk of violence due to rising prices.

Also, major grain exporters such as China and India have put limits on grain exports to ensure their citizens will have enough to eat.

Blame for the food shortage and price hikes varies, with most saying it is a tangle of differing causes, from rising energy and fuel costs to climate change.

"There is a perfect storm that has emerged over this issue, a combi-

nation of factors: high fuel prices, high food commodity prices driven by the growth of economies in China and India, and then this phenomenon of biofuel production, where fields that were once used to produce grain for human consumption are now producing grain for fuel," Greg Barrow, London spokesman for the WFP, told *ABC News*.

While stormy weather patterns have wreaked havoc on harvests across the world, excessive droughts in areas typically considered "bread baskets" are also affecting crop yields. Australia, normally the number two exporter of wheat, is experiencing its worst drought in 100 years. The nation's wheat stocks are at their lowest level since 1979.

Additionally, world stores of wheat are expected to dwindle to 110 million tons by the end of May, the lowest since 1978, according to the USDA—with 2.3 billion more mouths to feed today.

With a booming population, the world must produce more food. But, adding to the demand, many developing nations are adopting meat-heavy Westernized diets, consuming more grain. For every 100 calories of beef, it takes about 700 calories worth of grain to feed cattle.

Record high oil prices mean that all shipping costs are up. It also means that fertilizers and pesticides are more pricey.

In the race to limit the West's reliance on petroleum based oil, many governments plan to produce more biofuels. However, biofuel production is now seen as a large factor in the current crisis. It has been estimated that to produce about 13 gallons of biofuel, 511 pounds of grain are needed—equating to enough food to feed a child for a year!

"Unlike Other Food Crises"

The United Nation's top food adviser, Olivier de Schutter, told French newspaper *Le Monde* that the "era of cheap food is over." He blamed the shortage on "20 years of mistakes" by organizations and governments around

the world. He also said the current troubles were predictable and that failure to anticipate today's conditions is "unforgivable."

However, the present mess of problems affecting mankind is the result of *much more* than 20 years of mistakes—as these problems have always been with man and ever worsening. But, Mr. de Shutter is right; these could have been—and were!—predicted.

Experts have long projected that a booming population would soon lead to food supply problems. Until now, those words have gone unheeded.

In the 1960s and 70s the "Limits to Growth" camp said the global population would soon surpass the earth's ability to sustain it—farmland and resources would be stretched thin and run dry. These predictions were viewed as being alarmist and no one heeded them—until now.

But the current food predicament is rightly called "a crisis unlike other food crises." Something on this scale has never before been seen.

No food means VIOLENCE! It means CIVIL UNREST! People want answers and they are looking to their nations' leaders, demanding action.

For now, there is seemingly only one solution—throw money at the problem. However, we are already seeing that food is available, but even aid agencies cannot afford it! What will happen when there is no longer enough farmland to feed every grumbling stomach?

Who is capable of answering that question? Brilliant scholars, scientists and experts—with the most knowledge man has ever accumulated!—cannot solve this problem. Man continues to haul famine around like a large iron ball chained to his leg. With only manmade solutions, the scourge of famine will continue to beleaguer the nations of earth.

Another source foretold—and poses the only solution to—today's food crisis, and to most this source comes from an unexpected place.

While talking to His disciples, Jesus Christ foretold a time when "nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom



■ **DROUGHT AND FAMINE:** A former farm is graded and put up for sale for commercial development near Bakersfield, Calif. Much of California's water supply comes from the Colorado River where a continuing eight-year drought has lowered water storage to roughly half of capacity. Dry conditions across the West have already doubled the wildfires this year.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

against kingdom: and *there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes*, in divers [various] places" (Matt. 24:7). This was part of His answer to a question posed by His disciples: "What shall be the sign of Your coming, and of the *end of the world* [age]" (vs. 3)?

Again, famine has always accompanied the civilizations of men. So, when Jesus replied that "there shall be famines," it would have to be a *different* and *new* kind of famine, such as never before seen in size and scale—a global food crisis!

Famines have generally occurred in localized areas. These "small fires" could be "put out" by wealthier nations giving of their excess. However, never before has man experienced the intricately interconnected world with a "perfect storm" of factors able to bring nations to their knees. And these conditions will only worsen. As shown before, man is incapable of solving this problem, just as the farmer mentioned earlier could not save his family

or home from 120 mph winds.

However, this is all bad news. These *end times*, in which we are living, include increases in war, disease and natural disasters—all leading to an ever-worsening food crisis.

Recall, however, that when the disciples asked Jesus Christ when the end shall be, they also included "What shall be the sign of *Your coming*?"

The good news is that a global SUPERGOVERNMENT, with perfect laws—a government not subject to the problems that have always plagued mankind—will be established at Christ's imminent Return. That government—the kingdom of God—will replace all governments of men, tearing down their flawed and corrupt systems (Dan. 2:24). Finally, the ever-growing "tsunami" of man's insoluble problems and troubles will cease!

To prove more fully that these are the last days—and that a permanent solution is at hand!—we recommend reading our publication *And There Shall Be Famines*. □

14 STATEMENTS

Continued from page 13

In other words, the carnal mind is God's ENEMY! Only when one is called can he truly seek God.

(A detailed explanation of God's plan to save mankind is beyond the scope of this article. To learn more, read *Does the Bible Teach Predestination?*)

With this briefest of backdrops, we can now examine Jesus' statement in Matthew 10.

Since God is calling only a small number into His Church today, it can be expected that He would not, in most cases, call an entire family. In fact, history has shown that God very rarely calls the majority in a family. He may call a son, and not the parents—or the parents, but not the son and/or daughter. Sometimes, God even chooses to call one spouse and not the other. This often leads to disagreements within marriages and families, depending upon whether those not yet called are willing to accept changes in the individual being called. Some are willing, and some are not.

