

September-October 2000

Tomorrow's World

...For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Return of The Dragon



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Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomorrow's World, P.O. Box 503077, San Diego, CA 92150.

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Tomorrow's World has no subscription price. Its free distribution is made possible by tithes and offerings of members of the Living Church of God, and by others who have chosen to become co-workers with us in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel to all nations. Contributions are gratefully acknowledged and may be tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and other countries.



Signs of the Times

Jesus Christ told the religious leaders of His day, “Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the *signs of the times*” (Matthew 16:3).

So it is today.

Many professing ministers of Jesus Christ are highly educated in the technicalities of theological jargon, Semitic languages and biblical literature. They are often very intelligent men, but in the theological seminaries they are seldom taught about the REAL God of the Bible who intervenes in human affairs, who guides the overall destiny of major nations and who will soon RULE this earth with a “rod of iron” (Revelation 19:15).

Yet all around us the signs of the END of this present civilization are beginning to appear. The God of creation is beginning to intervene in the weather and in bringing about major earthquakes as Jesus predicted (Matthew 24:7). The specific indications of the coming massive DISEASE EPIDEMICS are becoming more and more ominous, as you can discover in our booklet *Who Controls the Weather?* which will be sent to you absolutely FREE upon your request.

As some of us in this Work have been predicting for decades, a European Empire is indeed coming together. It *will* be dominated by a rearmed and revitalized Germany, as we stated *long before* this became obvious to the news media. It will also be mightily influenced by the great “mother church” described in Revelation 17. In fact, this European Empire will probably not take its final form until a great religious leader arises in Europe to bring it about.

Meanwhile tens of millions of “mainstream” Protestants have lost their spiritual foundations. They are all mixed up. Many now fully approve of homosexuality and even same-sex “marriages.” Most of these mainstream “Christians” have “no problem”

with fornication, young couples living together before marriage, “occasional” lying and cheating and the continuing murder of millions of unborn children.

The coming religious leader in Europe will quickly fill the now-apparent void in morality, and will *appear* to be unique in having the courage to “stem the tide” of immorality sweeping the entire western world. Many leaders of the ecumenical movement will “leap into the arms” of this charismatic figure. For *he*—they will think—will be the “one” to bring ALL of professing Christianity together again. *He* will be the one to bring about Christian unity at last!

Meanwhile, the spiritual and moral deterioration of the United States and British descended peoples will continue unabated. Our national prestige and power will keep on diminishing—*unless* there is a profound *national* REPENTANCE *for sin* to a degree unprecedented in modern times! In all honesty, do any of you see *that kind* of national repentance, humiliation and FASTING before the God of heaven coming about in the foreseeable future?

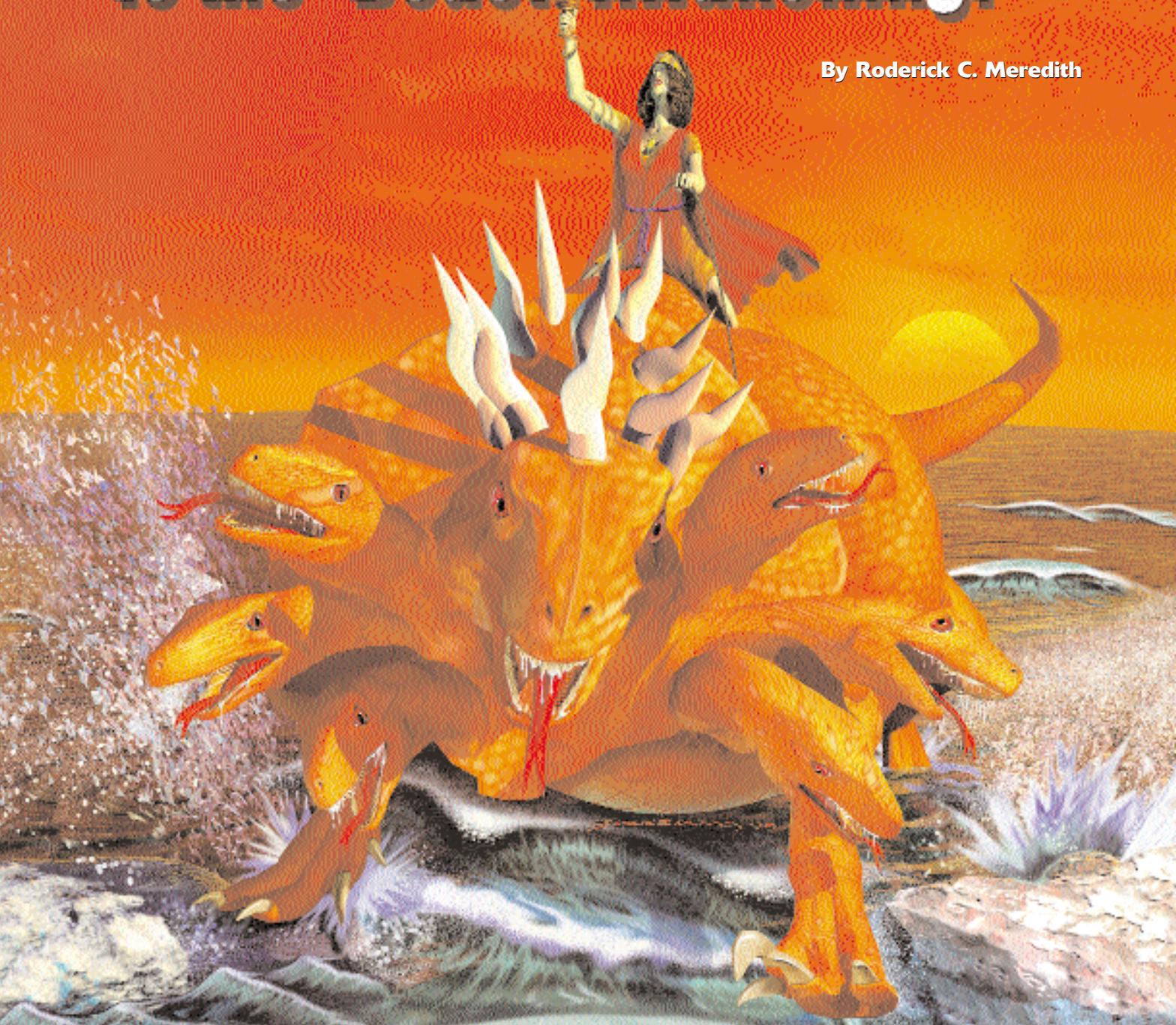
Additionally, as Jesus indicated when He prophesied coming “terrors” to occur in the END-times (Luke 21:11, RSV), we are now faced with the probability of violent terrorist attacks right in the middle of the major cities of the United States, Canada and Britain! An Associated Press report quoted in San Diego’s *North County Times* (May 25, 1997) describes this possible scenario:

A Hezbollah terrorist tapes a light bulb to the track of a New York City subway station. Minutes later, a passing train smash-

Continued on page 30

Is the “Beast” Awakening?

By Roderick C. Meredith



“I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns” (Revelation 17:7). Will this ancient mystery be revealed in today’s Europe? You NEED to know!

BERLIN—Here in the revitalized Germany, the favorite bird is the “crane.” That is, the hundreds of construction cranes all over the nation—symbols of the dynamic growth of this prosperous and powerful nation of some 85-million people. Germany is Europe’s largest nation and boasts the world’s third largest economy. It is now looked to by many as the real “leader” of Europe.

But *where* is Germany heading?

Right now, the German Parliament is meeting in the Reichstag—the massive and impressive structure that contained the German Parliament at the time of Adolph Hitler’s rise to power. It has been rebuilt and refurbished along elegant lines now that the German nation has moved its capital once again to Berlin. In fact, many are calling the new Germany the “Berlin Republic.” The German Parliament or Bundeshouse, is debating how to increase the effectiveness of Germany’s army. The ostensible goal is to make it more modern, more flexible and capable of being the core of a powerful European strike force, which could act in concert with—or *independently of*—NATO and the United States.

In concert with this new military force, some German leaders are also calling for “a fully federal Europe.” This shocked France’s interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, to declare:

We are in the presence of a German tendency to imagine for Europe a federal structure based on its own model. At the bottom of this, Germany is still dreaming of the

German Holy Roman Empire. It has not yet healed from the historical accident of Nazism.

A German-led revival of the Holy Roman Empire? That is *exactly* what some of us have been warning our readers about for many years. Because that is precisely what biblical prophecy indicates! And now, it has come directly from the words of a leading Cabinet member in the French government.

These developments have also caused concern in the United States government. As the *International Herald Tribune*, May 24, 2000, reported:

Worries about the emerging European defense organization are surfacing in Washington, where powerful political circles consider it another step in the potential erosion of U.S. power and influence in Europe. They fear that NATO is being sidelined by the European Union.

Encouraging a “Frankenstein Monster”?

For decades, the United States has enthusiastically encouraged the rebuilding of Germany and the eventual creation of what even Sir Winston Churchill envisioned as “a kind of United States of Europe.” In the past, the West felt

that a strong Europe would be a “buffer zone” to protect Britain and the United States from Soviet aggression. Most Americans sympathized with this goal, and wished to see Germany return to normalcy after the horrors of the Nazi era.

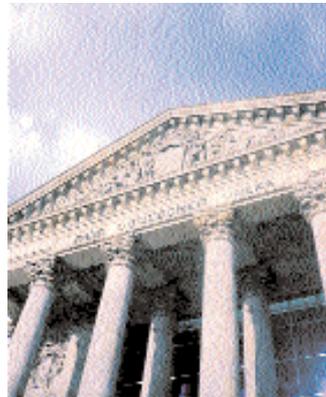
All this was very good.

Germans as individuals are as kind and good-hearted as any other nationalities. Yet history shows that the collective German nation has often shown a desire to dominate and to

RULE other

nations. Throughout history, one German ruler after another has convinced himself that other nations “need” German leadership and domination. Of course, this manifested itself in World War I and again in World War II—horrifying conflicts that cost *tens of millions* of human lives.

Many students of history and of biblical prophecy realize that the German people are the descendants of the ancient Assyrians—the *same people* whom God used to punish our Israelitish ancestors back in 721BC (see 2 Kings 17:1–8). Through the prophet Isaiah, the Eternal God has this to say about the Assyrian (or modern *German*) peoples: “Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Yet he does not



The Reichstag is once again home to a unified government of a resurgent Germany, which some Europeans fear may again become an aggressor.
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mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations. For he says, ‘Are not my princes altogether kings?’” (Isaiah 10:5–8).

Note in the above prophecy that although modern Assyria is *to be used by God* as His “tool” to punish Israel, it *does not* realize or “mean so” but is just following its warlike tendencies. As when Germany’s Nazis proclaimed themselves the “super-race,” modern Assyrians think their “princes” equal to other nations’ “kings.”

Most people do not realize that Isaiah’s prophecy was to have a *dual* fulfillment—an earlier fulfillment on the ten-tribed house of Israel in 721BC, and a later fulfillment on its descendants at the prophesied “time of the END.” If you read this prophecy carefully—all the way through chapter 11—you will clearly see that the *final* fulfillment of this prophecy extends right up to Christ’s Second Coming and His millennial rule on the earth. Notice verses 20–21: “And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel, and such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, will never again depend on him who defeated them, but will depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God.” Here, God is obviously describing the END-time remnant of Israel and how they will NEVER again depend on these Gentile allies. But, the prophecy says, Israel at that time “WILL depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.”

And a few verses later in Isaiah 11:9–12, God says: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. And in

that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious. It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from ASSYRIA and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

Modern Israel Punished for Its SINS

Part of the “deliverance” Jesus Christ will bring at His Second Coming will be the deliverance of MODERN Ephraim, from *national slavery* brought about by their mounting SINS. Most Bible students know that Judah indicates the Jewish people, but many do not realize that Ephraim and Manasseh are today’s British and American peoples. If you have not yet done so, be sure to request your *free* copy of our powerful, fully documented booklet explaining this entire topic, *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?* Just write or call the regional office nearest you (listed on page two of this magazine).

This is the Great Tribulation Jesus Christ spoke of in Matthew 24:21–22. Note that in the prophecy of Isaiah 11:11, Israel is delivered first of all from “Assyria”—modern *Germany!* This coming national punishment is specifically described in Jeremiah 30:4–9. Addressing Himself to END-time Israel AND Judah (v. 4), God speaks of their deliverance when foreigners “no more

ENSLAVE” them (v. 8). This deliverance will occur at the *time of the END*—when the resurrection from the dead will occur and King David will once again be made king over *all 12 tribes of Israel* (see also Hosea 3:4–5 and Ezekiel 37:19–24).

All 12 tribes of modern Israel—especially the United States and British-descended peoples—have succumbed to Satan’s influence and are simply saturated with hedonism and SIN. In the very direct prophecy of Jeremiah 30, God calls this entire period of national tribulation “the time of JACOB’S (or Israel’s) trouble”! Remember that this prophecy of Jeremiah was written long after ancient Israel’s captivity—over 100 years later. So it must and it DOES refer to a yet future national punishment and captivity for our peoples—in the “latter days” as Jeremiah put it (v. 24).

But WHY?

Aren’t we in the United States and Canada good, upstanding church-going people? And aren’t the peoples of Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the British-descended peoples of South Africa all good and decent people?

The ANSWER is that although many of us have had a “form of godliness,” we have NOT acknowledged the real AUTHORITY of the God of Creation, the God of the Bible! We have steadfastly refused to keep God’s commandments and His laws! Instead, we have allowed our religious leaders to invent various excuses as to how God’s laws were “done away.” Our horrifying crime rate, our continuing murder of millions of unborn children, our mounting drug use, pornography, and sexual sins and now even our open countenancing of perversion, are all a STENCH in the nostrils of a right-

eous God—a *personal* God who created and now RULES the earth and the entire universe!

