

**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

# **WATCH**

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# **PERPETUAL TERROR**

## COMMENTARY

# Crush of Crises

The sheer volume of raging crises has grown so large, it is getting difficult to keep up with anything other than the latest developments that media outlets believe will generate the most interest. Putting them in some kind of order of importance would also be a daunting task, because some threaten the whole civilized world; some threaten the continued viability of the United States, which also has implications for the whole world. Where should we start? Will any of them ever be solved, or will they all continue to fester until chaos ensues everywhere?

The threat of ISIS has come front and center, resulting in perhaps the first declaration from the current administration that protection of the homeland and safety



of Americans overseas is a priority. It comes a little late for our ambassador and the three

others who lost their lives at Ben Ghazi, and for the American journalists whose heads were severed on camera. But now, at least there is a “strategy,” consisting largely of what we will not do to quell the ISIS threat. We know that there are hundreds of passport holders from western countries, including the U.S., that have traveled across uncontrolled borders to join the terrorists in Syria. That concern has resulted in stepped up efforts to screen entry back into the U.K., but no such assurances have been forthcoming for the U.S. Numerous reports of Middle Easterners and North Africans coming across the southern border of the United States have been published, but they’re always denied or played down by the responsible agencies.

### Cult of Death

Colonel Ralph Peters declared that the terrorist band, having now fielded an army equipped with American tanks artillery and armored personnel carriers, is engaging in mass human sacrifice, as part of a religious ritual. Even the Nazi’s didn’t film beheading.

ISIS has conquered northern Iraq, seizing peoples’ property (Sunni and Shia alike), looting banks and mu-

seums, destroying historical monuments and mosques, declaring the establishment of a caliphate. Nearly every analyst credits the U.S. president’s order to hastily withdraw American forces for creating the vacuum terrorist ISIS has been able to exploit. It will be interesting to see how the Arab countries across the Middle East will respond to the blowing up of mosques, the looting of artifacts and destruction of antiquities. There has been some hope that these acts might inflame some passion against ISIS among the Arab countries. There is no sign of that yet, but the threat from al Bagdadi, to destroy the “kabah” (the black rock in Mecca that every Muslim regards as a religious imperative to visit and worship during the haj sometime in their lifetime) may yet see Muslim nations act against him. At least that’s what you’d think. Early indications are that none of the wealthy gulf kingdoms are willing to go to war against ISIS.

Not until tens of thousands of fleeing Kurds and “Christians” were stranded without food and water on a mountain in Kurdish territory did the U.S. intervene with humanitarian air drops and some strikes against ISIS positions. That may be ramping up to a more consistent effort, but the administration and State Department have rushed their spokesmen out before microphones and cameras to assure the American public and the world that U.S. troops will definitely not be deployed.

### Ebola Panic

It is not our custom to panic every time there is a scare about some imported disease or virus. But the jury is still out as to whether Ebola will become a major health concern in the United States. Many are finding it almost unbelievable that the administration would categorically rule out any activity by special forces or any type of ground intervention against ISIS, no matter what the circumstances. But today they’re grappling with the news that 3000 military personnel have been dispatched to western Africa to “fight” Ebola.



Who would have guessed that something like this would fall to the responsibility of U.S. troops? Appar-

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# Middle East in History and Prophecy

**Introduction:** As we go to print with this issue of 21<sup>st</sup> Century WATCH, a national speech is being given by the president to outline a strategy to deal with the threat of ISIS. Despite constant intelligence warnings dating back at least a year and more, the administration declined to raise the issue publicly, and declined to take any action whatever until ISIS had gobbled up the cities and towns of northwestern Iraq, decapitating about twenty, murdering thousands and sending tens of thousands fleeing for their lives. Finally, with the Mosul Dam under ISIS control, and with the prospect of genocide for whole non-Islamic populations, the administration finally took limited action from the air against specific targets to prevent ISIS blowing up the dam and flooding Baghdad where some 1200 American forces remain to protect the elaborate U.S. embassy.

This army of brutal terrorists has provoked a wave of public anger in the United States by video-taping gruesome decapitations of American journalists and publishing them all over the world. At this point, public sentiment virtually demands that action be taken against the murderous caliphate, making it a political necessity that something be done. So an international coalition is to be built under the auspices of NATO,

in such a way that no American combat forces will be deployed, as the president took that option off the table right after telling the world that “there is no strategy yet.”

Though ISIS has led the news for weeks or months now, it is hardly the only entity capable of inflicting terrorist damage and death in the Middle East. Almost forgotten by busy newsrooms, is the ongoing progress in Iran’s nuclear program. In fact, Iran has quietly made an exit from the headlines amid the sensational brutality of ISIS.

The list of terrorist entities just keeps getting longer, and the central tenets of each one are the same; Destroy Israel and try to bring down the United States; establish Islam and Sharia law everywhere, killing all who resist conversion. Now Europe is expected to “do its part” to prevent a further expansion of the terrorist caliphate, and all members of NATO will be expected to go along. The following article will put the current fluid situation into its historical context, ending with the prophecies that concern all the major players and Jerusalem in the last days. After all, Jerusalem is at the heart of all the hatred, all the wars, and at the heart of end-time Bible prophecy.

By Garner Ted Armstrong

“**W**hen ye therefore shall see the *abomination of desolation*, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

“Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains...for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

“And except those days should be shortened, there should *no flesh be saved*; but for the elect’s sake, those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:15-22).

Those words form a major part of

the most pivotal prophecy in all the Bible! They were spoken by Jesus Christ in His famed “Olivet Prophecy,” when He described to His disciples the step-by-step sequence of global events which would culminate in His return to this earth, the great and final “battle of Armageddon,” and the establishment of the *Kingdom of God* to rule on this earth for one thousand years.

Since its inception, this magazine has continued to carry the warning, “Watch the *Mideast!*” Why?

## The Bible – a Mideastern Book

As everyone knows, *the Bible is a Middle Eastern book*. It chronicles the call of Abraham, God’s uncondi-

tional promises to him through Isaac and Jacob, Jacob’s children growing into a nation in slavery in Egypt, and their return under Moses following the Exodus, to inherit the promised land. From time immemorial, that land has been in dispute.

The conquering Israelites who crossed over the river Jordan first demolished the city of Jericho, and went on to virtually annihilate the early inhabitants of the land, displacing them and colonizing the land to which Almighty God had brought them.

All of Bible prophecy looks out at the rest of the world *from* the vantage point of *Jerusalem*. Jesus’ entire ministry was spent in and about





Dome of the Rock. Credit: www.shutterstock.com

the environs of Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, and various other points up and down the land that is now called Israel, including portions of southern Lebanon or Syria.

God's Word, though referring to modern day Jerusalem as "Sodom and Egypt" (Revelation 11:8) insists, nevertheless, that Jerusalem shall yet become the site of the *capital of the world* following the second coming of Christ!

Jerusalem has become over many centuries a most important city, containing the "holiest places" to the three great monotheistic religions of the world: so-called "Christianity," Islam, and Judaism.

### **An Historical Perspective**

In order to truly understand the state of affairs in the Middle East today concerning Israel and the Palestinian Arabs, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, it is necessary to know a little of the modern history of Pales-

tine dating from the British mandate following World War I.

The Ottoman Empire had controlled the region since 1517, when, on December 11, 1917, General Allenby marched into Jerusalem, accompanied by Arab forces under King Faisal I.

The Ottoman Empire had joined in the war with Germany and the central powers, and was defeated by the allies.

Even before Allenby marched on Jerusalem, the British foreign secretary, Mr. Balfour, had addressed a letter to Lord Rothchild for the specific purpose of being brought to the attention of the Zionist Foundation. The letter contained an official statement of policy by the British government.

An excerpt: "His majesty's government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to

facilitate the achievement of this objective..."

The "Balfour Declaration" as it came to be called, was repeated in the Preamble to the Mandate which was conferred upon Great Britain by the Council of the League of Nations. An excerpt from that Preamble: "Whereas the principal allied powers have also agreed that the Mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the Declaration originally made on November 2, 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favor of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine..."

From that time onward, the famed "Balfour Declaration" was

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# Middle East in Prophecy

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viewed, with much hostility by the Arabs, as a political victory for the Zionist organization, the sole Jewish agency in Palestine.

Article IV of the mandate included the following statement, “The Zionist Organization...shall be recognized as such agency (i.e., ‘an appropriate Jewish agency for the purpose of advising...the administration in Palestine’).”

The ensuing years saw large Jewish immigration, particularly in the years from 1933 to 1936, and, as might have been expected, increasing unrest and irritation on the part

Haifa remaining under the control of the British Mandate. Only a narrow portion of modern day Israel was included as a “Jewish state” with partition lines following the contours of the various Jewish settlements along the Mediterranean coast and in the north, which were to be the new frontiers.

As might be expected, Arab and Jewish communities alike vehemently opposed the Peel Commission’s proposals.

The beginning of World War II saw no agreed upon solution. With the war on, and the garrisoning of

***But Jerusalem – the old city – was still in Jordanian hands. The pivotal point of the ages-old struggle between Jews and Arabs is Jerusalem.***

of indigenous Arabs, together with outbreaks of violence from time to time.

During the years from 1922 to 1942, the Jewish population in Palestine increased by 390,000, while the Arab population increased by 324,000 the bulk of the Jewish increase came from immigration, while the Arab increase was due to the birthrate.

This alarming trend brought about demands by Arab leaders for a cessation of the transfer of Arab-owned land to the Jews, a democratic government to replace the administration set up by the British mandate, and an immediate halt to all further Jewish immigration into Palestine.

Growing violence caused the British government to establish the “Peel Commission” in 1937. This commission drew up a recommended partition of Palestine between the Jews and Arabs, with Jerusalem and

the land by allied troops, a few years of comparative quiet between Jewish and Arab populations ensued.