When learning the truths of God, a person begins to see that he must change certain areas of his life. He learns that a Christian is one who repents of his former conduct and disobedience to God. He changes his ways. He learns to refrain from eating unclean meats; to observe the Sabbath and not work from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday; observe God's seven annual Holy Days, which reflect His overarching plan for mankind; obey God's financial laws; not celebrate holidays of pagan origin, such as Christmas, Easter and New Year's; among numerous other changes.

These sweeping—and sometimes sudden—alterations to one's life can cause family members to become resentful—even fiercely angry!—with the person God is calling. They find that they cannot accept his refusing to celebrate Christmas with them, as they may have done for decades. Or they are unable to tolerate his not being available for family outings on Saturday. They may grow to

despise the new person he is becoming.

This is how Jesus brings a “sword” to families. Such situations can bring division, resentment, hostility—sometimes even separation—when one person is called to obey God, while others are not.

Understand, however, that Jesus does not intentionally divide families. Rather, division is a byproduct of a person being called into God's Church.

JOHN 8:31 – “THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM, IF YOU CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YOU MY DISCIPLES INDEED.”

As we saw earlier, more than two billion people profess to be followers of Jesus. They believe they are His disciples, or *students*. A student is one who learns from his teacher and applies what he has learned. Yet most who claim to be Christ's disciples fail to learn and apply what He teaches. Are they then His disciples?

No!

Jesus clearly states that only those who continue in His word are His disciples. The Greek word for “continue” means “to stay, abide, continue, dwell, endure, remain, stand.” In other words, one must *obey* Jesus' words to be considered His disciple! Students of Jesus apply what they learn. This requires ACTION and OBEDIENCE—not merely a profession of belief!

Amazingly, in John 8:37, those who professed to “believe on Jesus” (verse 30) actually sought to kill Him! Jesus said, “You seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you” (vs. 37). He further added, “But now you seek to kill Me, a Man that has told you the truth” (vs. 40). Many *say* they

want to hear the truth—but not if it means being told they are wrong, particularly about cherished ideas, and must amend their conduct.

This biblical account comes to a remarkable conclusion. Jesus rhetorically asked, “Why

do you not understand My speech?” He then answered, “...because you cannot hear My word” (vs. 43).

How could people standing right beside Christ “not hear His word”? Because “He that is of God hears God's words: you therefore hear them not, because you are not of God” (vs. 47).

Those who are of God hear His words *and* do them! (See Matthew 7:21, John 3:19-21, Romans 2:13 and James 1:22.)

Most today who profess to “believe on Jesus” are no different from those described in John 8. They proclaim to believe Him—they claim to be His disciples—yet fail to abide in His teachings.

According to Jesus, His *true* disciples are identified by their OBEDIENCE to Him!

Will YOU Believe Christ?

In this three-part series, we have examined 14 statements of Jesus Christ almost no one believes. You have learned the truth of what Jesus taught about (1) obedience, (2) the Ten Commandments, (3) the traditions of men, (4) God's Sabbath, (5) judging others, (6) when one is born again, (7) hell, (8) how long Christ was in the grave, (9) tithing, (10) when salvation is achieved, (11) heaven, (12) the true gospel, (13) why division sometimes occurs in families, and (14) how to identify His disciples. The meanings of these statements have been made clear.

Now we must ask: Will YOU believe the teachings of the *true* Jesus Christ? Or will you believe the soothing words of false ministers who preach the teachings of “*another* Jesus” (II Cor. 11:4)? Are you prepared to ACT upon what you have learned—and become a *true* disciple of Jesus?

(To learn much more about Christ's teachings, as well as a thorough examination of His life, you will want to read *The True Jesus Christ – Unknown to Christianity*, to appear at www.therec.org this fall. You will not want to miss this comprehensive and unparalleled book!) □





ROY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DARNITRA D. MAIDEN

Evolution Exposed

Part 2

Deconstructing False Science

The debate about the origin of life is clouded by a hazy definition of what evolution actually is. This need not be.

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

ORIGINATING AS the brainchild of Charles Darwin, the definition of evolution has itself evolved into many shapes and sizes. In his book, *The Origin of Species*, Darwin postulated that all living creatures (and, by extension, even matter) evolved from a less complex life form or substance. His theory purports that life began by accident—blind chance—and that everything we know today is the result of happenstance.

In Part One, we started an extensive look into evolution. We began to lay the foundation needed to unravel this painfully convoluted theory, which is blurred through a confusing series of explanations, definitions and suppositions.

While the general scope of evolution is still contested, even among evolutionists, it can be separated into six primary disciplines: cosmic, chemical, stellar and planetary, organic, macro, and micro.

- *Cosmic evolution* encompasses the origin of the universe, time and matter. The Big Bang theory falls within this discipline.

- *Chemical evolution* involves the origin of complex elements. This discipline also attempts to explain the process in which those elements formed.

- *Stellar and planetary evolution* focuses on the origin of stars and planets. This is distinct from cosmic evolution, yet at times can overlap it.

- *Organic evolution* attempts to explain the origin of living matter. Origin of life research centers upon this discipline.

- The two final disciplines, *macro-* and *micro-evolu-*

There is much more to the story. However, at this point it makes sense to step back and look at what evolution is—and how the theory of evolution is defined. You will be amazed that even among proponents of the theory the definition varies widely.

tion, are most often wrongly interchanged. They are not meant to detail the origin of living matter, but attempt to explain the innumerable variety of plants and animals. Micro-evolution states that all living organisms experience mutations and have the ability to develop genetic adaptations, *within* a species. Macro-evolution takes this further, stating that such adaptations and mutations will, over time, create a new species of plants or animals. Micro-evolution attempts to explain variety *within* a particular species, while macro-evolution attempts to prove a common link *between* all species, families or phyla.

This may sound complicated—because it is! Often, evolutionists cannot even agree on where the lines start and stop. They even say that macro-evolution is just micro-evolution over extremely long periods of time.

