

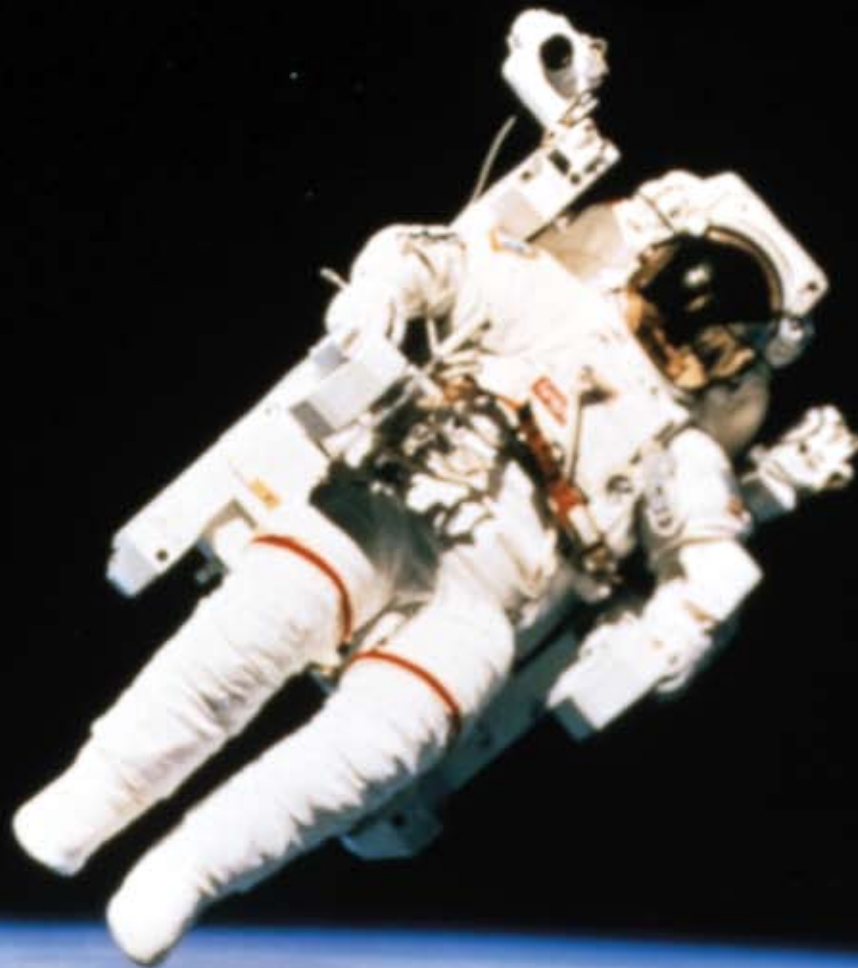
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2004

THE

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



HOW MAN WILL CONQUER SPACE!

THE REAL TRUTH

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VOL. 2 | NO. 6 | NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2004

A R T I C L E S

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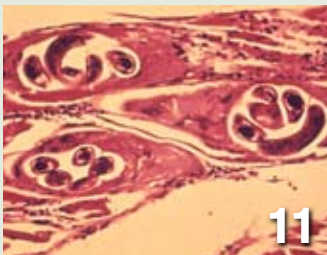


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ABOUT OUR COVER:

Since first stepping into space, mankind has dreamed of exploring—and eventually conquering—the vast universe. This dream will one day become a reality—but *not* in the way men expect.

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The **REAL TRUTH** magazine is provided free of charge. This is made possible by the voluntary, freely given tithes and offerings of the members of The Restored Church of God, and by the offerings and donations of co-workers and donors. Contributions are gratefully welcomed and are tax-deductible in the U.S. and Canada. Those who wish to voluntarily aid and support the Work of God in preaching and publishing the Gospel to all nations are gladly welcomed as co-workers. Contributions should be sent to the address below.

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.

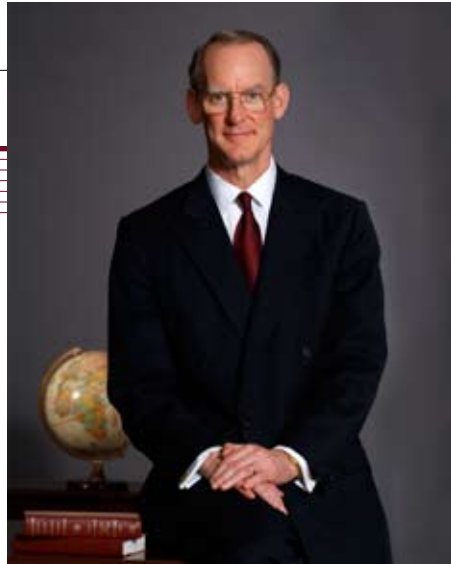
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



Why Do You Exist?

WHY WERE you born? Is there a reason—a meaning—for your life? Is your existence part of a divine plan?

Was mankind placed on earth by an all-wise Creator as part of a great Purpose—a MASTER PLAN? Knowing the answer is supremely important!

Think for a moment. What could be more important to understand than the purpose for your life?

Atheists refuse to know. Those who do not accept the existence of God certainly cannot accept that He has a Master Plan.

Cynics scoff at the possibility of knowing. They see the confusion and wide disagreement over this question and conclude it can never be answered.

Scientists cannot discover this knowledge through laboratory analysis. Honest astronomers, microbiologists and others acknowledge that God exists, but this alone does not reveal His Purpose for mankind.

Philosophers cannot discern it through meditation or discussion. Divinely revealed answers cannot be obtained by centuries of pondering questions.

Educators cannot teach what they themselves were never taught. Those who merely teach from books written by other men cannot teach what those books do not contain.

Astrologers dazzle with tricks that reveal nothing of value. Do any reasonable people seriously think that such “business people” (those who *sell* fortunetelling as true understanding), supposedly in contact with the “dead” and the “spirit world” (actually demon spirits), hold the meaning of life?

Theologians offer humanly-devised counterfeits. All religions *profess* to hold the answers to life’s questions, but their ideas pale as cheap substitutes—empty counterfeits—when the awesome truth of God’s Plan is fully understood.

Most people live their entire lives without a clue as to why they are here. They drift aimlessly, unconcerned about the answers to life’s greatest questions—*why life* and *why death*? Others enjoy debating the meaning of life, but never arrive at the correct answers. Many conclude that mankind is little more than a product of evolution—blind, dumb luck!

Insoluble Problems

The world is experiencing an explosion of knowledge amidst ever greater human suffering, unhappiness, discontent and confusion. Why such ever-worsening moral decline alongside astonishing materialistic progress? Weapons of mass destruction now threaten man’s very survival.

Why? And where do we go from here?

The number and severity of problems facing mankind have never been greater—disease, pollution, poverty, ignorance, religious confusion, war, terrorism, crime, violence, hunger, immorality, slavery, oppression, political upheaval and much more—*why?*

Problems both between and within nations have never brought more division between peoples—*why?*

With the passing of time come more problems, not less—*why?*

Also, existing problems grow collectively worse instead of better—*why?*

Why, at every turn, has man botched, bungled and failed miserably in all efforts to solve his truly great problems?

Individually, people have never seemed more incapable of addressing and overcoming their personal problems. As with the world in general, the passing of time sees individuals and families drowning in a sea of moral decadence and under seemingly insurmountable difficulties. More and more seem completely incapable of managing their lives—*why?*

Men have created many amazing technological inventions, but they cannot create solutions to their problems. Mankind has harnessed the power of computers to process vast amounts of information, but human beings cannot correctly process their personal problems. Scientists have discovered much about the size, magnificence and precision of the universe, but they cannot discover the way to peace. Astronomers can find majestic, beautiful new galaxies throughout the universe, but they cannot find a way to preserve the beauty and majesty of earth. Scientists have also unleashed the power of the atom, but are powerless to unleash answers to life's biggest questions. Educators have taught millions how to earn a living, but not *how to live*—because they themselves do not know how to live.

With the creative genius of man having been used to create weapons of mass destruction, and to bring worse and worse forms of terrorism to a world incapable of successfully combating it, the world is in a terrible mess.

The well-known presidential historian Peggy Noonan summarized mankind's complex, jumbled history in this way: "In the long ribbon of history, life has been one long stained and tangled mess, full of famine, horror, war and disease. We must have thought we had it better because man had improved.

But man doesn't really 'improve,' does he? Man is man. Human nature is human nature; the impulse to destroy coexists with the desire to build and create and make better" ("America's Age of Uncertainty," *Knight-Ridder*, 11/9/2001).

Who could disagree?

So, something is terribly wrong. Man's extraordinary creative genius has left him incomplete—and it has proven insufficient to solve his problems. The power and creative prowess of his mind has been more channeled to destruction than to productive effort in planning and inventing.

The SOURCE That Reveals

Sir Winston Churchill, the famous Prime Minister of once-Great Britain, proclaimed, "There is a *purpose* being worked out here below." He understood that in some fashion a Supreme Being was working out an unseen and little-understood PLAN on earth.

But what is it? Churchill did not know.

Many long to know what God is doing "here below," but have no idea how to learn what it is. Mankind is ignorant of where to turn. Humanity does not know what the Source of instruction is.

The Creator of human beings sent with them a detailed *Instruction Book* containing vital information. It explains the nature, design and purpose of His greatest of all creations. It identifies the hidden key—the missing dimension!—to the right and proper use of the mind. It explains *the way* to peace, happiness, abundance and universal prosperity.

But this greatest *Instruction Book* is almost universally ignored, misrepresented, misunderstood and rejected. I speak of God's Word—the HOLY BIBLE! As a result, the problems, troubles and evils of civilization mount. With no solution in sight, conditions only grow worse.

Stop and think! Apply basic logic.

Would God create His own marvel of engineering—your mind—and send it without an *Instruction Book* explaining how to use it?

Of course not! This overlooked and misunderstood Book *does* exist. We need to examine this "Manual," which unlocks the mystery of why you exist. It offers hope for you—and solutions to humanity's problems. It explains *why* man is incapable of solving his problems without divine intervention from the One who is working out His Purpose. It explains the meaning of life and answers the most important question you face—*why do you exist?*

The evolutionist cannot answer this question. He believes that life has evolved over millions of years. He believes that his *theory* explains the presence of millions of plants and animals on earth, with mankind merely being the highest animal in the evolutionary chain. Evolutionists reject special creation by a Supreme Creator and therefore reject the Source of revealed knowledge that He sent with His creation.

Proponents of the evolutionary theory cannot explain man's awesome potential, or why it has never been realized. Nor can they explain why things keep getting worse—when evolution teaches that mankind is supposedly evolving to a higher order.

The world's religions have utterly failed in giving *meaning*—or *hope*—to life. These religions have almost universally caved to the evolutionists and even professing Christianity has largely rejected the Genesis account of creation as myth and ancient Hebrew "literature." Yet, while rejecting many Scriptures that explain the purpose of life, they claim to believe a few selected passages and falsely label themselves "Christianity"!

But the Book of books offers hope and meaning. Our booklet *Why Do You Exist?* makes the truth from this vital Instruction Book plain! □

CRISIS in SUDAN



It has been called the “worst humanitarian crisis in the world.” And it has been described as “genocide.” Will the U.S. be forced to intervene to prevent another Holocaust? How will peace finally come to Sudan?

BY ROBERT R. FARRELL

IN RECENT YEARS, countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo have become familiar to television viewers around the world. And there is a horrific civil war currently taking place in one country that is not so well known—Sudan. This internal conflict has created what is widely considered to be one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. How this crisis is handled may have implications for how

■ **FACING DESPAIR:** Displaced Sudanese women stand together in the Intifada transit camp in South Darfur. A disproportionate number of IDPs (internally displaced persons) in the camps are women and children.

PHOTO: USAID

the United States, European Union and United Nations resolve future crises.

To better understand the complexity of the situation raging in Sudan, we must examine the precursors to this civil war and the attempts to bring about peace. Then we will look at the REAL CAUSE of war and how peace will ultimately come—a peace that will finally lead to happiness and prosperity, not only for Sudan, but also for the whole world.

A Diverse Land

Sudan is the largest nation in Africa, and shares its borders with several nations: Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Central African Republic, Chad and Libya. Sudan is a diverse country comprised of large areas of deserts, rainforests, swamps, cultivatable land and mountains. Part of the vast Sahara Desert

and the famous Nile River are located there.

Home to over 33 million people, Sudan is populated mainly by Muslims in the north and Christians and “animists” in the South. Sudan’s name comes from the Arabic “bilad al-Sudan,” or “land of the blacks.” However, Arabs also make up a significant portion of the population. Arabic is the official language and Islam is the official state religion, although the country has significant non-Muslim and non-Arab popula-

tions. This ethnic and religious division is key to understanding the present conflict in Sudan.

Interestingly, there are significant untapped reserves of oil in the southern part of the country. In 1978, oil was discovered in Bentiu, and in 1999, the country began exporting it. Besides oil, Sudan’s main exports are cotton, sesame and animal hides.

History of Sudan

For more than 1,000 years, Sudan was a collection of small indepen-

dent kingdoms, which included the famous ancient kingdom of Nubia. The nation was closely tied to Egypt for thousands of years, but was autonomous, trading slaves, ivory and hides between Europe and Africa. In the 6th Century A.D., the Ethiopians brought traditional Christianity to the Sudanese. A century later, Arabs invaded, causing new Islamic states to emerge in Sennar (on the Blue Nile), Kordofan (to the west), and Darfur (in the western desert).