However, immediately following World War II, a new violence erupted in both Jewish and Arab communities in Palestine – mostly directed against the British administration and British armed forces. Following the holocaust, there were increasingly desperate (and technically “illegal”) efforts on the part of European Jewish refugees to enter Palestine. Leon Uris’ famous book *Exodus* and the equally famous movie by the same name concerned this wave of Jewish immigration – the final realization of the hopes and dreams of tens of thousands of Jewish refugees who had, for countless years, kept alive their dream of returning to their historic Jewish homeland with the oft-repeated slogan (usually rendered like a toast, or benediction at dinner, or when parting), “Next year in Jerusalem.”

When the full horrors of the torture/death camps came to light in the latter part of 1945 and early 1946, the outrage which swept through the free world was enormous. The United States began bringing pressure to bear on the British government for a relaxation in its policy against Jewish immigration and, as a result, a Committee of Inquiry was established between the two allies in 1946. The Committee recommended “Palestine should ultimately become a state which treats the rights and interests of Muslims, Christians and Jews alike and accords to the inhabitants as a whole the fullest measure of self-government consistent with the principles now set forth.” However, the Committee recommended that the British mandate should continue – and even asserted that any attempts to establish an independent Palestinian state would only result in further civilian strife. The Committee also anticipated the future trusteeship of the United Nations. Following World War II, various militant Jewish organizations waged unceasing guerrilla warfare against British military forces. These were the Haganah, the Palmach and the Irgun. While some Arabs have attempted to justify terrorism by the PLO and its many splinter organizations, it is quickly pointed out by former members of the aforesaid organizations that their guerrilla warfare was strictly aimed at *military* forces and installations – they did not wage war against unarmed civilians; the elderly women and children.

Faced with increasing military losses, skyrocketing costs, and never-ending strife in the region, the British government decided in April of 1947, to lay the entire question of the British Mandate over Palestine before the U.N. General Assembly. Thus it was that in May, 1947, the U.N. General Assembly established a special committee on Palestine to

investigate and propose solutions. The plan this committee devised and recommended envisioned a completely separate and independent Jewish state, with specified boundaries, and a separate Arab state with equally specific boundaries. Jerusalem and its immediate environs, however, were not to be included in *either* of these newly-proposed independent states. The committee recommended that the two new states thus to be created should be linked in some sort of economic union. Jerusalem was to become a *corpus separatum* under U.N. administration, a kind of an “open city” to the three great religions, and therefore not under the sovereign government of any independent state. The General Assembly passed Resolution 181 (11) recommending to the British Mandatory power and to all other members of the United Nations “adoption and implementation, with regard to the future government of Palestine, of the Plan of Partition with Economic Union..”

British armed forces then withdrew from Palestine on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1948. The mandate was formally terminated at midnight on that date, and on the same day the National Council for the Jewish State declared that the state of Israel existed. The newly-appointed foreign secretary of the provisional government of Israel sent a cablegram on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May to the Secretary General of the United Nations, applying for membership in the U.N., and proclaiming the establishment of the “Jewish State in Palestine.” At that time, even though they voiced great reluctance, the newly-created state of Israel agreed to accept the exclusion of Jerusalem, bowing to the U.N. partition plan, deciding this

was a part of the price for statehood.

The Palestinian Arabs, however, bitterly rejected the entire U.N. resolution, and immediately invaded Israel.

The result was the defeat of the combined Arab armies of six nations, and an uneasy armistice. Israel had emerged victorious.

But *Jerusalem* – the *old* city – was still in Jordanian hands.

### Jerusalem

The pivotal point of the ages-old struggle between Jews and Arabs is Jerusalem. The gilded “Dome of the Rock” and neighboring Al Aqsah



1840 jer salat / Public Domain/wikipedia.org. / David Roberts

Mosque are two of the holiest sites in Islam. According to Islamic tradition, Mohamed ascended to heaven from the rock over which the famous mosque, with its golden dome, has been built. According to Jewish tradition, the same rocky outcropping is where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac before God provided a ram instead; the site where God made His promises to Abraham *unconditional*; promising him dynasties of kings, multiple millions of seed, to spread abroad around the world.

According to Christian tradition, the site is that of the magnificent temple of Solomon, and the later temple, rebuilt during the days of Ezra, Nehemiah and Zerubbabel; the same temple that stood during the Herodian period; the temple in which Jesus Christ taught, and per-

formed many miracles.

From 1948 to 1966, the old part of the city, including the Dome of the Rock, was under Jordanian control. I first visited Jerusalem in 1966, just a matter of months before the famous Six-Day War broke out. Jerusalem was a divided city. A “no-man’s land” of rubble strewn lanes for machine-gun fire divided the old city, part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the newer part of the city.

Since we wanted to visit many of the famous sites of biblical history, including the Garden of Gethsemane, Golgotha, the Mount of Olives, and

the site of the ancient temple, with its famed “wailing wall,” a place of the utmost holiness to Judaism, we were constrained to go through Arab countries into Jordan. From the time of the 1948 war, Jordan’s Desert Legion had been in control of the old city of Jerusalem. In those days, if one’s passport were stamped in Israel,

immigration officials in all Arab countries automatically refused entry into their country.

Since, in their minds, Israel *simply did not exist*, such a passport stamp rendered the passport invalid. An absurd anomaly. The degree to which the absurdity was carried is illustrated by my experience in Beirut. Because I was writing, doing radio broadcasts via a portable tape-recorder, I wanted an up-to-date almanac or background material. I purchased one in Beirut. Turning to the section on Israel, I was shocked to find that someone had *glued the pages together*, making it impossible to read a single line about the State of Israel!

After our visit to the old city of Jerusalem, we were permitted to go

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# Antisemitism on rise across Europe 'in worst times since the Nazis'

Experts say attacks go beyond Israel-Palestinian conflict as hate crimes strike fear into Jewish communities

by John Henley, *The Guardian*

In the space of just one week last month, according to Crif, the umbrella group for France's Jewish organisations, eight synagogues were attacked. One, in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles, was firebombed by a 400-strong mob. A kosher supermarket and pharmacy were smashed and looted; the crowd's chants and banners included "Death to Jews" and "Slit Jews' throats." That same weekend, in the Barbes neighbourhood of the capital, stone-throwing protesters burned Israeli flags: "Israel-hell," read one banner.

In Germany last month, molotov cocktails were lobbed into the Bergische synagogue in Wuppertal – previously destroyed on Kristallnacht – and a Berlin imam, Abu Bilal Ismail, called on Allah to "destroy the Zionist Jews ... Count them and kill them, to the very last one." Bottles were thrown through the window of an antisemitism campaigner in Frankfurt; an elderly Jewish man was beaten up at a pro-Israel rally in Hamburg; an Orthodox Jewish teenager punched in the face in Berlin. In several cities, chants at pro-Palestinian protests compared Israel's actions to the Holocaust; other notable slogans included: "Jew, coward pig, come out and fight alone," and "Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the gas."

Across Europe, the conflict in Gaza is breathing new life into some very old, and very ugly, demons. This is not unusual; police and Jew-

ish civil rights organisations have long observed a noticeable spike in antisemitic incidents each time the Israeli-Palestinian conflict flares. During the three weeks of Israel's Operation Cast Lead in late 2008 and early 2009, France recorded 66 antisemitic incidents, including attacks on Jewish-owned restaurants



Mother of Miriam Monsonogo, seven, at funeral of her daughter and three other victims of Toulouse school shooting. Menahem Kahana/AFP/Getty Images

and synagogues and a sharp increase in anti-Jewish graffiti. But according to academics and Jewish leaders, this time it is different. More than simply a reaction to the conflict, they say, the threats, hate speech and violent attacks feel like the expression of a much deeper and more widespread antisemitism, fuelled by a wide range of factors, that has been growing now for more than a decade.

"These are the worst times since the Nazi era," Dieter Graumann, president of Germany's Central Council of Jews, told the *Guardian*. "On the streets, you hear things like 'the Jews should be gassed,' 'the Jews should be burned' – we haven't had that in Germany for decades.

Anyone saying those slogans isn't criticising Israeli politics, it's just pure hatred against Jews: nothing else. And it's not just a German phenomenon. It's an outbreak of hatred against Jews so intense that it's very clear indeed."

Roger Cukierman, president of France's Crif, said French Jews were "anguished" about an anti-Jewish backlash that goes far beyond even strongly felt political and humanitarian opposition to the current fighting: "They are not screaming 'Death to the Israelis' on the streets of Paris," Cukierman said last month. "They are screaming 'Death to Jews.'" Crif's vice-president Yonatan Arfi said he "utterly rejected" the view that the latest increase in antisemitic inci-

idents was down to events in Gaza. "They have laid bare something far more profound," he said.

Nor is it just Europe's Jewish leaders who are alarmed. Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, has called the recent incidents "an attack on freedom and tolerance and our democratic state." The French prime minister, Manuel Valls, has spoken of "intolerable" and clearly antisemitic acts: "To attack a Jew because he is a Jew is to attack France. To attack a synagogue and a kosher grocery store is quite simply antisemitism and racism."

France, whose 500,000-strong Jewish community is one of Europe's largest, and Germany, where



the post-war exhortation of “Never Again” is part of the fabric of modern society, are not alone. In Austria last month, a pre-season friendly between Maccabi Haifa and German Bundesliga team SC Paderborn had to be rescheduled after the Israeli side’s previous match was called off following an attempted assault on its players.

The Netherlands’ main antisemitism watchdog, Cidi, had more than 70 calls from alarmed Jewish citizens in one week last month; the average is normally three to five. An Amsterdam rabbi, Benjamin Jacobs, had his front door stoned, and two Jewish women were attacked – one beaten, the other the victim of arson – after they hung Israeli flags from their balconies. In Belgium, a woman was reportedly turned away from a shop with the words: “We don’t currently sell to Jews.”