We have left the *true* God out of our thinking—out of our daily lives!

God therefore says that our national allies—or “lovers” as some translations have it—will forsake us and we will be punished. “All your lovers have forgotten you; they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquities, because your SINS have increased. Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, because your SINS have increased, I have done these things to you” (Jeremiah 30:14–15).

Modern Assyria—Part of a European Empire

Modern Assyria, or Germany, will not be alone as God’s instrument in punishing the American and British-descended peoples. *Many other* nations will join in from time to time. But the main “tool” which God will use in this national chastisement is a revived Holy Roman Empire! As France’s interior minister proclaimed, it will probably be a *German-led* empire—eventually composed of ten nations (Revelation 17:12).

This 17th chapter of Revelation describes seven successive

“kings” (or *dictators*) in the revived Roman Empire (vv. 7–10). Many scholars have clearly identified the first five heads of the major revivals of the Roman Empire as: Justinian (554AD); C h a r l e m a g n e (800AD); Otto the Great (962AD); Charles V (1530AD) and Napoleon (1804–1814). Many fail to remember that Benito Mussolini officially declared his empire the “Holy Roman Empire.”



Napoleon, leader of a previous revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

John then describes the coming Super-King or “Beast” receiving the power and allegiance of ten *contemporaneous* kings—living at the END of this age (vv. 12–13).

After the brief sixth revival during the Hitler-Mussolini alliance, this ten-nation European union will be the *seventh* and *final* revival of the Holy Roman Empire. This is “final” because these kings will be so deceived and misled by the Beast and the coming great religious leader called the “False Prophet” that they will end up *fighting Christ Himself* at His Second Coming!

Almost Unbelievable!

“What unimaginable arrogance and stupidity,” you might think. And yet the beauty, the wealth and the power of this religious-political system was so awesome in John’s vision that he “wondered with great admiration” (vv. 3–6, KJV). The “Great Whore” of Revelation 17 will indeed have a type of beauty, artistry and appeal, which will simply overwhelm the

senses of hundreds of millions of human beings at the end of this age! They will succumb to her blandishments—and the clever machinations and *false miracles* of the Great False Prophet who will lead this religious system (Revelation 13:11–14).

The Great “Harlot” of Revelation

Religious scholars have offered many theories regarding the Beast of Revelation 17. At various points in recent history, some have thought it was the Soviet Union, or the Arab League or the Communist Chinese, or any of a dozen others, but most seem to have forgotten that the “woman” RIDES the Beast (Revelation 17:3). This great religious system will begin to exercise more power and influence in years to come than most of us even begin to realize.

God calls this foul system “the Great Harlot” who sits on many waters. In verse 15, God Himself reveals: “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.” So this great false church sits on many nations, speaking different languages. And the Creator God names it, “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (v. 5). Then John reveals: “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (v. 6). So this is a great *persecuting* church which has shed the blood of the *true* saints of God! These true saints are described, incidentally, in Revelation 14:12: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the command-

ments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

In his prescient and powerful book, *The Principality and Power of Europe*, author Adrian Hilton explains the mortal danger of what is now slowly, but surely, shaping up in Europe. On pages 17–18, Hilton warns: “And in John Paul II we have the most political Pope of modern times. It is in the movement towards federalism of the Common Market with the coming membership of eastern European countries, as well as in the turmoil in the Soviet Union, that the Pope may see the greatest possibility for an increase in Catholic political power since the fall of Napoleon, or since the Counter-Reformation.”

Others recognize the weight of Hilton’s above analysis; his book begins with a foreword by Lord Tony Pandy, former Speaker of Britain’s House of Commons. On page 36, we read of the present Pope speaking out against the “national and artificial borders” all over Europe. The Pope added: “Europeans should overcome the menacing international confrontations of states and alliances, and create a new united Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.”

Hilton then refers to one of Britain’s leading newspapers, *The Sunday Telegraph*, which in 1991, summed up the Pope’s plans for the evangelization of Europe: “He is calmly preparing to assume the mantle which he solemnly believes to be his Divine Right—that of new Holy Roman Emperor, reigning from the Urals to the Atlantic.”



Benito Mussolini called his dictatorship a “Holy Roman Empire.” According to Scripture, this Empire will be revived once more before Jesus Christ returns.

All of us should realize that when the Pope speaks of Europe returning to its “spiritual roots,” he is talking about its *Roman Catholic roots!* This theme will continue to echo with increasing POWER in years to come. And Rome’s constant promotion of the ecumenical movement—encouraging her wayward daughters to “come home”—will also resonate with increasing urgency throughout Europe and even here in North America.

It is time for all Bible-believing Christians to WAKE UP! A MASSIVE religious/political union is now in the making in Europe. Interestingly, the Bible indicates that Britain will NOT be part of this final Roman system. Even now, there are misgivings among the British leadership and among the population at large about the approach to a complete union with Europe.

After thoroughly describing this END-time system in Revelation 18, God’s Word tells us what will happen before Christ returns: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of DEMONS, a prison for every FOUL SPIRIT, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!” (v. 2). It tells us that “ALL” nations are drunk with the spiritual wine of false teachings emanating from this rotten system (v. 3). God’s Word warns all true Christians: “Come OUT of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues” (v. 4).

But, chances are, you will NOT understand and you will NOT act unless you *personally* begin to STUDY the Bible *genuinely* and DO what it says! Then, if you truly SEEK God with all your being, you will NOT easily be misled in the months and years ahead. Then, you will “know”—and *know that you know*—the true God, His ways and His awesome PLAN for all humanity.

The years just ahead will be years of trial and test. The slow but certain deterioration of the American and British-descended peoples will not be pleasant to watch. It will bring many sorrows to those of us who have loved our nations and what they originally stood for. And the steady rise of power and prestige on continental Europe will swiftly begin to accelerate once the final political leader (the “Beast”) and the Great False Prophet are in place. For then, “in the name of God,” a terrible time of intense pressure and finally outright persecution and MARTYRDOM will begin for all those who oppose this demonic system.

Remember, most people in this soon-coming system *will be deceived*. They will not realize the meaning of what is happening. As God warns us, Satan will finally have to be restrained after Christ’s return “so that he should DECEIVE the nations *no more*” (Revelation 20:3). In the years ahead, we as Christians should NOT hate the poor, misguided, deceived people who are part of this coming “Babylon.”

Rather, we should know better. We have been WARNED. We must now HEED the warning we have been given—we must turn to the *true* God of the Bible and SEEK Him, and His understanding, as never before. Will YOU, personally, do this? TW

Questions & Answers

QUESTION:

If the gate is narrow and the way difficult, as Jesus Christ stated in Matthew 7:13–14, then how could His yoke be easy and His burden light (Matthew 11:30)? Please explain this apparent contradiction.

ANSWER:

At first glance, this may appear to be a contradiction, but in fact it is not. To answer your question we need to understand each scripture, beginning with Matthew 7:13–14.

In this scripture, Jesus contrasted two ways of life. He said: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13–14). The word “narrow” in the *New King James Version* is translated from a Greek word which signifies being “pressed” or hemmed in by large rocks within a gorge. The Greek word rendered as “difficult” carries the meaning of “narrow” or “confined” (*An Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, ed. Vine, 1985).

God’s way is not the natural way that sinning humanity would choose or find most comfortable. Human nature seeks, and remains in, its own selfish comfort zone. It subtly resents and rebels against God’s way and His Laws—the Ten Commandments (Romans 8:7). So deceitful is the heart of man (Jeremiah 17:9), that many think that they can believe in Christ and continue in a sinful lifestyle. Jesus therefore admonished all of His followers to “strive to enter through the narrow gate...” (Luke 13:24). The Greek word for “strive” is *agonizomai* which means “struggle” or, literally, “to agonize” (*The Companion Bible*). When rendered metaphorically as “fight,” as in 1 Timothy 6:12, it signifies to “fight and contend with all perseverance against temptation and opposition.”

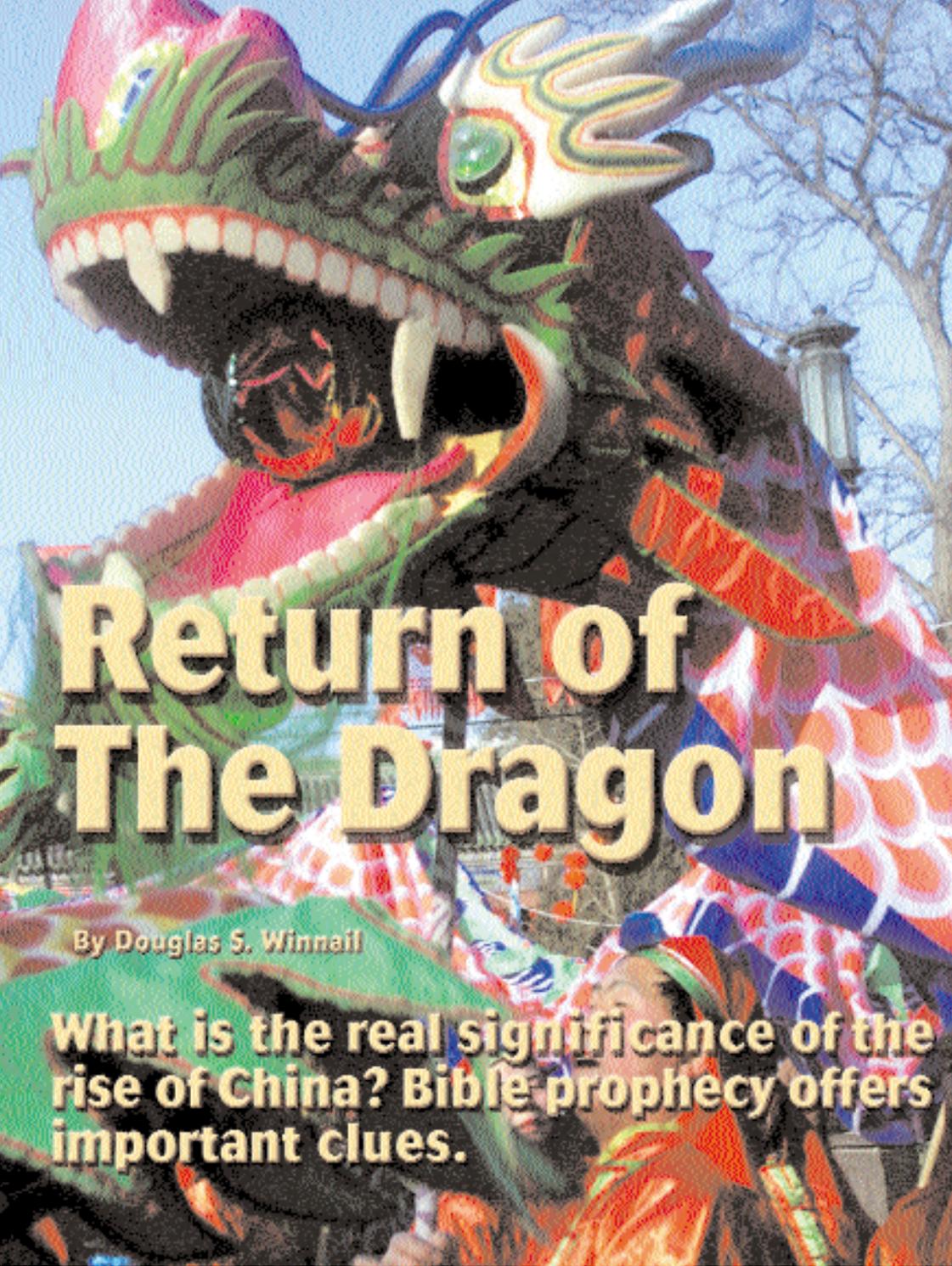
Human nature is naturally inclined toward selfishness and disobedience to God’s holy and righteous laws. Without a deep heartfelt repentance of sin, and a fight against one’s human nature, many simply will not be able to find the

door into God’s Kingdom! The *struggle* for every true Christian is to repent of past sins and become God-willed instead of self-willed! The vast majority of humanity does not want to go down that *straight* and *narrow* path—choosing, rather, the easy and broad way. Some will prophesy in Christ’s name, cast out demons and do many wonders, yet to no avail (Matthew 7:21–23). Why? Because they continue to “*practice lawlessness*” (v. 23). But for those who do choose to repent and forsake lawlessness, Jesus will help them enter the narrow path.

Now, notice the second scripture in question. Jesus said: “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30). The Apostle John elaborates: “For this is the love of God, that we *keep* His commandments. And His commandments are *not* burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

God’s way is indeed a blessed way of freedom from sin and its consequences, which end in death (Romans 6:23). As Christians, we are to repent and “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us”—having faith in Jesus Christ to help us through all our problems and trials—“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (Hebrews 12:1–4; 1 Peter 5:7). It is the weight of sin that ensnares and loads us down! Through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven and released from sin’s vise-like grip. Jesus was speaking of two ways of life—slavery to sin, shackled by guilt leading to eternal death, versus joyful obedience to God’s way and the receiving of abundant blessings leading to eternal life.

The two scriptures in question are thus clearly not contradictory, but are sequential in nature. One scripture encourages an action—the choice of obedience to God’s law. The other scripture describes the results of that choice—an easy yoke and light burden. Truly, anyone who has already made that choice realizes the blessings it affords.



Return of The Dragon

By Douglas S. Winnail

What is the real significance of the rise of China? Bible prophecy offers important clues.

After nearly two centuries of humiliation and decline, the imperial Chinese Dragon is stirring again and moving purposefully toward the center of the world stage. China, once termed “a slumbering giant” and the “sick man of Asia,” is rapidly emerging as the *new epicenter* of Asian industry, trade, finance—and military power! As the most populous nation on earth with the world’s largest army, newly assertive China is generating concern throughout East Asia and beyond. This ancient and cunning “dragon” is determined to *reclaim* a position of dominance in the 21st century that she believes is *rightfully* hers. The appearance of an ambitious and militant superpower in the Far East is extremely significant and will have *ominous* conse-

quences for America and the West.