Egypt conquered the northern part

CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT KEY EVENTS

- **1978:** Oil discovered in southern Sudan.
- **1983:** Civil war breaks out in the south involving government forces and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), led by John Garang.
- **1983:** President Numayri declares the introduction of shari’ah (Islamic law).
- **1985:** Numayri is deposed by a group of military officers.
- **1986:** Coalition government formed, with Sadiq al-Mahdi as prime minister.
- **1989:** National Salvation Revolution takes over in military coup.
- **1993:** Revolution Command Council dissolved after Umar al-Bashir is appointed president.
- **1995:** Egyptian President Mubarak accuses Sudan of being involved in an assassination attempt against him.
- **1998:** The U.S. launches missile attack on a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant, alleging it was making materials for chemical weapons.
- **1998:** New constitution endorsed by over 96% of voters.
- **1999:** President Bashir dissolves the National Assembly and declares a state of emergency. Sudan begins to export oil.
- **2001:** February – Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi arrested a day after his party, the Popular National Congress, signed a memorandum of understanding with the southern rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA). March – The UN’s *World Food Program* struggles to raise funds to feed 3 million facing famine. April – SPLA rebels threaten to attack international oil workers brought in to exploit new oil reserves. Government troops accused of trying to drive civilians and rebels from oil fields. April-May – Police continue

- to arrest members of Turabi’s Popular National Congress party (PNC). June – Nairobi peace talks fail. July – Government says it accepts a Libyan/Egyptian initiative to end the civil war; Bambo oil field inaugurated in Unity State, producing 15,000 barrels per day. U.S. Senator John Danforth appointed as special envoy to help end the Sudanese conflict. November – U.S. extends unilateral sanctions against Sudan for another year, citing its record on terrorism and rights violations. December – More than 14,550 slaves—mainly blacks from the south—are set free, following campaigning by rights activists.
- **2002:** January – SPLA and rival militia group Sudan People’s Defence Force pool resources in campaign against government in Khartoum. July – After talks in Kenya, government and SPLA sign Machakos Protocol on ending 19-year civil war. Government accepts right of south to seek self-determination after six-year interim period. Southern rebels accept application of Shariah law in north. President al-Bashir and SPLA leader John Garang meet face-to-face for the first time. October – Government and SPLA agree to temporary ceasefire during peace talks, yet hostilities continue. November – Negotiations stall, but both sides agree to observe ceasefire.
- **2003:** April – President Bashir and John Garang meet for second time in 20 years of conflict at peace talks. October – PNC leader Turabi released after nearly three years in detention;

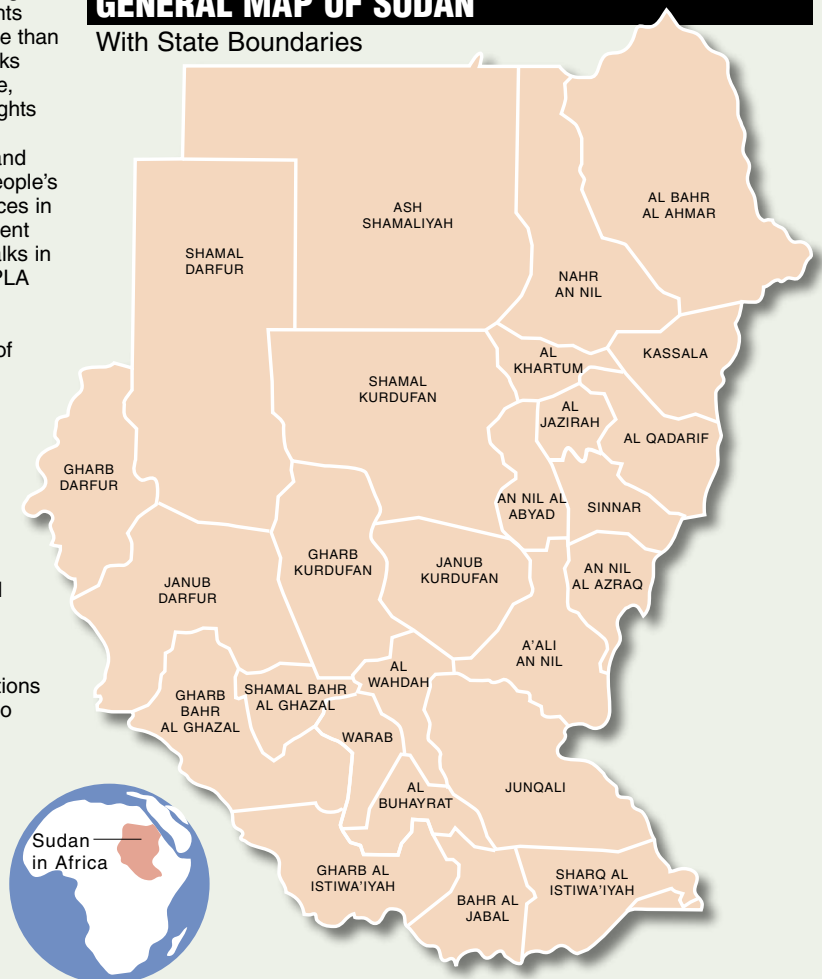
- ban on his party is lifted.
- **2004:** January – Army moves to quell rebel uprising in western region of Darfur; more than 100,000 people seek refuge in neighboring Chad. March – UN official says pro-government Arab “Janjaweed” militias are carrying out systematic killings of African villagers in Darfur. May – Fighting in Darfur spills into Chad. September – UN envoy says

Sudan has not met targets for disarming pro-government Darfur militias and must accept outside help to protect civilians. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell describes Darfur killings as genocide. Sudanese government claims it has foiled coup plot by supporters of Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi.

Source: *BBC News*

GENERAL MAP OF SUDAN

With State Boundaries



of Sudan in 1820-21 and gradually expanded its control, eventually taking over the entire country in 1876. The invaders united the nation's diverse regions and imposed foreign religious practices to its traditional "animist" beliefs—a belief structure built on the premise that spirits inhabit natural objects. The resulting religious and ethnic divisions within Sudan have played major roles in crises in its modern history.

In 1881, a religious leader named Muhammad ibn Abdalla proclaimed himself the Mahdi (the "expected one") and led a successful revolt against the Egyptians, culminating in the fall of Khartoum (Sudan's capital) in 1885. At that time, Sudan became an independent Islamic state. The Mahdi's followers assumed the name "Ansars," which they have to this day, and are associated with Sudan's largest political party, the Umma Party.

Although the Arab north of the country supported the revolution, the Mahdist government only lasted until 1898, when British and Egyptian troops led by Lord Kitchener took control of Sudan. Britain then ruled the country until 1956, when, on January 1st of that year, the African nation received its independence.

Crisis in the Making

Shortly after Sudan gained independence, a 17-year civil war began after fighting broke out between government forces and those of the Anya Nya movement. This civil war pitted the Muslim north of the country against the Christian and animist south. Southern army officers accused the Arab-led government of going back on promises to create a federal system that would give the south a larger voice in the affairs of the country. This was a time of great instability, both politically and economically, leading to a number of changes in government as a result of military coups.

In 1972, the Addis-Ababa agreement led to a cessation of the north-south civil war, as the south was granted a degree of self-rule. This ceasefire lasted 11 years.

In 1983, the President of Sudan announced his decision to incorporate punishments drawn from Islamic Sharia law as part of a program to turn the country into a Muslim-Arab state. Southerners, along with non-Muslims in the north, were subjected to the same punishments as Muslims. For example, there were amputations for theft and public lashings for alcohol

possession. As a result of these measures, protests erupted and the government imposed a state of emergency, in which most constitutionally-guaranteed rights were suspended.

This led to a rebellion in the south and a resumption of the north-south civil war involving government forces and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led by John Garang. The civil war continues to this day, fueled by disputes over the control of oil fields and political power, allegations of injustices and discrimination perpetrated against black Africans, as well as religious conflict.

Chronic Instability

Since the resumption of its civil war, Sudan has suffered growing instability, both politically and economically. Military coups led to the overthrow of the government in 1985 and 1989. And in 1988, there were riots because of large increases in the prices of basic goods. This pattern of chronic instability continued into the 1990s.

In the 1990s, Sudan was accused of being a haven for terrorists after Osama bin Laden and his al Qaida organization moved there in 1991. For five years, bin Laden allegedly directed terrorist attacks from Sudan until he was expelled in 1996 (as a result of pressure from the U.S. and other western countries). In 1995, the UN imposed sanctions after Sudanese agents were implicated in an attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. After years of accusing Sudan of training Muslim militants in military camps around the country, the U.S. launched a missile attack against a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum in 1998, claiming that it was manufacturing chemical weapons. Allegations of terrorism and repression have made Sudan an international pariah.

Humanitarian Crisis

In 2001, the U.S. government sought to find a way to end the civil war and to enhance the delivery of humanitarian aid in order to relieve the suffering of the Sudanese people by appointing



■ **MODERN-DAY EXODUS:** Truck taking IDPs from Tawilla to El Fasher: More than 1.1 million people have fled their towns and villages seeking assistance and protection. Few, like those shown above, are fortunate enough to escape with some of their belongings.

PHOTO: USAID



■ **IN SEARCH OF SHELTER:** Displaced children in Kalma camp near Nyala in South Darfur wait in the shade while their mother works in nearby fields for income. This work is very dangerous, as relief workers report that women who venture from the camps are often targets of Janjaweed attacks, including rape and murder.

PHOTO: USAID

Senator John Danforth as Presidential Envoy for Peace in Sudan.

The ongoing civil war has created a humanitarian crisis in Sudan. It has been estimated that over four million southerners have been displaced from their homes. Some have fled to other cities within the country, while others have fled to neighboring countries. These displaced people have been unable to provide for themselves and, as a result, malnutrition, starvation and disease have become widespread. In 2001, the United Nations' *World Food Program* raised funds to feed three million people facing famine. The lack of educational and employment opportunities and access to basic health care services has created what international humanitarian organizations have called a "lost generation."

The situation has deteriorated so badly that the U.S. government, in the Sudan Peace Act of 2002, accused the Sudanese government of genocide for killing more than two million civilians in the south since 1983.

During this period of civil war, Sudan has also suffered repeatedly from severe drought.

Peace talks between the government and southern rebels have made only limited progress. After talks in Kenya in 2002, the government and the southern-based SPLM signed the Machakos Protocol as a first step to ending the war. Following pressure from the U.S., and European and African nations, the two warring parties then signed a historic deal in 2004 aimed at ending more than 20 years of continuous war in the south. This deal was the result of years of negotiations, and has been hailed by all parties involved as a major breakthrough in the effort to bring peace to Sudan. The parties have agreed that the south will have six years of political autonomy, after which southerners will be able to vote on a referendum on independence from Sudan. Meanwhile, southern rebels have accepted application of Islamic Sharia Law in the northern section. The two sides have also agreed to share the oil revenues from the south, which the rebels currently control.

However, despite progress made so far, hostilities have continued in the south. Although there have been a number of attempts to end the north-

south civil war, none have brought lasting peace.

The Conflict in Darfur

Even as the government and southern rebels inched closer to a peace settlement, a separate conflict erupted in early 2003 in the Darfur region in western Sudan. Fighting broke out in the arid impoverished region (with a population of six million) when rebels began attacking government targets, accusing the government of neglecting Darfur and of oppressing blacks in favor of Arabs. Motivated by the peace talks, the Darfur rebels are demanding a fairer deal for the region's black population.

Historically, there has long been tension in Darfur over land and grazing rights between nomadic Arabs and black farmers. The farmers live and farm in the central part of the region, while the nomads live in the north and herd camels by trade. Disputes occasionally flared up between the two groups as migrating camel herders in search of water and pasture for their animals during the dry season would graze on farmers' lands. Tribal leaders would usually settle disputes over lost crops, with the nomadic herders reimbursing the farmers. However, severe drought in the region worsened the situation, with the herders raiding farms to feed their livestock. Receiving no help from the government in spite of their protests, farmers armed themselves and fought back.

This conflict has pitted Muslim Arabs against Muslim blacks, both of whom accuse the other of atrocities. The blacks accuse the government of siding with the Arabs in the dispute, and of supporting Arab "Janjaweed" militias engaged in the ethnic cleansing of blacks in the region. In fact, refugees from Darfur have been reported as saying that following government air raids, the Janjaweed ride into villages on horses and camels and systematically kill men, rape women, and steal whatever they can find. In addition, refugee women have accused the Janjaweed of holding them as sex slaves before finally



■ **LINING UP FOR FOOD:** Due to insecurity, most farmers in Darfur will be unable to plant their fields, and the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed have systematically looted cattle, goats, and sheep. Many conflict-affected persons will rely on international donors to provide food assistance until the region's next harvest.

PHOTO: USAID

releasing them. While admitting to mobilizing “self-defense militias” following rebel attacks, the government has denied any links to the Janjaweed. Instead, the government has promised to disarm the Janjaweed. However, according to international observers, there has been little evidence of this so far.

The conflict in Darfur came to a head in February 2003, when two non-Arab groups, the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked and captured several towns. They demanded that the government disarm the Janjaweed, share power, and improve economic conditions for blacks in the region to the same standard as for Arabs. The government refused and responded by launching a major offensive in July of the same year. After months of fighting, the two sides agreed to a ceasefire in September, which was routinely violated. Eventually, by December, peace talks collapsed. According to international observers, the Janjaweed then increased attacks against civilians, creating what the UN has called “the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.” The UN has set up 147 refu-

gee camps in Darfur and Eastern Chad to accommodate civilians who have fled their homes.

Sadly, the fighting has killed up to 50,000 people and rendered more than one million homeless, over 100,000 of whom have sought refuge in neighboring Chad. Some have fled to remote desert locations where delivering food, shelter and clothing is very difficult. Darfur's location at the edge of the Sahara desert makes it difficult to reach, especially during the rainy season.

Many refugees have also reached camps organized by international aid agencies, but still face starvation due to delays in the arrival of foodstuffs. International aid agencies have accused the government of blocking their access to Darfur by demanding visas and using other bureaucratic obstacles. In addition, the agencies say that they do not have enough money to effectively respond to the crisis. For example, the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says that over \$400 million (USD) is needed by the end of the year to respond to the most urgent needs. The situation is so serious that the U.S. Agency

for International Development said recently that, without help, one million people may die, and that 300,000 will probably die no matter what is done.

The International Community's Response

The current humanitarian crisis in Sudan has not gone unnoticed by the world's nations. In 2004, a UN official said that the pro-government Janjaweed militias were carrying out systematic killings against African villagers in Darfur, and in September 2004, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell charged Sudan's government with genocide. Recognizing the seriousness of the crisis, the UN passed a resolution in July 2004, threatening sanctions unless the Sudanese government halted atrocities by Arab militias within 30 days. However, the UN has refrained from calling the situation genocide, because, by doing so, it would be legally bound to take action to enforce the peace.

Interestingly, the 30-day period has passed and the UN has taken no action!

The United States has provided the strongest commitment to finding peace in Sudan. The focus on Sudan is part of the overall U.S. “war on terror,” with the aim being to prevent Sudan from becoming a haven for terrorist groups. In addition, the U.S. has been stung by criticism over its failure to react quickly to similar crises in Somalia and Rwanda that eventually resulted in horrific bloodbaths in those countries. Many are still haunted by the memories of genocide in Rwanda. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. has contributed more than \$194 million in aid to Sudan. In addition, the U.S. is pushing for a greater African Union military presence in the region.

The European Union (EU) has called for sanctions against Sudan if it does not halt the conflict in Darfur. European ministers have expressed

*Please see **SUDAN**, page 25*

PARENTS



Missing in Action!

Where are today's parents? Is society evolving to a higher standard of parenting? Here is an in-depth look into parenting today!

BY KEVIN D. DENEÉ

ONA COLD February morning, little Sally fights for her life. Swaddled in a blanket, lying in a shoebox beside a dumpster, she tries to stay warm. Only three days old, she cries for help, but no one hears. Sally is alone. Her parents are nowhere to be seen.

Stories like this hit headlines periodically. You certainly have heard of these terrible horror stories of abandonment. At the peak of their desperation, some parents do the unthinkable—they leave their own children to die. Those who hear these stories are shocked—outraged—and rightfully so. Questions are asked: “How could someone possibly commit such

a horrendous act? Why? What could a child have done to deserve such appalling treatment?”

Questions and emotions swim through our heads when we hear of these events, but everyone agrees it is a terrible tragedy.

Often, the only solace is that these types of sad situations rarely happen. However, when they do occur, the media almost always picks up the story and follows it until some sort of justice is served. Inevitably, though, these terrible stories fade in society's memory—until it happens again.

There is another form of abandonment that is much more widespread

yet receives considerably less media attention. Public outrage is nearly nonexistent. The outcry by society can barely be heard.

In the “fight” for one’s rights for alternative lifestyles, every type of opinion and preference is being supported—except that of the traditional family. The family is facing attacks from every side, with practically no defense.