In Italy, the Jewish owners of dozens of shops and other businesses in Rome arrived to find swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans daubed on shutters and windows.

One slogan read: “Every Palestinian is like a comrade. Same enemy. Same barricade”; another: “Jews, your end is near.” Abd al-Barr al-Rawdhi, an imam from the north eastern town of San Donà di Piave, is to be deported after being video-recorded giving a sermon calling for the extermination of the Jews.

There has been no violence in Spain, but the country’s small Jewish population of 35,000-40,000 fears the situation is so tense that “if it continues for too long, bad things will happen,” the leader of Madrid’s Jewish community, David Hatchwell, said. The community is planning action against *El Mundo* after the daily paper published a column

by 83-year-old playwright Antonio Gala questioning Jews’ ability to live peacefully with others: “It’s not strange they have been so frequently expelled.”

Studies suggest antisemitism may indeed be mounting. A 2012 survey by the EU’s Fundamental Rights agency of some 6,000 Jews in eight European countries – between them, home to 90% of Europe’s Jewish population – found 66% of respondents felt antisemitism in Europe was on the rise; 76% said antisemitism had increased in their country over the past five years. In the 12 months after the survey, nearly half said they worried about being verbally insulted or attacked in public because they were Jewish.



Police at the site of a shooting at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, Belgium, where four people were killed. Eric Vidal/REUTERS

Jewish organisations that record antisemitic incidents say the trend is inexorable: France’s Society for the Protection of the Jewish Community says annual totals of antisemitic acts in the 2000s are seven times higher than in the 1990s. French Jews are leaving for Israel in greater numbers, too, for reasons they say include antisemitism and the electoral success of the hard-right Front National. The Jewish Agency for Israel said 3,288 French Jews left for Israel in 2013, a 72% rise on the previous year. Between January and May this year, 2,254 left, against 580 in the same period last year.

In a study completed in February, America’s Anti-Defamation League

surveyed 332,000 Europeans using an index of 11 questions designed to reveal strength of anti-Jewish stereotypes. It found that 24% of Europeans – 37% in France, 27% in Germany, 20% in Italy – harboured some kind of anti-Jewish attitude.

So what is driving the phenomenon? Valls, the French prime minister, has acknowledged a “new,” “normalised” antisemitism that he says blends “the Palestinian cause, jihadism, the devastation of Israel, and hatred of France and its values.”

Mark Gardner of the Community Security Trust, a London-based charity that monitors antisemitism both in Britain and on the continent, also identifies a range of factors. Successive conflicts in the Middle

East he said, have served up “a crush of trigger events” that has prevented tempers from cooling: the second *intifada* in 2000, the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006, and the three Israel-Hamas conflicts in 2009, 2012 and 2014 have “left no time for the situation to return to normal.” In such a climate, he added, three

brutal antisemitic murders in the past eight years – two in France, one in Belgium, and none coinciding with Israeli military action – have served “not to shock, but to encourage the antisemites,” leaving them “seeking more blood and intimidation, not less.”

In 2006, 23-year old Ilan Halimi was kidnapped, tortured and left for dead in Paris by a group calling itself the Barbarians Gang, who subsequently admitted targeting him “because he was a Jew, so his family would have money.” Two years ago, in May 2012, Toulouse gunman Mohamed Merah shot dead seven people, including three children and

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## Antisemitism

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a young rabbi outside their Jewish school. And in May this year Mehdi Nemmouche, a Frenchman of Algerian descent thought to have recently returned to France after a year in Syria fighting with radical Islamists, was charged with shooting four people at the Jewish museum in Brussels.

If the French establishment has harboured a deep vein of anti-Jewish sentiment since long before the Dreyfus affair, the influence of radical Islam, many Jewish community leaders say, is plainly a significant contributing factor in the country's present-day antisemitism. But so too, said Gardner, is a straightforward alienation that many young Muslims feel from society. "Often it's more to do with that than with Israel. Many would as soon burn down a police station as a synagogue. Jews are simply identified as part of the establishment."

While he stressed it would be wrong to lay all the blame at the feet of Muslims, Peter Ulrich, a research

fellow at the centre for antisemitism research (ZfA) at Berlin's Technical University, agreed that some of the "antisemitic elements" Germany has seen at recent protests could be "a kind of rebellion of people who are themselves excluded on the basis of racist structures."

Arfi said that in France antisemitism had become "a portmanteau for a lot of angry people: radical Muslims, alienated youths from immigrant families, the far right, the far left." But he also blamed "a process of normalisation, whereby antisemitism is being made somehow acceptable". One culprit, Arfi said, is the controversial comedian Dieudonné: "He has legitimised it. He's made acceptable what was unacceptable."

A similar normalisation may be under way in Germany, according to a 2013 study by the Technical University of Berlin. In 14,000 hate-mail letters, emails and faxes sent over 10 years to the Israeli embassy in Berlin and the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Professor Monika Schwarz-Friesel found that 60% were written by educated, mid-

dle-class Germans, including professors, lawyers, priests and university and secondary school students. Most, too, were unafraid to give their names and addresses – something she felt few Germans would have done 20 or 30 years ago.

Almost every observer pointed to the unparalleled power of unfiltered social media to inflame and to mobilise. A stream of shocking images and Twitter hashtags, including #HitlerWasRight, amount, Arfi said, almost to indoctrination. "The logical conclusion, in fact, is radicalisation: on social media people self-select what they see, and what they see can be pure, unchecked propaganda. They may never be confronted with opinions that are not their own."

Additional reporting by Josie Le Blond in Berlin, Kim Willsher in Paris, John Hooper in Rome and Ashifa Kassam in Madrid

• This article was amended to correct the name of the Madrid Jewish community leader David Hatchwell. This article was further amended to correct the numbers of Jews who left France for Israel in 2013. □



Openly Antisemitic Protester in Berlin on July 17th 2014. Around 1000 pro-palestinian people came together in Berlin to protest against a pro-Israeli rally on Joachimstaler Platz in Berlin. The Protest was dominated by anti-semitic shoutings. The Protester on the Photo made sure everybody could see his Nazi-Tattoos. *Credit: Boris Niehaus*

# THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KAISER

by Derek Scally

To enter Berlin's biggest building site the tall, rangy man puts on a blue hard hat and a high-visibility jacket emblazoned with Besucher – visitor. But the 38-year-old is no ordinary visitor; his liquid eyes and distinctive profile suggest as much. Here, in 1914, Kaiser Wilhelm II announced Germany's entry into the first World War. Exactly 100 years later,



Georg Friedrich Prinz von Preussen / Credit: Georg Friedrich Prinz von Preussen1, Pour la Merite 2014.

standing on the same spot, is Georg Friedrich Prinz von Preussen: the man who would be kaiser.

The war cost Wilhelm his crown and his palace, which was demolished in 1950. But today the Prussian palace is rising again from Berlin's sandy soil, this time as a state museum. Standing on the rough concrete second floor, Prince Georg marvels at the sight, then shifts his gaze to Berlin's cathedral, where his ancestors lie. It's a strange moment of joy and pride, he says, to stand where everything began for his family.

"I have never let myself be stigmatised by my past," he says. "We cannot choose our past; we have to live with Germany: the bad and the good."

The royal house of Hohenzollern and Prussia have polarised European opinion even longer than they dominated its history. The kingdom of Prussia was the linchpin of the unified German Reich in 1871 but, in Winston Churchill's damning 1943 verdict, the "source of recurring pestilence" in Europe.

Four years later, after Germany lost a second World War, the Allies in occupied Berlin passed a law stating: "The Prussian state, which from early days has been a bearer of militarism and reaction in Germany, has de facto ceased to exist."

This view of Prussia as the bad seed in German history remains dominant among those who remember it. But many more have forgotten Prussia entirely. Visit Berlin's district court in Schöneberg, the Prussian-built palace of justice, and you won't even find a plaque marking its ignominious end here in 1947.

## 'Prussian virtues'

From character to culture, Prussia dominated Germany's history for centuries. Mention Prussia to Germans today and they'll trot out the "Prussian virtues" – discipline, punctuality, deference to hierarchy – that many outsiders consider utterly German traits. The Prussian phantom colours our understanding of today's Germany, yet this influential empire was dumped into an un-

marked pauper's grave.

Prince Georg has no crown – and is not a prince under the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, which recognises the old title Prince of Prussia only as part of his surname – but has the calm energy of a man on a mission: to exhume and rehabilitate his family's history, good and bad. His striking resemblance to Kaiser Wilhelm II, he jokes, makes it a delicate affair.

marked pauper's grave.

"Prussia has always polarised opinion, but I think we're coming to a point where an objective view of things is finally possible," he says. "We are not on the road to Prussia glorification – that would be counterproductive – but there is a new readiness to see things in another light, another context."

Born in 1976 and raised in Fischhude near Bremen, Prince Georg says he had an "unburdened childhood," despite losing his father when he was just a year old.

In 1994 he lost his grandfather Louis Ferdinand, snr., making the 18-year-old head of the house of Hohenzollern. It is a role that is both managerial and ambassadorial: representing the family at public events and administering family properties while ensuring the Prussia brand isn't taken hostage by monarchists or far-right nationalists.

Although they lost their aristocratic titles in 1918, the Hohenzollerns and other former ruling

*Continued next page*



# KAISER

Continued from page 11

houses live on around Germany. As in Ireland, Germany's public apathy with aristocratic affairs belies a lingering private fascination and media interest.

Prince Georg, married in 2011 and father to one-year-old twin boys, occasionally features in Germany's gossip magazines. But mostly he enjoys going unrecognized through the capital his family built.