Napoleon once predicted that “when China wakes, it will *shake* the world.” Those words are about to come true! Yet China, the rising nation known as the “Red Dragon,” occupies only the *eastern* portion of Eurasia—the globe’s largest and most conflicted landmass. This critical piece of geography is a “cauldron of civilizations” that is beginning to *boil* across its entire surface with the resurgence of intense and combative nationalism. Bible prophecy indicates that *just before the return* of Jesus Christ, the *entire* Eurasian continent will explode with the most dramatic and devastating confrontation of nations the world has ever seen. At present, we appear to be witnessing the opening rounds of that cataclysmic event! Secular commentators *sense* danger ahead, but they simply do not grasp the *profound prophetic significance* of the return of the Dragon. You need to understand what China is doing; because astonishing events just ahead are going to affect your life!

A Proud Past

China's current quest for international prominence may seem audacious and presumptuous, but "what is *usual* for China is *unusual* for the West" ("China: A World Power Again," Kaplan, *Atlantic Monthly*, August 1999, p. 16). For most of her long history, China has been a powerful state. The Chinese "have the oldest continuous civilization in the world... and also the oldest centralized state" (*The Heart of the Dragon*, Clayre, 1985, p. 1). While the empires of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece and Rome rose and fell, the Chinese Empire continued to grow in size and splendor. The Chinese called their country "the Middle Kingdom because they believed it was at the center, or middle, of the earth" (*The Eagle and the Dragon*, Lawson, 1985, p. 32). From the Dragon Throne the Emperor ruled "everything under heaven." The central government was hierarchical and authoritarian. The Chinese *historically* have regarded foreigners as *barbarians*—not as equals.

The Chinese invented and used paper, printing, moveable type, gunpowder, the magnetic compass, crossbow and porcelain "long before they were known in Europe" (*China Today*, Shanor & Shanor, 1995, p. 78). Marco Polo recorded splendors of China that sounded unbelievable to European ears. In the early 1400s the Ming Emperor sent a fleet of treasure ships—some of the largest wooden ships ever built—to Indonesia, India and Africa to establish trade and impress other nations with China's greatness (*When China Ruled the Seas*, Levathes, 1994, p. 21).

China's glorious past is "looked upon by most Chinese as a *source of great pride*" (*Understanding China*, Starr, 1997, p. 56). Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor to former President Carter, notes that "to be Chinese meant to be cultured, and for that reason, the rest of the world owed China its due deference" (*The Grand Chessboard*, 1997, pp. 13–14). Chinese civilization has long cultivated a "strongly felt and deeply ingrained sense of *cultural superiority*" (Ibid. p. 13). This has made China suspicious and unreceptive to outside ideas and often difficult to get along with. These are critical factors that motivate China's behavior and her quest to *gain* a dominant position in the world.

A Hundred Humiliations

Deep scars from the Opium Wars also drive China's ambitions. During the 1840s, the British fought and defeated the Chinese on several occasions to protect their lucrative and illegal opium trade in China. Britain gained Hong Kong and extensive trading rights in China through unequal treaty agreements. Other Western powers—Portugal, America, Germany and Russia—*extracted* similar concessions from the weak and corrupt Manchu government that *forced* China to open its doors to the outside world. Christian missionaries often arrived on ships that carried opium, and their efforts to convert the "heathen" were perceived as attacks on the Chinese way of life. This seemed evil and hypocritical to the Chinese. When, with the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, the Chinese attempted to end ruthless exploitation of their country by "foreign devils," they were again defeated by the Western powers. This period of humiliation is "something the Chinese would not soon forget" (Lawson, p. 42).

The exploitation of China by outside powers has "generated the profound sense of cultural humiliation that has motivated the Chinese throughout the twentieth century, a humiliation all the more intense because of the collision between their ingrained sense of cultural superiority and the demeaning realities of postimperial China" (Brzezinski, p. 15). Brzezinski continues, "From that perspective, China's fall from greatness—the last 150 years of China's humiliation—is an aberration, a desecration of China's special quality, and a personal insult to every individual Chinese. It must be erased, and its perpetrators [Britain, America, Russia and Japan] *deserve due punishment*" (Ibid. p. 158). A Chinese general has stated [concerning the United States]: "for a relatively long time it will be absolutely necessary that we quietly nurse our sense of vengeance... We must conceal our abilities and bide our time" (*The Coming Conflict with China*, Bernstein & Munro, 1997, p. 3). China is determined to avenge past offenses.

Return of the Dragon

In 1949, after a "century of shame," the Chinese



With the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, ending the first Opium War, Britain gained control of Hong Kong, which it held until returning it to China in 1999. © Presslink Images

Communists established the People's Republic of China in "the most massive revolution in world history" ("China's Communist Revolution: A Half-Century Perspective," *Current History*, Sept. 1999, p. 243). Their goals were to unite China and eliminate foreign encroachments. In spite of setbacks and self-inflicted hardships, "significant improvements were made in diet, welfare, health care and education" (Ibid. p. 246). In the last 25 years, China's opening to Western ideas accelerated its development and made its economy the third largest in the world. America and other Western nations aided China's economic and military development during those years, to "counter-balance" the Russian influence in Asia. However, with the sudden implosion of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, China emerged—almost overnight—as the foremost power in Asia.

China's burgeoning economy and growing position of power have rekindled national pride, fanned self-confidence and stirred long-suppressed imperial ambitions. President Jiang Zemin has vowed to "unite China and make it powerful again" (*Newsweek*, Oct. 11, 1999, p. 49). Government-controlled publications boast that the return of Hong Kong and Macao "prove China's strength" and make all Chinese "extremely proud of Asia's glory in the 20th century" ("Macao: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," Fugen, *China Today*, Dec. 1999, p. 34). China is described as "a big country of ancient origins" that has "made outstanding contributions to mankind" (Ibid. p. 7). Modern China appears "like a dragon, soaring toward the 21st century" (Ibid.). China is on the *rebound* and is intent on resuming its prominent place in the world. The long-expected awakening has occurred. But where will it lead?

The Great Game

Indicators of China's future direction are readily available in the history, geography and philosophy of Asia, and in the statements of Chinese leaders. For centuries China has been a participant, spectator and victim of power struggles on the Eurasian continent. In the 19th century, the race for empire in central Asia between Czarist Russia and Victorian Britain was called "the Great Game" and spawned the "grandiose

theory that control of the Eurasian 'Heartland' would assure mastery of the world" (*Tournament of Shadows*, Meyer & Brysac, 1999, pp. xviii, 569).

China is located on the *eastern rim* of the historic Eurasian "heartland" and has *serious intentions* of becoming a major player in the "Great Game." China took over Tibet "because control of Tibet gives the Chinese the high ground from which they can threaten all of South Asia" (*Red Dragon Rising*, Timperlake & Triplett, 1999, p. 57). Supplying arms to Burma and Pakistan is China's attempt to encircle and neutralize its populous rival, India. China has forged treaties with three Central Asian states and established a new "strategic partnership" with Russia ("China's Search for a Global Role," Yahunda, *Current History*, Sept. 1999, p. 269). China is moving to control the Eurasian "heartland." One of China's high ranking generals states, "since the early 1990s, we have been adjusting and preparing for the *world strategy of supremacy* and power politics" (Timperlake & Triplett, p. 145).

Chinese philosophy also influences China's foreign policy. Mao Tse Tung's famous comment "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun" is still followed. The People's Republic of China "is now engaged in one of the most extensive and rapid military buildups in the world" ("The Coming Conflict with China," Bernstein & Munro, *Foreign Affairs*, Mar.-Apr. 1997, p. 25). Sun Tzu, the Chinese military sage wrote that "the essence of warfare is deception" and "the army is established by deceit" (*The Complete Art of War*, Sawyer, 1996, p. 24). China is thus, "largely in secret, building a vast war machine based on the most modern weapons and tactics" (Timperlake & Triplett, p. 14). This philosophy also explains why China often denies and conceals its true intentions. Sun Tzu's instruction about "gaining the advantages of the earth" is reflected in China's strategic moves to occupy islands in the South China Sea that sit astride critical sea lanes, and to acquire key ports at both ends of the Panama Canal. These actions can threaten economic lifelines of Japan and America.

The most sobering aspect of China's military buildup involves high-tech weaponry and computerized *information warfare*. This includes the use of long-range precision strike weapons and also jamming or manipulating enemy computers to disrupt commu-



Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) and Chinese President Jiang Zemin toast the signing of economic and trade agreements. China's growing economy is rekindling national pride.

nications and air-traffic control, block electric power grids, snarl traffic signals, drain bank accounts and contaminate water supplies. The People's Liberation Army has developed "the world's largest information warfare program after the United States" (Timperlake & Triplett, p. 123). Western strategists, who label China's military "the greatest junkyard army in the world" and smile at comparing Chinese and American forces, miss the point. Chinese strategists are not interested in merely duplicating American equipment, but are eager to "develop entirely new weapons systems" that "could render entire categories of traditional weapons obsolete" (see *The American Spectator*, Jan. 2000, p. 69; *Commentary*, July-August 1999, p. 32). This coincides with Sun Tzu's approach that the highest goal in warfare is to vanquish the enemy without actually fighting, and to use "unorthodox" methods. But what does this mean for America?

America and China in Prophecy

Experts in international relations recognize that America and the West are entering a very critical period—but they only see *part* of the picture. Today America is the world's undisputed superpower, and Western nations have, for the last 200 years, dominated the globe. This is about to change. As Harvard's Samuel Huntington and other historians have pointed out, "the expansion of the West" has ended, and "the revolt against the West" has begun (*The Clash of Civilizations*, 1996, p. 53). The major challengers to the West are Islamic and Asian civilizations—especially China. According to Huntington, the East Asian economic boom has been "one of the *most significant developments in the world* in the second half of the 20th century" (Ibid. p. 103). Many Asians attribute this "to the *superiority* of their culture and the *decadence* of the West" and believe it is time for Asia to "talk back" to the West (p. 107–108).

Anti-Americanism is also rising in Asia—especially in China. China's President Zemin told People's Liberation Army generals in 1995: "I am aware of the fact that the West [the United States] remains our *chief enemy*" (Timperlake & Triplett, p. 133). America is viewed as the *principal obstacle* in China's quest to become a regional and global power. China *resents* America's interference in her internal affairs and

"internationally bullying" to "keep China down." Many Chinese view America as "a toothless paper tiger" that can be bought—if the price is right. China sees the United States as a superpower whose *days are numbered—a superpower that should be replaced*. Foreign policy analysts warn that America and China are "drifting towards disaster" (*China Briefing*, Joseph, 1997, p. 9) and that conflicting interests of these two nations "will be the *major global rivalry* in the first decades of the 21st century" (Bernstein & Munro, p. 4). An explosion could occur over Taiwan or disputes in the South China Sea.

What these analysts *do not grasp* is that the America-China situation is *beginning to resemble* prophecies long outlined in the Bible. Scripture plainly reveals that as the end of the age approaches, God is going to "break the pride" of America's power—because of our sins (Leviticus 26:19). That period may be just ahead. In end-time biblical prophecies "Israel" represents the American and British descended people as explained in our free booklet *What's Ahead for America and Britain?* The book of Hosea describes end-time Israel as "a silly dove without sense" (7:11) that "went after her lovers" (2:13) and "pursues the *east wind*" (12:1) seeking to please leaders with lies and double-dealings (7:1–3). This is an incredibly apt description of America's relationship with China in recent years. America has naively sought to engage the Chinese for financial and humanitarian gains. We have given away sensitive technology and ignored China's militant intentions, hoping the Chinese would embrace democracy and become more like us—but they have not! China, as



Young Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers train in Beijing as mainland China steps up its efforts to bring the island of Taiwan back under its control.

the largest nation in the Far East and a major trading partner, also fits the reference to the *east wind*.

Hosea warns Israel that "*peoples shall be gathered against them*" and "the *east wind* will come" bringing a "sword" (Hosea 10:10; 13:15–16). China is arming nations against the West, and Chinese nuclear missiles pointed at American cities and American bases in the Western Pacific are of the Dongfeng (*East Wind*) series ("China's Nuclear Forces: An Assessment," Goodwin, *Current History*, Sept. 1999, p. 260). Hosea 10:14 indicates that Israel's "fortresses shall be plundered." The book of Deuteronomy warns that Israel will be "defeated before your enemies... and you shall become *troublesome* to all the kingdoms of the earth" (28:25). Chinese troops fought America to a stalemate

in Korea, and Chinese arms contributed to America's debacle in Vietnam. America is the focus of growing resentment in Asian and Islamic countries.

Additional prophecies about end-time Israel mention that "aliens have devoured his strength, but he does not know it" (Hosea 7:9). This aptly describes China's recently revealed efforts to acquire American military secrets (see *Time*, June 7, 1999). Hosea also reveals that "the *pride* of Israel" will cause them to "stumble" (5:5) and that "Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel" (10:6). Incredibly, America has initiated exchange visits that permit Chinese military personnel to view our most sophisticated military equipment and maneuvers—and even to ask questions about the vulnerabilities of American aircraft carriers (*The New Republic*, Apr. 19, 1999, p. 13). Perceptive analysts have observed that "we should not be sharpening the sword that could be used against the Chinese people, our regional allies, or even ourselves" (Timperlake & Triplett, p. 200). Unwittingly, America may be "arming China against ourselves" which would be "a major strategic blunder" (*Commentary*, July-August 1999, pp. 27–33).

Bible prophecy indicates that the rise of China will play a significant role in America's decline. Yet the Bible reveals even more about China's future activities around the world.

The Eurasian Future

For almost 2,000 years many have pondered how end-time prophecies in Daniel and Revelation would be fulfilled. Yet with *remarkable suddenness* as the 21st century begins, major nations on the Eurasian continent are moving into alignments outlined millennia ago in Scripture.