Perhaps the fiercest attack is the growing lack of concerned and proper parenting. For varying reasons, parents are “lying down on the job”—actually, they are not even *showing up* for the job. Children are growing up without the proper guidance they need to become productive members of society.

This all-encompassing trend is affecting almost every family in western society. As you read this article, prepare to be saddened and sobered at how parents do their job today. They are truly “missing in action” and here is how.

Divorce

There was a time, not too long ago, when parents would endure a less-than-perfect marriage for the sake of their children. The well-being of their offspring was one of their top priorities. Realizing that a split household would directly and adversely affect their children’s development, parents made a conscious decision to stay together—sometimes despite their personal feelings toward one another.

However, times have changed. The already high divorce rate is increasing and many children are feeling the effects. Consider the following statistics:

- Divorced status is the fastest growing marital category. The number of divorcees more than quadrupled from 4.3 million in 1970 to 18.3 million in 1996.

- Divorces per 1,000 marriages: 1969—140; 1990—380 (up 171%); 2001—485 (up 246% since 1969).

- Sixty-one percent of couples who are divorcing for the first time have children under the age of 18.

In other words, nearly half of marriages end in divorce and more than half of those marriages have children! These children do not have any say in these divorces, although their lives are directly affected.

As one author on the family, Maggie Gallagher, stated, “We now live in a society where it is legally easier and less risky to dump a wife than to fire an employee.” And this is often done due to no more than “irreconcilable differences.”

All of these parents who divorced have one very important thing in common: At their marriage ceremony, they shared some sort of vow, promising each other that they would stay together until death parted them. In time, they had children. Sadly, couples often have children in an attempt to solve a marital problem. However, children do not solve problems. Only the husband and wife can do this, by addressing the CAUSE. In time, however, if the problems are not addressed, the marriage falters permanently and children are torn between two parents whom they deeply love.

The above statistics show that all too often, marriages with children end in divorce—therefore suffering the greatest loss. Divorce is a tragic result that no one wants or expects. When it happens, the couple and all who are close to them are hurt to one degree or another. But often, people do not stop and consider the short- and long-term effects that their actions have on the children involved.

Due to *selfish* actions, when parents are not willing to work out their differences (often because of the need to “discover one’s self”), the children are neglected—split between two homes. No longer will they grow up in a traditional household, with two loving parents working hard to rear their children *together*.

Numerous studies show that children of divorce suffer because of it. On average, children who go through divorce experience “more conduct problems, more symptoms of psychological maladjustment, lower academic achievement, more social difficulties,

poorer self-concepts [and] more problematic relationships with both mothers and fathers” (*Institute for Children, Youth, and Families*).

The end result? Due to the parents’ wrong choices before and during their marriage, they deal their own children a “bad hand” for the rest of their lives. Through no fault of their own, these children now face a fractured family relationship, without the benefit of both mother and father working together in a happy, two-parent home.

Out-of-Wedlock Births

Then there are those who do not get married, but still have children. Consider: In 2000, 33% of babies were born to unmarried women, compared to only 3.8% in 1940. A full one-third of children born are to unmarried women! From the beginning, these children enter a world in which they will *not* experience a healthy two-parent home and all the benefits that come from this.

Consider one example: The vast majority of children who are reared entirely in a two-parent home will never be poor during childhood. By contrast, the vast majority of children who grow up in a single-parent home will experience poverty. Almost 75% of American children living in single-parent families experience poverty before they are 11 years old!

One would certainly say that Sally, the newborn baby described earlier, did not deserve to be brought into this world and immediately abandoned. But also, which child affected by divorce or an illegitimate birth deserves a life without both parents, a life with more economic hardships and more social problems? The reality is that many receive this life sentence.

But there are additional factors that cause absentee parenting.

In Search of Careers

The concept of one parent working and the other staying at home to look after the children is termed “old-fashioned” and seems foreign to many today. The idea of a stay-at-home mom or a housewife is figuratively spat upon by

the intelligencia of society. “We have moved beyond and evolved!” they claim.

But have we? Is there anything at stake with both parents working all the time?

These days, to stay home as a housewife is to live in a “prehistoric world,” so to speak. Society has forgotten that rearing happy, healthy children is in many ways the most rewarding job on the planet. However, this way of life is belittled and mocked. Consider a statement from *Glamour* magazine warning mothers about the “dangers” of not returning to work quickly after having a child: “Babies are hard to resist once they’re at this stage, and mothers can sometimes find it difficult to ‘break away’ if they delay too long” (Andrea Boroff Eagan, “Long vs. Short Maternity Leaves”).

Shocking! This speaks volumes about a mother’s natural inclination to stay with her child.

Soon after having babies, many mothers leave their homes and their children’s upbringing to pursue their careers. But the mother’s search is not the only one affecting children. Many fathers, in pursuing personal advancement on the job—climbing the corporate ladder—work too many hours. They allow their jobs to swallow their lives—to *become* their lives. Arriving home after a long day at work, nearly exhausted, they do not have the energy or the ability to spend quality time with their children. The job—the pursuit of a successful career—absorbs the parent’s ability to function properly!

Of course, as children grow up, there may arise a need for both parents to work, and, if done in a balanced way, with children still viewed as a top priority, it may be the only way to make ends meet. However, again, it is a matter of *priority*. Many parents focus on the fulfillment of their career dreams, rather than creating the best environment possible to support their children.

And, as both parents find success (at least financially), their children are left in daycare and, as they become older, at home—as “latchkey kids.”

Daycare

In 2001, 61% of children from birth through age six (and not in kindergarten) spent time in non-parental child care. At such a young age, children are handed over to institutions to be reared, rather than being reared at home.

In the book *The Broken Hearth*, William J. Bennett writes, “The writer Karl Zinsmeister puts it this way, and I agree, ‘A child and a parent are bound eternally...A day-care worker is doing a job.’”

How true. The differences between the care and guidance a parent can give and what a childcare worker can give are vast!

Of course, the quality of childcare varies, but even the very best daycare center cannot compare to the love, care and concern that nurturing parents have for their children. Even at very young ages—one, two, three months old!—parents often decide to send their children to daycare. All the time and effort that these parents could put into rearing their children is forfeited so that they can achieve “success” in their career. Often, parents who seek a successful career ultimately lose their ability to properly parent, because all the money in the world—“success”—cannot “buy” good parenting.

While at work, co-workers may look at a father or a mother and say, “Wow, he (or she) is such a hard worker.” But how many of those same fathers and mothers go home and work hard at rearing their children? Or, instead, do they just ask the standard question of “How was school?” and then turn to read the newspaper or watch their favorite television program?

The other side of the coin is that some parents seemingly cannot afford not to have two jobs. But the question is: Are they living a life of over-extending themselves, buying large houses, multiple cars, etc., and then turning around and saying that they cannot afford not to work?

Society largely does not understand the difference between *wants* and *needs*. Those in Western society, in particular, have been given so much and now

expect to “have it all.” They do not understand that many around the world do not have even a fraction of what is taken for granted here. And, in the end, parents claim they have no choice but to work, which can be translated as they have no choice but to allow others to rear their children.

As children get older and pass the daycare stage, parents seem to work even more. Often, children are left alone for a few hours each day after school. This is where the term “latchkey kids” originated—as children would wear the house key around their neck.

In time, these latchkey kids begin to get into things they should not. Without correct parental supervision, they fall into trouble—they watch inappropriate television shows; they get involved in premarital sex, as well as drug and alcohol use, and other dangerous and damaging misconduct.

Yet, the abandonment of children does not end here. Even *with* a two-parent home and *with* both parents having a proper focus on their jobs, there are other dangers that pull fathers and mothers away from their primary job of parenting.

The Technology Drain

The Daily Telegraph, a British newspaper, in an article titled, “Keep out: TV, DVD and computers rule,” plainly states the effect of technology on parenting today:

“Technology is destroying traditional family life as young adolescents increasingly spend more time in their bedrooms playing computer games, surfing the Internet or watching television, videos and DVDs, a study released today claims.

“Whereas the living room used to be the hub of the home, now more and more 11- to 14-year-olds prefer to be alone in their technology-filled bedrooms, communicating with friends via mobile phone texting or e-mail.

“And, as Britons become more obsessed with technology, the strong sense of family is likely to dimin-

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A Pig's Tale



PHOTO: Visipix.com

Millions of dollars are spent each year to understand which foods are healthy and which are not. Did you know that this information was documented millennia ago?

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

EACH DAY, millions of people consume three square meals, intended to power their bodies throughout the day. In the hustle and bustle of our modern society, these meals are increasingly becoming more processed and less natural than at any time in history.

How is this affecting society's overall health? The result can be seen in the explosion of sickness, disease and overall lack of good health. But most never make the connection between what they eat and how they feel—and are doomed to a lifetime of illness and fatigue.

Much of the problem is directly tied to a social ignorance of health, diet

and our bodies. Modern science has not helped. While having a discussion relating to health and diet, one nutritionist, who develops menus for high schools, stated that the link between what one eats and how one feels has been blown out of proportion. She went on to state that the origin of sickness is unknown, and that this is the reason we have doctors.

But what have doctors and medical science been able to accomplish? Very few illnesses and diseases are actually cured, and fewer still are prevented! Western medicine has been designed to *react* to an illness and not help one *prevent* illnesses and maintain health.

It is interesting to note that most recognize what poisons do to the body. They understand that if one consumes

cyanide, he will die. Conversely, many parents tell their kids to “eat your vegetables.” Yet, a broader connection to diet is never established.

There exists a book written millennia ago that details what mankind should and should not eat to maintain health and avoid disease. That book, man’s overall Instruction Manual on how to live, is the Bible. As you will see, science continues to prove the laws contained in its pages! However, mankind has ignored this book as a source of knowledge and has spent the last 6,000 years trying to “figure out” what was already written.

In the second book of the Bible, a very detailed set of dietary laws are established. These set the basis for what creatures were designed to be eaten and which ones were created for other purposes. Leviticus 11 describes each of these animals in detail, but in this short article, we will cover only the most popular. We will look at the *science* of the matter, and show that the Bible has been right all along.

The body of evidence is vast and it may change what makes up *your* three square meals forever.

“The Other White Meat”

Without a doubt, the most popular of these animals are pigs. This pug-nosed “treat” is served in backyards as pork chops, at breakfast tables as bacon or as delicacies in five-star restaurants. Supporting its consumption are powerful organizations that push its health and safety in the media and political lobbies. The result is that swine comprises a large portion of the North American menu.

But is it as safe and healthy as some would have you believe?

Much insight into the pig can be ascertained by how they are raised and what *they* will eat. Many have heard the expression, “you are what you eat,” and what a pig will eat is shocking. We will also look at how pigs digest their food and how they differ from many other meats.

A pig’s digestive system—unlike a cow’s—is not designed to filter toxins from its system. These toxins work their

way through the pig and are deposited in the animal’s flesh—especially in its fat deposits. The pig itself is actually able to sustain very high levels of toxins in its system. As such, it can eat just about anything. So much so that it has actually been reported that in an effort to keep feed costs down, pig farmers will purchase garbage, such as rotting meat and vegetables from restaurants, to feed their pigs—and the pigs can be sustained on it. However, there is nothing in the pig’s digestive system, or the processing of the meat, that removes these toxins.

Farmers have even reported pigs chewing and eating the cancer of other animals!

More interesting still is the time it takes for such things, like the garbage and cancer described above, to become flesh. For most animals, this is a much slower process, taking about 12 hours. This gives the animal’s digestive system time to filter toxins, poisons and deadly parasites from entering the bloodstream and being deposited in its flesh. Also, because most food is turned into muscle, more time is required for that muscle to form.

The same is *not* true for the pig. Much of what it eats quickly turns into flesh in just four hours. Not only does this mean that toxins are not filtered, but most of the flesh takes the form of fat!

Even in humans, body fat is where most toxins are stored. Typically, when the body does not know how to deal with a substance, it surrounds it with fat and stores it to keep the rest of the body safe from that substance. The same is true in pigs. While they have other methods to dump the extremely deadly toxins from their system, the highest concentration will be in the fat tissue.

This is why a March 1950 *Reader’s Digest* article stated that pork contains “myriads of baffling and sinister parasites.” But this should not be a surprise.

Cleaners—Not Clean Meat

Pigs are designed as natural vacuum cleaners. They will eat just about

anything—garbage, carcasses or even their own urine and feces. Most of this consumption causes no harm to the pig. They were *designed* to do such things. They are so efficient at the task that when land is cleared for a golf course, pigs are let loose to eat all the poisonous snakes—with no harm to the pigs.

Every animal has its purpose. Scavengers, such as the pig, are designed to clean—not to be eaten! Some of the “cleaning” features of the pig are remarkable.

One such feature is located under its hooves. Often referred to as poison ducts or running sores, these “sores” act as a conduit for poisons to ooze from the pig’s body. This is one reason pigs can eat poisonous snakes that would kill other creatures and not be affected themselves. However, these ducts will often become “plugged” from the amount of toxins pigs must excrete from their bodies. If this becomes the case, a farmer must quickly have the pig slaughtered and sent to the market before it dies. As you may well imagine, the meat from such an animal is riddled with parasites and toxins.

One case-in-point: A mink farm in New Holstein, Wisconsin ordered beef livers to feed their minks. The supplier accidentally shipped pig livers instead. The result? Every mink that ate the livers died!

The toxicity of the animal is not just limited to meat and organs! Even the saliva of the pig can be horribly infectious. In fact, one disease, called “mad itch,” will cause a cow to rub all the skin from its mouth—to the point of suicide. All that is required for cows to contract this disease is to come in contact with a pig’s saliva residue in shared food supplies!

Worm Civilizations

Inside the animal is a myriad of worms and parasites. For instance, a pig can sustain 19 different kinds of worms inside its body. Some have very minor effects in humans, but others have much more *long-lasting* effects.

One such organism is the worm responsible for trichinosis. This is

also the most widely published of the worms found in pork that affect humans.

Like most organisms found in pork, this worm is contracted when one consumes meat containing trichinae larva. Once in your intestine, these larvae hatch from their protective cysts and grow into adult roundworms. These roundworms then produce offspring that can burrow through your intestinal wall. From this point, they enter your lymphatic system and can move throughout your body via the bloodstream. They then implant themselves in tissues that allow them to grow.

Studies have shown that their larvae have been found in heart, diaphragm, lung and brain tissue. Those infected with trichinosis can experience a wide range of symptoms—abdominal discomfort, cramping, diarrhea, muscle pain (especially muscle pain with breathing, chewing, or using large muscles) and fever. If the damage to the tissue is severe, the long-term problems are never-ending.

And this is just *one* of the 19 parasites found in pork!

This is why Dr. Maurice C. Hall, Zoology Chief at the U.S. Public Health Service, stated, “It appears to be a legitimate demand that, when a man exchanges dollars for pork, he should not do it, on the basis that he may be purchasing his death warrant.” This statement was made many years ago, leaving some to wonder if the pork purchased today is much leaner and healthier (as asserted by suppliers).

So-called experts will argue that properly cooking pork at 167 degrees Fahrenheit will destroy all the bacteria and worms in it. But studies have proven this not to be the case. One university heated trichinae-infested pig meat to an incredibly high temperature (nearly 500 degrees Fahrenheit) to test this theory. Even when the meat reached temperatures that could not be viably reproduced in one’s home, it still contained living worms. Simple organisms like these worms are remarkably resilient, and thoroughly cooking the pork does not make it safe.