"I have no public function; nor does my family. We're citizens with public recognition but no political function," he says. "Prussia doesn't exist any more as a state; nor does the aristocracy and monarchy. What remains for us is promoting a cultural understanding of Prussia."

Promoting a nonexistent but nevertheless problematic brand has become easier lately thanks to the Cambridge historian Christopher Clark. After masterly volumes on Prussia and Kaiser Wilhelm II, Prof. Clark's runaway bestseller, *The Sleepwalkers*, recasts the last kaiser as just one of many European lead-

ers sleepwalking into the abyss. It has been widely, if not universally, welcomed in Germany.

"Until now we always had the Agatha Christie theory, that there was one perpetrator, but now we have a theory that [they] all had a pistol in their hand; it was overdue," says Prince Georg. "He in no way absolves German guilt, but he breaks down thoroughly the notion of Germany's singular guilt by showing the readiness for war on all sides."

After half a century in abeyance, debate has flared up in Germany about the last Hohenzollern ruler. Was Wilhelm a clueless kaiser who learned more from the newspapers than from Berlin dispatches about his government's rush to war as he sailed around Scandinavia in July 1914? Or had he already taken a fatal chance with his fateful "blank cheque" in the aftermath of Franz Ferdinand's shooting in Sarajevo, promising his support if Vienna took "advantage of this fortuitous moment" and punished Serbia?

"I don't dispute there was some foreign-policy damage resulting from Wilhelm II's rule and from his rhetorically imperfect speeches," says Prince Georg. "But, viewed in the context of the time, it's important to remember leaders were expected to act a certain way, and he was no exception."

## The shadow of the Reich

The Hohenzollerns' unhappy role in German history continued after 1918. Before Kaiser Wilhelm died in exile, in the Netherlands, in 1941, his son August Wilhelm flirted with the Nazis in the hope of taking back the throne. The relationship cooled after Hitler took office. According to Prince Georg, his family was "prostituted" by the Nazis on their way to power. "In 1933 the monarchy wasn't long past," he says, "so it was a good idea to include the Hohenzollern family in their political marketing."

The exiled kaiser and empty throne offered something for everyone and no one to defend Prussia's legacy. For Hitler, political legitimacy. For the Allies, a historical aggressor. East Germany felt obliged to blow up the palace, it said, to exorcise the evils of Prussian imperialism.

"What I find a shame," says Prince Georg, "is how, to this day, many historians swallow the Nazi propaganda and see a straight line from Frederick the Great to the Third Reich."

After seven decades in the Third Reich's shadow, Prussia is emerging again as



Credit: "Burg Hohenzollern ak" by A. Kniesel

a new generation of Germans shuffle the historical hand they have been dealt. Looking on, its neighbours have Germany in their sights like never before, with old apathy yielding to polarised opinion, from World Cup hero to euro-crisis villain.

Berlin is back on the political map and Germany's role in Europe is shifting before our eyes. Understanding this country, and how it sees itself, means taking Prussia out of historical quarantine.

Prince Georg sees Germany's role in Europe differently from previous generations. He dismisses as absurd the former chancellor Helmut Schmidt's recent remark that Third Reich crimes exclude Germany from a leading role in Europe for centuries to come. "I think it is clear to all that Germany should assume a leading role in Europe," he says.

And what does he think about the leader shaping this new role, Chancellor Angela Merkel? "She represents the positive Prussian virtues of modesty, conscientiousness and sense of duty."

Is such generous praise a sign that Georg Friedrich Prinz von Preussen, the man who would be kaiser, is happy to remain in the conditional tense? "The question of a return of the monarchy is not relevant at the moment," he says. "I don't think I'd be taken seriously if I said I thought it would be nice or that I could envisage it. If the facts change, I am a free person who can adjust to anything."

As the Prussian palace rises again in Berlin the door, tantalisingly, hangs ajar.

### Prussian blues – The rise and fall of a great power

Prussia's rise began in 1417 when the Hohenzollern dynasty bought the margravate, or principality, of Brandenburg. Wars and advantageous marriages helped the ambitious



Kaiser Wilhelm II / Credit: wikipedia.com

family acquire scattered territories, including the duchy of Prussia, leading to the founding of the kingdom of Prussia in 1701.

Two monarchs secured the new kingdom's fame. Friedrich Wilhelm, who ruled from 1713 to 1740 and was dubbed the Soldier King, developed Prussia's admired and feared military machine. His son Friedrich the Great reigned from 1740 to 1786. He was known as the Philosopher King but pushed his way to Europe's top table thanks to his military skill and talent for land grabs. If war was work, the arts were Friedrich's pleasure. Voltaire, a regular guest at court, remarked: "It was Sparta in the morning, Athens in the afternoon

..."

Friedrich's life motto, "Everyone should be free to pursue their own happiness," coloured his tolerant, enlightened reign. He offered refuge for persecuted Huguenots and backed far-reaching social, educational and civil reform that abolished torture and rolled back royal interference in judicial affairs.

Prussia steadily grew in size and influence, and, after leading the defeat of France in 1870, Kaiser Wilhelm I was proclaimed emperor of a united German Reich in Versailles a year later.

This was not the fulfilment of Prussia's historical destiny, the historian Christopher Clark suggests, but its downfall. Its weakness was its strength: while Bavarians or Saxons had deep historical roots and cultural identity, Prussia operated more like a franchise, offering religious and cultural diversity while imposing efficient administration and military systems.

Prussia was less an organism, argues the author Sebastian Haffner, than a machine. And no sooner had it become the main cog in a united Germany, he argues, than the mechanism began to stall. "Iron Chancellor" Otto von Bismarck, the architect of German unity, was deposed. Prussia lost its chief mechanic in government affairs.

Ambitious industrialists and aristocrats moved in on Kaiser Wilhelm II, pushing his foreign policy on to a more aggressive, imperial path that German historians say had little to do with Prussian tradition.

Legally, Prussia lived on until 1947, but its history effectively ended with Wilhelm II's abdication, in 1918. The last Prussian king to become German kaiser was helpless as the tide went out on the Hohenzollerns' 500-year reign. □

## Stories From The Battlefield:

# Hamas Tunnels Used To Target Israel's Kindergartens

Reprinted with permission from  
The Daily Caller (dailycaller.com)

by Mordechai Ben-Menachem

Multiple media outlets report that Hamas's offensive tunnel network – now known to have been composed of over forty attack tunnels dug underneath Israel's border with the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip – was set to be activated during the Jewish High Holidays (September 24<sup>th</sup>) as a mass terror attack.

The attack was meant to generate as many as ten thousand casualties, men, women and particularly children and hundreds of captives. Explosives were particularly placed underneath kindergartens to make certain that these "institutions" would be the first struck, even before anything else.

The IDF recently published the below map showing that tunnels were created in pairs, to empty out on both sides of nearby communi-

ties. The known cost of the infrastructure – each tunnel costs upward of some \$1 million – clearly shows that Hamas was planning a coordinated mega-attack. It must be understood that use of even one tunnel would inevitably trigger Israeli retaliation against the entire network.

Revelations regarding the planned tunnel attack magnitude played a decisive role in the Israeli government's rejection of a ceasefire proposed late Friday by Secretary of State John Kerry.

Unbelievably, Kerry actually proposed in his latest "cease-fire proposal" – none of which have been honored by Hamas so far – that Israel refrains from degrading remaining attack tunnels. This mind-boggling concept would necessarily be rejected by any sane government, of any country.

Israeli security sources, citing information acquired in interrogations of captured brigands, described a

scenario under which hundreds of heavily armed Hamas fighters would have spilled out into Israel in the dead of night and within 10 minutes been positioned to infiltrate essentially all Israeli communities surrounding the Gaza Strip. Waiting then in hiding until schools and kindergartens were occupied, the terrorists would then attempt to kill the children first, and then kill and kidnap as many Israelis as possible. The plot was set to take place during Jewish New Year, on September 24.

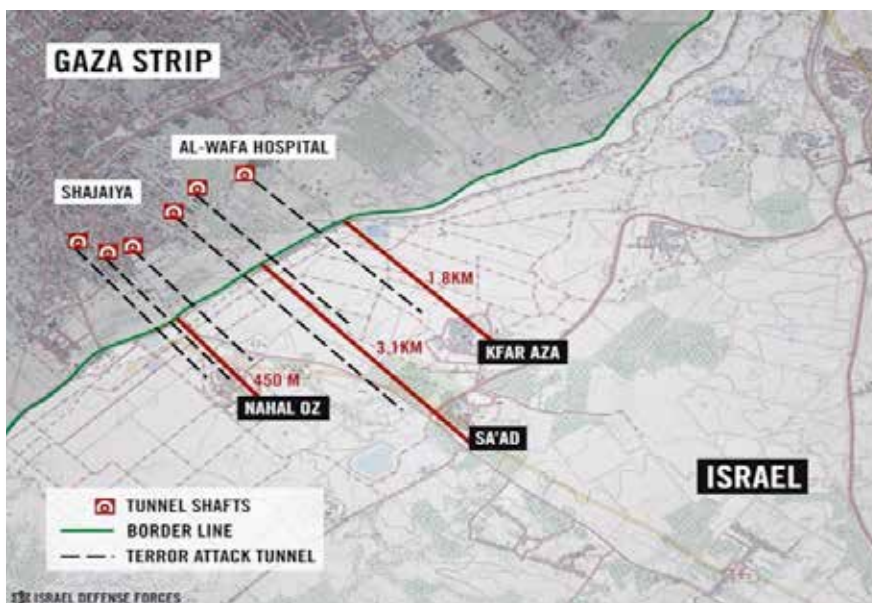
"It's like the Underground, the Metro or the Subway," Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said. "These tunnels are all connected. I would describe it as Lower Gaza."