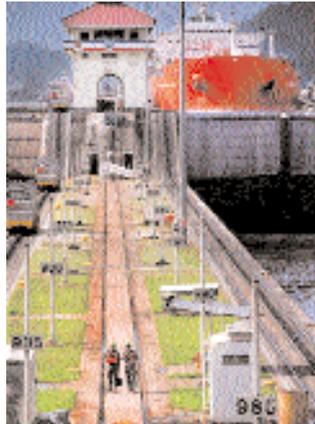
The Eurasian land mass—including China—is home to 75 percent of the world's people. The continent of Eurasia, which has seen the rise and fall of most major empires in human history, has been described as "the chessboard on which the struggle for global primacy continues to be played" and the place where "a potential rival to America might at some point arise" (Brzezinski, pp. 31, 39). While America currently provides stability in Eurasia, "America's *sudden withdrawal*" or "the *sudden emergence* of a successful rival—would produce massive international

instability" (Ibid. p. 30). The rival of which Brzezinski speaks is China—an emerging superpower in *eastern* Eurasia. Samuel Huntington writes that, "the rise of China is the potential source of a *big intercivilizational war* between core states" (Huntington, p. 209). This would set the stage on the Eurasian continent for the events described in Daniel and Revelation.

The Bible also reveals that a 10-nation power block in Central Europe (*western* Eurasia) will arise just before the end of the age (see Daniel, chapters 2 and 7; Revelation, chapters 13 and 17). For more on this topic read "Is the 'Beast' Awakening?" on page 4 of this issue. Daniel reveals that "at the time of the end" the king of the South will attack the king of the North, and the North will counter-attack and occupy much of the Middle East (Daniel 11:40–43). This exact scenario is developing today! The king of the North will emerge from the developing European Community—which has already been challenged by Islamic nations to the *south*. Several Arab nations have aimed missiles at Europe, and armies from America and Europe

have invaded Arab lands several times in recent years. Many of the world's leading purchasers of weapons of mass destruction "are arrayed on Europe's *southern* periphery" and they are all customers of China (Timperlake & Triplett, p. 95). The threat of massive destruction to Europe from the *south* is real!

Daniel records that the king of the North will then be disturbed by news from the "east and the north" (11:44). To the north and east of Jerusalem are Russia and China—who along with Europe (notably France and Germany) are the major players on the Eurasian continent "motivated by an ambitious vision" (Brzezinski, p. 43–44). As the emerging European Beast becomes the major power in *western* Eurasia, Russia and China will move to oppose, or counter-balance it. This too is already happening. China has forged an "arms-for-oil axis" with Islamic nations and has made Russia its "strategic partner." In Russia, *Eurasianism*—building alliances to the south with Islam and to the east with China—is again in vogue ("Dreams of the Eurasian Heartland: The Reemergence of Geopolitics," Clover, *Foreign Affairs*, Mar.-Apr. 1999, p. 9). Huntington has commented that "Russia and China united would decisively tilt the balance against the West" (p.



China has quietly moved to acquire key ports at both ends of the Panama Canal, wooing Panamanian officials. © Presslink Image

Continued on page 29

Letters to the Editor

TOMORROW'S WORLD MAGAZINE

Thank you for *Tomorrow's World*. I have read "Is There Life After Death?" three times. I lost my husband after 65 years of marriage. I can't let go, but the reading of that helps. I want to know more about the word of God. I used not to like the Old Testament, but now I love it so much. There is so much history. It was not real to me, but now I see real people, and know God is real. God is revealing more to me. Your publications help me to understand more. I look up all the scriptures in the Bible. Please pray that I can understand the Word and know what God wants me to do. Thank you.

E. S., Jackson, MS

I want to thank you for all the booklets and the *Tomorrow's World* magazine I have received. I have also been watching your program on VISION television. It certainly opened my eyes to all the Truth about the Word of God in the Bible. With your careful and diligent research, explanations and hard work on the content of all the articles, it really amazed me. When I read an article and find it to be true after referring to my Bible, I feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

S. F., Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada

In today's world, it is good to see the things written about in *Tomorrow's World*. Thank you for carrying on from where the Worldwide Church of God left prior to Mr. Armstrong's death. Your articles and booklets are not only timely but also a source of inspiration for unlearning the false ways of this world under

Satan, and learning the true ways of God. Your ministry helps one and all see the real light. Keep shining!

D. F., Toronto, Ontario, Canada

I just wanted to express my appreciation for Dr. Roderick C. Meredith's "Personal" in the May-June 2000 issue, "True Christians Need COURAGE." Most today who call themselves Christians, especially ministers, preach "smooth things" that people want to hear but that are not what the Bible really teaches. Your magazine is different, and helps to show the true way of life that God wants His people to follow. Thank you so much!

T. J. Minneapolis, MN

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

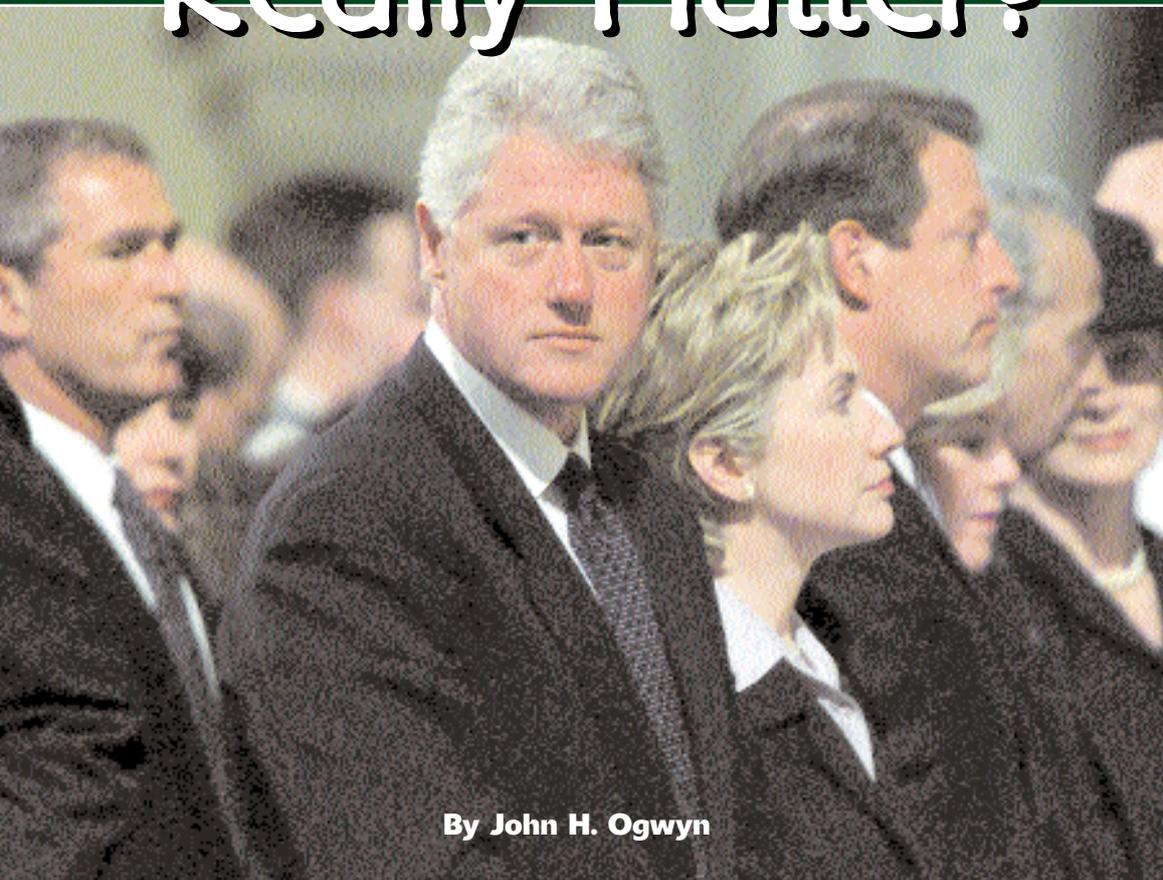
I love all the magazines you send me. They are so spiritually uplifting. I would like to have your *Bible Study Course*. I am a member of a Bible study group, but they ran out of lessons and they have desperately tried to find some at Bible bookstores, but to no avail. After I read all of your material, I give it to our pastor and he reads it and leaves it in the church for the congregation to read. I hope you will continue sending me anything on the Word of God.

E. H., Melvin, KY

Editor's note: Anyone may enroll in the Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course, absolutely free and with no obligation, by returning the subscription card in this magazine or by writing to the regional office (listed on page 2) closest to you.

We encourage you to share with us your reactions to *Tomorrow's World*. Please direct your correspondence to "Letters to the Editor" at our United States address, or send e-mail to letters@tomorrowsworld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

Does Character Really Matter?



By John H. Ogwyn

Character is in the news. Many politicians are spending large sums of money trying to convince the electorate that they have more character than their opponents. These politicians are debating about what constitutes character and how important a role it should play in public life. Some are even claiming that private behavior is really irrelevant to public performance and should not be considered at all.

Issues of character have not been limited to politicians, however. From sports figures and entertainers to military leaders and corporate executives, scandals and even criminal charges

have raised the issue of character in all phases of national life.

In the last few years, events in the political arena have focused national attention on character in a special way, as an American President has been impeached and has been subjected to disbarment proceedings in his home state. Yet he has not been the only one caught practicing immorality in high office; several of his congressional critics have turned out to have preached family values far better than they have practiced them.

What is the relevance of personal character to public life? As the United States approaches the selection of a new president and

congress, the issue of character has been debated again and again. What are the ingredients of good character? What aspects of character are particularly important for the leaders of communities and nations?

There once was a moral consensus regarding what constituted good character, yet we increasingly find that the moral consensus in the Western world has broken down. Different segments of society often hold widely divergent views about what is acceptable behavior.

This is clearly illustrated by the controversy that recently embroiled the Boy Scouts of America. The Scouting movement had its origin early in the 20th century through the efforts of British military leader Lord Baden-Powell. It was designed from the start as a character-building institution for boys. Scouting was intended to produce young men who were "trustworthy, loyal, kind, brave, clean and reverent." Yet for several years the Boy Scouts were locked in a court battle over whether they had to accept acknowledged homosexuals as Scoutmasters. Can you imagine such an issue even being a con-

troverly a mere 25 years ago? Societal agreement about what constitutes good moral character has become so eroded in the last three to four decades that it is hard to get a wide range of agreement on anything. It seems that tolerance is increasingly being touted as the chief, and perhaps only, virtue.

How can we even discuss the issue of character without a clear-cut definition of right and wrong? When all is said and done, does character really matter? Is there any overriding reason for the development of right character, beyond merely clearing up the scandals that grip our nation and its institutions?

Attitudes Toward Character Development

Since our nation's beginning, there has been a great shift in public attitudes toward character development and its importance. George Washington, America's first President, in 1790 wrote to his nephew that, "*a good moral character* is the first essential in a man." Throughout the 19th century this emphasis persisted, and was reflected in childrearing.

Yet by the end of World War I the emphasis had shifted remarkably. Noted Harvard professor and criminologist James Q. Wilson called attention to this shift in his book, *On Character*. "In 1890, 1900, and 1910 one-third of the child-rearing articles published in a sample of articles from the *Ladies Home Journal*, *Women's Home Companion*, and *Good Housekeeping* were about character development; in 1920 only 3 percent were. Personality development had taken its place" (p. 3).

Why did this change occur? One key reason was the change in

how man was viewed. No longer was he seen as having free choice; he was increasingly seen as merely the product of various external stimuli. Far-seeing educator and social commentator Richard Weaver noted: "The social philosophers of the nineteenth century found in Darwin powerful support for their thesis that human beings act always out of economic incentives, and it was they who completed the abolishment of freedom of the will. The great pageant of history thus became reducible to the economic endeavors of individuals and classes... Man created in the divine image... was replaced by man the wealth-seeking and—consuming animal" (*Ideas Have Consequences*, p. 6).

New ideas about man and his nature had been the subject of philosophical speculation in both the 18th and 19th centuries, but did not really penetrate the popular mind until shortly after World War I. The writings of men like Sigmund Freud and John Dewey popularized a new view of man and of the factors that contribute to his proper development. The post-war atmosphere of the "roaring twenties," with its emphasis on being "modern," provided fertile soil in which these views thrived.

These new ideas had their origin in the philosophy of ethical optimism, which "...taught that man has a natural moral sense which can be relied on not only to recognize virtue but to delight in it" (Weaver, pp. 79–80). This approach leads away from discipline and toward impulsive individualism. Weaver noted this trend and its outcome: "Egotism in work and art," he wrote, "is the flowering, after long growth, of a heresy about

human destiny. Its abhorrence of discipline and form is usually grouped with the signs of 'progress.' It is progress for those who neither have a sense of direction nor want responsibility. **Their heresy is that man's destiny in the world is not to perfect himself but to lean back in sensual enjoyment**" (p. 91).

The rapidly changing mores of society, slowed down by the Great Depression and World War II, picked up speed again during the 1960s and 1970s. The same trends have turned many of our urban streets into battle zones and have produced a public school system increasingly characterized by a climate of violence and disrespect for authority. These trends are making themselves felt even in highly selective environments, even in institutions that have long prided themselves on their honor codes.

The Cheating Game

From grade school to graduate school, it seems that everyone is cheating. In its November 22, 1999 issue, *U.S. News & World Report* magazine ran a feature story on the role that cheating plays in American culture. According to a *USN&WR* poll, 84 percent of college students believe that they need to cheat to get ahead in the world today. Ninety percent of college students do not think that cheaters will ever really pay the price for their actions.