And some of these parasites, like trichinosis, can be incredibly hard to detect. Former chairman of the New York Trichinosis Commission, Senator Thomas C. Desmond, stated, “Physicians have confused trichinosis with some 50 ailments, ranging from Typhoid Fever to Acute Alcoholism... That pain in your arm or leg may be arthritis or rheumatism, but it may be trichinosis. That pain in your back may mean a gall-bladder involvement, but it may mean trichinosis.”

Body's Response

Another interesting fact about pork is related to how the human body digests animal fat. The process is called hydrolysis. Studies show that when you eat animal fat, it undergoes a conversion process that changes it from beef fat, for instance, into human fat—the form in which it is stored in the body. This allows the body to remove some of

the toxins and to create tissue that is able to be converted into energy when needed.

Yet, pork is not subject to hydrolysis. Anytime you have pork chops or sausage, its fat is stored in the body as PORK FAT! As we have seen, fat stores much of the toxins. Therefore, you are storing the most toxic form of the animal!

As previously stated, when the body does not know how to deal with something—like toxins—it isolates it. In the case of toxins, it stores them in fat. Since your body was never designed to ingest swine fat, it does not know how to deal with it. So it isolates it, unchanged as pig fat on your body!

And this tissue is not even useful for energy. To convert these pork fat deposits into usable energy, the body must burn up large amounts of glucose—an essential element of brain function. This can lead to a feeling

SYMPTOMS OF TRICHINOSIS

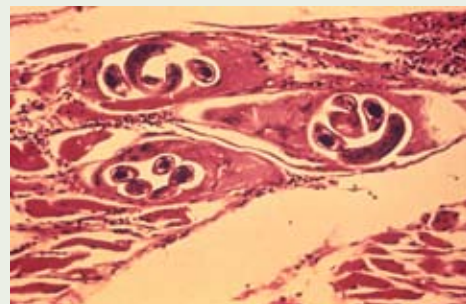
Many assume that trichinosis is uncommon in the modern day. This is mostly due to the fact that this disease is extremely hard to detect in humans.

Trichinosis is often misdiagnosed as any of the following: Arthritis, acute alcoholism, conjunctivitis, food poisoning, lead poisoning, heart disease, laryngitis, mumps, asthma, rheumatism, rheumatic fever, rheumatic myocarditis, gout, tuberculosis, angioneurotic edema, dermatomyositis, frontal sinusitis, influenza, nephritis, peptic ulcer, appendicitis, cholecystitis, malaria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, undulant fever, encephalitis, gastroenteritis, intercostal neuritis, tetanus, pleurisy, colitis, meningitis, syphilis, typhus and cholera.



■ **UNDER FINGERNAILS:** Trichinosis, as shown here, can be manifested by splinter hemorrhages under the finger nails.

PHOTO: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



■ **MICROSCOPIC VIEW:** This micrograph reveals developing *Trichinella* cysts within human muscle tissue. After exposure to gastric acid and pepsin, the larvae are released from the cysts and invade the small bowel mucosa where they develop into adult worms. After one week, the females release larvae that migrate to the striated muscles where they encyst.

PHOTO: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

of chronic hunger, which leads to the consumption of more meat—and the vicious cycle continues.

Studies have also shown that those who regularly eat pork are more prone to ulcerous skin infections. This should not be surprising, because ulcerous skin infections are COMMON on living pigs and, as we have seen, cooking does not kill all the worms and parasites in pork.

Other Deadly Creatures

We have focused on the most popular of unclean meats, but there are many reasons why certain birds, seafood and other creatures are also unhealthy. One example is that of clams and oysters. Typically, these shellfish are eaten raw. It has been found that 50 to 70% of all clams and oysters are contaminated with salmonella. Not only that, but such bottom-feeding creatures are typically saturated with heavy metals, such as mercury.

Another example would be that of armadillos. Not only are these creatures unclean to eat, but studies show they may even be dangerous to handle, as they may serve as reservoirs for leprosy.

One final study also bears some investigation. Though it was conducted many years ago, a modern “update” of this study, with a more exact toxicology analysis, would show similar

results. A 1953 study published in the “Bulletin of the History of Medicine,” and written by Dr. David Macht, M.D., tested a variety of biblically clean and unclean animals for levels of toxicity. His finding confirmed everything covered so far. Every animal that the Bible declared as clean was found to be non-toxic. Conversely, each animal declared as unclean was found to be toxic and inedible based on these tests. Keep in mind that this study took place in a much less toxic society, so the same animals would be much more toxic today! It took mankind 6,000 years to determine this fact that has always been in the pages of the Bible!

Time and time again, study of these scavengers show that they are well-designed to clean, but they are not clean to eat. Just as you would not go into a sewage plant for dinner, you should not eat these natural sewage processors!

It takes very little investigation to learn why the Bible teaches what it has for thousands of years. God declares certain animals unclean and they are designated as such for a reason!

The Bible itself has *never* wavered on these teachings. If you look at the first book of the Bible—Genesis—you will find that Noah was instructed to take seven pairs of clean animals and one pair of unclean. Even then,

God wanted mankind to eat what was created to be food and not to eat things that would poison him.

This is particularly important in the context of the account of the Flood. God was cleansing the world to start anew. He could have easily allowed for anything to be eaten if that was His choice. But He inspired this grouping of animals and the recording of it in Genesis as a lesson for us today.

For centuries, the Bible has been discounted as either a book of “stories” or some “good concepts”—it is not *believed* for what it says! Man ignores its plain teachings—including that of clean and unclean meats. You have seen that before science could prove it to be true, God’s Word told the truth. And this truth is only the tip of the iceberg. If you follow the laws that God set forth regarding diet, not only will you be pleasing the Creator of the universe, but you will enjoy bounding energy and solid health. Continue to dig deeper—what you may discover will most certainly surprise you!

(To learn more about the biblical teaching of clean and unclean meats and how to live a healthier lifestyle, you may read our article “Are All Animals Good Food?” and our booklet *God’s Laws of HEALTHFUL LIVING.*) □

WHY CHRISTMAS?

Where did Christmas originate? From the Bible or paganism? What is the *real* origin of Santa Claus—mistletoe—Christmas trees—holly wreaths—and the custom of exchanging gifts? Many are concerned about putting “Christ back into Christmas.” Was He ever there? This free booklet reveals the stunning answers!



To request this free booklet, contact **The REAL TRUTH:**
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Wadsworth, OH 44282
www.RealTruthMag.org
info@RealTruthMag.org

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ish further, says the consumer report from Mintel.”

This article goes on to state that 75% of children ages 11 to 14 have a television in their room, 64% have a DVD or VCR player, and one-fourth have a computer in their room.

Continuing: “This wealth of technology means that a significant number of children are not experiencing family life. Three out of five 11- to 14-year-olds say that everyone at home is free to get on with their lives and interests, and 53% say that as long as they do well at school, they can do what they like. A similar proportion—51%—say they prefer spending time on their own.”

How tragic! Modern-day parenting has been turned over to television, movies and computers! This could very possibly have an even greater effect on children than the other problems we have discussed. In effect, with both parents in the home, together under one roof, children are still growing up without proper parenting.

Due to all the stresses of today’s fast-paced life, parents turn to television to help keep their children occupied. In an effort to have some quiet time, and to not have to work hard at training their children, parents essentially hand their children over to Hollywood screenwriters, computer programmers, etc.—people who become the children’s most dedicated mentors!

On the surface, this simply seems to give parents “a break.” But they do not stop to consider all the long-term effects of watching too much television or playing too many video games. Studies show that there are many adverse affects of overusing these mediums.

There are toddlers who can operate a computer better than many adults. Of course, there are certain computer games that may help in a child’s education. But the majority of the time spent in front of the television or playing video games is *not* educational. Any parent would freely admit this.

As children grow up, programs or games have to be more tantalizing to keep their attention. Ask a child to play Tetris, an early-stage, simple computer game, and he will most likely blurt out in disgust, “That’s boring!” These reactions cause the video game and television industries to always provide “more action.” The end result is that children and teenagers are constantly exposed to sex, violence, corruption, lies, hate, etc.

This all begins when the TV or computer is used as a babysitter. Why do parents ultimately resort to this? Why do so many children find themselves growing up in front of television and computer screens?

The answer: It takes hard work to be a parent! It is a full-time job that requires substantial, ongoing effort. Parents today seemingly have no time for their children! Without correct priorities, they do not make the time to teach!

Gone are the days when families would spend time together discussing things. Gone are the times when children would read book after book, learning about the world around them. Now, their minds are drained by technology, and parents willingly give up their responsibility to teach their children how to live, how to think and how to become productive, successful adults.

Wrong Priorities

The bigger question needs to be asked: Why is all of this happening? What is the CAUSE behind all of these effects?

The answer is very simple. All of the actions in the world can be described as either GIVE or GET. God’s way of life is the way of *give*. The world, deceived by Satan (Rev. 12:9) for the last 6,000 years, has been living the *get* way of life. This spirit permeates every facet of society. Every action is governed by this desire.

Parents, probably unwittingly, are making most choices based on GET. Marriages are dissolved because “I” am not happy. Out-of-wedlock children are born because “I” want that pleasure for an instant. Children are sent off to daycare at an early age because “I”

need to fulfill “my” career aspirations. Latchkey kids make unwise decisions while raising themselves because “I” have to work long hours. Children are given over to television and computers because “I” need some quiet time.

Again, the basic cause is an attitude of personal advancement and focusing on personal priorities—the way of getting, accumulating for self.

Starting Where You Are

The family institution is failing. One of the fundamental reasons is that parents are either unable or unwilling to properly parent—in other words, to put their own personal priorities beneath those of their marriages, their families and, ultimately, their children.

If you are a parent, make sure that you have the right priorities. When you get married and decide to have children, you have made the decision—whether you have consciously realized and admitted it or not—to rear them as best as you can. *You* have brought them into the world, and properly rearing them is *your* responsibility. All the physical possessions you gain in your life, the riches and the material things, are not permanent. But your children will live on, and they, in turn, will also have children, who will have children, and so on. The parenting decisions you make will affect generations to come.

Some of the above-mentioned problems plaguing parenting may describe circumstances in your life. Some, of course, may not be able to be changed at this point. However, determine to start where you are and do all that is within your capabilities to teach your children everything they need to know. Understand that your children have an AWESOME POTENTIAL just as you do, and that you are directly responsible in helping them build and achieve it within themselves.

Be resolute in living a life of giving—of outgoing concern for others—and for your children. Make it a goal to never abandon *your* child in *any* way!

To learn more about childrearing, read our book *Train Up Your CHILDREN*. □



HOW MAN WILL CONQUER

Lives have been lost—billions of dollars have been spent—man has risked virtually everything to fulfill his dream of exploring, colonizing and ultimately conquering outer space. Here’s how that dream will become a reality.

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, men have built ships, set up expeditions and ventured out into the vast unknown. Many have risked their lives to explore uncharted lands, discover and reap untapped resources, colonize virgin territories, and establish thriving, new societies.

But over time, our world has gotten smaller, crowded, with no more lush, uncharted regions to discover,

no more fertile, uninhabited lands to explore and conquer. So, naturally, man has set his sights on the one realm that has eluded him for millennia: SPACE.

Throughout humanity’s brief time here on earth, people have gazed up into the starry night, and wondered, “What’s out there?”

Until the late 1950s, the likelihood of manned expeditions to other planets was considered science fiction—content for pulp magazines, comic books

and movie serials. But on October 4, 1957, this thinking changed. The Soviet Union launched *Sputnik*, the world’s first artificial satellite. The Space Age had begun.

First Steps Into Space

Since *Sputnik*, astronauts have walked on the moon. Unmanned vehicles have landed on Mars and roamed its crimson surface. Probes have traveled to Jupiter, Saturn and beyond. Scientists have discovered planets in other solar systems. And the Hubble Space Telescope, orbiting 375 miles above us, peering into the farthest reaches of space, has unveiled the deepest portrait of the visible universe ever seen by human eyes. Composed of 800 exposures taken over the course of 400 earth orbits, the Hubble Ultra Deep Field reveals a vibrant, breathtaking view of an estimated 10,000 galaxies—and



SPACE!

■ **WHAT MEN ENVISION:** Shown above is an artist's rendering of scientists exploring the surface of Mars—one of many ways in which man envisions his future.

ILLUSTRATION: NASA/Pat Rawlings

yet this is merely a snapshot of the universe!

“The Ultra Deep Field observations...represent a narrow, deep view of the cosmos. Peering into the Ultra Deep Field is like looking through an eight-foot-long soda straw” (*HubbleSite.org*).

These and other developments have caused many, from the top thinkers of science to average citizens, to ponder: “Are we alone in the universe?”

Hunting for “Goldilocks” Planets

Since 1995, astronomers have used Doppler Spectroscopy and other scientific means to discover planets orbiting distant stars. Nearly all of these extra-solar planets were detected when

astronomers noticed their gravitational effect on the movement of their parent stars, causing them to “wobble.” So far, more than 100 exoplanetary systems have been discovered. Due to the limitations of modern technology, scientists are only able to see planets that are the size of Jupiter or larger.

However, scientists have recently detected smaller, Neptune-sized worlds. Last September, *The Daily Telegraph* reported that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) “had found two significantly smaller planets between 10 and 20 times the size of Earth—around the size of Neptune—which pave the way for the discovery of rocky planets closer to the star and thus to its warmth; potential ‘Goldilocks’ planets.”

Could earth-sized worlds be next? Scientists hope so. Astronomers and other planet hunters are actively searching for extra-solar planets similar to earth’s size and mass, with “Goldilocks” conditions: not too big nor too small, orbiting not too close to its star, like Venus (which is a poisonous hothouse), nor too far from it, like Mars (which is too frigid and has a thin atmosphere). In other words, a planet that is “just right”—one that orbits in a habitable zone like earth, providing all the necessary conditions for sustaining physical life.

Of the star systems known to have planets, some experts suspect that about half may have an earth-like planet orbiting, at least partially, in a habitable zone, offering “suitable conditions for life to evolve” (“How Many Habitable Earths Are Out There?”, April 1, 2004, *UniverseToday.com*).

Some science experts suspect that earth-sized moons may be orbiting the extra-solar gas giants that have been detected: “All of the planets discovered so far are of similar mass to Jupiter, the largest planet in our Solar System. Just as Jupiter has four planet-sized moons, so giant planets around other stars may also have extensive satellite systems, possibly with moons similar in size and mass to Earth” (*Ibid.*).

To many, such a monumental discovery would reinforce the belief that,

through evolution, life—perhaps even intelligent life—might exist on other planets. (To understand more about the theory of evolution, read our publication *EVOLUTION – Facts, Fallacies and Implications*.) The discovery of earth-like worlds would drive men to further the advancements of space travel.

“Terraforming” Planets

For years, science fiction writers have envisioned futuristic scenarios in which scientists utilize advanced technology to convert lifeless, barren planets into worlds filled with tropical rainforests, lush gardens and large bodies of pristine water, all teeming with life. This fictional process is called “terraforming,” which scientists and engineers are working to turn into a reality.