Israeli Economy Minister Naftali Bennett said, "A whole city of terror tunnels has been found. Without the ground operation, we would have woken up one day to an Israeli 9/11."

Except, the actual objective was to be five times 9/11.

This picture shows clearly the width of one of the tunnels, sufficient for wheeled vehicles to transverse it. Hamas did not build a "subway" system for Gaza residents. They built an infrastructure for one purpose, and one only, an industry of death.

Israeli military officials reported that the tunnels are stocked with tranquilizers, handcuffs, syringes, ropes and other materials used for subduing abductees, civilians and soldiers. The tunnels also had fantastic quantities of explosives and additional military materiel meant to be used in the up-coming mega attack. Much of these explosives



A map of a small portion of the tunnels meant to be used 9 weeks from now.



had already been placed underneath Israeli kindergartens. Some of these tunnels were as deep as 30 meters underground.

Fantastic quantities of explosives were stored in every tunnel, meant to be used in a mega-attack on civilian communities and infrastructure.

Sources say the Gaza Strip war, Operation Protective Edge, could serve as a prelude for a more extensive underground war with the Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah. Perhaps, not “just” in the Middle East.

The tunnels inside Gaza and under the Israeli border are not a secret project Hamas ran under the noses of Israel and the Palestinian public. Everyone in Gaza, knew that beneath Gaza, the City and all of its environs, a network of tunnels was being dug over the past five years, with an investment of tens of millions of dollars. Yet no one in Israel, public or military, was prepared for the scope of the tunnels – the danger that became clear in the past week or two.

In order to create this monstrosity, Hamas needed significant professional help; and this help had to have come from a large organization or state entity. This is not just the monetary aid it received from Qatar, America’s ally. This is professional guidance for the performance of such an underground feat. Perhaps Hamas could have used experts from the tunnels dug at Rafah under the Gaza-Egypt border, but those were significantly simpler, and did not demand any extraordinary investment or effort.

Who supplied these quantities of material? Who planned what would be needed? How did Hamas acquire thousands of ampoules of tranquilizer, syringes and other, additional drugs to be used? These are far beyond the quantities and variety of what is needed by any civilian medical service.



A Hamas operative climbing upward in a pier of one of the major tunnels. Notice the work on the sides of the tunnel.

How was all this brought in to the Gaza Strip? The logistics of this planned attack are the work of a well-organized military, not that of a militia or club. This was no amateur plan.

Observers note that attack scenarios lined up with recently revealed data about the sophistication, scope and nature of the offensive tunnel network. As previously reported here, this sophistication and know-how is being copied right now by Mexico-based Hezbollah agents along the Southern U.S. border. Tunnels in Southern Lebanon, as in South U.S., are significantly

more difficult to detect than those in the sandy terrain of the Gaza Strip.

“Hamas planned these tunnels for years, and planned to use them to kidnap soldiers,” Israeli military spokesman Brig. Gen. Mordechai Almoz said. “[Now] they see the tunnels collapsing one after the other.” For the last two years, the Israeli army has sought to develop skills and equipment to fight in enemy tunnels and bunkers. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have used tunnels to operate command and control, to infiltrate Israel and abduct soldiers, to fire rockets and to conceal fighters amid invasion of the Gaza Strip. □



# ‘Hand of God sent missile into sea’

by Joe Kovacs

More claims of divine intervention are being reported in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, with an operator of Israel’s Iron Dome missile-defense system saying he personally witnessed “the hand of God” diverting an incoming rocket out of harm’s way.

*Israel Today* translated a report from a Hebrew-language news site, which noted the Iron Dome battery failed three times to intercept an incoming rocket headed toward Tel Aviv last week.

The commander recalled: “A missile was fired from Gaza. Iron Dome precisely calculated [its trajectory]. We know where these missiles are going to land down to a radius of 200 meters. This particular missile was going to hit either the Azrieli Towers, the Kirya (Israel’s equivalent of the Pentagon) or [a central Tel Aviv railway station]. Hundreds could have died.

“We fired the first [interceptor]. It missed. Second [interceptor]. It missed. This is very rare. I was in shock. At this point we had just four seconds until the missile lands. We had already notified emergency services to converge on the target location and had warned of a mass-casualty incident.

“Suddenly, Iron Dome (which calculates wind speeds, among other things) shows a major wind coming from the east, a strong wind that ... sends the missile into the sea. We were all stunned. I stood up and

shouted, ‘There is a God!’

“I witnessed this miracle with my own eyes. It was not told or reported to me. I saw the hand of God send that missile into the sea.”

The commander’s account is reminiscent of a recent newspaper headline which trumpeted the possibility of supernatural protection.

“Their God changes the path of our rockets in mid-air, said a terror-

on miracles for survival.

“It argues that we must not desist from our obligations and must not wait for miraculous intervention from the Supernatural,” she wrote.

Meanwhile, the *Times of Israel* reported a senior officer in Israel’s army said divine miracles protected his soldiers during fighting in the Gaza Strip.

Givati Brigade commander Col.

Ofer Winter told the weekly publication *Mishpacha* that he “witnessed a miraculous occurrence, the likes of which he had never seen before during his military career.”

Winter indicated a predawn raid intended to use darkness as cover was delayed, forcing the soldiers to move toward their objective as sunrise was approaching.

With the troops

in danger of being exposed at daybreak, Winter explained how heavy fog quickly descended to shroud their movements until their mission was accomplished.



ist,” was the headline in the July 18 edition of the *Jewish Telegraph*.

It was a partial quote from Barbara Ordman, who lives in Ma’ale Adumim on the West Bank.

Her exact quotation was: “As one of the terrorists from Gaza was reported to say when asked why they couldn’t aim their rockets more effectively: “We do aim them, but their God changes their path in mid-air.”

She opened her piece by noting: “In October 1956, [Israeli Prime Minister] David Ben Gurion was interviewed by CBS. He stated: ‘In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles.’”

Ordman also noted religious texts, specifically the Jerusalem Talmud, teaches Israelis not to depend



IDF Col. Ofer Winter





Israel's Iron Dome missile-defense system is fired to intercept enemy rockets

Operation Protective Edge as a religious war against non-Jews. The Israeli government's stated aim is to stop rocket attacks at Israel and destroy a network of tunnels dug under the border from Gaza used to launch terror attacks inside Israeli territory.

In his interview with *Mishpacha*, Winter defended his message, saying everyone finds God when in combat.

"Anyone who attacked me for the letter apparently has only seen weapons in

"Suddenly a cloud protected us," he said, referring to clouds the Bible says guided the ancient Israelites as they wandered in the desert. "Clouds of glory."

Winter said only when the soldiers were in a secure position, the fog finally lifted.

"It really was a fulfillment of the verse 'For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to give you victory,'" he said, quoting Deuteron-

omy 20:4.

The *Times of Israel* notes Winter made headlines over an official letter he sent to battalion and company commanders July 9, telling his subordinates that "history has chosen us to spearhead the fighting (against) the terrorist 'Gazan' enemy which abuses, blasphemes and curses the God of Israel's (defense) forces."

The dispatch came under fire from some, since it portrayed the

pictures, was never in combat, and doesn't know what fighting spirit is," he said, revealing that before going into action his custom was to recite the blessing with which the ancient Israelite priests would bless the army before it went to war.

"When a person is in a life-threatening situation he connects with his deepest internal truths, and when that happens, even the biggest atheist meets God," he said, claiming soldiers see so many miracles, "it is hard not to believe [in God]." □

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# THE SHOCKING TRUTH

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# AFGHANS RECALL SONS FROM EXTREMIST MADRASSAS

**Reports of young suicide bombers prompt parents to rethink wisdom  
of sending children to study at Islamic schools in Pakistan.**

by Arash Kabuli

Afghan families with children studying at Islamic schools or madrassas across the border in Pakistan are starting to bring them home for fear that they will be recruited as suicide bombers.

Public awareness of the issue has grown since Afghan television stations showed children describing how their teachers in Pakistan groomed them to put on vests packed with explosives and detonate them once they approached vehicles belonging to international or Afghan troops. But their testimonies suggest they were told that they themselves would escape unharmed from such attacks.

In Kapisa province northeast of the capital Kabul, the families of 17 boys have either recalled them from Pakistani madrassas or are refusing to let them go back there.

One father described how he sent his 18-year-old son to Pakistan a year ago, but observed great changes in him when he returned for a break.

“My son is vehemently opposed to the government. He says suicide attacks are considered a superior form of martyrdom and courage in Islam, and that Muslims must wage a *jihad* against the Jews and their friends,” he said.

His son told him that on Fridays, the madrassa students were shown footage of Americans and Britons being beheaded.

The father concluded, “I’m not

going to allow my son to go back to study in Pakistan again, because I know I will lose him.”

Although now associated with the Taliban – whose name reflects their origin as Islamic students – madrassas in Pakistan, and before that British India, have long attract-



ed Afghans in search of a religious education.

When Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and the West responded by backing the *mujahedin*, madrassas along the Pakistani side of the border played a major role in galvanising Islamic feeling. This was to backfire when the same madrassas generated the Taliban movement in the Nineties and, after 2001, preached *jihad* against the Afghan government and its western allies.

Many Afghan families now fear their children will be caught up in an insurgent strategy of recruiting young people for suicide attacks, as they are both more malleable and less easy to spot than adults.

A 17-year-old in Laghman prov-

ince, east of Kapisa, who was home on vacation from a madrassa in Peshawar, described the teaching there.

“We were always being told that the Jews and Christians had attacked Muslim countries. They destroy the dignity and faith of Muslims. We were shown footage of the Americans searching people’s homes and killing them... or killing civilians in bombardments. They showed us Israeli massacres in Palestine,” he said. “Young people, even children, were therefore prepared to wage *jihad* against the United States.”