There is ample evidence demonstrating *micro*-evolution. For instance, when a virus becomes resistant to antibiotics, it is indicative of *micro*-evolution. Often, such evidence is used to “prove” macro-evolution, thus employing the logical fallacy of *hasty generalization*. (To learn more about logical fallacies, read Part One of this series.) There is absolutely no solid proof for macro-evolution—NONE!

Blurring these disciplines has led to much confusion among the general public and to heated debate among scientists.

Assumptions Are Not Proof

Recall the logical fallacy of *begging the question*. It occurs when an assumption is used to prove a conclusion; in turn, that conclusion is used to prove the original assumption. The crux of evolution is based upon this fallacy. Many aspects of evolution’s fundament are nothing more than assumptions used to explain and “prove” other hypotheses. This is not the scientific method—and *not* how legitimate science operates!

Approach this subject like a scientist. As you read, remember that if any assumption can be shown to be false—or impossible to validate—any con-

clusions based upon it crumble to pieces.

To remove all doubt, most of the major tenets of evolution will be shown to be nothing more than assumptions. Many are so important that disproving even one causes the entire theory to collapse.

As we cover each point, the logical fallacy evolution employs will become clear. Get ready to be amazed by the “science” used to substantiate this nearly universally believed theory.

Neither Theory nor Fact

The first assumption is the gradual transition of referring to the theory as a tried, tested and proven scientific fact—in essence, *assuming* evolution to be true. The certainty with which such statements are made leaves most people convinced that scientists have corroborating evidence. One statement from Theodosius Dobzhansky’s book, *The Biological Basis of Human Freedom*, illustrates the point well: “Evolution as a historical fact was proved beyond reasonable doubt not later than in the closing decades of the nineteenth century.”

Such blind conviction among some evolutionary scientists has led most schools in North America to teach evolution as both a scientific and historical fact.

But not all evolutionists agree with Dobzhansky’s conclusion: “What was the ultimate origin of man?... Unfortunately, any answers which can at present be given to these questions are based on indirect evidence and thus are *largely conjectural*” (W. LeGros Clark, *Discover*, Jan. 1955, emphasis ours throughout).

Pierre-Paul Grassé, a world renowned zoologist, author of more than 300 publications, and former president of the Academie des Sciences, stated, “Their success among certain biologists, philosophers, and sociologists notwithstanding, the explanatory doctrines of biological evolution do not stand up to an objective, in-depth criticism. They prove to be either in *conflict with reality* or else incapable of solving the

major problems involved” (*The Evolution of Living Organisms*, 1977).

While these quotes speak loudly, the purpose here is not yet to disprove evolution, only to demonstrate that it is not a tried and tested fact.

A *scientific* fact is defined as “an observation that has been confirmed repeatedly and is accepted as true.” From just the quotes above, we can see that observations and tests show inconsistencies, and that neither an evolutionist nor an influential zoologist accepted evolution as fact. How could evolution be considered fact when such divergent opinions exist?

In truth, by true scientific standards, evolution is not even a *theory*! A scientific theory is defined as a “theory that explains scientific observations; scientific theories must be falsifiable.”

To survive as a legitimate theory, there must be some test or tests proving it valid or else it *should* be discarded. Without a test, it is not a scientific theory.

For example, a theory arising from observing an orange sunset could state that the sunset is *always* orange. A test then exists to prove *or disprove* the theory. (One could watch sunsets for a year and record their color.) This means the theory fulfills the requirements to be scientific. Of course, if a red, yellow or violet sunset is observed, the honest scientist would abandon the hypothesis and develop a *new* theory. The cycle would continue until a theory is proven as fact. This is the basis of the scientific method.

Does the theory of evolution meet these two conditions? Is it the result of scientific observation, *and* can it be put to the test? It could be argued that with no observed examples of macro-evolution on record, the theory is more based on faith, hope and belief than scientific observation. Further, nearly all evolutionists purport that most major evolutionary changes occurred millions of years ago. But events in the distant past are not testable and, therefore, cannot ever be proven (or disproven).

When evidence that is no longer

available (because it is extremely old) is used to prove a premise, the logical fallacy of *chronological snobbery* has been employed!

Evolutionists should recognize their “theory” is neither a scientific fact nor even a theory. This may explain why most resort to convoluted arguments and logical fallacies.

Such thinking is best summarized by world-renowned biochemist Dr. Michael Denton: “His [Darwin’s] general theory that all life on earth had originated and evolved by a gradual successive accumulation of fortuitous mutations, is still, as it was in Darwin’s time, a *highly speculative hypothesis* entirely *without* direct factual support and very far from that self-evident axiom some of its more aggressive advocates would have us believe” (*Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*).

Evolution is not a fact; it is not even a scientific theory. As Dr. Denton stated, it is nothing more than a “highly speculative *hypothesis*.” Again we can ask: How can something so contested, even by those who profess to believe it, be taught in schools as fact?

Survivors Survive

One of the most basic tenets of evolution is the assumption of “survival of the fittest.” Simply put, it is the concept that nature grants preference to the fittest and most adaptable of a species to produce offspring and therefore survive.

You may have heard this so many times that you have never questioned this seemingly logical statement. Remember, you must approach evolution *scientifically*, not based on assumption or ingrained presumptions.

Famous polymath author Arthur Koestler addressed this subject well: “Once upon a time, it all looked so simple. Nature rewarded the fit with the carrot of survival and punished the unfit with the stick of extinction. The trouble only started when it came

to defining fitness...Thus natural selection looks after the survival and reproduction of the fittest, and the fittest are those which have the highest rate of reproduction...We are caught in a circular argument which completely begs the question of what



“Evolutionists must account for new species by, as Darwin purported, successive series of minor changes.”

makes evolution evolve” (*Janus: A Summing Up*).

In other words, the fittest are those who survive; and those who survive are deemed the fittest. This is circular logic! It *assumes* that just because something survived, it is the fittest.