Take Mars, for example. With an average global temperature of minus 55 degrees Celsius, the red planet is far too cold to naturally sustain life. Plus, with a thin atmosphere of carbon dioxide, breathing in Martian air would be deadly. Science and engineering experts are using computer models to terraform Mars into a miniature earth-like planet.

One solution discussed is to pump ample amounts of gases into the Martian atmosphere, creating a runaway greenhouse effect. As Mars warms up, all of its carbon dioxide would evaporate into the atmosphere, which would continue to keep the planet warm.

“And how fast can Mars be heated up? ‘That depends...on how fast we make the gases.’ According to rough calculations, ‘if you had 100 factories, each having the energy of a nuclear reactor, working for 100 years, you could warm Mars six to eight degrees.’

“At that rate, to increase the Martian temperature to the melting point of water...would take about eight centuries” (*Astrobiology Magazine, UniverseToday.com*).

Another possible solution is to pump in greenhouse gases to convert earth-like *regions*, instead of terraforming the entire planet all at once.

In an interview with *Astrobiology Magazine*, former Martin-Marietta aerospace engineer Robert Zubrin,

HIGHLIGHTS IN SPACE EXPLORATION



On Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union's Sputnik becomes the first artificial satellite to orbit earth.



From 1969 to 1972, men walked on the moon.



In July 1976, the unmanned spacecraft Viking 1 lands on Mars.



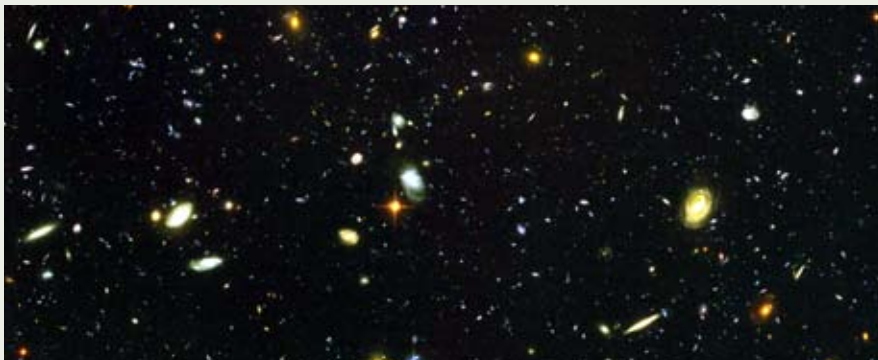
Launched in 1977, probes Voyager 1 and 2 visit Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.



The Space shuttle, the world's first re-usable spacecraft, is launched in April 1981.



Since November 1998, the International Space Station has been under construction while orbiting earth.



Composed of 800 exposures taken from September 24, 2003 to January 16, 2004, the Hubble Space Telescope captures the deepest view of the universe that man has ever seen.

founder of the non-profit organization Mars Society, made this statement:

“If one considers the problem of terraforming Mars from the point of view of current technology, the scenario looks like this:

“1. A century to settle Mars and create a substantial local industrial capability and population.

“2. A half century producing fluorocarbon gases (like CF₄) to warm the planet by ~10 C.

“3. A half century for CO₂ to out-gas from the soil under the impetus of the fluorocarbon gases, thickening the atmosphere to 0.2 to 0.3 bar, and raising the planetary temperature a further 40 C. This will cause water to melt out of the permafrost, and rivers to flow and rain to fall. Radiation doses on the surface will also be greatly reduced. Under these conditions, with active human help, first photosynthetic microbes and then ever more complex plants could be spread over the planet, as they would be able to grow in the open. Humans on Mars in this stage would no longer need pressure suits, just oxygen masks, and very large domed cities could be built, as the domes would no longer need to contain pressure greater than the outside environment.

“4. *Over a period of about a thousand years*, human-disseminated and harvested plants would be able to put ~150 mbar (millibars) of oxygen in the Martian atmosphere. Once this occurs, humans and other animals will be able to live on Mars in the open, and the world will become fully alive” (*UniverseToday.com*; emphasis ours).

Even when you consider that the technological advancements of the next 100 years would accomplish the goal much faster than current technology, it would be a *very* long time before uninhabitable planets can be terraformed.

Manned Spaceflight

From 1969 to 1972, NASA landed astronauts on the moon six times. Since the end of the Apollo moon landing program, manned space exploration has been limited to earth-orbit missions aboard space shuttles and the

International Space Station (which is still under construction).

In January 2004, U.S. President George W. Bush unveiled plans to phase out the space shuttle program, replacing it with the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV). The CEV spacecraft (to be completed between 2015 and 2020) would be designed to take astronauts to the moon, where they would build a lunar station. This would be used as a base of operations to collect Helium 3, a light isotope of helium, considered ideal as fuel for fusion power reactors.

“The moon has been collecting Helium 3 from the sun for the past four billion years...and 220 pounds of it is worth the equivalent of \$100 million in coal and could provide enough energy to run a 1,000-megawatt power generating plant for a year” (“More Lunar Landings for NASA?”, September 30, 2004, *The Monterey Herald*).

The moon would also be used to train astronauts to work and live in hostile (and deadly) environments. Meanwhile, the shuttle would be used to ferry people, equipment and supplies to the International Space Station, until the station’s construction is fully complete.

The next destination for the CEV would be Mars. Taking advantage of the moon’s lower gravitational pull, the spacecraft would launch from earth’s satellite, reaching the red planet months later. Vital supplies would be waiting for the crew, sent ahead by robot spacecraft.

On average, Mars is about 48 million miles from earth, depending on where they are in their orbits around the sun. Using current technology, a trip to Mars and back would take more than two and one-half years—about 8½ months to get there, then almost 15 months of waiting before the earth and Mars are in the best positions for the 8½-month return trip.

Now consider: This would amount to about 32 months of living in hostile environments, without hope of being rescued in the event of a major setback or emergency. The chances of a successful manned mission to Mars and back are extremely low.

But what if man could dramatically reduce a journey to Mars to three

months? In a recent press release, the University of Washington stated that it was developing a new technology—a *magnetized-beam plasma propulsion*, or *mag-beam*—that could dramatically reduce the time needed for space travel to and from Mars. Quick trips to even the farthest points of our solar system could become routine. Mankind would have a permanent presence in space.

Here is how the mag-beam would work: “...a space-based station would generate a stream of magnetized ions that would interact with a magnetic sail on a spacecraft and propel it through the solar system at high speeds that increase with the size of the plasma beam. [A] control nozzle 32 meters wide would generate a plasma beam capable of propelling a spacecraft at 11.7 kilometers per second. That translates to more than 26,000 miles an hour or more than 625,000 miles a day” (“New Propulsion Concept Could Make Possible 90-day Round Trip to the Red Planet,” October 14, 2004, *uwnews.org*).

The mag-beam is only one of several concepts being developed to advance space travel. Yet, even if this or some other technology becomes a reality, man would still be limited to this solar system.

With modern technology, it would take about 40,000 years to reach the nearest star in the triple system of Alpha Centauri. If man could travel at the speed of light—186,000 miles per second!—it would take 4.3 years, far too long for a safe journey. And other star systems are much farther away—15, 25, 50 light years and more.

According to Albert Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity, nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. So even if man could develop technology to send manned missions to every planet and moon in our solar system, other star systems would remain out of reach.

What If...?

What would happen if human beings *did* possess the ability to break the light-speed barrier and could visit distant star systems in only several months time? What if scientists dis-

covered extra-solar planets and moons with earth-like conditions, and could terraform uninhabitable worlds in only a generation or two? What would man do? In his hands, what would the universe be like?

Undoubtedly, men would mine mineral-rich planets and planetoids, colonize earth-like worlds and terraform as many planets and moons as he could discover. Colonies would turn into towns and villages, which would then become crowded cities interconnected by miles of suburban sprawl. The surface of planets would become dotted with oversized, overcrowded megacities. Meanwhile, because of human nature’s shortsightedness and the pursuit of profit at all cost, worlds with fertile soil would eventually be depleted. Farmlands, beautiful countryside, scenic landscapes and lush rainforests would slowly disappear. Atmospheres would become polluted from industrial soot. Over time, entire societies would slowly be poisoned by the toxic environment in which they live. The rich would get richer at the expense of the poor, and justice systems would largely favor the powerful and influential—just like today. As he spread himself across the universe, man would bring with him the plague of war and the things that result from it: famine, pestilence, injustice, suffering, misery and death. Ultimately, every planet and moon in this and every other solar system would end up in the same condition as they are today—lifeless and in decay!

The world’s bestseller, and yet least understood book, reveals why.

The Angelic Rebellion

The Bible records that God, through the Word (John 1:1-2), created the entire universe (Gen. 1:1; Eph. 3:9) by the awesome power of the Holy Spirit (Job 33:4; Jer. 27:5; 32:17).

But long before the physical universe was made, God created angels—immortal spirit beings. Notice: “*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?* Declare, if you have understanding. Who has laid the measures thereof, if you know? Or who has

stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof; *when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy?*” (Job 38:4-7).

One-third of all the angels were given a very special assignment: They were to manage and care for the earth, cultivating the planet into a beautiful garden paradise of peaceful meadows, green forests, sandy beaches and sparkling oceans.

But as time passed (perhaps millions, even billions, of years; the Bible does not say how long), something changed. It all began with Lucifer, an archangel, or cherub, whom God had appointed leader over the angels assigned to beautify earth.

Notice how the Bible describes this being: “...You sealed up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You have been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of your tabrets and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created. You are the anointed cherub that covers; and I have set you so: you were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created...” (Ezek. 28:12-15).

Highly gifted and talented, Lucifer was the most intelligent being God had ever created. As God ruled the universe from His heavenly throne, Lucifer ruled over the earth.

But, in time, Lucifer allowed his talents and gifts to swell his thinking. Vanity guided his thoughts. He soon became poisoned with pride: “...iniquity was found in you...Your heart was *lifted up* because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness” (vs. 15, 17).

Instead of being grateful for his high position and authority, Lucifer became bitter and angry. He wanted *more* power—*more* responsibility—and he wanted it *his* way, not God’s.

Lucifer came to believe that he was greater than he actually was—even greater than the God who had created him! The archangel convinced himself that he knew better than God, and that he was even smarter than Him. Eventually, Lucifer believed that he should BE God! And he reasoned that the only way to do so was to take God’s place and remove Him from His heavenly throne!

Notice: “How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isa. 14:12-14)!

Through lies and deceit, he convinced the angels under his charge that God and His ways were unfair and unjust. In turn, those angels convinced others of the same lies. Eventually, all the angels who lived on earth—one-third of all the angels God had created—rebelled against their Creator.

Though originally created with super-intelligence, the minds of the fallen angels became twisted and dark. They decided that their way—the way of selfishness, greed, and cruelty—was somehow better than God’s Way. And they concluded that, if their Creator would not do things their way, they would have to remove Him as Supreme Ruler!

Lucifer and the rebellious angels—now transformed into demons—invaded heaven to take over God’s throne: “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth...And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast

out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, *which deceives the whole world*: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Rev. 12:3-4, 7-9). This future event mirrors Lucifer’s original rebellion against God’s throne.

But God—backed by twice as many loyal angels, and armed with the limitless power of His Holy Spirit—put down the rebellion, casting the evil spirits back to the earth. Then God changed Lucifer’s name, which meant “morning star” or “shining one,” to *Satan the devil*, which means “adversary,” “accuser” and “slanderer.”

Failing to overthrow God, Satan and his demons were full of hatred, bitterness and rage. Like spoiled children who could not get their way, they threw a “temper tantrum” and wrecked the face of the earth. Earthquakes trembled and shattered across the planet—volcanoes burst and overflowed with molten lava—poisonous gases filled the sky, choking everything that breathed, and shutting out the sunlight—the oceans and seas smashed against the land until the whole earth was covered with water. All physical life (dinosaurs, plants, insects and other prehistoric life) was destroyed.

Genesis 1:2 states that “the earth was without form [empty, useless, confused] and void [desolate, chaotic]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” In Hebrew, the word translated *was* should actually be rendered “became.” In verse one, God created heaven and earth, then, in verse 2, they *became* empty and chaotic. Since “God is not the author of confusion” and always does things “decently and in order” (I Cor. 14:33, 40), He did not *create* the universe in a confused, chaotic state. It *became* that way.

Today, the scarred and beaten moons and planets, orbiting in decay within our solar system and throughout the universe, are remnants of that great angelic rebellion.

Satan’s rebellion proved to God that there was only one kind of being that could be trusted to manage and

Please see **SPACE**, page 31

WHY THEY HATE US

PART THREE: A EUROPEAN EPICENTER

Hatred of America is not new. Any nation, company or individual that experiences success has, throughout history, felt the jealous hatred of others. But this time, that hatred will express itself in the most dramatic and alarming of ways—war!

BY MARK P. DENEE

IN THE FIRST two parts of this series, we largely looked at *why* many in the world hate the United States of America, Britain and the other English-speaking nations of the world. But in this third and final installment, we will take a closer look at *who* hates these peoples.

When considering the intense hatred of the U.S., most look to the Muslim world as the primary source. Some look to an old enemy like Russia, which is now reverting to its Soviet-era-like posture. Still others look to a possible new enemy like China, which sees itself as a potential world superpower.

Very few, however, give much thought to Europe. Yet, it is this continent that now has a simmering hatred that should be most disturbing. It is this continent that can replace America as China's primary source of trade, finances and technology and, in return, make use of China's great production capacity (e.g., to build an army). It is this continent that can replace America as the holder of the currency in which oil can be traded. It is this continent that can (again, at least initially) ally itself with Russia to make use of their nuclear arsenal and dominate the world. It is this continent that

has access to the socio-religious influence and power provided by the Roman Catholic Church. It is this continent that is already now an empire looking for an emperor—and it will soon receive one.

Some may even acknowledge the above as "possible," but shrug it off by insisting that, despite recent events, Europe as a whole has always been, and will always remain, an ally of the United States. Most feel that the European and American societies and economies are too similar and integrated for one to ever allow hatred to grow to the point of war. Yet, as we will see, God's Word states otherwise!

Most believe that there is only a temporary "rift" between Europe and America—that, somehow, this rift will be repaired in due time. To the contrary, the rift will only continue to widen and deepen. The hatred that is now simmering will eventually explode, bringing violence and destruction the world has never seen.

In this final segment, we will clearly identify the existence and extent of European hatred for America. We will make plain that it is much more than just a temporary "rift." And we will see why and how it will progress.

Betrayal and Isolation— the Misnamed "Trans-Atlantic Rift"

The U.S.-led war in Iraq brought great and quick change to the relation-

ship between Europe and the United States. While the political front for the European anti-war movement had been Franco-German, in early 2003 William Safire reported in *The International Herald Tribune* that it had actually *all* been by German design. France was apparently all but ready to deploy troops and its aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf, when, quite suddenly, they seemed to do an about-face. It appears that Mr. Schröder made an offer to Mr. Chirac that he simply could not refuse: to re-ignite the Franco-German motor and control all of Europe. In return, France had to turn its back on promises made to the U.S. in regard to the coming war on Iraq. France had told U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell the previous fall that no second U.N. resolution would be necessary. Quite suddenly at that time, France surprisingly threatened to veto any second resolution. The U.S. had insisted all along that no second resolution would be necessary. It appeared that Germany's intention was to cut the Atlantic part out of the NATO alliance, essentially leaving the U.S. and Britain isolated, and France and Germany to control the rest of Europe.