The young man said he was keen to return to Peshawar, but his parents had forbidden him to do so and he would have to obey them.

A member of the Taliban shadow administration that is now present in Kapisa, as in many other provinces, justified the recruitment of young people and denied that they were brainwashed.

“Those who say these people are being deceived are puppets of the US. During their studies in Pakistani madrassas, people learn the path of virtue and *jihad*,” the Taliban official said. “They come to understand the reality that human beings are guests in this world for just a few days, and that they must do something for their religion and the next life. They learn the Islamic precepts in which *jihad* has high status, and thus they arrive at practical action – they fight for the

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# The god of This World

by Jim Josephsen

Perhaps you have heard or even sung the well-known Christian hymn, "This is My Father's World." Written as a poem by Maltbie Dav- enport Babcock, a Christian minister residing in New York, it was published in 1901. In 1915, the poem was set to music and became what is now a staple in most traditional Christian hymnals.

The words sung, complemented by a soothing melody, evoke scenes of beautiful landscapes, verdant valleys gently embracing clear flowing streams, the rhythmic rustling of grass, majestic mountains, tropical rainforests, waterfalls, undulating hills and tranquil skies. As the lyrics convey, the carols raised by birds; the intensification of the sun's light rising above the eastern horizon, brings one to praise the creative genius and graciousness of God, the loving Father.

As the Scriptures reveal, the earth, all the silver and the gold, every beast of the forest, the fowls of the air, the creatures in the sea, all that dwells therein, every man, woman and child belongs to God (cf. Exodus 9:29, Deuteronomy 10:14, Psalm 24, 1 Corinthians 10:26, 28). God is the creator of all things through his son, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9, cf. Colossians 1:15-16, John 1:3, 10). For those who believe in God, it is easy to confess that God is the creator of this earth and all that is on it.

In the Christian religion, the doctrine of, and the awareness of, God the Father is extremely significant. Jesus Christ came to this earth to reveal the Father (cf. Matthew 11:27 and John 1:18); teaching His disciples just who the Father is. Christ taught His disciples to pray, saying

"our Father" (Matthew 6:9, Luke 11:2). Christ spoke constantly of God the Father and always focused the attention to and pointed the direction to the Father in heaven. The salutations of Paul, in each of his epistles, acknowledges God "the Father" or God "our Father" (cf. Romans 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:3, Galatians 1:1, Philippians 1:2, et. el.). Well known within the Christian religion is the fact that there is God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son; two distinct beings. As Christ said, the

known as the British Isles, those in North, Central and South America, simply did not know of God the Father. Still today, many cultures, religions and nations worship a god, but they do not worship the True God. Still today, the vast majority within this world do not know of the Almighty being who is God the Father. God the Father is absent from their knowledge.

However, for the Christian religion and for Christians, there is a God who is known as the Father.

***If God is as loving  
and merciful as the Bible makes  
Him out to be, then how could  
this be His world?***

Father is greater than I (John 14:28) and Christ did the will of the Father, who sent Him to this earth (John 5:30).

Prior to the time Jesus Christ came to this earth, born in the flesh, knowledge of the being who is now known as God the Father was obscured from mankind. Prior to the time of Christ, God the Father was unknown to the world. Christ plainly said, "O righteous Father the world has not known Thee" (John 17:25). Christ told the Jews of His day, that the Father, the one they called God, that they indeed did not know who He was (John 8:54-55). In fact, speaking of God the Father, no one has ever heard His voice or has ever seen Him (cf. John 5:37, 6:46; 16:3). At that time in history, Jews, Romans, Greeks, Celts, Parthians, Egyptians, Libyans, Ethiopians, Asians, Barbarians, Persians, Chinese, Mongols, those of India; those in the reaches of what is now

To understand that the earth and its fullness, all that dwells on the earth is God's, is one thing. However, this world, the ways of the world and man's involvement in this world; does God take a claim for all that?

By looking at the realities of this world, how could one honestly say this is my Father's world and not be challenged in that belief? If God is as loving and merciful as the Bible makes Him out to be, then how could this be His world? Is this my Father's world, as many Christians are led to believe?

We should be painfully aware these days; watching the daily news, reading newspapers, magazines, and more common these days, viewing the multitude of Internet news sources, how obvious it is that this world is in trouble. Circumnavigating the globe, observing the conduct of humanity, looking at the behavior of every country and countries

*Continued next page*

# This World

*Continued from page 19*

leaders, we witness a world void of peace and tranquility, mercy and justice, honor and respect.

What about the trouble within Europe; in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Gaza, Israel, Palestine? What about the mounting tensions among the Asian nations of North Korea, China, Japan? What about the Ebola outbreak in Africa and its potential of spread within Europe and even the United States? How about the fatal effects of diseases such as syphilis, meningitis, tetanus or the measles, which rank highest in Africa but are common throughout the world? What about drug warfare and

Jesus with paganism, sun worship?

When we delve into the lives of people, their day-to-day attempts at living, what becomes obvious? More uncertainty, doubt, fear, broken-heartedness and emptiness. No doubt, there are moments of excitement, encouragement, and self-fulfillment. However, when the day is over and one comes to his or her senses, life these days is half-lived and even less rewarding. Moments of self-willed, self-centeredness is about all most in this world can accomplish.

Among the more common events experienced around the world these days are the following: abuse, physical, mental, sexual; crime, theft, petty theft, white-collar crime; insur-

There is not much which is right, good and salubrious in this world these days. The facts are evident, clear and incontrovertible. From religion, government, economies, domestic life, education, culture, values, ethics and personal behaviors, one is within right to reject the notion of a loving God.

In truth, as the Bible gives clear explanation, this world is not the Father's world. This world is not God's. God has left His hands off this world, with the exception of the few here and there across this world who He has called to understand His truth. No blame can be laid at the throne of God for the wretchedness that infiltrates this world and the sufferings so evident to the inhabitants of this world. God is not responsible nor culpable, for this world is NOT the Father's world.

When the question arises, "How can a loving God allow to occur the sufferings that happen to so many people?" the answer is clearly understood when you comprehend the reality that the god of this world is Satan, the devil. Yes, there is a real devil and his MO is simple. Lie, deceive, mislead and corrupt. His looks are not that of a conniving, sly, shrewd gentleman in a red body suit with a pointed goatee and two tiny horns protruding from his head. That would be too easy to spot. The disguise of Satan is that of an angel of light; masquerading as god (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:14). Masquerading, deceiving, manipulating, obfuscating, denying and confusing.

A litany of scriptures reveal this reality. Satan, called the devil and the serpent of old, from the time of the Garden of Eden has, and is deceiving the whole world (Revelation 12:9). Satan is called the prince of this world (John 12:31) and the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). The world is held captive by Satan, the devil, at his will (2

***The Bible gives clear explanation,  
this world is not the Father's world.***

the destructive consequences of narco-trade throughout South America? What about the many wars of history and the wars inevitable, soon to be fought?

What about the daily burdens and trauma prevalent within the cities throughout the world, cities as crowded and squalid as Mumbai to neglected cities the likes of Gary, Indiana or Detroit, Michigan. How about the crime-ridden streets of Chicago or Los Angeles? What about poverty and homelessness? What about the subjection of those held captive to the religion of Islam? What about the lives of those held captive to the teachings found within Hinduism – for the most part, those not living within the United States or other western cultured nations? Yet for that matter, what of those deceived by the charlatans posing as Christian ministers? What of the millions of deceived Christians who believe you can comingle worship of

ance fraud, retail swindles, internet hacking, identity theft, murder, gang warfare, drug abuse, both prescription and street. In addition, always growing pornography, prostitution, video and Internet sexual perversity practiced not only by adults but now among teens and tweens with the advent of social media and the likes of selfies, and sexting. Behavior that is characterized as self-serving, self-satisfying and self-gratifying. What of the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, so-called because healthcare is big business these days, thriving on the ignorance and desperation of a sick public.

Sure there is still some good these days, but its becoming more rare. And when stories of good, altruistic behaviors are reported, one may often ask, "good, by whose standards?"

Whether it be a cursory view or an in depth, thorough, educated investigation, the results are the same.



Timothy 2:26).

In his attempt to destroy the Son of God, Satan divulged that he was the god of this world. Notice what Satan said to Jesus Christ, and notice what Christ did not dispute or challenge. In addition, the devil took Him (Christ) into a high mountain, showing unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment in time. "And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give You and the glory of them: for that has been given to me and I can give it to anyone I want to. If You will therefore worship me, all this will be Yours" (Luke 4:5-7).

Why did Christ not challenge Satan's words? Now of course, Christ told Satan to get behind Him, because "it is written you shall worship the Lord thy God and Him only shall you serve" (cf. Luke 4:8). Nevertheless, why did Christ not say, wait a minute; who do you think you are, demanding to be worshipped? Why not? Because Christ knew who Satan was and currently is – until Christ returns to the earth to dethrone Satan. Satan is the god of this world.

Satan demands worship and this deceived world worships Satan in countless ways. Notice 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (New Living Translation): "If the Good News we preach is veiled from anyone, it is a sign that they are perishing. Satan, the god of this evil world ...."

The scriptures reveal, "The whole world lies in wickedness" (1 John 5:19). It is not hard to disagree with that fact today. This world, the world's systems; ALL its forms of governments; all its religions; all its educational systems; its entertainment; its economic systems, its business cultures, its legal systems; its values, norms and cultures; its people; all these are prostrate in wickedness, in the darkness of sin. All these are influenced by the god of this world – Satan. This world is indeed Satan's world and most certainly is NOT the Father's world.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is

not of the Father, but is of the world" (cf. 1 John 2:15-16). Throughout the Word of God, the distinction is made clear. There is a dynamic difference between all that is God's and all that is not; of all God is pleased with, all that He honors and blesses and all that He curses and condemns.