In science, you cannot base a conclusion on an assumption, especially if you then use the conclusion to prove the original assumption. This would not pass muster in a high school debate class, but has tragically become all too common in evolutionary science.

Survival of the fittest is a loose “tautology,” a way of saying some-

thing redundantly. For instance, “survivors survive”; “water is wet”; “matter is material”; and so on. Such statements do not prove anything, because they are nothing more than truisms.

Yet even with such information, evolutionists willingly ignore the facts: “Most evolutionary biologists seem unconcerned about the charge and make only a token effort to explain the tautology away. The remainder...simply concede the fact. For them, natural selection is a tautology which states a heretofore unrecognized relation: The fittest—defined as those who will leave the most offspring—*will* leave the most offspring” (emphasis ours).

“What is most unsettling is that some evolutionary biologists have no qualms about proposing tautologies as explanations. One would immediately reject any lexicographer who tried to define a word by the same word, or a thinker who merely restated his proposition, or any other instance of gross redundancy; yet no one seems scandalized that men of science should be satisfied with a major principle which is no more than a tautology” (Gregory Alan Peseley, *The Epistemological Status of Natural Selection*).

Surviving vs. Arriving

Some scientists may argue, “We have witnessed natural selection.

It happens around the world on a daily basis. It is provable!” They point to natural selection as a means to remove the *unfit*—not a process that favors the “fittest.” At best, you could call natural selection a “survival of the average.”

Natural selection is a system that removes the weak, infirm and unfit from species. This ensures that populations are healthy and thriving. It can be witnessed by the instinctive actions of a lion attacking the weakest of a zebra herd. The herd remains healthy,

Please see **EVOLUTION**, page 24



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

The Key to **Happiness** *Revealed!*

*Here is how to achieve true,
lasting happiness in your life.*

BY JUSTIN T. PALM



ALL HUMAN BEINGS seek happiness. Some find it, then lose it. Others are able to hold onto it. Still others believe that a life of joy and contentment is an impossible dream.

Many never attain the level of happiness they expect in their lives, resigning themselves to a mediocre life of “just getting by.” They take on the attitude that people are all just

“putting in their time,” and that, with life’s many ups and downs, there are seemingly more downs. They pass their days surfing the Internet, traveling, or watching television and movies. Then, after giving up on the pursuit of happiness, they come to actually “enjoy” their sadness!

What causes happiness? Simply being satisfied in life? Or does it come through achieving success? Riches? A stable family life?

According to the U.S. Constitution, the pursuit of happiness is an unalienable right. If that is true, then why is lasting joy so hard to achieve?

The Science of Happiness

Science has only recently begun to explore what brings happiness, including how to measure levels of it. One thing most agree on is this: To be happy, certain basic necessities must be in place, such as food, water, shelter, family, etc. Beyond this, many factors play a part—where one lives—whether one is married or single—if one has a large or small family—how much money one makes—their career—and health.

Some scientists and researchers propose that instead of one key element, happiness is comprised of a “cocktail” of different ingredients, and that these vary for everyone. (We will see later that this theory is false.)

In his book *The Geography of Bliss*, Eric Weiner found that Iceland and Switzerland were some of the happiest places on earth, with the Eastern European country of Moldova among the saddest.

What are some of the factors that make up a joy-filled life?

Family, Friends and Purpose

Health and career play a role in a person’s level of happiness. Research also reveals that the number of friends a person has is more important to his or her overall well-being than how much money he or she might possess.

In addition, marriage brings a level of contentment (of course, with a certain normal amount of stress) and satisfaction from sharing your life with someone special. Research shows that married people live longer—men by seven years, women by about four years.

Working toward goals with a purpose is also a key element of happiness. W. Beran Wolfe, a 20th century author, stated, “If you observe a really happy man you will find him building a boat, writing a symphony, educating his son, growing double dahlias in his garden. He will not be searching for

happiness as if it were a collar button that has rolled under the radiator.”

There is much truth in this statement. Those who are active generally enjoy life much more than those who wait for life to come to them.

Religious books on finding one’s purpose in life, and becoming the person he or she always wanted to be, sell millions of copies to an audience genuinely seeking contentment.

Research shows that another cause of happiness is how much one gives to others. Recent studies revealed that those who spent their money on others were much happier than those who spent money on themselves.

But the all-important question many ask—and most assume they know the answer to—is this: “Does wealth bring happiness?”

Wealth Tied to Happiness?

Although some would find it hard to believe, the latest research shows that wealth is not as connected to being happy as one might think. Findings reveal that as one’s standard of living increases, happiness does not go up. In some cases, it even declines!

In a *BBC* report, Professor Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist at Princeton University, stated, “It’s a fundamental fact in happiness research...the standard of living has increased dramatically and happiness has increased not at all, and in some cases diminished slightly...There is a lot of evidence that being rich isn’t making us happier, at least in the Western world, so we clearly need something else.”

Why do citizens of the West, with their increasing amounts of wealth, lead such discontented lives? Why are they not able to obtain lasting happiness?

For one, people tend to adapt to material possessions and grow tired of them. Human beings also have a problem with making comparisons. We are satisfied with something we have (i.e., a car, house, spouse, etc.) until we see something someone else has that *seems* better. No lasting sense of well-being and contentment comes from material possessions. Materialism often distracts us from life’s important

goals, and can hurt our contentment rather than help it.

If wealth and material possessions do not bring about true and lasting contentment and joy, then what does?

God’s Word Reveals Path to Happiness!

Billions around the world profess to be Christian, and turn to various forms of “Christianity” in search of life’s answers. They are either told that they must wait until the “afterlife” to achieve happiness—or they experience an emotional “high” through fervent religious experiences that quickly fades away. Few understand what the Bible teaches—that you can experience happiness in this lifetime and in the soon-coming kingdom of God. (To know more, read our booklet *What Is the Kingdom of God?*).

God’s Word holds the answers to all of life’s greatest questions.