In late 2002, John Vinocur of *The International Herald Tribune* stated that from the American perspective, it was not so much the political comments made during a heated German election campaign, but rather "...how Schroeder's decision has come to magnify wide concern about Germany's direction, the strength of neutralist currents in German society..." It was the first time in 50 years that Germany and the U.S. were on opposite sides of a war-and-peace issue. Although Germany's contribution would have been almost insignificant, the diplomatic appearance and effect were

great, and the precedent had been set. Germany, as the leading EU state, was taking a different path from the U.S., and at that time, a few in Europe were following Germany. How many will follow Germany's lead against the U.S. next time?

In late 2002, the Vatican got involved by stating that a "preventive" war against Iraq had no legal justification, and that they would consider the U.S. to be the "aggressor" (*The Washington Post*). Most Europeans agreed. If "preventive" wars are deemed illegal, how long will the world continue to allow the U.S. to start them? Plainly, the answer is, only as long as they cannot do anything about it. However, this may already be more of a reality than most think. If the U.S. were considered again (e.g., in regard to Iran or North Korea) to be the "aggressor," how many Europeans would support action against the U.S. in an attempt to stop them? What kind of action would most Europeans support?

In an April 2003 interview with *The Financial Times*, British Prime Minister Tony Blair issued a direct warning to Jacques Chirac, stating that the French President's vision of Europe as a rival to the U.S. is dangerous and destabilizing. While his personal relationship with Mr. Chirac had improved since the pre-Iraq war dispute, Mr. Blair maintained that the strategic divide between Europe and the U.S. remained.

France's vision of the world in the near future consists of multi-polar powers, most specifically, a strong Europe that can counter the U.S. Mr. Blair is obviously troubled by this, stating, "...I think there is an issue that we have to resolve here between America and Europe and within Europe about Europe's attitude towards the transatlantic alliance. I don't want Europe setting itself up in opposition to America...I think it will be dangerous and destabilizing." He believes that a multi-polar world with different centers of power "...will very quickly develop into rival centres of power." Please note Mr. Blair's keywords "within" and "attitude." He is

exposing here what some have known for some time—a very real and widespread European disdain for America.

A *New York Times* analysis by Thomas L. Friedman indicated that the bottom line regarding the relationship between France and the U.S. is that the two countries are basically at war with each other. Taking into consideration the way France "behaved" prior to and during the Iraq war, along with its current statements and actions, Mr. Friedman concluded that France's goal is for America to fail in Iraq (and the Middle East), so that ultimately, France can assume its "rightful" position as an American equal, if not superior, in shaping international affairs.

Quite plainly, the trans-Atlantic relationship is divided by much more than a simple "rift." The public, media, and political animosity that was generated in Europe leading up to, during and following the Iraq war is almost irreparable. To this day, Europeans hate America's foreign policy, power and current President. This hatred fuels a vicious cycle: With public support, politicians continue with anti-U.S. statements, positions, and policy. With political and media support, the public continues to voice its hatred of America. Popular opinion drives politics and, to some degree, politics drives popular opinion. The U.S. will continue to be portrayed as an "out-of-control" bully, and European cries for something to be done will only become louder and louder, until Europe is finally in a position to do something about it.

The Current Sentiment in Europe

Naturally, historical feelings play a part in current posturing and strategies. European politicians and citizens alike have long been suspicious and resentful of the "special" British-American relationship. In terms of making their European Union project work, most Europeans have expressed a certain amount of frustration toward Britain, whom they see as having one foot in the EU and one in Washington. More often than not, whether regarding common farm subsidies or defense and

security, London has seemingly been at odds with Paris, while Paris and Berlin continually agree.

In addition, Europe may even be developing a sort of collective self-confidence crisis when it comes to the European Union and its growing pains on the international stage, compared to the relative seasoned diplomacy of the U.S. Frustration at their recent inability to speak with one voice, to maintain security on their own continent (e.g., the Balkans during the 1990s), and to exert more international influence, must also feed their disdain for America. Each event seems to increase the disparity and the opportunity for more frustration and hatred, while at the same time increasing Europe's desperate desire for strength, power and success. A confident, no-nonsense U.S. President like George W. Bush must only fuel the fire.

Despite sharing similar concerns regarding the world, Europeans and Americans are drifting further apart in what they believe to be acceptable solutions. In a June 2003 survey conducted by the German Marshall Fund, both peoples listed the same top four "world concerns": international terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, the Arab-Israeli conflict and weapons of mass destruction in North Korea and Iran (*International Herald Tribune*).

Yet, when asked about how to respond to such problems, less than half of the Europeans believed war could achieve justice, compared with 84% of the Americans. Specifically, 73% of Americans would support a war against Iran, while only 44% of Europeans would do the same. When compared with a similar poll from a year earlier, there was a significant increase in the number of Europeans questioning U.S. world leadership. The majority of European citizens expressed "strong disapproval" of U.S. foreign policy, with Germans and Italians increasing their disapproval by more than 20 points from the prior survey. The desire in Europe for strong U.S. leadership went from 64% last year to 45% this year. When Germans were asked whether the U.S. or European Union

were vital to their national interests, 81% chose the EU, compared with 55% last year.

A poll conducted during mid-October 2003 in Europe had caused some diplomatic controversy by finding that over half of Europeans believed Israel to be the biggest threat to world peace, and that the United States contributed the most to international instability, along with Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Israeli officials dismissed the poll as propaganda (*The EU Observer*). How much longer before the European government must “act” to quell the concerns of its people? Such action would be expected from a “good democracy.”

A February 2004 survey by the *Pew Research Center* clearly indicates that many peoples, even those of countries allied with the U.S., continue to hold negative views of America. “The divide between the U.S. and Europe is only getting wider,” says editor Carroll Doherty. “It’s beyond a question of America’s image, it’s now to the point where people want action based on their opposition to the U.S.” French and German opinion remains negative and generally unchanged since a year ago. “Across Europe, we found people supporting the emergence of a European Union that can stand up and be an equal power to the U.S.,” says Mr. Doherty.

The popular sentiment in Europe (even in Britain, where the media and politicians have successfully steered at least a percentage of their population to turn their eyes from west to east) is now so anti-American, that the extreme has almost become acceptable. Consider the following comments by Charlie Brooker, recently printed (and then retracted) in *The Guardian* (a British) newspaper: “Quite frankly, the man’s [President Bush] either wired or mad. If it’s the former, he should be flung out of office: tarred [and] feathered...And if it’s the latter, his behaviour goes beyond strange, and heads toward terrifying.”

He concluded his article with the following: “On November 2, the entire civilised world will be praying, pray-

ing Bush loses. And Sod’s law dictates he’ll probably win, thereby disproving the existence of God once and for all. The world will endure four more years of idiocy, arrogance and unwarranted bloodshed, with no benevolent deity to watch over and save us. John Wilkes Booth, Lee Harvey Oswald, John Hinckley Jr—where are you now that we need you?”

In another instance, Carol Gould (an American who lives in England), writing for *FrontPage Magazine*, shared a telling experience she had while travelling in London, in which both she and another American woman were attacked on a bus by a “well-dressed woman” in what she described as resembling “a verbal assault by a brownshirt against a hapless Jewish pedestrian in 1933.” The British woman screamed at the Americans, “I rejoice every time I hear of another American soldier dying! You people all deserve to die in another 9/11. You are destroying the world.” The bus driver and other passengers just laughed.

Note that, in general, the attacks are not, or at least not *any longer*, targeted toward a specific situation or issue, or toward the person responsible. They are now just plain, broad and explicit hatred of America and everything American.

A few weeks earlier, Carol Gould had attended a party at which she was “lambasted, intimidated and mocked” by a group of people she had known for approximately twenty years. She was reminded of a comment a friend had made shortly after 9/11: “Now I know what the Jews felt like in pre-war Germany.”

Anti-Semitism Equals Anti-Americanism

In addition, plain and seemingly unmovable U.S. support for Israel simply irks most Europeans. Mainstream media in Europe is notorious for presenting news with a very pro-Palestinian slant, fueling anti-Semitism, which at some point, is often equated with anti-Americanism. Carol Gould again had a telling experience in London. An associate she had known for ten years suddenly felt compelled to tell

her, “You know, Carol, I want to get something off my chest that I’ve been dying to say to you for years. Number one, just don’t say Israel to me. Number two, you people should look at yourselves in the mirror and wonder why every so often there is a Holocaust or massacre or pogrom. You bring it on yourselves. Just look at the way you are and then figure out why the rest of the world wants to flatten you. Number three, America throwing money at Israel has to stop, and hopefully all hell will break loose. Israel is not a country. I just hear the word and I turn peuce.” It has reached a point where Ms. Gould declares literally, “What I find so frightening is that I cannot conduct business or even take a taxi ride in London, Bournemouth or Edinburgh without a scathing tirade about the scurrilous Yanks.” She also expressed frustration at how difficult (“impossible”) it is to convey to fellow Americans back home, or to American Jews, the blatant loathing of both groups that *dominates daily life* outside the U.S. today.

A report released by the *European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia* in late 2002 indicated that racial prejudice against Jews was being fueled by social and economic factors, to the point that it was on the verge of becoming acceptable (*The Washington Post*). Jewish leaders informed attendees at a May 2003 international conference on intolerance that anti-Semitism is rising at a rate unseen since World War II (*The Haaretz Daily*).

Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the *Simon Wiesenthal Center*, said during his address, “Not since the end of World War Two has the world seen such a proliferation of anti-Semitism. I believe that you have a new generation of professional haters who are serving as leaders, demagogues, and they’re inspiring young people to do their bidding while they often hide.” Mr. Hier pointed out that two-thirds of all violent acts in France last year were directed at Jews. The “reasoning” behind the hatred and violence toward this one people is not so different from times past.

Shimon Samuels of the *Center's* Paris branch said that he believes the protests and attacks by young people against globalization and capitalism have now extended toward specific peoples: "the vultures of society [who] are in most cases the United States and the Jewish people. They have taken the old stereotypes and simply modernized them...thereby proliferating and having a multiplier effect they were never able to do in previous decades."

In introducing a new book by Kenneth R. Timmerman titled *Preachers of Hate: Islam and the War on America*, Jeffrey Nyquist (*Financial Sense*) draws some interesting parallels between anti-Semitism and anti-Americanism. Mr. Timmerman claims that Jew hatred today is America hatred. "When this hateful [anti-Jewish] fantasy is turned against America, 'world Jewry' is replaced by 'imperialism' and 'globalization' as the malign forces threatening a society that is profoundly insecure and feels under siege because it is incapable of adapting to the modern world." Mr. Nyquist points to the seemingly unending international support for each other: "...Arab countries consistently vote against the United States in the United Nations General Assembly 80 to 90 percent of the time, while Israel votes with the United States 89 percent of the time," more often than the United Kingdom. On the international stage, Israel is indeed America's "most faithful ally," and therefore hatred of one engenders hatred of the other.

A report prepared by the Israeli Foreign Ministry warned in October 2004 that its nation could become increasingly isolated in the coming years if Europe becomes more influential, to the point that Israel's global standing could even resemble the "pariah status of apartheid South Africa" (*The Haaretz Daily*). "The EU could sharpen its expectation that Israel will comply with international norms...and honor the authority of the United Nations and its agencies—an issue that has the potential of leading to friction," the analysts wrote. The document says that as the EU gains international influence, the U.S.,

Israel's main ally, will lose it. The report also identifies a new form of anti-Semitism rising in Europe—one that denies Israel's legitimacy as a sovereign Jewish state—a fundamental platform of post-World War II British and American foreign policy.

Hatred Foretold and the Coming Punishment

European hatred of America is all for a greater purpose. It is in fact necessary and guaranteed. Your Bible says so! The United States, England, and the other English-speaking nations of the Western world, plus most of the nations of northwestern Europe and the state of Israel, are the modern-day descendants of the twelve tribes of ancient Israel! (For more details, take time to read our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY*.)

Leviticus 26 (as well as Deuteronomy 28) covers the blessings that God promised to Israel for obedience and the punishment for disobedience. The modern-day descendants of that nation will soon be punished for breaking God's laws. God will use Germany, leading a United States of Europe, to mete out this severe punishment. Hatred for America and Britain is therefore essential. In Europe, it will force political—and eventually military—action.

Lamentations 1:2 describes America's betrayal and isolation: "She weeps sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she has none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies."

Indeed, former allies are now enemies! At every request for help, most countries decline. Further, Ezekiel 23:22 describes these "lovers" (i.e., former allies) as eventually standing against America: "...Behold, I will raise up your lovers against you, from whom your mind is alienated, and I will bring them against you on every side." In the end, despite America and Britain's attempt to be attractive, these lovers will even seek their lives: "And when you are spoiled, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with

crimson, though you deck you with ornaments of gold, though you rent your face with painting, in vain shall you make yourself fair; your lovers will despise you, they will seek your life" (Jer. 4:30).

Ezekiel 23:5, 9 recalls and prophesies, in typical biblical dual fulfillment, how ancient Israel doted after Assyria, the ancient ancestors of modern-day Germany: "And Aholah played the harlot when she was Mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbors...Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted." This was fulfilled once, and will be fulfilled again in the very near future!

In a May 2003 analysis titled "Europe versus America," J.R. Nyquist indicated that France and Germany, and, by extension, the rest of Europe, along with Russia, all have current (and historical) reasons to displace or, at the very least, compete with America as the world's superpower. In addition, France and Germany, as Europe's economic powerhouses, may indeed be looking to Russia for military and natural resource strength; and conversely, Russia, with promises to make Europe as strong "as gods," will look to Europe for economic support.

Notice: "By pretending to abandon its quest for global dominance, Russia has positioned itself to join up with Europe against 'selfish U.S. interests.' Using an assumed position of weakness, Russia now urges France and Germany to take leading roles. By combining Western Europe with the 'former' Soviet imperium a new and unstoppable power could be created in opposition to the United States" (*Financial Sense*).

The United States is confused as to why these things are happening, as are her allies. In accordance with God's Plan, these nations were blessed beyond any other nation. However, because of their disobedience, those blessings are being taken away. To make that punishment possible, America and Britain will be isolated and hated by the world.

Now you know why! □

SUDAN

Continued from page 7

alarm at reports of atrocities coming out of Sudan, including the systematic rape of women. However, while the U.S. has called the human rights situation “genocide,” the EU has stopped short of doing this, fearing it would be legally obliged to intervene. With its large Muslim population and heavy dependence on Middle Eastern oil, Europe’s leaders are wary of militarily intervening in Islamic countries.

In July 2004, the U.S. presented a motion to the UN Security Council recommending sanctions against Sudan. However, several countries on the council, including Russia, China and Pakistan, have indicated that they oppose sanctions. In fact, Russia has continued to deliver military aircraft to the Sudanese government, with whom it has a large arms contract.

There are a number of reasons for the international community’s slow response to the crisis in Sudan. The prospect of western countries invading a largely Islamic country may be politically risky, especially in the wake of the recent controversial invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. Then there is threat of a major terrorist backlash in the U.S. and Europe in the event of such an invasion. In addition, countries such as China and Russia have substantial business interests in the Sudan and oppose military intervention and sanctions. Finally, although Sudan is not yet a major oil exporter (producing approximately 250,000 barrels a day), countries want to avoid any sanctions that could push global oil prices higher.