Students who cheat are likely to make cheating a way of life as adults, according to studies cited by *USN&WR*. Why should we be surprised that the workplace is full of adults who have lied about job experience and continue to lie about any number of other

matters? And if they will lie, they will steal! Several years ago, a University of Southern California study estimated that employee theft costs retail stores about 16 million dollars a day!

Recognizing the correlation between student cheating and future job performance, the U.S. Air Force Academy was shaken several years ago in the wake of a cheating scandal. The aftermath of the scandal led the academy to establish, in July 1993, a Center for Character Development. General Patrick Gamble, the cadet commandant at the academy, told the *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph* why this seemed to be necessary at the time: “The raw material is not coming in the door with the same values that our grandparents and parents taught us 30, 35 years ago.”

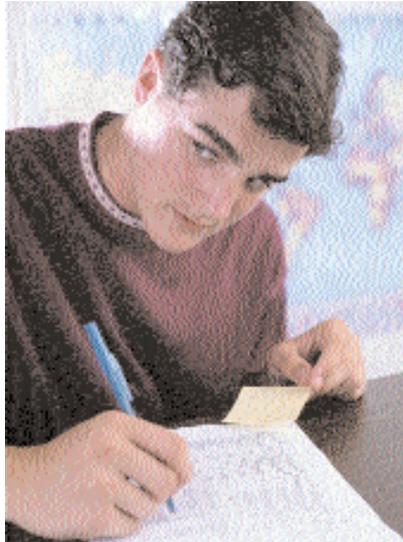
Why not? Because character cannot exist in a moral vacuum! At the bedrock of right character has to be *a clear-cut sense of right and wrong*. Popular religion has long since moved away from talking about sin. Such talk is viewed as judgmental, and has been replaced by platitudes helping people to “accept themselves” and to “feel better about who they are.” The Bible has increasingly been ignored, and the result is the national crisis of character with which we are confronted.

Character and Leadership

The Bible says much about government, leadership and right character. In fact, they are very much intertwined. Declaring that man is not by nature good, but rather is a mixture of good and evil, the Bible lays out in clear terms the distinction between right and wrong. It also defines the virtues that are necessary for

those who would lead others, whether a husband leading his family or a ruler leading a nation.

Moses, when he appointed ancient Israel’s magistrates, recorded the essential criteria for



leaders. First they were to be capable men who were able to do the job. Ability alone, however, was far from enough. While intelligence, the ability to analyze situations and the ability to deal with people were all-important, something else was also vital. In addition to having innate capacity, the leaders of the nation were to be men who feared God. They were to be men of truth who hated covetousness (Exodus 18:21).

The fear of God lies at the starting point of good character. Because God is not real to people, they are emboldened to do whatever they believe that they can get away with. Proper fear of God means to hold Him and His ways in awe and reverence. It involves deep, abiding respect for the Creator and Judge of the universe. When an individual lives his life in the fear of the Lord, it means that he is deeply conscious of the reality of God and seeks consciously to please God with his actions and attitudes.

As Moses understood, leaders who fear God will love truth and hate covetousness. Such men will not be for sale at any price! They will understand the profound truth of Jesus’ statement in Matthew 16:26: “what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Loving truth and hating covetousness are crucial to pursuing what is just and right without regard to personal profit or advantage. Such a leader will not be taking an opinion poll to find out which side of an issue he should support.

In Proverbs 31, the king’s mother admonishes her son about the virtues that are essential in rulers. She reminds him in verse 3 to “waste not your strength on women, your love on these destroyers of a king” (Moffatt). In verses 4 and 5 she admonishes him that it is not “...for rulers to desire strong drink; lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and pervert the rights of all the afflicted” (RSV). How many leaders have failed because they lacked the character to say no to their lusts? Sexual immorality and alcohol abuse have destroyed the effectiveness of many. Lacking the character to rule themselves, they have sought instead to master and rule others. The corruption and injustices so prevalent in our society are, to a great extent, the products of self-indulgent leaders. When leaders lack character, the institutions they guide will reflect it and will suffer accordingly.

King David, at the end of his life and his long reign over Israel, gave final advice to his son and to all of the rulers who would come after him. In 2 Samuel 23:3, he emphasized that those who rule over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. This is a matter of character, and right character begins with fear and

awe of the great God. Living life in deep awe and awareness of the presence of God will lead to treating others fairly; not showing favoritism and taking advantage for personal benefit.

Producing Right Character

Right character is not simply about *knowing* what is right; it is about *doing* what is right! We can identify three primary ingredients necessary to the development of good character. The first is **knowledge** of what is right and virtuous, the second is **habitual practice** of what is right and the third involves **the presence of adversity** and trial. It is one thing to practice doing the right thing when it is convenient or even advantageous. It is quite another to do what is right in the midst of stresses and pressures to compromise or to give up. The Apostle Paul explains in Romans 5:3–4: “...that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character—that is approved faith and tried integrity...” (*Amplified Bible*).

It is the struggle against adversity that hardens and solidifies our character. If we learn to make right choices even when they seem to be to our immediate detriment, we are developing the long-term view that lies at the heart of right character. This view is based upon an understanding of the ultimate reason **why** right character is so important.

In 1 John 3:1–3, the Apostle John explains the great, transcendent purpose behind character development. He writes: “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God... Beloved, now we are chil-

dren of God... but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” When we recognize the great purpose that God has for us, we have every reason to seek to purify ourselves and to actively cooperate with God in the development of His holy, righteous character within us. We understand that when Jesus Christ returns to this earth in power and glory, we are to be glorified with Him, as a part of His family. After all, God is bringing **MANY** sons unto glory (Hebrews 2:10).

God’s very purpose for placing mankind upon this earth, created in His own image, is that we might some day be born into His very family as real sons and daughters (Romans 8:16–19; 2 Corinthians 6:17–18). Does this sound strange or even blasphemous? Regardless of how it may sound to you, it is the plain and simple truth straight from your Bible! True Christians are to be shaped and molded to conform to the very character of Jesus Christ Himself, for Christ is accounted as the firstborn among **many brethren** (Romans 8:29).

The returned Christ is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. Who are the kings that will reign under Him? Revelation 20:6 and other scriptures make plain that it is **the resurrected saints** who will literally rule over the cities and kingdoms of this earth.

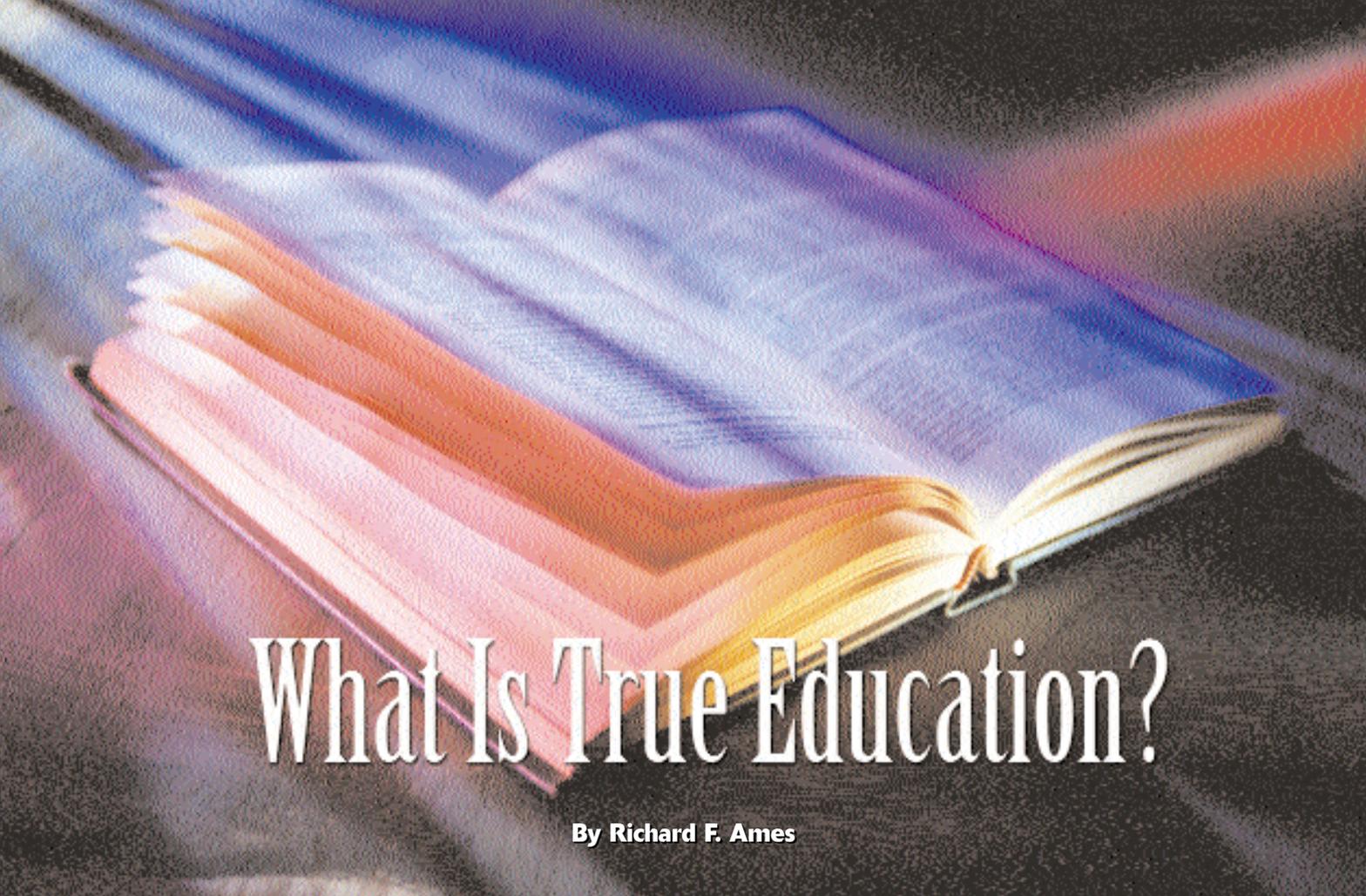
The Christian life is to prepare us for our ultimate destiny. We are to be born into the universe-ruling family of God at the resurrection. In order to prepare us for that destiny, God reveals in His word the laws and principles that distinguish good from evil. Only through God’s revelation can we truly know what is right and wrong. God offers all of

mankind forgiveness for past sins upon coming to Him through Jesus Christ in a spirit of faith and repentance. He then offers us His Holy Spirit to enable us to share in His very nature (2 Peter 1:4). Through that Spirit He actually begins to inscribe His laws into our minds and hearts (Hebrews 8:10). We are admonished to be followers—imitators—of Jesus Christ in our daily lives (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Right knowledge and the habitual practice of that right knowledge are the first two steps toward developing righteous character. Then comes the third ingredient necessary to “set” our character—the trials and adversities of life. The Apostle Paul puts our trials into perspective by explaining: “Our troubles are slight and short-lived; and their outcome an eternal glory which outweighs them far” (2 Corinthians 4:17, NEB). By demonstrating to God that we are willing to suffer for righteousness sake as Jesus Christ did, we show Him that we value life with Him far above all of the blandishments of today’s world.

Our nation and our world are in the throes of a character crisis. This fall’s election will not solve that crisis! Our people have forgotten their Maker and they have disregarded His instruction book. In this materialistic and self-indulgent age, they have increasingly taken what they consider the soft and easy way. Suffering and hardship have been viewed as something to be avoided at all costs. Value has been measured in dollars and cents, not in right and wrong or justice and injustice.

If we understand the great purpose being worked out here below, then we will understand why character really matters. And we will realize that it not only matters now—it matters forever! [TW]



What Is True Education?

By Richard F. Ames

Much of modern education is based on atheistic or even anti-God concepts. In the millennium, God's way will bring about an absolute revolution in education. But you can experience the true values of education now!

With the Ten Commandments and prayer barred from many American classrooms, what is taking their place? Even though most of the nation's first and most prominent universities were founded in the name of Christianity, most of today's educators are ignoring the foundation of truth—God's Word. They are teaching that there are no absolutes, and that there is no ultimate authority except the self. Students are rarely learning God's eternal law; they are learning humanism and materialism instead.

How did our educational system shift its emphasis? Many universities that were founded to teach the Bible and uphold God's moral law had, by the 1960s, become havens of nihilism and anti-God sentiment. Beginning in the 19th century, they had adopted the structure, and later the ideals, of the German universities and philosophers.

Key among these philosophers was Friedrich Nietzsche, whose philosophy was not merely atheistic but was strongly anti-God. He wrote: "God is dead; but

given the way of men, there may still be caves for thousands of years in which his shadow will be shown. And we—we still have to vanquish his shadow, too" (*The Gay Science*, Nietzsche, 1882, section 108). Nietzsche is now dead, but his philosophy lives on to this day in anti-God minds. During the tumult of the 1960s, it even leapt out of philosophy books and into the news headlines, when the respected *Time* magazine asked on its April 8, 1966 cover: "Is God Dead?"

Many intellectuals of the 18th and 19th centuries saw that Christianity had strayed from its apostolic origins, and had taken on the pagan customs of the surrounding society. But instead of rebuilding modern education on Christianity's true Apostolic foundation, many intellectuals sought to destroy that foundation altogether! They rejected one kind of false education and false religion—but sought to replace it with godless education rather than godly education.

The True Foundation of Education

The Christianity practiced by Jesus Christ and the Apostles set an example for all times. That example included the practice of the spiritual laws of God—the Ten Commandments—and the way of love

taught by Jesus Christ, who said to His followers: “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31–32).

Does this mean that earth’s 2 billion professing Christians all have the truth? Has it made them free? We know that much of the world remains in darkness and ignorance; whole cultures, peoples and nations, are blinded by false education. But how rare is true education—and true knowledge?

We read a shocking statement in the book of Revelation: “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9).

This great fallen angel, called the Devil and Satan, deceives not the minority of human beings, but the vast majority. Simply being part of the one-third of humanity that calls itself “Christian” is no guarantee that one is not deceived!