Notice this verse in Proverbs, keeping in mind the principle of cause and effect: “He that keeps the law, *happy* is he” (Prov. 29:18). Let this verse sink in. If you keep God’s Law, the Bible reveals that you will be happy! As simple as this may seem, this is what your Bible states is the key to happiness!

Next, notice Jesus Christ’s words in John 13:17: “If you know these things, *happy* are you if you do them.” Here, He is speaking about keeping the Law of God.

The churches of this world teach that God’s Law is “done away” and portray it as a great burden—but the Bible states otherwise: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: *and His commandments are not grievous*” (I John 5:3).

Also notice this passage found in the Psalms: “Blessed is every one that fears [obeys] the LORD; that walks in His ways. For you shall eat the labor of your hands: *happy shall you be, and it shall be well with you*. Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of your house: your children like olive plants round about your table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that fears the LORD” (Psa. 128:1-4). (Also see Psalm 146:5 and the last part of Proverbs 16:20.)

Keeping the laws of God—the key to being truly happy—is a WAY of life, which can be summed up in one word: GIVE! It is the way of “give,” of outgoing concern for others, that leads to true and lasting joy, personal fulfillment and peace of mind. This involves diligently striving to keep God’s Law. It is far more rewarding to live a life devoted to giving, helping and sharing with others than to be self-centered and caught up in one’s own problems, cares and concerns.

All-important Ingredient

Living the way of GIVE, as opposed to the way of GET, involves a number of different factors that make up a recipe involving family life, purpose, religion, contentment, health, career, etc. Keeping God’s holy, righteous law (Rom. 7:14) is the *key* factor—the all-important INGREDIENT—that brings the joy all seek.

Here is why: “The statutes of the LORD are right, *rejoicing the heart*: the commandment of the LORD is pure, *enlightening the eyes*. The fear of the LORD is clean, *enduring forever*: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yes, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is Your servant WARNED: and in keeping of them there is GREAT REWARD” (Psa. 19:8-11).

Keeping God’s Law brings understanding (Psa. 111:10) and wisdom (Psa. 119:98). It serves as a “lamp” and “light” of instruction (Prov. 6:23), directing our paths in a world growing ever darker.

The Bible reveals that it is possible to be *truly* happy. Happiness is the *effect* of obeying God and living according to His Word—the *cause*!

Do not *wait* for life’s circumstances to come together to provide you the perfect life you always dreamed of living. Take your happiness into your own hands, and begin living God’s Way!

If you want to lead a more interesting, full and happy life, read David C. Pack’s article “You Can Live the Abundant Life!” □

READER COMMENTS

EVOLUTION
Continued from page 21

From online subscribers of our weekly news updates

BARBADOS

■ You give such fascinating and accurate information. It's truly amazing. Thanks, and keep up the good work.

INDIA

■ I want to know more about the "end times." Thank You. **[Editor's note: You may wish to read our booklet *Are These the Last Days?*, accessible at www.thercg.org/books/attld.html.]**

KENYA

■ It is a very informative site.
■ Wonderful information!
■ I am greatly inspired by your articles.
■ I have seen your article "Seven Signs of a Falling Nation" **[Editor's note: the Sept.-Oct. 2007 issue]**. One thing is certain: that a kingdom or society cannot dominate the world forever. Others must also come up, according to God's will.

MEXICO

■ I think we are in troubled times. Thanks for the email updates.

NIGERIA

■ I want to learn more about end-time events. Things are happening so fast and man seems to be oblivious of it all.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

■ Please send me Bible prophecies regarding the end-times signs and symptoms.

SAUDI ARABIA

■ I Googled "Ambassador College" and came to your website. I had been a *Plain Truth* subscriber in the past. **[Editor's note: *The Real Truth is the successor to the former Plain Truth magazine led by Herbert W. Armstrong.*]**

UNITED KINGDOM

■ I have just read your article "14 Statements of Jesus Almost No One Believes." Brilliant.

■ I am so pleased with your website. I really enjoy [it] and have expanded my knowledge vastly on every subject. I cannot believe how much knowledge I have gained through reading your material. It is becoming an addiction for me now. I always seek to read more and more and more literature from your site. I am so glad that I have discovered your website.

It has taken my knowledge and understanding to a totally different level. I will continue to read your literature in which I enjoy to read. I would like to thank you for sharing your knowledge. It is much respected.

■ Thank you for a wonderful website.

UNITED STATES

■ This website has and is helping me with my questions and understanding. At times my wife gets very depressed and says things like, "Why was I born?" or "I wish I had never been born." We are retired, comfortable and enjoy each other's company. Would you suggest some Bible scriptures and booklets that will help me to help her? **[Editor's note: We recommend reading our booklet *Why Do You Exist?*]**

■ I used to watch Mr. Armstrong on TV for many years **[Editor's note: on *The World Tomorrow* telecast]**. I always enjoyed his preaching; he always gave a good message. **[Editor's note: *The World to Come* videocast continues the same message of preaching the true gospel of Christ.]**

■ I remember reading *The Plain Truth* magazine as a young teenager. I am still amazed by how true this magazine is. I remember some of the articles I read when I was young.

■ I am interested in how the earth became what it is today. My daughter also wants to know if there really is a God or if there was some dust that combined to form the earth. **[Editor's note: We recommend reading our booklet *Does God Exist?*]**

■ I love to study the Word of God and, for that reason, and because I believe that Saturday is the Sabbath, I attend the Seventh Day Adventist Church. What is your denomination? **[Editor's note: *The Restored Church of God, which publishes this magazine, is nondenominational. We recommend reading our article "We Are Not Jehovah's Witnesses or Seventh-Day Adventists" and our booklet *Here is The Restored Church of God.**]**

VENEZUELA

■ I like very much the topics you have. I believe this is going to be a great opportunity for me and my family to be well informed about everything around us. Thank you.

because the weak are removed. In no way, shape or form does it propel some supposed "fittest" to the front of the pack! Evolutionists must account for new species by, as Darwin purported, successive series of *minor* changes. Natural selection removes the weak and promotes stability among a species, the exact opposite of what evolutionists require!