Aside from the approximately 300 African Union troops and 80 peace monitors currently in Darfur, the international community has yet to seriously intervene.

Is Peace Possible?

Sudan’s civil wars have proven costly, with many Sudanese having seen a significant fall in living standards. According to the U.S. Committee of

Refugees, nearly 5.5 million Sudanese had been uprooted by conflict by the end of 2003. Approximately 600,000 of them were refugees in neighboring countries. These wars have also aggravated a hunger crisis in southern Sudan, with more than 250,000 people dying from war-related famine and illnesses.

With violence currently escalating in Darfur, there is fear that the fighting may spill over into neighboring Chad, whose eastern areas have a similar ethnic makeup.

There are also other ongoing conflicts in Sudan. These include a revolt of “Beja Congress Forces” rebels in the east, and another conflict in the Shilluk kingdoms of the Upper Nile in the south. A long-running war between troops from Uganda and rebels from the “Lord’s Resistance Army,” based in lawless areas of southern Sudan, is another source of instability.

Fearing a spread of the conflict within their borders, neighboring countries have become involved in trying to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The world wants peace restored to Sudan, but there are challenges. Sudan is a huge land with a lack of infrastructure in many areas. Darfur alone is approximately the size of Iraq. Policing multiple conflicts in such a large territory would take more than just a few thousand troops. It is estimated that as many as 600,000 peace-keeping troops would be needed to restore order in the country. The U.S., EU and UN are already overstretched as they continue to deal with instability in geopolitical hotspots like Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

World governments have been unable to end the heart-wrenching atrocities that the Sudanese endure.

Peace Will Come

The world seeks answers to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, but none are forthcoming.

Over the past 6,000 years, mankind has proven to be utterly incapable of preventing war. Man has tried different types of governments, alliances

and leagues of nations, all to no avail. However, there is good news! Peace *will* come to the Sudan—and also to the entire world. But the governments and institutions of this world will not bring this about.

To understand how peace will be brought to Sudan, and to the entire world, one has to understand the CAUSE of war. Notice: “From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not” (Jms. 4:1-2).

Whether it is lust for riches, power, revenge or someone else’s possessions, men always covet what they do not have. Lust leads to hatred, which eventually results in war. In this world, people of different races and religions are frequently at odds with each other because of real or imagined injustices, or simply because they are different. As a result, men often are not willing to forgive one another when slights and offenses occur.

The key to ending war is the establishment of one world government. This is the only way war can be eliminated; this is mankind’s only hope of survival. However, none of the world’s governments can or will bring this about.

But the good news is that one world government is coming! In the not too distant future, the kingdom of God, led by Jesus Christ (the “Prince of Peace”), will be established as the government of earth (Isa. 9:6-7).

The kingdom of God will supercede all of the governments of this world (Rev. 11:15). At that time, the Law of God—the Ten Commandments—will be enforced throughout the earth. Man will learn to love his neighbor as himself (Rom. 13:9). A war-weary world will finally seek God’s Way (Isa. 2:2-4)—the way of peace.

At that time, peace will finally come to Sudan, and to the whole world! (To learn more about how war will end, please read our booklet *How WORLD PEACE Will Come.*) □



“THE WINDS BLEW AND THE RAINS CAME...”

Prominent in recent news, hurricanes have resulted in many lost lives and billions of dollars in damage. Why is this happening? There *is* a reason for this surge in activity, but most do not understand. Here is the answer!

BY CHARLES E. HERZOG

THE 2004 HURRICANE season in the United States has been proclaimed the worst since 1886. It was by far the busiest season for those who monitor and track tropical storms and hurricanes as they develop. This year alone, in a six-week period, four major hurricanes have pounded Florida and neighboring states.

The term “hurricane” refers to tropical cyclones. They are defined by the following criteria: They are generated in tropical areas of the ocean, close to the equator; their winds are *cyclonic*, meaning they swirl around a center eye; they have sustained winds of at least 74 mph; and

they are low-pressure systems. Hurricanes usually form where there is warm water and moist air.

Most Atlantic Ocean hurricanes begin as thunderstorms off the west coast of Africa, and work their way over warm tropical oceans, increasing in strength. While in the Atlantic, these storms are carried toward Central and North America by easterly winds called trade winds.

These thunderstorms usually intensify through three phases: (1) tropical depression—wind speeds of less than 39 mph; (2) tropical storm—wind speeds increase to 39-73 mph; and (3) hurricane—winds over 73 mph. This intensification can take from a few hours to a few days.

Once formed, a hurricane has three main parts: (1) the calm, low-pressure center called the eye; (2) the area surrounding the eye, which has the most destructive winds, known as the eye wall; (3) the thunderclouds that circulate around the eye, referred to as rain bands.

From May 31 through December, hurricanes can form anywhere in the Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico. However, the official Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends on November 30. About 99% of all cyclones occur during this period.

The effects of a hurricane include: heavy rain damage, inland flooding, storm surging, tornadoes and high-sustained winds. At a hurricane’s landfall, it is common to find 7 to 12 inches of rain on land, often far inland. This causes

severe flooding and property damage—leading to destruction and death.

Storm surges are the most devastating effects of a hurricane. A storm surge is a wall of water that is pushed in front of a hurricane's winds. If a surge occurs with a high tide, there is greatly increased inland flooding and beach erosion. Ninety percent of hurricane-related deaths are caused by flooding or water surge.

Although hurricanes have affected mankind for centuries, only within the past hundred years have experts been able to track their progress. The National Hurricane Center begins to track hurricanes in their infancy. While a storm is out at sea, its direction, strength and speed are monitored.

Though storms are quite unpredictable, this early tracking allows enough time for preparation and warning. A storm's unpredictability is mainly attributed to a combination of trade winds and the jet stream. While trade winds mainly blow toward the west, the jet stream mainly moves toward the east.

Categories of Intensity

Warnings and estimates of potential property damage and expected flooding are determined according to the *Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale*. This scale rates hurricanes by wind speed, intensity, water gusts, storm surges and a few other factors. Notice the following categories and extent of damage:

■ **Category One:** Wind speeds between 74-95 mph; storm surges 4-5 ft. above normal; some flooding and little to no structural damage.

■ **Category Two:** Wind speeds about 96-115 mph; storm surges 6-8 ft. above normal; damage to doors, windows and roofs of structures and considerable damage to trees and shrubbery.

■ **Category Three:** Wind speeds about 116-135 mph; storm surges 9-12 ft. above normal; structural damage to homes and buildings, mobile homes destroyed; severe flooding, large trees are blown down; evacuation of shoreline and low-lying areas; low-lying areas are cut off by flooding water 3-5

hours before the hurricane arrives.

■ **Category Four:** Wind speeds about 136-155 mph; storm surges 13-18 ft. above normal; major structural damage to homes and buildings; complete uprooting of trees and shrubs; severe flooding and evacuations; mobile homes are completely destroyed.

■ **Category Five:** Wind speeds exceeding 155 mph; storm surges at least 18 ft. above normal; some structures completely blown over; massive evacuation 5-10 miles from the shore; severe flooding, tornadoes are spawned, low-lying areas flooded 3-5 hours before the eye of the storm arrives; complete destruction of mobile homes, uprooted trees and shrubs, etc.

This Recent Season

The 2004 hurricane season has been one of the most intensive, damaging and destructive seasons on record. Florida citizens especially were advised to evacuate a number of times, often leaving in the face of one hurricane only to return to evacuate for the next. There has been more destruction in this one season than most people would see in a decade. The way these storms developed was almost like a prize fighter going in for a knockout—a right, a left, another right and then an uppercut!

A report from the *United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction* recently stated that,

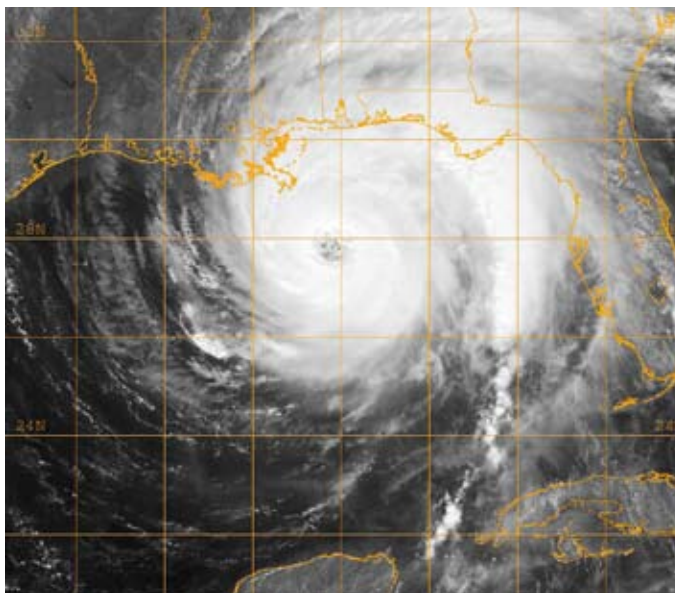
“Hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters hit a growing number of people worldwide and are on the increase...More than 254 million people were affected by natural hazards last year, a near three-fold jump from 1990, according to data released by the inter-agency secretariat...The random nature of disasters renders mapping their impact more difficult as droughts in 2002 pushed the figure of people affected above 734 million...Not only is the world globally facing more potential disasters, but increasing numbers of people are becoming vulnerable to hazards...An onslaught of deadly hurricanes that have battered the southern United States supported theories that such storms were occurring more frequently.”

The last time a single state was hit by four hurricanes in a year was in 1886 in Texas. This season, Florida has been attacked at its panhandle, at the southwest coast, up the center and across the middle.

Of course, the people of Florida are frustrated and tired of the constant onslaught of storms. There was not even enough time to clean up from one storm before another one came through.

The Names of Destruction

Alex was the first hurricane of the season. Although it did not strike Florida, Alex was stronger than expected when



■ **LOOMING OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO:** Sept. 15, 2004 – A satellite image of Hurricane Ivan, at category four, located about 235 miles south of Mobile, AL.

PHOTO: Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Center



■ **IVAN'S AFTERMATH:** In Florida, Hurricane Ivan sunk and stacked numerous boats at Bayou Grande Marina onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola. Navy officials reported that nearly 90% of the buildings on the base suffered significant damage (Sept. 22, 2004).

PHOTO: U.S. Navy

it hit North Carolina's coast. High winds toppled trees onto power lines, cutting power to thousands. The eye of the storm barely passed Cape Hatteras. The strongest part (the eastern edge) of Alex remained at sea, sparing the area from even more damage.

On August 13th, Charley, the first hurricane to hit Florida, came ashore just 70 miles south of Tampa, with sustained winds of 145 mph. An estimated 12,000 homes were damaged, resulting in thousands of insurance claims. Before slamming Florida, it passed Jamaica and Cuba. After reaching land, it continued on a northern path, causing even more flooding and destruction.

Frances, a Category Two hurricane, was slightly less powerful than Charley, but dropped more rain, causing at least \$4 billion in damage. The total area of this storm as it went over Florida was the size of the entire state of Texas. An estimated 2.5 million people were evacuated in the days prior to its landfall.

Frances hit land north of Miami and crossed the state from east to west. It then went into the Gulf of Mexico, only to strike the Florida panhandle, leaving six million people without electricity.

Ivan looked to be one of the worst storms ever, with sustained winds of 165 mph. It slowly devastated the Caribbean, causing more than 100 deaths as it passed Tobago, Grenada, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba and the Cayman Islands. It eventually made landfall near Mobile, Alabama as a Category Three hurricane. It pounded the Florida panhandle and three other states as it moved inland. It drove through the Appalachia region, causing flooding as it went.

But Ivan did not end there. This persistent storm turned back into the Atlantic Ocean, looped back to the Gulf of Mexico and lashed at Louisiana as it headed toward Texas as a tropical storm. Even the National Hurricane Center announced, "It sounds like the sequel to a very bad horror movie, but it's no joke. Ivan is back."

While Ivan was the strongest, Jeanne is the highest on the list for endurance. As Jeanne was approaching Florida, Governor Jeb Bush said, "I know peo-

ple are frustrated. I know they are tired of all this. Trust me, their governor is as well.”

Jeanne hit Puerto Rico on September 15, reaching land the next day on the Dominican Republic and then moved on to Haiti. Hurricane winds extended 45 miles from the eye, with tropical storm winds reaching another 140 miles beyond that. In its aftermath, the death toll in Haiti was estimated at 1,600 people, with an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 left homeless.

After leaving Haiti, it looked as if Jeanne was going to head out into the Atlantic. Instead, she circled around, gained strength and zeroed in on Florida’s coast, making it the fourth hurricane in the season to hit the state. From the south end of the state to the Georgian border, up to three million people were urged to evacuate. Twenty-four-foot waves were moving ahead of Jeanne, along with a six-foot storm surge.

Jeanne hit the coast of Florida at relatively the same place where Frances had hit only three weeks earlier. It came ashore as a powerful Category Three. Piles of debris not yet removed from the aftermath of Frances were thrown around like missiles, adding to the clean-up cost. Damage estimates from this storm alone are between \$6 billion to \$14 billion. And this reflects only those who had insurance! Most will remember the devastation that Hurricane Andrew caused in Florida over a decade ago, costing an estimated \$26 billion. New building codes were enacted after Andrew, which may explain a lower monetary damage amount.

The loss of life from these four storms in Florida alone was 70 people. Thousands of others outside the United States lost their lives. To date, this is the costliest hurricane season ever in terms of dollars—and lost lives!

Why This Increase?

Why this sharp increase in hurricane activity? What is going on? What is wrong with our weather?

This increased hurricane activity has been linked to El Niño and La

Niña. El Niño causes hurricanes in the Atlantic to *decrease*, but *increase* in other parts of the world. On the other hand, La Niña *intensifies* Atlantic hurricanes. Beginning in 1995, all but two Atlantic hurricane seasons (1997 and 2002, both El Niño years) have been above normal. In the 25-year period prior to this (1970-1994), the activity was below normal.

Global warming and other climate changes are major contributors to the increased effects of El Niño and La Niña. In turn, these effects are creating the conditions that can trigger what some scientists call “monster” storms.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Kerry Emanuel estimated that oceans will become three degrees warmer due to global warming. This would increase hurricane winds and rains by 10%! The damage this would cause, on top of the already devastating effects of hurricanes, would be astronomical!

Violent Weather Prophesied

Christ warned that just before His Return, there would be an increase in violent weather. Storms such as hurricanes and other “natural” disasters would increase. Mount St. Helens in the

state of Washington is ready to erupt for the second time in twenty-five years. The nations of China, India, Pakistan are losing hundreds of lives in unprecedented storms.

As the end of this age and the Return of Christ move closer, natural disasters *are going to increase*. God is going to “step up” disasters in order to get this world’s attention as it pursues its own course, ignoring the consequences. Not only are hurricanes increasing, but so are other disasters—earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, famines, wars and diseases.

In addition, man is continuing to deplete the earth’s natural resources. He is continuing to pollute the land, sea and air. And by doing so, he is upsetting the balance of nature and bringing about the disasters foretold in the Bible.