But just what is this truth about which Satan deceives the whole world? Of course there is scientific truth that can be tested. Science can to some extent describe the “what” and “how” of natural laws, yet it cannot explain the why of our existence! Those truths are beyond natural law, and can only be explained by the One who created those laws. What does the Creator say about truth? When Jesus was praying to His Father on the night before His crucifixion, He prayed for his disciples: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

Yes, the Word of God is truth! You need to prove to yourself that the Bible is the revelation of the Creator God. The Apostle Paul wrote: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Greek word translated as “inspiration” is *theopneustos*, which means “divinely breathed in.” The *New International Version* translates this as: “All Scripture is God-breathed.” When Paul wrote this, the books that we call the “Old Testament” were the only codified “Scripture,” yet today many Christians wish to ignore the plain teachings of the Old Testament in favor of the New Testament writings. But the New Testament itself tells us otherwise. *All Scripture is God-breathed!*

How Does a Human Being Learn?

True education must be based on the truth God has revealed in His Word. Yet how many university administrators, professors or students know the true purpose and meaning of life? Most accept the evolutionary concept that man is only an animal.

Yet a spiritual component in a human brain differentiates the animal brain from the human mind. Scientists know that the human brain delivers far more “performance” for its weight than any other species’ brain. A few scientists have concluded that this capacity can only be explained by the presence of a spiritual component. This scientific conclusion, though not commonly accepted, agrees with revealed Scripture. The Apostle Paul wrote: “For what man knows the things of a man except the *spirit of the man* which is in him?” (1 Corinthians 2:11).

This is *not* an immortal soul. It is a spirit essence combined with the brain that empowers humans *far* beyond the animals. It harmonizes science and Scripture, and explains an aspect of the human mind that remains a mystery to most educators and “experts.” Sir John Maddox, editor emeritus of *Nature*, wrote in a recent *Time* magazine essay on “Thinking”:

How the brain manages to think is a conundrum with a millennial time scale. All animals have brains so as to be able to move about. Signals from the senses—eyes, ears, nostrils or skin, as the case may be—send messages to the spinal cord, which moves the limbs appropriately. But *thinking* involves the consideration of alternative responses, many of which have not been experienced but have been merely imagined. The faculty of being conscious of what is going on in the head is an *extra puzzle*. A century from now, electronics shops (or web sites) will be advertising all kinds of gadgets that simulate some of the workings of the human brain, but neuroscientists will still be *struggling to understand* the thinking machine in all our heads (“The Century’s Greatest Minds,” *Time*, March 29, 1999, p. 206).

Maddox, a world-renowned physicist, predicts that even a century from now the puzzle of human thinking will not be solved. With an understanding of Scripture, one can see that education based solely on material and physical knowledge is woefully limited. When an educational system rejects the existence of God and of spirit, it rejects ultimate reality and ultimate truth!

Mankind’s Failed Educational System

If our modern educational system is not producing all the answers we seek, should we at least be

impressed with the system itself? Certainly, universities can successfully teach some areas of material knowledge. But what happens when these institutions are cut off from the values that should guide them?

What goes on in the modern university? Here is what one unhappy academic has written: “The average American persists in thinking that the classroom is the center of activity of a university. Because it makes for good relations with the public (as well as with the legislature), university administrators encourage such fanciful notions. But among themselves, they know how anachronistic and downright inaccurate they are. Asked to describe the mission of his school, a vice chancellor of a Big Ten university listed five separate areas of responsibility: economic development, service to the state, the creation of new knowledge, and training graduate students. And, finally, dead last, teaching” (*Profscam*, Sykes, 1988, p. 29).

The modern university has strayed from its roots. Not only does it minimize the teaching of values, it minimizes the value of teaching. Certainly there is value in research, and in economic development and public service. But true education, as Scripture presents it, goes far beyond knowledge production; it must teach the spiritual values without which all the other pursuits will lead to ruin!

Can one be truly educated without knowing the difference between right and wrong? The Apostle Paul powerfully condemns those intellectuals who reject the truth and the reality of God: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became *futile* in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became *fools*” (Romans 1:18–22).

Throughout the Bible, indictments of anti-God education are very strong: “The fool has said in his

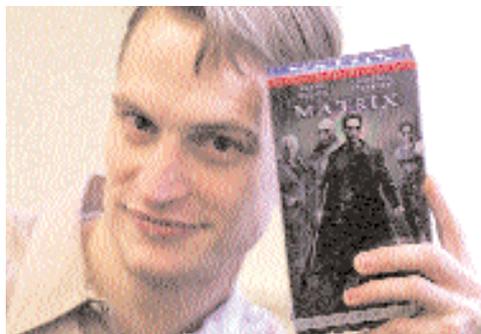
heart, ‘there is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is *none who does good*, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity *no knowledge*, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call on the LORD?” (Psalm 14:1–4).

God wants to develop holy and righteous character in His people, as John H. Ogwyn explains in his article “Does Character Really Matter?” on page 16 of this issue. God wants His people to grow in the kind of godly knowledge that will lead them to “call on the LORD,” to yield to His Holy Spirit and to *do good* (see also Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4).

To counter the effects of modern universities’ anti-God education, and to help students develop godly character, Herbert W. Armstrong established three colleges based on the principles

of true godly education. Their motto was: “Recapture True Values.” Students were taught to apply biblical values to every facet of life—including art, literature, science, music, humor and human relations. The editor in chief of this magazine, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith, served as deputy chancellor at each of these three colleges, assisting Mr. Armstrong in carrying out this vital endeavor. But we can “recapture true values” even without a college environment, by studying God’s Word and applying biblical knowledge in everything we think, say and do. By doing so, we can begin to understand the impact of Jesus’ statement that “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

But how does one recognize abundant life? The Greeks searched for wisdom and the Jews for miraculous signs of God’s power. The Apostle Paul explained that the Son of God embodied both of those elements far beyond the limits of mortal mankind: “For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:22–25).



Many academics see the Bible as archaic human literature—not as Truth—and prefer to teach from even the most base and violent popular entertainments, to attract students’ interest. © Presslink Images

Indeed, very few of those whom the world calls “wise” or “noble”—the rich and powerful and intellectual—are called by God. “Not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise... that no flesh should glory in His presence” (1 Corinthians 1:26–27, 29).

That is how much God hates vanity! Those who think themselves so wise that they would “glory in His presence” are *not* the ones God will call! Rather, God will reveal His truth to “foolish” Christians if they have a repentant, humble and teachable spirit! As the Apostle Paul wrote: “If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness’” (1 Corinthians 3:18–19).

God: The Greatest Teacher

True education must be based on the truth of God. All other foundations are but vanity. Only a Christian with a willingness to learn from the Great Teacher, and follow His example, will build a proper foundation to receive true knowledge. Jesus Christ taught His students: “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). He then listed several of the Ten Commandments.

Why are the Ten Commandments the foundation of true education? Because they plainly tell us what is right and what is wrong! They reveal the way of peace and prosperity that God intends for all humanity. What happens to those who ignore God’s plain laws? As the Apostle Paul wrote: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life” (Galatians 6:7–8).

Is it any wonder that immorality and perversity have ravaged Western society in the last few decades? Retired U.S. appellate Judge Robert H. Bork warned, “we are well along the road to the moral chaos that is the end of radical individualism...

Gomorrah is our probable destination” (*Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, Bork, 1996, pp. 331, 343).



Proverbs 1:7 says “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Today’s educational approaches cut students off from true knowledge.

By contrast, King David wrote of the education that comes from a sound foundation: “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, *for You Yourself have taught me*” (Psalm 119:97–102).

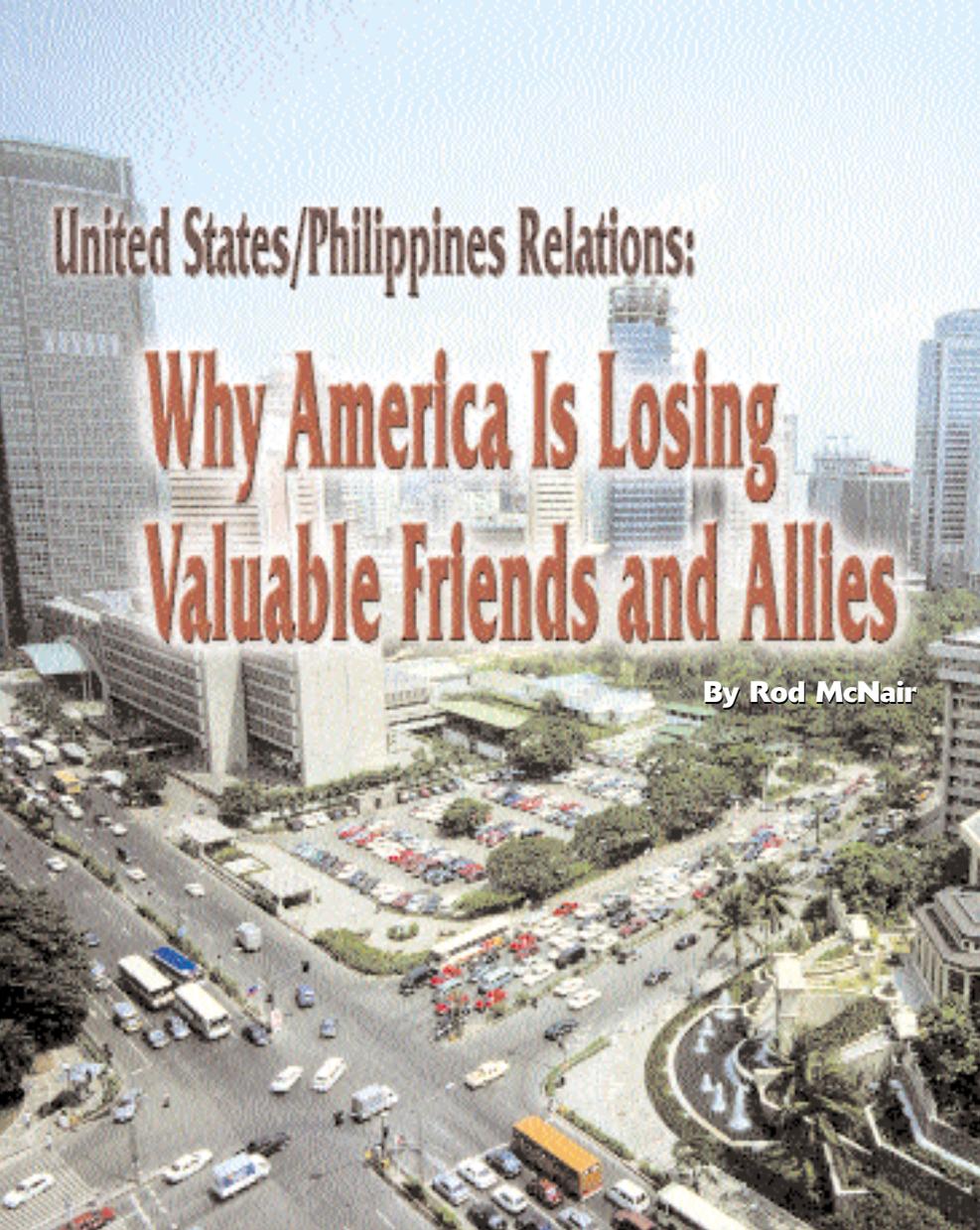
God taught King David, and He wants to teach all His people. Once you begin to apply the spiritual laws of God as taught in the Bible, as magnified by Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, you can have greater understanding and true knowledge. As we read in Psalm 111:10: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.”

As you seek to obey Him, God will reveal spiritual knowledge to you through the Holy Spirit. Paul goes on to explain the difference in knowledge of the converted Christian to that of an unconverted person: “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God” (1 Corinthians 2:11–12).

Just as an animal brain cannot understand the “things of man,” neither can the carnal, natural mind of man understand the “things of God.” Paul goes on to explain: “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14). Spiritual truth is spiritually discerned; it cannot be acquired by natural human intellect apart from the gift of God’s Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Because it has rejected true education, our modern world does not know the way to true peace. But Christians can know the truth, and can look forward

Continued on page 29



United States/Philippines Relations:

Why America Is Losing Valuable Friends and Allies

By Rod McNair

Manila, Philippines

Base closures, toxic waste disputes, distrust of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank as American "pawns" and concern over conduct of United States servicemen: these issues have strained United States/Philippines relations in the 1990s. What does the future hold for these traditional friends and allies? And why is the United States losing credibility with one of its most dependable and most important strategic partners in the Pacific Rim?

American troops have once again landed on Philippine soil. But this landing was only for a joint military exercise, held from January 31 to March 3 of this year, by approximately 2,500 United States troops and their Filipino counterparts. The name of the exercise was "Balikatan 2000"—a Filipino phrase which means, "shouldering the load together." It is an appropriate description of the cooperation and good will these two nations have experienced, as friends and allies, for most of this century.

The United States and the Philippines have historically enjoyed an unusually warm and intimate relationship. "Filipino-Americans are our largest overseas population. Filipinos of all ages love the United States," former President Fidel Ramos said in a 1997 interview by former U.S. Secretary of the Navy James Webb ("Our Friend—the Philippines," *Parade Magazine*, May 25, 1997, p. 5).

According to the article, as of 1997, an estimated 30,000 Americans were visiting the Philippines each month. Approximately 2 million Filipino-Americans were living in the United States, making them the largest Asian-American population nationwide. As of 1997, the United States has been the Philippines' biggest trading partner, accounting for 33 percent of the Philippines' exports and 20 percent of its imports. Former Secretary Webb commented, "With almost every Filipino, one finds an affection for the U.S. and a desire to continue our unique historical relationship."