A famous Dutch botanist best explained the problem by stating, "Natural selection may explain the survival of the fittest, but it cannot explain the *arrival* of the fittest" (Hugo deVries, *Species and Varieties: Their Origin by Mutation*).

Interestingly, natural selection did not originate in the mind of Charles Darwin. In fact, it was documented 20 years earlier by Edward Blyth, a zoologist, chemist and creationist. Darwin changed the correct observation of a passive "natural process of selection" to the active "natural means of selection." He changed it from a readily understood and accepted theory to a circular logic truism!

Like all such truisms, the false interpretation of natural selection attempts to explain everything, but, in reality, explains nothing. Falsely assumed by so many, this pillar of evolution is nothing more than a redundant statement proving nothing!

A House of Cards

Even with just two assumptions of evolution detailed, you should already begin to understand how so many scientists illogically view evolution as fact. The scientific theory of evolution has already broken down just by using logic.

We ended Part One with the question of how it could be taught in high schools; we could now ask why it is believed by anyone. There is much, much more to cover as this faulty science is exposed and the house of cards completely topples. □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

detailed book of Revelation, which describes events found nowhere else in the Bible.

Revelation outlines a long *series* of events that relate to one another in a continuous *flow*—comprising an entire *story*. These occur in order of time sequence. (The center of the *Revelation Explained at Last!* booklet contains two overview graphs—an *outline* and a *story flow*—to which the reader may occasionally refer.) Also, Christ periodically insets certain events into the course of the Revelation. You now understand the first **KEY** to unlock the book!

Grasp this central, all-important point. While there are *keys* to understanding Revelation, the book itself is the single greatest key to understanding almost all *other* prophecies in the Bible!

The Signs of Christ's Coming Parallel the Seven Seals

One of the basic rules of Bible study is to always let the Bible interpret itself. This is probably never truer than in the book of Revelation. This will be done as we progress through the opening of the seven seals.

Since John sees many *symbols*, we need to be able to understand the *actual events* that they *represent*. Otherwise, we will not know what is being described.

How do we do this?

Mark 4:10-12 and Matthew 13:10-15 hold another **KEY** to understanding *how* Christ teaches. In both places, He explained that He spoke in parables so

that His true servants *would* understand Him—but *others would not!* Carefully read these verses: “And when He was alone, they that were about Him with the twelve asked of Him the parable. And He said unto them, Unto **YOU** it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and *not perceive*; and hearing they may hear, and *not understand*; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them” (Mark 4:10-12).

Note exactly what Christ said! *Only* His servants could understand His real meaning. Others might *think* they do—but they cannot!

Christ never leaves His servants in the dark about matters He wants them to understand. But He does record them in ways that keep them hidden from the view of all others. This will help you see why so *few* understand a book that has been read by so *many*.

We have already touched upon the principle that the “wicked” (the unrighteous) do not understand events at the close of the age. But those who have God’s Spirit (Acts 5:32; John 16:13) *will* understand. Only through God’s Spirit *leading* those that are *obeying* Him can they understand the truth. Recognizing and accepting these two verses is of vital importance to every reader of the book of Revelation. All who do not seek to obey God, while they may *sincerely seek to understand* the many truths of Bible prophecy, are wasting their time.

Jesus explained, in *plain, clear language*, the key events of the last days preceding and

leading to the time of His Second Coming. Remember, Jesus’ disciples asked Him privately, “Tell us, *when* shall these things be? And *what* shall be the *sign* of Your coming, and of the *end* of the world [age]?” (Matt. 24:3; Luke 21:7).

We must briefly examine the critical Matthew 24 chapter for vital **CLUES**, which explain the symbols that we will study in Revelation. Christ gave a list of six different events that are to happen before His Second Coming. They precisely *parallel* what we will read beginning in Revelation 6.

First—false prophets and false christs (vs. 5). *Second*—wars (vs. 6) throughout the age, culminating in the end time with *world war* (vs. 7). *Third*—famines (vs. 7). *Fourth*—pestilences (vs. 7). It is at this point that Christ inserted a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem, in AD 70, because this was a forerunner, or type, of the yet future siege of Jerusalem and final “battle of Armageddon” (review Matthew 24:17-28 with Luke 17:30-37). Therefore, Matthew 24:9-28 (also Luke 21:12-24) applies to the period of AD 70—but *only as a fore-running type of the final time of the end* to which His warning refers **LITERALLY!**

Fifth, in Matthew 24:21-22, Christ explains that the Great Tribulation occurs. *Sixth* are the Heavenly Signs (vs. 29)—when the stars fall and the sun and moon are darkened. The *sign* of Christ’s coming (vs. 30) occurs at this same time. His actual coming is right on the heels of it.

(To learn more, read my booklet *Revelation Explained at Last!*) □



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WEATHER

Twisters Ravage U.S. Midwest

The Midwestern United States appears to be on track for experiencing the deadliest tornado year since 1998, when 130 people were killed. From January to May, there have been nearly 110 deaths caused by tornadoes in 2008.

According to the National Weather Service, 2008 is also likely to break the U.S. record for the number of tornadoes in a year, with a preliminary count of 1,191 twisters so far. The current record stands at 1,817 in 2004.

Some of the areas recently hit include...

■ **Colorado:** Authorities stated that a large twister, rating 3 on the Enhanced Fujita (E-F) scale, tore through 35 miles of northern Colorado, damaging some 590 homes, with 102 considered unlivable. One person was reported dead and dozens of others injured.

■ **Iowa:** Five people were reported dead after a class 5 twister leveled 288 homes, along with city buildings and schools in Parkersburg, Iowa—a town of about 1,000 residents. Governor



PHOTO: MCT

Chet Culver declared a state of disaster in three counties.