Mankind has entered the final countdown of social collapse, upset weather patterns and escalating fallout from ignoring cause and effect.

Blessings for Obedience

The modern descendants of ancient Israel—primarily the United States, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia—have been greatly blessed by God. It is not the subject of this arti-



■ **DOWNTOWN DESTRUCTION:** Some downtown Pensacola, Florida structures like this one were severely damaged by Hurricane Ivan (Oct. 12, 2004).

PHOTO: FEMA/Mark Wolfe



■ **ONE OF MANY HOMES LOST:** Thousands of Pensacola area residents were displaced from their homes, which were damaged by Hurricane Ivan (Oct. 13, 2004).

PHOTO: FEMA/Bill Koplitiz

cle to prove that the U.S. and Britain—and the other nations descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel)—are the recipients of those blessings. (You may learn more about this subject in our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY*.) These blessings were a direct result of our forefather Abraham’s obedience to God almost 4,000 years ago. God gave His Word to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—and then fulfilled that promise.

But those blessings are now being removed! The sun is setting on the greatness that God gave to modern Israel.

Punishment for Disobedience

God warned Israel centuries ago of what would happen if they disobeyed His Law. The nation would receive severe punishment unless it repented. Notice Leviticus 26:14-35:

“But if you will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments; and if you shall despise My statutes, or if your soul abhor My judgments, so that you will not do all My commandments, but that you break

My covenant: I also will do this unto you...Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins...Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins...And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savor of your sweet odors. And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it...and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. Then shall the land enjoy her Sabbaths, as long as it lies desolate, and you be in your enemies’ land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her Sabbaths. As long as it lies desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your Sabbaths, when you dwelt upon it.”

These are strong words from God. But God does not say this in vain. The nations that have descended from ancient Israel have forgotten God and have sinned against Him. God will do what He says He will do—and this will happen very soon. Just as God fulfilled His promise to *bless* Israel, He will also

fulfill His promise to *punish* Israel—*unless these nations repent!*

There Is Hope For Mankind!

Just as meteorologists are able to locate and track storms that form over the sea and predict when and where they will hit land, the signs of Christ’s Return are also here. Speaking of the time shortly before His Return, Christ said, “But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only” (Matt. 24:36). Although we cannot know exactly when Christ will return, notice what He said just four verses earlier: “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near: so likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled” (Matt. 24:32-34).

These signs show that Christ will return soon and establish His Government on this earth. Only then will this world be healed. People will learn how to live in peace, harmony and prosperity—with perfect weather. □

SPACE

Continued from page 20

rule over His creation—other God-beings!

Origin of War

Mankind was created in God's image, after the God "kind" (Gen. 1:26-27). God's plan is to develop holy, righteous character in man. Godly character is: (1) the ability to *know* and *decide* right from wrong, (2) *choosing* the right way over the wrong way, and (3) despite all obstacles, *doing* what is right and *rejecting* what is wrong.

Since Adam, men have followed after their *own* way—which always leads to death (Prov. 14:12; 16:2, 25; 21:2). And Satan, whom the Bible calls the "god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4) and the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2), continually broadcasts wrong attitudes, urges, thoughts and feelings to deceive the whole world (Rev. 12:9) into rejecting God. Most people even scoff at the idea that Satan exists—perhaps the devil's greatest deception!

Under Satan's sway, man—if he had the ability to colonize planets in other star systems—would wage war,

shed blood and ultimately leave the universe exactly as it is: in decay.

Many philosophers and other thinkers have pondered the origins of war. God's Word makes its roots clear: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your *lusts* that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not. You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, *that you may consume it upon your lusts*" (Jms. 4:1-3).

Simply put, all wars come from men's desire to take from others. This is the opposite of godly character. In fact, it is *Satan's* character—murdering, stealing and lying is what the devil does (John 8:44). And mankind, under his influence, follows in his footsteps, and would take the evils that have been unleashed on earth with him to other planets.

A Look Into Man's Future

The apostle Paul writes that "the carnal mind is *enmity* [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be

that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:7-9).

Human beings are naturally hostile toward God. They are His natural enemies. But God offers His Spirit to those who are willing to obey Him. And of those who have the Holy Spirit dwelling in their minds and guiding their lives, God says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, *they are the sons of God*" (vs. 14). And He calls His children "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together" (vs. 17).

Now notice what God's children will inherit:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the [creation] waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the [creation] was made subject to vanity [emptiness, futility], not willingly, but by reason of Him who has subjected the same in hope, because the [creation] itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption [sonship], to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:18-23).

Just as the angels under Lucifer had been given the opportunity to manage and cultivate the earth, and ultimately the universe, man will have the same opportunity to do so under *Christ's* rule!

Man *will* reach the stars—he *will* bring life to dead planets—but only after developing holy, righteous, godly character through the guiding power of God's Spirit. If you would like to learn more about God's plan for mankind, read our free book *The AWESOME POTENTIAL of Man*. □



WORLD NEWS DESK

AN EDITORIAL ANALYSIS OF WORLD NEWS, TRENDS AND CONDITIONS



GEOPOLITICS, STRATEGIES & ECONOMIES

China to Buy Up Canada's Resources

In an exclusive interview with *The Globe and Mail*, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing made it plain that the controversial \$7-billion CAD takeover of Noranda Inc., one of Canada's largest natural resource companies, is just the beginning. "Given our rapid economic growth, we're facing an acute shortage of natural resources," the Foreign Minister told *The Globe*. "No matter how plentiful our natural resources, when you divide them by our population of 1.3 billion, the figure will be very small," he said. "The Chinese government is encouraging Chinese enterprises to make investments in Canada, particularly in the field of resources exploitation." Please note 'investments' is a politically correct term that more often than not also involves a

change in ownership and/or control.

It is known, for example, that two of China's largest state-controlled oil companies are eyeing "investments" in Alberta's oil sands. In addition, other Chinese oil and mining companies are said to be interested in resource-assets held by Canadian companies in Ecuador and Mongolia.

The Noranda takeover, which is to be finalized by November, will be the biggest overseas acquisition by a Chinese corporation. Some Canadian Members of Parliament have raised objections in relation to China's human rights record. Just as important (if not more so), but entirely overlooked by the media, is the strategic implication. Canada has long been a resource supplier to the world. It is for example, one

of the world's leading producers, and the world's largest exporter, of non-fuel minerals. Canada is the world's largest exporter of uranium, zinc and potash; second largest producer of nickel, elemental sulfur, asbestos, and cadmium; and among the top five producers of platinum, gypsum, copper, lead, cobalt, titanium, and molybdenum. As for fuel minerals—oil and natural gas—Canada is the world's tenth largest exporter of oil, and the largest exporter of natural gas.

Most of Canada's exports go to the United States. With Chinese companies in control of several Canadian companies, in the event of strategic conflict (i.e. war), who would control these natural resources?

Source: *The Globe and Mail*

European Union Divided

Foreign policy—the face that a nation presents to the rest of the world—has become a "nightmare" for the EU, as consensus becomes more difficult in the new 25-state bloc, and new members use their weight to settle old scores, particularly with non-EU neighbors. "It has always been difficult reaching consensus among the old 15 countries," said one EU diplomat who asked not to be named. "But this time it is different."

For example, as Judy Dempsey reported in *The International Herald Tribune*, Croatia (an EU candidate) and Slovenia (an EU member), two neighbors in former Yugoslavia, were involved in a bitter fight last month when police from one state arrested the citizens of the other in a town that lies along a disputed border. The quarrel escalated to the point of the outgoing Prime Minister of Slovenia threatening Croatia with the withdraw-

al of their support for EU membership. Only after sharp words from the EU foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, to the effect that Brussels should not be used to settle bilateral problems, did the situation settle down.

In another instance, Hungary (an EU member) is using Brussels to mediate a dispute with Serbia, which itself has intentions to move closer to the EU. Hungary has claimed that atrocities have been committed

against ethnic Hungarians in the Serb-controlled province of Vojvodina. "Yes, there has been some violence, but not atrocities," said another EU diplomat. "Budapest and Belgrade have to talk to each other."

An article in *The Economist* went further, presenting the current division against the history, achievements so far, and the general goals of the EU: "...many of the most ardent believers in the creation of a European federation see enlargement as an unwelcome distraction from the EU's most urgent business: to develop into a real political union." The article goes on to point out that the great peace

and prosperity, especially in western Europe, along with the collapse of the Soviet Union, has made deep political integration in the EU less urgent—to the point that in several member-states, attempts have been thus far resisted as the people hold to deep national traditions. The success of enlargement has also increased the number of political opinions, thus making a "one voice" particularly difficult to find. However, a continental or international crisis would quickly change that.

The Economist went on to conclude that a split in the EU is likely – sometime in the next 12 to 24 months as

eleven of the 25 nations hold referendums on accepting the new European Constitution. In a few of these, most notably Britain, the vote is likely to be negative. The writers maintained that a split would not necessarily be a bad event. However, they were wise enough to present one possible outcome in conclusion: "But there is also a darker, if less likely possibility. A split in the EU could cause Europe once again to divide into rival power blocks. That could threaten what most agree is the Union's central achievement: peace in Europe."

Source: *The International Herald Tribune*

HEALTH, SCIENCE & SOCIETY

Art Show: Europe New "Roman Empire"

A pop-art collage, in a tent outside the European Commission in Brussels, narrates 50 years of EU history and projects the future, stating that the European Union is poised to overtake the U.S. and become the premier superpower. Segments of the piece, sketched across 80 yards of canvas, predict that the 21st century will belong to Europe as it expands its border deep into Eurasia, North Africa and the Middle East, dominating world affairs through its vast "legal and moral reach." The piece was presented under a heading "Roman Empire returns." According to an article in *The Telegraph*, "...the display is not a formal expression of EU policy but it captures views that can be heard every day in the corridors and canteens of the Union's institutions." Formally, it was coordinated by the European Commission and sponsored by the European Council. The EU's current Dutch presidency said yesterday it was designed to reduce Europe's "iconographic deficit" by conjuring up forceful images.

Source: *The Telegraph*



PHOTO: Council of the European Union, 2000-2004

L.A. Hit Hard by West Nile

As the West Nile Virus season winds down for most of the North American continent, officials have provided updated statistics, one area of which indicates that Los Angeles County was hardest hit. Other areas of the report indicate that the virus is continuing to change. "It's the new polio," said James J. Rahal, a professor at the Cornell University Weill College of Medicine in New York. "It's a devastating complication. The West Nile virus can cause the same paralysis and pathology as polio."

The statistics include:

■ 1,951 people were infected in the

U.S. this year, 37% of which developed paralysis, encephalitis and meningitis—all complications that can lead to death.

■ 266 residents of Los Angeles County contracted the virus, 44% (116) of which developed the neuro-invasive complications.

■ Of those 116 cases, 73 suffered meningitis, 39 encephalitis, and four paralysis; eight of the patients died—the most of any county in California.

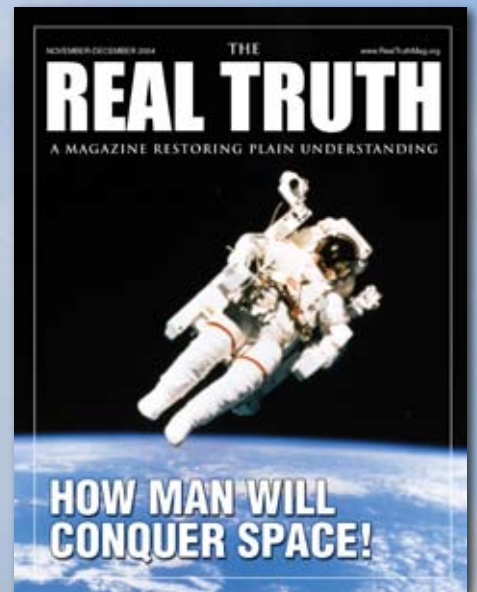
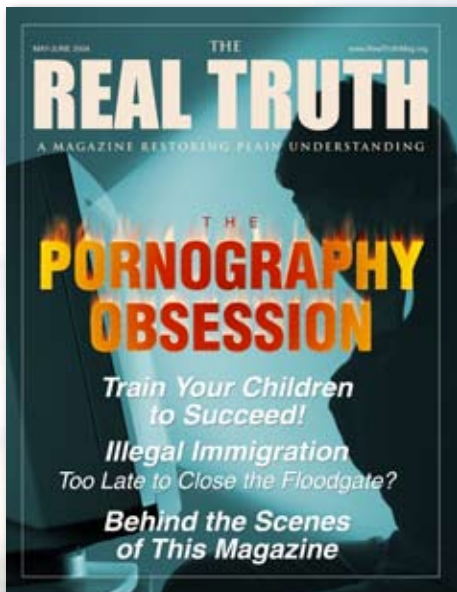
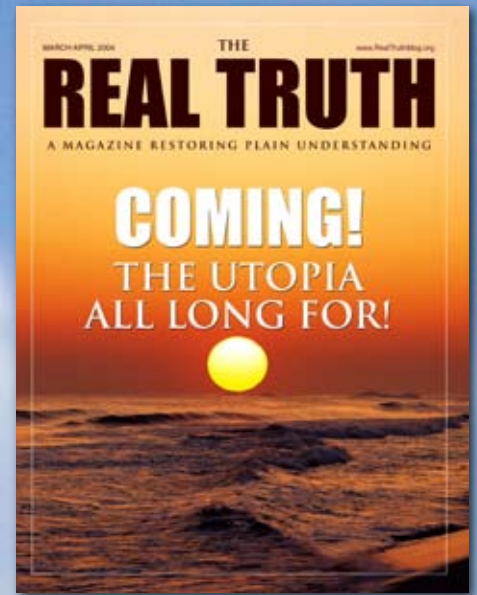
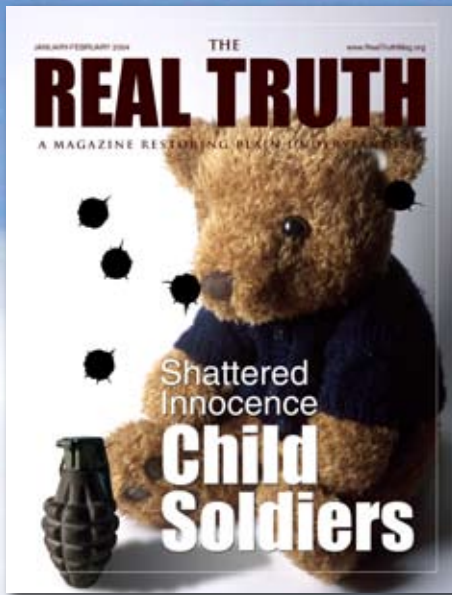
Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, the county's health officer, said, "It appears that, at least, the neuroinvasive diseases are more serious and can cause a higher frequency of continuing problems than

was originally thought. There have been a significant number of people in early and middle adulthood who have been affected. If you look at the fatalities, they tend to be in older people, but in terms of the neuro-invasive cases, there was a significant number who were middle-aged and even younger who came down with this problem."

Dr. Carol Glaser, chief of the viral disease lab at the California Department of Health Services, said experts believe the virus in the United States is much stronger than originally thought.

Source: *Los Angeles Daily News*

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