Yet that "unique historical relationship" is being strained. The recent *Balikatan 2000* exercises belie a growing undercurrent of distrust of American involvement in the Philippines. Although this

year's *Balikatan* exercises were the 16th since the series began in 1981, nearly five years had passed since the last exercise. Bitter anti-American protests rocked the nation in 1998 as the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), which laid the legal groundwork for the American troops' visit, was vigorously debated but ultimately ratified by the Philippine Senate.

What does the future hold for these long-time allies? And why is the credibility of the United States waning in the eyes of many in a nation that has been, historically, a trusted friend and loyal supporter?

Roots of Tension, Bells of Heroism

The history of the two countries' intimate but sometimes tense relationship goes back to the turn of the 20th century. When the United States declared war on Spain in 1898, Filipinos were also fighting a desperate struggle to overturn more than 300 years of Spanish domination. U.S. Commodore George Dewey steamed into Manila Bay and was at first considered an ally by Emilio Aguinaldo of the Filipino resistance movement. Dewey used the resistance movement to help defeat the Spanish.

However, Filipino hopes of independence were dashed when the United States declared the Philippines a protectorate. Many Americans are not aware that several years of war followed—a war

that pitted American occupation forces against Filipino guerillas.

Although the Filipino rebellion was eventually put down, this period of history left deep scars. One wound which causes pain yet today was the controversy of the "Bells of Balangiga." During the Filipino resistance movement, church bells were used to warn local resistance fighters of oncoming American forces. During one skirmish, on September 28, 1901, 48 American soldiers were surprised and killed by Filipino guerillas.



Vocal anti-VFA protestors demonstrated against the joint Philippine-U.S. military accord ratified by the Philippine senate. The VFA boosted military cooperation between the two countries.

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In retaliation, the 9th Infantry Battalion Commander, U.S. Brig. Gen. James Smith ordered his men to kill all the male natives of the island of Samar aged 10 years and above. This action came to be known as the "Samar Massacre." As a prize of war, American forces from this battalion took some of the church bells home with them, two of which are installed at the U.S. Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Numerous Philippine government efforts to reclaim the bells, especially during the Centennial celebrations in 1998, have fallen on deaf ears among veterans groups in Wyoming. Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople said he hoped "the Philippines will soon be the rightful owner and custodian of the two bells that symbolize the heroism of Filipino and American soldiers during the dark period of our history" ("Senate supports return of Balangiga bells," *Balita*, March 9, 1998).

Retired Major Daniel Tarter, who in the 1980s commanded the

same unit that was involved in the raid, has been a proponent of returning the prized bells. He commented on the damaging effects of this controversy on United States-Philippines relations: "I don't think they understand the damage they are causing to the image of the United States and the American military in Southeast Asia, not just the Philippines. It is high time to let the Balangiga bells go home" ("Former U.S. Army Officer Laments Delay of Balangiga Bells Return," *Balita*, March 13, 1998).

Despite the good relations between the United States and the Philippines, it is controversies like the "Bells of Balangiga" that continue to cause ongoing friction.

Calls for Independence, Closure of Bases

With the close of World War II, the Cold War standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union showed the importance of strategic Clark Air Force Base and Subic Naval Base in the Philip-



A United States Marine sounded the last bugle call for retreat as the U. S. flag was lowered permanently at Subic Naval Base, Philippines.

ippines. During the 1980s, 16,000 American troops were stationed in the Philippines. The reason for this strong presence was the large fleet of Soviet ships kept in the Pacific Ocean—two dozen warships and a

formidable air force were stationed at nearby Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam (Webb, p. 4). But with the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, strident opponents of an American military presence demanded the closure of United States bases. Rising nationalism and calls for independence from American influence were two of the reasons.

In 1990, then-President Corazon Aquino rejected a United States plan for a 10-year extension of the bases' lease, which expired in 1991. Instead, she required all forces to leave within three years. In a *Los Angeles Times* article, President Aquino was quoted as saying, "[The bases] are not the heart of our economy, nor the soul of our political well-being. Certainly, they do not define our society... They are important, but they are not everything." In the same article, base opponent Sen. Wigberto E. Tanada complained, "They are *the worst part of our national problems and not the solution.*" ("Aquino Calls for Orderly Pullout of U.S. Forces," *Los Angeles Times*, Bob Drogin, September 18, 1990). The base closings coincided with a general military reduction in three crucial Pacific Rim countries—the Philippines, South Korea and Japan.

A growing number of Filipinos today are deeply conscious of not wanting to be seen as cowing to the United States, but rather as a fully-independent nation in its own right. When President Joseph Estrada pledged support for the VFA to U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen, the New Nationalist Alliance (Bayan) called the meeting a "complete sell-out of the Philippine interests." The leftist group said, "If there is one thing in grave

peril to this country, it is the undermining of our national sovereignty through the ratification of the U.S.-RP [Republic of the Philippines] Visiting Forces Agreement. There is no immediate threat to this country." The group also accused Estrada, Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon of being United States "lackeys" who have "embraced the U.S. military strategic security in the region hook, line and sinker" ("Philippine Leftists Slam



Estrada-Cohen Meeting as a 'Sell-Out,'" *Balita*, August 4, 1998).

Former Secretary Webb described well the contradiction. On the one hand, most Filipinos, especially from the older generation, are proud of the role their country played in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War. On the other hand, many Filipinos today are "now adamant about showing their independence from the U.S." (Webb, p. 4).

Toxic Waste and Social Irresponsibility

But old wounds and calls for nationalism are not the only reasons that a growing number of Filipinos are expressing chagrin over continued American involvement in the Philippines. Another reason is the social repercussions of the almost 100-year American presence. One

such effect of United States involvement is the issue of toxic waste left by the exiting forces.

Recent reports have exposed the United States military as the source of many environmental disasters in countries hosting its bases. But some experts fear the *worst* may be former bases found in Third World countries, such as the Philippines. Reports point to tons of toxic waste dumped into Subic Bay. One Air Force official in Washington, when asked about environmental compliance at Clark Air Force Base, said that since there was no legal necessity to assess ecological damage on the sprawling base, no such survey was done. He added: "We comply with host country laws. *In the Philippines, there are none, so we are not in violation of any*" ("U.S. Military Leaves Toxic Trail Overseas," *Los Angeles Times*, John M. Broder, June 18, 1990).

Throughout the 1990s, ongoing environmental issues have strained relations between the United States and the Philippines. When Secretary Cohen visited the Philippines to lobby for passage of the VFA, reporters asked him when the United States would do something about base clean-up ("Visiting Forces Agreement Would Benefit Region." U.S. Department of State, Manila, August 3, 1998). During his visit with Vice President Al Gore during the 1998 APEC meetings in Kuala Lumpur, President Joseph Estrada brought up the same environmental issue, asking if the United States would help clean up the former bases ("U.S. Tells Erap RP Remains a Very Important Ally," *Balita*, November 24, 1998).

Although the American forces in the *Balikatan 2000* exercises engaged in many community projects, such as giving free medical,

dental and veterinary services to Filipinos, the media focused on how victims of toxic exposure were left out of the treatment (“US Medics Leave Out Toxic Waste ‘Victims,’” *The Philippine Star*, Ding Cervantes, February 25, 2000).

While military might was a welcome deterrent against

Communist aggression from the 1950s through the 1980s, the environmental question soured relations in the 1990s. It is another reason why American credibility in the Philippines has taken a turn for the worse.

Personal Conduct of Visiting Forces

During the vigorous and sometimes angry debates and protests prior to the return of American soldiers for joint exercises, one of the most emotional issues was the conduct of American soldiers. In particular, many opposed the introduction of American troops on the grounds that it would encourage prostitution.

The implication was also given that American troops would be granted total immunity in Philippine courts, even if arrested for wrongdoing. A September 17, 1998 article in the *Today* newspaper, entitled “Bases Treaty Rejection Recalled,” pointed out that “the ratification of the VFA is facing strong opposition from different cause-oriented groups and the [Catholic] Church because of the provision which grants United States military personnel special privileges and access into the country, including alleged immunity from

criminal prosecution by Philippine courts.” The article briefly mentioned that legal immunity only applied to personnel while *on duty*. Off-duty personnel were



fully responsible for their conduct and could be tried in the Philippine justice system. It also noted that the United States had been refused a similar request to exempt its overseas military personnel from the jurisdiction of a United Nations court accepted by 137 other countries.

Whether the VFA provided undue legal protection for American soldiers or not, the sad and deplorable issue was that the *conduct* of visiting forces was a major point of contention. United States military personnel are seen, not as good examples of high moral conduct, but rather the contrary.

Tools of American Imperialism?

Even though the United States and the Philippines enjoy a great deal of economic cooperation, this, too, is becoming a source of consternation to some Filipinos.

In some anti-American camps, the United States is identified as a hindrance to the Philippines’ economic success. In a statement before the Preparatory Commission on Constitutional Reforms on October 19, 1999, President Joseph Estrada was quoted as saying that 11 major industrial projects in the 1980s did not succeed because the plan “was sabotaged by the Americans. They didn’t want us to be strong economically, because a strong economy would spur nationalism,

which means people would be against the U.S. bases.” (“The Roots of Poverty,” *Today*, Alejandro Lichauco, October 23, 1999). He went on to say that “we must not antagonize the Americans,” but his previous statement showed there is a powerful movement in the country which is *distrustful of American economic intervention and involvement*. The article went on to say that these initiatives were resisted by the IMF and the World Bank—which some in Asia see as pawns of American economic policy. The author mentioned that the same thing happened during the Aquino administration, when the IMF and the World Bank discouraged plans for a full-scale integrated steel industry.

Regardless of the truth of the matter, the *unmistakable perception* among some is that the IMF and the World Bank are United States tools to keep Third World countries in subjection to the dominant economies of the West, not to promote their development and growth.

Some blamed the 1997 Asian currency disaster on economic policies and intervention of the West. In an article entitled, “The Asian Man’s Burden,” by Herman Tiu Laurel (*Today*, December 9, 1997), the author stated that free trade between East and West is just a new method of “colonization.” “Asia should never allow the colonial history to be repeated. It can never fully develop *until it is free of Western imperialism*. Asia can prosper and grow without the West; it is self-sufficient in science and technology, in markets and resources. *This is why the West has tried to destroy every proposition of Asia to be left alone...* What that currency crisis has triggered, and championed by the likes of

Mahathir, is the *final stage of the struggle to throw off the yoke, the Asian man's burden, since the 17th-century colonialism of the West.*"

Why the Loss of Credibility?

Why this perception? Why has the United States lost much of its credibility in the Philippines—one of its closest friends and allies? Is it because of the sometimes-bittersweet history between these two nations? Is it the issue of toxic waste? Is it the issue of immunity and conduct of American soldiers? Is it the perception of IMF "meddling" in the economy? Is it simply the desire of an increasingly independent-minded nation to throw off the last yoke of "Western imperialism?"

Although these are all components of the United States-Philippines relationship today, are they the *real, underlying reasons* for the United States' loss of credibility in the Philippines? The surprising answer is "no!" It is much larger than that—it was prophesied! The United States, like Great Britain before it, was *prophesied* to lose the pride of its power (Leviticus 26:19), to *lose its powerful sea gates that have enabled it to achieve global domination in this century!* (For more information on the identities and future of the American and British-descended nations, write for our free booklet, *What's Ahead for America and Britain?*)

The United States and Great Britain have enjoyed unprecedented success in the past two centuries. They have had power over the "gates of their enemies," as prophesied in Genesis 22:17: "...in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heav-

en, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" (KJV). "Gates" refer to choke-points or strategic bases—Clark Air Force Base and Subic Naval Base have been *two vital elements* in the American military presence in the Pacific. Analysts say the removal of a United States military presence in the Philippines represented "*the most significant security realignment in Asia since the American retreat from Vietnam...*" When voices in the Philippines first began demanding the removal of American troops from Clark and Subic, the Pentagon insisted that its Philippine bases were "*key to protecting vital sea lanes in the Indian and Pacific Oceans*" ("Aquino Calls for Orderly Pullout of U.S. Forces," *Los Angeles Times*, Bob Drogin, September 18, 1990).

Long ago, because of Abraham's obedience, God made certain temporal promises to him and to his descendants. He said in Genesis 12:3, "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Yet because of U.S. national and personal *sins*, its blessings are being taken away one by one. Instead of being a good example, Israel (including today's United States) was prophesied to become a byword. Deuteronomy 28:37 says, "And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you." The NIV says "you will become... an object of scorn and ridicule."

Why is the U.S. losing credibility among its most staunch supporters and its most loyal allies? It is because it has *turned its back on God*, so God is turning His back on the United States and

the British-descended peoples all over the earth. Jeremiah 4:22 says: "For My people *are* foolish, they have not known Me. They *are* silly children, and they have no understanding. They *are* wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." The direct result of this rampant immorality and materialism is the loss of allies. Verse 30 goes on to say, "And *when you are* plundered, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, though you adorn *yourself* with ornaments of gold, though you enlarge your eyes with paint, in vain you will make yourself fair; *your* lovers will despise you; they will seek your life." It is going to get worse before it gets better.

But it is not too late! If the U.S. repents, seeks God and endeavors to use its national and material blessings not "as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13), it can be a powerful example of the type of *servant leadership God intended!* Otherwise the American people will have to be punished in the worst time of trouble ever to come upon the face of the earth (Matthew 24:21).

It is not likely that the U.S., as a whole, will repent. However, if Americans *individually* begin to *really* walk with God, and serve and obey Him, they can be protected from the coming prophesied calamities. And, more importantly, they will be training as firstfruits to rule with Christ at His return. That will be a glorious time when all nations, including the United States and the Philippines—though historical allies—will, for the *first time*, really experience the mutual respect, deep understanding and *real lasting national friendship* that God intended them to have! FW

RETURN OF THE DRAGON (continued from page 14)

241). Brzezinski worries that “the *most dangerous scenario* would be a *grand alliance* of China, Russia and perhaps Iran... united not by ideology but by complementary grievances “ (p. 55). This is essentially what the Bible has long foretold—and what is developing on the world scene today!