■ **Minnesota:** A twister killed a two-year old and injured nine others after touching down in Hugo, Minn. Fifty homes were destroyed and another 150 were severely damaged. Authorities also reported twisters in Coon Rapids and Blaine.

■ **Kansas:** Two people were reported dead from a car accident caused by a tornado in the south-central part of the state.

■ **Oklahoma:** Several twisters were reported skimming across the northern part of Oklahoma, severely

damaging a hog farm. No injuries were reported.

■ **Texas:** Sightings of three additional tornadoes were reported in Moore County, but details were not readily available.

Storms ranging from 136 to 200 mph have been more prevalent than normal, more often hitting populated areas, said meteorologist Greg Carbin at the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

There have been at least 22 tornadoes this year in the top part of the new E-F scale: 3 (for severe) or 4 (devastating) on the 1 to 5 scale. □

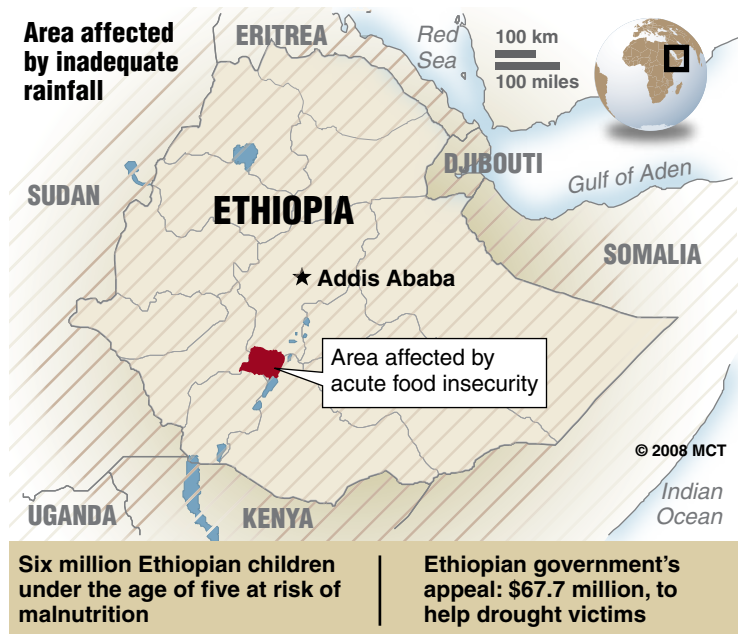
AFRICA

Millions Face Starvation

In May, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 3.2 million people in Ethiopia are in urgent need of food, up from 2.2 million in April. UNICEF reports that an estimated 120,000 children have less than one month to live.

Also, the Food and Agriculture Organization reported that 2.6 million in Somalia are in critical need of food assistance. Cereal grain prices have increased 375% in the past year, as have other staple foods. This, coupled with the eroding value of the Somali shilling, means that even after cutting spending on non-food items most citizens still cannot afford to eat. □

SOURCES IN INFOGRAPHIC: RELIEFWEB, ESRI



Police Killings Mark Increase in Mexican Drug Violence

Escalating violence in Mexico's drug war has claimed more than 100 lives in one week—including about 20 police officers, with heavily armed drug cartels targeting high-ranking police officials. *Voice of America* reported that cartel hitmen have assassinated nine federal agents.

The drug war has led to at least 1,100 deaths since January. If the death rate remains the same, the number of deaths in 2008 will surpass last year's total of about 2,500.

The violence is said to be a response to policies implemented by Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who declared war on the cartels upon taking office in 2006, and has authorized the use of over 25,000 armed troops to combat drug trafficking.

At a memorial service for one of the fallen officers, President Calderon confirmed his commitment to fighting the war on drug cartels. He said that organized crime groups were striking back against the federal government "because they know we are hitting their criminal structure." He also said the government is "determined to recover streets that never should have ceased being ours" (*LA Times*).

The U.S. National Drug Intelligence Center said the Mexican cartels are "predominant smugglers, transporters, and wholesale distributors of cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and Mexico-produced heroin in the United States."

The U.S. State Department estimates that 90% of cocaine enters the nation via the Mexican border. Mexican cartels also grow marijuana and run methamphetamine labs in the U.S.

Additionally, the drug gangs are linked to kidnapping, human and arms trafficking, and auto theft. Gruesome violence is also used, including beheadings and other brutal forms of torture.

Much of the conflict occurs at the border, where cartels fight one another and the government for control of illegal trade routes into the U.S. The



■ **UNDER FIRE:** Bullet holes riddle a police car after a Municipal Police captain was shot and killed in Juarez, Mexico.

PHOTO: FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT



■ **BATTLEGROUND:** More than a month after over 2,000 soldiers were dispatched to Juarez, Mexico, execution-style murders remain commonplace as drug cartels battle for control of smuggling routes into the U.S.

Mexican border town of Juarez, which is across from El Paso, Texas, has been one of the hardest hit.

Last weekend, Municipal Police Chief Juan Antonio Roman was gunned down near the steps of his house, becoming the third senior police official to be killed in Juarez that week. Investigators estimate that assailants fired over 60 shots. Officer Roman's name had been on a hit list left by cartel members at a police monument in the city.

In response to this unhampered violence and the brazen killings of police officials, thousands of citizens wore white and silently marched Juarez's streets in protest.

U.S. President George W. Bush has asked Congress to approve a \$500 million emergency aid package for the area, which will include helicopters and additional training for Mexican police in stopping smuggling and decreasing police corruption. □

EUROPE

Upcoming EU-Russia Trade Pact Summit

After 18 months of delays in talks between the European Union and Russia, a summit is scheduled to take place June 26. Talks were held up by Poland and Lithuania, which Russia annexed after World War II. Poland had blocked the talks due to a Russian embargo against meat exports from Poland. More recently, Lithuania held up talks over its concerns regarding Russian energy supplies.