In the book of James we read: "You adulterers and adulteresses, know you not that the friendship of this world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of this world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). If this world is the Father's world; if this world is God's world, then why would you be an enemy of God if you love it? Why would God, the Father disavow you if you have favor for and a desire for this world?

The answer is simple. This world is not the Father's world. You need to know that and understand that it is the will of God the Father and of His Son, Jesus Christ to deliver you from this present evil world (cf. Galatians 1:4). Satan is the god of this world. Are you willing to be set free from the god of this world? □

## MADRASSAS

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interests of Islam, they satisfy their God, and they bring illumination to the next life."

Alarmed about Pakistani schools it believes are turning out young suicide bombers, the Afghan government has responded by building madrassas at home.

A spokesman for Afghanistan's education ministry, Abdul Sabur Ghofrani, said Islamic schooling was being taken very seriously and the department concerned had been upgraded to being a deputy minister's office.

"We have 650 madrassas and other religious schools across the country, and this number will rise

to 1,000 in the next three years," he said.

The deputy head of education for Kapisa province, Abdul Rasul Safi, said there were now 14 religious schools there, one for each administrative district and the rest in the main town, Mahmud-i Raqi. Altogether, they catered for over 800 students, he said.

In one district, Tagab, police chief Pacha Gol Bakhtiar said, "The people have promised not to send their children to Pakistan, and we have promised to establish madrassas for them here and train them under the supervision of Afghan scholars."

Choosing the right clerics as teachers will be a task in itself. One Islamic scholar in Kabul, who did

not want his name to be used, justified the use of suicide attacks against "infidel countries."

Accusing U.S. and Israeli forces of a list of abuses against the Palestinians and in Lebanon and Iraq, the cleric asked, "Does it make sense to sit quietly in the face of such a pharaoh? As long as the cruelty of the Americans and their friends continues, suicide attacks and other dangerous tactics are both legal and legitimate."

The new madrassas came too late for Taj Mohammad, who lives in Sarobi district south of Kabul but told his story to *IWPR* while on a visit to Kapisa.

He described how his wife sent

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# Middle East in Prophecy

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directly from Jordanian Jerusalem to the newer part of the city, on the Israeli side. One could go freely from any Arab country into Israel, but could not travel in the other direction. Arabs could enter Israel, but no Israeli could enter an Arab country. Though the famous “wailing wall,” which is a part of the original temple wall, and a site of utmost holiness to Jewry, was only a mile or less from thousands of Israelis in New Jerusalem, they were denied access. Instead, they would mount various vantage points from whence they could see a tiny portion of the wall, or its general location, and then could *pray at* the wall, instead of standing before it, touching it, inserting hand-written petitions between its aging stones. Such vantage points also provided a view of many Jordanian soldiers’ helmets, and the ugly snouts of rifles and machine guns.

We were driven by taxi to a wire fence, where all our bags were deposited on the dusty ground. We paid the Jordanian taxi driver, who had become surly when he realized he was carrying American visitors

who were intent on entering Israel, and then we were free to carry our own bags across a couple hundred yards of desolate, crumbled concrete and stone, rusty barbed wire, festooned with weeds and low brush, to another gap in a barbed wire gate, where we were met by Israeli customs officials. There were no customs formalities upon leaving Jordan. One simply exited the taxi at the dead end of a dirt street, got out, and walked through a gap in barbed wire!

Today, many westerners are sympathetic toward Palestinians who struggle for their own state. Perhaps some fairly recent history should be recalled to illustrate an important point.

Even though Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon all banded together to invade the newly-declared State of Israel in the war of 1948, Israel not only emerged victorious against the combined might of *six Arab nations*, but gained territory! An armistice was signed in 1949, bringing formal hostilities to an end – but the Arab states still refused to recognize that Israel

existed. Following that armistice, Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip. Jordan occupied the West Bank and the old city – the situation that obtained when I first visited the old city of Jerusalem.

*From 1949 until the six-day war in 1967 – a period of eighteen long years – neither Egypt nor Jordan granted autonomy to the Palestinian Arabs in Gaza or the West Bank.* Though both countries have complained bitterly about Jewish settlements; the intent of the Israeli Government to assimilate conquered territories – “annexation,” as they call it, both Egypt and Jordan had obviously completed a *de facto* annexation of Palestinian areas under their control during those eighteen years, with *no plans to relinquish them*.

Further, it must be pointed out that hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs have lived in the most wretched conditions in refugee camps in various Arab countries since the 1967 war. *None have been assimilated into indigent populations. No move has been made to offer full asylum, settlements, inside such Arab states.* Rather, they have been kept inside such camps, which proved to be like festering sores breeding a whole new generation of young Palestinian Arabs with bitter hatred in their hearts toward Israel.

Study a map of Israel prior to the Six Day War of 1966. For that matter, all modern maps include a different color for the occupied territories,” including the entire West Bank, (which also includes old Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip and the Sinai. You will see how Israel had an extremely narrow waist; how Jordanian territory formed a large “bulge” which extended almost to the Mediterranean between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Perhaps you remember how Jewish farmers had to plough their

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## MADRASSAS

*Continued from page 21*

him off to Pakistan to get their 14-year-old son back immediately when she heard news reports that children were being trained up as suicide bombers.

“When I got to Pakistan, I stayed in the madrassa for two or three nights. My son’s classmates told me that he’d gone off to another madrassa for some kind of competition and that he’d be back. They used various excuses to deceive me,” Taj Mohammad said, tears rolling down his face. “On the third day, the head

of the madrassa told me that my son had been martyred in the *jihād*, and that I had God’s blessing. After hearing this news, I was lost to the world; I passed out.”

Returning home, Taj Mohammad avoided telling his wife for a few days, but finally had to come out with the truth.

“Since that day, my wife has been stricken and cannot move from her bed,” he said. □

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fields in Kibbutzim around the Sea of Galilee in *armored tractors* because Arab snipers continually harassed them; killed many. Prior to the Six Day War, the Golan Heights (then Syrian territory) across Galilee looked directly down upon Jewish settlements. Farms, homes, towns were literally on the front lines of a bitter, protracted war of terrorism and attrition.

I have been to Israel many times, as well as Arab countries including Egypt (where I interviewed President and Mrs. Anwar Sadat, as well as many Egyptian cabinet members, editors, educators, and other officials), Jordan (where I interviewed Prince Hassan, King Hussein's brother, as well as many other officials and professionals), and Lebanon. I have spent many hours with Yitzhak Rabin, (former Prime Minister of Israel), Teddy Kolleck (Mayor of Jerusalem), Gideon Hausner (Chief Prosecuting Attorney in the Eichmann trial; author of the book, *Justice in Jerusalem*, and proprietor of the Yad Vasdhem, the Jewish Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, and Minister without Portfolio in the government), Shimon Peres, the late General Moshe Dayan, of Six Day War fame, and others. I have heard their impassioned avowals that Israel will *never return* to the insecure borders of the pre-1966 period; that they will never relinquish east Jerusalem!

I have visited in the homes of officials in Egypt and Jordan. I have heard them say they will NEVER cease working toward wresting control of the West Bank, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the remainder of the Sinai, and East Jerusalem from the hands of the Israelis. Of course implicit in all such conversations was the concept of the annihilation of Israel; "driving the Jews into the sea." As we have seen, these goals have been impressed upon the

minds of successive generations with a taste for ever more sensational brutality.

When Abba Eban, former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, addressed our group in an assembly, he designed his hour-long speech around the initials of the PLO. It was an extremely informative, historically poignant speech. First, he said, "Let us define the 'P.' It stands for 'Palestine!'" He then continued to explain what Palestine consisted of; showed its ancient and present boundaries; proved conclusively that the "liberation" of *Palestine* meant *the annihilation of the State of Israel*. He defined "liberation," and "organization," showing that

***The PLO was intent on a single goal — the annihilation of the State of Israel.***

the PLO was anything but organized; that Yassir Arafat did not in fact speak for all Palestinian Arabs. He showed conclusively, from their own documents and statements, and from countless acts of terrorism; including aircraft and ship hijackings, attacks on civilian buses, car bombs in busy streets in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, that the PLO was intent on a single goal – the *annihilation of the State of Israel*.

Now, after all these years of hijackings, bombings, guerrilla raids and random murder, Yassir Arafat says he renounces terrorism. He says he "recognizes" the State of Israel; coming up with the words the U.S. government wanted to hear. It is little wonder the Israeli government is outraged that the U.S. is talking to Arafat; little wonder they doubt Arafat's honesty or sincerity.

The point of Arafat's conciliatory speech is the ultimate creation of a Palestinian State on the West Bank,

perhaps including the Gaza Strip – and most certainly including the old city of *Jerusalem*. While Arafat does not speak for *all* Palestinian Arabs, he speaks for a large majority. The creation of such a Palestinian State would return Israel to its pre-'67 Six Day War borders; would grant territorial sovereignty to the new State of Palestine.

Look at a map of the 1948 to 1967 period again. Study the history of that time. Was there peace? Far from it! Rather, there was a period of 19 years of terrorist attacks, border sniping, and outbreaks of violence on a large scale.

Make no mistake. The Israeli government will never relinquish

old Jerusalem or control over sufficient buffer zones in the West Bank and the Golan Heights to guarantee their national security. Never, that is, short of being completely *defeated* in some new round of warfare, or somehow being *forced* to accept such an untenable "solution" by the combined might of the two superpowers, and Europe. But *can* the U.S. and other countries impose their will on little Israel? There is something one should consider in answering such a question.

**Israel and the Bomb**

Just prior to the Arab oil embargo following the "Yom Kippur War" of 1973, members of the U.S. Congress confidently predicted the Arabs would *never* use oil as a political weapon. But in a matter of months, they did precisely that.