As we have described in previous *Tomorrow's World* articles, Revelation 9:1–12 indicates that the European Beast power, in response to the troubling news from the north and east—perhaps the formation of an anti-western alliance—will launch an attack in that direction (See “When Will Jesus Christ Return?” *Tomorrow's World*, May-June, 2000). The “kings of the east” (Russia, China and allies) will then launch a counter-attack towards Europe with a 200 million man army (Revelation 9:13–19; 16:12). This event will destroy one-third of mankind. Here is the great “intercivilizational war” that Huntington fears will happen. It is described in Bible prophecy, and its setting is the Eurasian continent just before the return of Jesus Christ.

The Bible indicates that armies of eastern and western Eurasia will once again gather at Armageddon (the valley of Megiddo, site of many critical battles from ancient times through World War I) in a final struggle for control of the world (Revelation 16:12–16). The returning Jesus Christ will defeat these armies in an awesome supernatural confrontation. (Revelation 19:19–21). Other prophecies in Ezekiel 38 and 39 reveal that the armies of Gog (Russia) and Magog (eastern nations including China)

will make one more attempt to invade Israel after the Kingdom of God is set up on earth, but that the Great God will defeat them.

These proud and ancient nations will then learn who the God in Heaven really is, and that peace and real power come not from the barrel of a gun, but from learning to live by His laws (see Isaiah 59:8; Psalm 119:165). In this long-foretold time known as the Millennium, all nations and peoples, including China, will have their part in contributing to world peace and harmony under the Kingdom of God (see Isaiah 2:2–4).

One of Europe's most knowledgeable journalists has commented that future events in China will have “immense” implications for the rest of the world (*China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Inc.*, van Kemenade, 1997, p. 32). American analysts assert that “the democratic countries are about to be *unpleasantly surprised* by the emergence of a hostile, expansionist, nondemocratic superpower armed with the most modern weapons... America and its allies will soon suffer the *devastating consequences* of having ignored the dragon rising in the East” (Timperlake & Triplett, pp. 12, 17). Bible prophecy *explains* what those consequences are—for America and the world. The rise of China will see the demise of America and a growing threat to Europe—just before the return of Jesus Christ. The return of the Dragon is profoundly significant in ways far beyond what secular commentators realize. You need to get to know the God who inspired these incredible prophecies so “that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass” (Luke 21:36). Request your free copy of our booklet, *The Real God: Proofs and Promises*, right now. It will help

WHAT IS TRUE EDUCATION? (continued from page 23)

to *Tomorrow's World*, where all nations will finally become students of the Great Educator. What will tomorrow's education be like? Scripture gives the following encouraging description: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the

house of the God of Jacob; He will *teach us His ways*, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:2–4).

Such peace will only come to the world through true education, in the coming Kingdom of God. But you can have that peace now, in your own life. True edu-

cation is training in truth—and the Bible is the starting point for truth. It reveals how to love God and how to love our neighbors. It teaches the true way of life. As Jesus Christ said in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” This magazine exists to help you in your study of that truth, and we have established the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course* to help you deepen your understanding of the precious truths of your Bible. Write for it today, or return the subscription card in this magazine. God wants all of His people to be educated in His ways. [TW](#)

SIGNS OF THE TIMES (continued from page 3)

es the bulb, releasing spores of anthrax, one of the deadliest toxins known to humanity.

Within hours, subway ventilation fans have circulated the poison throughout the system, and people begin dying—perhaps 100,000, perhaps more.

“The death toll would be horrific. You could cripple the country,” says Pentagon analyst Peter Probst, whose classified report *Terror 2000* identifies this and similar scenarios. “And you can’t bury the victims. You have to burn them. There would be funeral pyres throughout the city.”

A terrorist attack with anthrax—or sarin gas, or a World Trade Center-style bomb “dirtied” with enough nuclear material to make parts of the city uninhabitable—is almost inevitable, a 1996 Senate report warned.

One hundred thousand or more people DEAD in one attack? A Senate report that states a terrorist attack with anthrax or sarin gas is “almost inevitable”?

We at *Tomorrow’s World* want *all* of our readers to be truly aware of *what lies just ahead*. We want you to grasp the *meaning* behind the coming upsets in the weather, in world events and in our beloved nations. For the God of heaven is truly preparing to SHAKE the nations as part of the

“countdown” to Jesus Christ’s Second Coming to this earth.

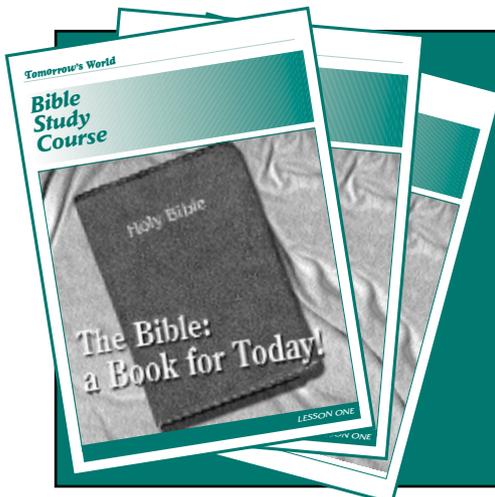
Yes, the scientists and news media will often give you “reasons” for the unusual storms, earthquakes, disease epidemics and other catastrophes. Even so, the pattern of alternate drought on the one hand and floods on the other is becoming more and more ominous. As more and more “unusual” storms, earthquakes, terrorist acts and disease epidemics occur, all of you who are willing to understand will begin to realize that the *direct intervention of the CREATOR* is involved!

Only those who are willing to worship and to OBEY the *true* God—the God who reveals Himself in the Bible—will be able to escape the full impact of these coming tribulations. Truly, dear reader, it is time to WAKE UP and to act. It is time to find the *true religion of GOD*—not what is “comfortable” in mainstream religion or in your own dabbling in man-made “spirituality.”

May God help all of you who sincerely want to understand to begin *reading carefully* each issue of *Tomorrow’s World*. And may He guide you to enroll in and to *study* the vital lessons of the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*. There is *no other course on earth* with the same degree of accuracy and depth—yet you may receive the lessons absolutely FREE. Just write to the address of the regional office nearest to you (listed on page 2 of this magazine) and request enrollment. Genuinely *study* your Bible along with this course, and ask the Great God of creation for real understanding.

The *entire panorama* of prophesied END-time events is now beginning to unfold. You *need* to understand—and to ACT.

Robert C. Meredith



FREE Bible Study Course

Would you like to learn about your Bible—and about the signs of the times Jesus Christ told His followers to watch for? To begin receiving the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*, absolutely **FREE** and with no obligation, return the subscription card in this issue or write to the regional address nearest you (on page 2 of this magazine).

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Perth: *CETL*—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: *Triangle Television*—Ch 41, SUN 5:00 pm

—MEXICO

△ Mexico City: *Cambio*—1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon

—PHILIPPINES

Borongan: *Borongan Cable*—Ch 25, SAT 3:00 pm
Manila: *Home Cable*—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am
Naval, Leyte: *Naval Cable*—Ch 8, SUN 9:00 am
Hinabangan, Samar: *Omeres*—Ch 7, SUN 9:00 am

—CANADA (nationwide)

• ON, Toronto: *Vision*—SUN 6:30 pm (ET & PT)

United States

AL, Birmingham: *Cable*—Ch 4, FRI 4:30 pm
AL, Montgomery: *TCL*—Ch 3, SAT 5:30 pm
AR, Fayetteville: *Access TV*—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
AR, Little Rock: *Comcast*—Ch 18, FRI 9:30 am
AZ, Phoenix: *Access*—Ch 22, MON 7:30 pm
AZ, Prescott: *Cable*—Ch 13, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 8:30 am
AZ, Tucson: *Access*—Ch 54/62, FRI 6:00 pm; SUN 12:00 pm
CA, Anaheim: *Adelphia*—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm
CA, Buena Park: *Comcast*—Ch 55, THUR 7:30 pm
CA, Eureka: *Cox*—Ch 10, FRI 5:30 pm
CA, Garden Grove: *Time Warner*—Ch 6, SUN 10:30 am
CA, Modesto: *Cable One*—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm
CA, Norwalk: *Public Access*—Ch 55, THUR 5:30 pm
CA, Oceanside: *KOCT*—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm
CA, Riverbank: *SONIC*—Ch 9, WED 6:00 pm
CA, Sacramento: *RCCTV*—Ch 75, WED 7:00 pm
CA, San Andreas: *MediaOne*—Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm
CA, San Diego: *Cox*—Ch 18 & 24 THUR 6:00 pm
CA, Sonora: *TCCCA*—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: *Marcus*—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CT, Naugatuck: *Tele-Media*—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Gainesville: *Cox*—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
FL, Ocala: *Cox*—Ch 19, SUN 10:00 am
FL, Tampa: *Time Warner*—Ch 19 & 20, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 8:00 pm
GA, Macon: *Cox Cable*—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am;
FRI 2:00 pm
HI, Hilo: *Na Leo*—Ch 2, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Honolulu: *Olelo*—Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm
HI, Kahului: *Akaku*—Ch 44, SAT 9:30 pm
HI, Kailua-Kona: *Na Leo*—Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Kauai: *Ho'ike*—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm
HI, Lihue: *Ho'ike*—Ch 12, TUE 1:30 pm
HI, Lanai: *Akaku*—Ch 3, 12 & 13, SAT 9:30 pm
HI, Maui: *Akaku*—Ch 44, SAT 9:30 pm
HI, Molokai: *Akaku*—Ch 3, 12 & 13 SAT 9:30 pm
IA, Des Moines: *AT&T*—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am
IA, Dubuque: *TCL of Iowa*—Ch 45, THUR 7:30 pm; FRI 1:30 pm;
MON 3:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm
IA, Waterloo: *Cable*—Ch 2, WED 9:00 pm
ID, Pocatello: *Vision*—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm
IL, Bloomington: *AT&T*—Ch 10, SUN 11:30 am; WED 7:00 pm
IL, Chicago: *WGN*—Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)
IL, Peoria: *AT&T*—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
IL, Springfield: *TCL*—Ch 4, TUE 6:00 pm
IN, Anderson: *Insight*—Ch 3, WED 9:30 pm
IN, Flora: *Insight*—Ch 2, WED 8:00 pm
IN, Frankfort: *Insight*—Ch 2, WED 8:00 pm
IN, Kokomo: *Insight*—Ch 12, WED 10:30 pm
IN, Lafayette: *Insight*—Ch 13, TUE 9:30 pm

IN, Mishawaka: *AT&T*—Ch 3, THUR 7:30 pm
IN, Monticello: *Insight*—Ch 2, WED 8:00 pm
IN, Noblesville: *Insight*—Ch 18, TUE 9:30 pm
IN, Richmond: *Insight*—Ch 17, WED 9:30 pm
KS, Chanute: *Cablevision*—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm
KS, Parsons: *Time Warner*—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm
LA, Monroe: *Time Warner*—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm
MA, Cambridge: *CCTV*—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm
MA, Malden: *Access TV*—Ch 3, No set time
MD, Baltimore: *TCL*—Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm, WED 4:00 pm
MN, Duluth: *Public Access*—Ch 24, SAT 7:00 pm; SUN 7:00 pm
MN, Minneapolis: *NW Community*—Ch 35, SAT 10:30 pm;
SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm
MN, Roseville: *CTV*—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 & 11:30 am
MO, Springfield: *KSPR*—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am
MO, St. Louis: *Double Helix*—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: *Time Warner*—Ch 11, WED 12:00 am & 4:00 pm
ND, Bismarck: *CATV*—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm
NE, Omaha: *KPTM*—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am
NH, Hanover: *CATV*—Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm; MON
5:00 am & 11:00 am
NJ, Oakland: *Cablevision*—Ch 19/20, SUN 7:00 pm
NM, Albuquerque: *CCC27*—Ch 27, SUN 7:00 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: *CABLE ONE*—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm
NV, Carson City: *Access TV*—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm
NV, Gardnerville: *Community Access*—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am
& 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm
NV, Reno/Sparks: *SNCT*—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Brooklyn: *BCAT*—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:30 pm
NY, Elmira & Corning: *Time Warner*—Ch 1, SUN 9:30 am
NY, Hauppauge: *Cablevision*—Ch 25, FRI 10:30 pm
NY, Irondequoit: *ICAT*—Ch 15, No set time
NY, Port Jefferson: *TCL*—Ch 1/99 MON 9:00 pm
NY, Queens: *QPTV*—Ch 35, WED 11:00 pm
NY, Riverhead: *Cablevision*—Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm
NY, Rochester: *Community TV*—Ch 15, SAT 10:30 am
OR, Portland: *MCTV*—Ch 11, SUN 10:00 am; TUE 1:30 pm
TX, Corpus Christi: *TCL*—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm;
FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Dallas: *Community Television*—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm;
SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Temple: *KPLE*—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm
VA, Chesterfield: *Comcast*—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm
VA, Richmond: *MediaOne*—Ch 7, SUN 9:00 pm
VT, Barre: Ch 7, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 11:00 pm
WA, Seattle: *TCL*—Ch 29, SAT 12:00 pm
WA, Vancouver: *Clark/Vancouver*—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am

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SUN 6:00 am (ET)

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TX, Austin: *Community Access*—Ch 11, to be determined

WA, Kennewick: *Charter*—Ch 13, SUN 8:00 pm & TUE 8:00 pm

WI, Wausau: *Charter*—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm & FRI 7:30 am

New Zealand

Auckland: *Prime Television*—Ch 41, SUN 6:30 am

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Mexico, Mexico City, Cambio—1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon

Barbados, Barbados, CBC—900 kHz AM, MON 8:00 pm

Philippines, Ozamiz City, DXSY—1242 kHz AM, SUN 8:00 am

Philippines, Manila, DWBL—1242 kHz AM, Thursday 10:30 pm