The EU initiated talks to begin discussions on trade between the European Union and Russia, especially involving energy. It is expected that talks will not be easy due to the many complex issues.

Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel said, "Negotiations will start, I hope now in June. How long will they take? I think around a year. How long will it take to ratify? I don't know, I hope another year, or I presume another year" (*Reuters*).

He also told reporters, "We are not in front of some quick fix, but indeed the process has started and we should be able within the process of negotiations to clarify all the problems that exist between EU and the Russian Federation" (*ibid.*).

Energy is the main concern to the EU, as Russia is a crucial gas supplier to many of the 27 EU member-states. Russia has twice used energy as a weapon, cutting off gas supplies to Ukraine in 2006 and Belarus in 2007, bringing serious ramifications on Europe, which relies on 30% of its Russian natural gas through these countries.

Germany, in turn, has made matters more difficult by planning a gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea. This would alleviate the problem, but severely affect the ex-Soviet republics that also rely on gas pipelines crossing their territories. Upon agreeing on energy issues, it is expected that matters such as road access, border control, and health and safety issues will be discussed. The EU and Russia differ in their approach as to what is expected from the talks:

Brussels wants a more comprehensive agreement covering all issues, while Moscow is only interested in agreeing on specific issues.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Vladimir Putin's successor, has indicated that China, rather than Europe, is his nation's first choice for negotiations. On a trip to Beijing, President Medvedev sought closer Russian-Chinese cooperation at the United Nations Security Council to oppose American plans for

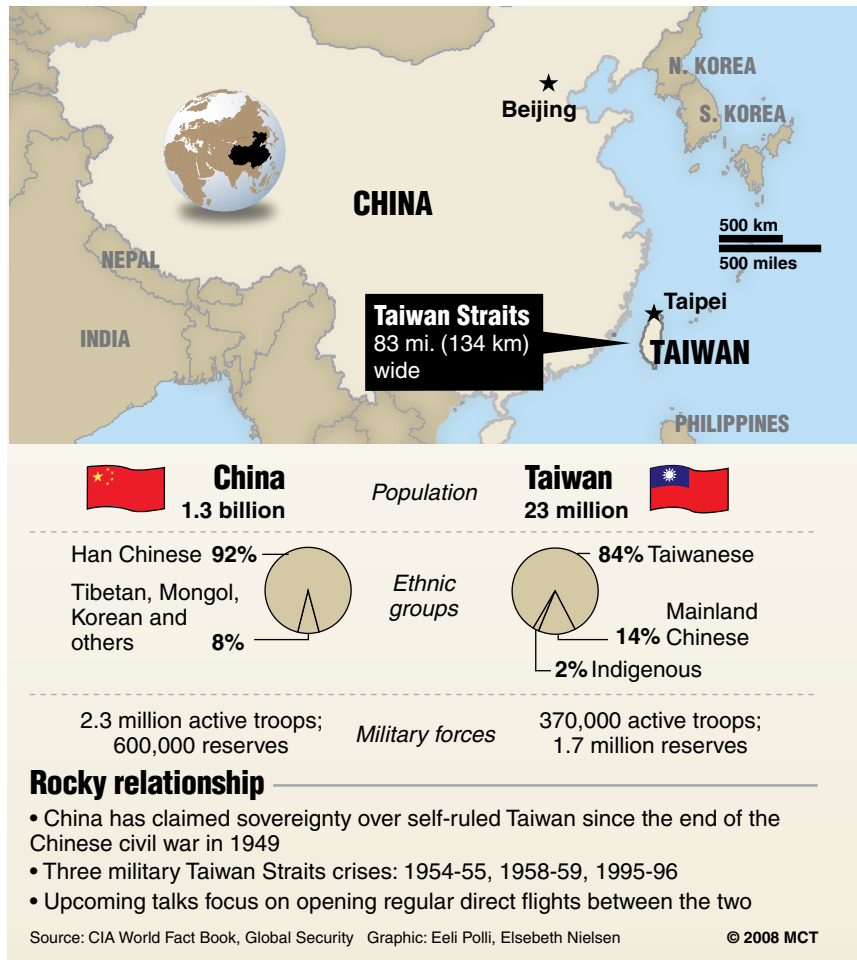
a missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Any progress that results from the June 26 talks between Brussels and Moscow will benefit the EU, which is beginning to reach out to all corners of the earth in its quest to survive difficult times in the world. Now more than ever, the European Union is forging global economic ties to support its interests in becoming a global counterweight to the U.S. □

ASIA

Taiwan Calls For Open Dialogue

In his inauguration address, Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwan's new president, immediately called for more dialogue with China, restarting bilateral talks between the two governments, which have been suspended for a decade. □



MIDDLE EAST

Report: Iran's Nuke Program May Lead to Nuclear Mid-East

Over a dozen nations in Africa and the Middle East, from February 2006 to January 2007, announced intentions for a nuclear program, or had restarted dormant programs, according to a report by London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

All of the programs began after Iran continued its nuclear enrichment plans in defiance of the United Nations.

The report, "Nuclear Programs in the Middle East: In the Shadow of Iran," suggests that the upswing in nuclear intentions is a result of Iran's program continuing unabated, or an

attempt to counter-balance the possibility of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons.

"If Tehran's nuclear program is unchecked, there is reason for concern that it could in time prompt a regional cascade of proliferation among Iran's neighbors," the report stated.

However, the declared programs are all "civilian" and will be subject to the strict observation of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman are involved in a joint nuclear feasibility study, and Egypt has

restored its plans for nuclear power. The *Associated Press* reported that Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia have few energy reserves and are driven toward nuclear power partly to gain independence in an age of soaring oil prices.

According to the IISS, Algeria has "one of the most advanced nuclear-science programs in the Arab world," but has complained of "Western pressure to accept additional nonproliferation obligations."

Turkey and Egypt both have declared they will have nuclear reactors in place by 2015. □



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