Why? It was an act designed to

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# Middle East in Prophecy

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*punish* the United States and her allies for supporting Israel in that war! The Arab oil producers included Western Europe in their oil shutdown because America's NATO allies did not prevent the transshipment of U.S. military supplies, desperately needed in Israel, from forward NATO bases. Early on in the struggle, the Egyptian army broached the famous "Bar Lev line," a long, complex series of fortifications built by Israel along the east bank of the Suez Canal, featuring artillery emplacements, bunkers; many tunneled through the massive dunes heaped

up from the original construction of the canal, and years of dredging. The late President of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, told me of his great pride of Egypt's performance during the Yom Kippur war; how proud he was of their breaking through the Bar Lev, crossing Suez, and attacking across the Sinai. Though he lost his younger brother in that war, he said Egypt had regained lost pride following the debacle in 1967. Egyptian armored columns were threatening Israel from the Sinai. Because Israel was taking such a beating, frantic appeals went out to the United States, which responded with immediate airlifts of military equipment.

Infuriated, the oil-producing Arab states clamped down an oil embargo. The world went into economic shock. Once the embargo was lifted, prices soared many times above previous levels. That massive upward surge in oil prices fueled the huge outpouring of "petrodol-

lars" from the west into Arab coffers, quickly rendering some of the oil-producing states the richest, on a per-capita basis, in the world. How many Americans have forgotten the long waits in gas lines in the 1970s, when oil shortages occurred?

But did the United States government *know* the Arabs would react if military shipments were made to Israel? The answer is probably yes. Long before, American intelligence agencies had known Israel had produced some low-yield, kiloton range nuclear weapons; about as powerful as those that had been used on Hi-

roshima and Nagasaki. A retired Israeli air force general once said, to an interviewer, that if Israel faced annihilation (citing the Holocaust; their being herded like sheep to the gas chambers in Auschwitz, Dachau, Buchenwald, etc.), she would first "pull down the temple of humanity!" This reference to blinded Samson pulling down the pillars of the temple to which he was chained, killing himself and his antagonists, was crystal clear to the Nixon administration. Israel had the bomb. Israel would *use* the bomb if she must, against Cairo, Damascus, other cities. And that could plunge the world into a *nuclear war*, with the Soviets blaming U.S. involvement. It was a calculated risk to supply Israel from NATO bases, and it resulted in economic disaster with skyrocketing oil prices after a complete shutdown.

But it did not result in nuclear war. Today, Israel ranks among other major nations possessing nuclear

weapons, *and* the means to deliver them over significant distances. Most media analysts tend to assume any new round of war in the Middle East would be fought with conventional weapons. But there is little doubt that private conversations in the White House, in European capitals and in Moscow, take into fullest account the fact that a well-trained, well-equipped, seasoned Israeli Army *is in possession of nuclear weapons*.

Does anyone doubt Israel's determination? One has but to remember the rescue of the hostages in Uganda; the preemptive air strike against Iraq to destroy a nuclear reactor while it was yet under construction; Israel's occupation of Southern Lebanon and Beirut, enforcing the departure of the PLO, or the bombing of the nuclear facility under construction in Syria.

Now, let's understand why Christ warned us to *watch Jerusalem!*

## The Abomination of Desolation

Christ's prophecy is explicit. He warned, "When ye therefore shall see the *abomination of desolation* [literally: "the abomination of the *desolator*, or *destroyer*"] spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains... for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:15-21).

That "abomination" is mentioned by Daniel several times: in Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11. Notice, "And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate" (Dan. 11:31). This was a prophecy which was fulfilled, *in type only* by

***Infuriated, the oil-producing Arab states clamped down on Oil Embargo.***

Antiochus Epiphanes, who caused an idolatrous altar to be set up in the Holy of Holies, and swine to be offered upon it. There were several typical fulfillments, foreshadowing the literal fulfillment yet to come. For instance, Eusebius writes that Hadrian, in studied insult to the Jews, set up the figure of a boar over the Bethlehem gate of the city. He also erected a temple dedicated to Jupiter upon the site of the temple after Titus' armies had destroyed it.

There were *several* typical fulfillments of Daniel's prophecies. But Christ's prophecy specifically precedes the great tribulation, to be followed by the Day of the Lord, and His return to this earth to rule for one thousand years. (Rev. 5:10; 2:26; 3:21; 20:4). Antiochus could not have fulfilled the *whole* prophecy. Bullinger says, of the phrase, "This is certainly future. See Matt. 24:15. Our Lord tells us where it will stand 'in the Holy place,' i.e. in the Temple at Jerusalem: and we have the same admonition to 'understand' (cp. Vv. 23, 25, above). Antiochus, the type of 'the little horn,' [a symbol for the False Prophet of II Thess. 2:8-10; Rev. 19:20, who is at the head of the false church: Rev. 17:1-6], defiled the sanctuary, but he did not destroy it. He cannot therefore be the fulfiller of this prophecy, though he foreshadowed him" (Bullinger's *Companion Bible*, see notes on Dan. 9:27).

Luke added details lacking in Matthew's account. He wrote, "And when ye shall see Jerusalem *compassed with armies*, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20). So the "abomination that makes desolate" is *dual* in meaning. It includes *armies* surrounding, or occupying the country around Jerusalem, and the "abomination" which stands "in the Holy Place"!

Historians and Bible commentators are virtually unanimous in their

understanding of prophecies in Daniel concerning the "Abomination of Desolation."

Kitto says it means "...the idol or idolatrous apparatus which the desolator of Jerusalem should establish in the holy place. This appears to have been a prediction of the pollution of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes, who caused an idolatrous altar to be built on the altar of burnt offerings, whereon unclean things were offered to Jupiter Olympus, to whom the temple itself was dedicated" (Kitto's *cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature*, Vol. I, p. 22, 23).

Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible* says, concerning Daniel's prophecy, that it "...deals with the history of

tion of Desolation").

But is "the holy place" to be understood as the innermost room of a Temple which is *yet to be built*? First, notice the "little apocalypse" of II Thess. 2: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the Day of the Lord, and the Second Coming of Christ] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God [masquerading as, or pretending to be 'God'] sitteth *in the temple of God*, shewing himself [claiming to be] that he is God ... And then shall that Wicked [one] be

***Paul could not have known  
of the destruction of the building  
within another 20 years or so.***

Antiochus Epiphanes, and v. 31 (of Daniel 11) refers to the desecration of the temple by the troops of Antiochus, the subsequent suspension of the daily burnt-offering and other religious services (which lasted for three years), and to the erection of 15 Chislev, B.C. 168, of a small idol-altar upon the Altar of burnt-offering (1 Mac. 1:33-59)."

Of Christ's prophecy (Matthew 24 and Luke 21) Hastings says, "The three most usual explanations are – (1) the Rom. Standards, to which sacrifices were offered by the Rom. Soldiers in the temple, after it had been entered by Titus (Jos. BJ VI vi. 1); (2) the desecration of the temple by the Zealots, who seized it and made it their stronghold, shortly before the city was invested by Titus (ib IV. iii. 6-8, cf. vi. 3 end); (3) the desolation of the temple-site by the heathen, at the time of its capture by Titus (so Meyer)" (*Dictionary of the Bible*, James Hastings, "Abomina-

revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming. Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (II Thess. 2:4-10).

Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians about the latter part of 50 A.D. At that time, the temple still stood. It was not destroyed until 70-71 A.D., by Roman armies under Titus. There is little doubt, then, that Paul meant precisely what he wrote; the "temple of God" standing in Jerusalem. Paul could not have known of the destruction of the building within another 20 years or so; could not have known of the passage of time; the march of history from that time to this.

However, this prophecy is for the *time of the end*, just prior to Christ's return. Therefore, the term "temple of God" must be understood in the

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# Middle East in Prophecy

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context of *these times*.

Today, there is *no* temple in Jerusalem. Instead, *two* Islamic mosques, the famous “Dome of the Rock,” and the Al Aksah, are positioned on ground formerly occupied by the temples of God during Solomon’s reign, and during the period from Ezra to the first century. In one sense, an “abomination” that has caused “desolation” has *been in place* from the time of 71 A.D. until the present – but only in a shadowy type. The *literal* “Abomination of the Desolator” is yet to come.

Since most eschatologists have

of obeying the injunction which it contained” (Kitto’s *Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature*, Vol. I, p. 23, emphasis mine). Notice! If “stand in the holy place” means *only the holy of holies* within the temple – and since the temple would be the *last building invested* by any attacking army (since it was situated in the exact center of the city; surrounded by high walls, many, many houses, public buildings, etc.) – and if the people were not to flee until they saw the abomination set up *in the holy of holies*, then it would be *too late* to flee!

## What would cause a return to sacrifices in Israel?

interpreted Paul’s prophecy *literally*, it has been assumed a *temple must be built* in Jerusalem *before* Christ’s prophecy concerning an abomination “standing in the *holy place*” could be fulfilled. Such an assumption has led to any number of incredible assertions. *But is it necessary that a replica temple be built before Christ’s prophecy can be fulfilled?*

First, one must thoroughly understand what is meant by “the holy place.” Kitto admits, “They who saw ‘the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place’ were enjoined to ‘flee to the mountains’ And this may with probability be referred to the advance of the Roman army against the city with the *image-crowned standards*, to which idolatrous honours were paid, and which the Jews regarded as idols. The unexpected retreat and discomfiture of the Roman forces afforded such as were mindful of our Saviour’s prophecy an opportunity

Kitto continues, “That the Jews themselves regarded the Roman standards as *abominations* is shown by the fact that in deference to their known aversion, the Roman soldiers quartered in Jerusalem forbore to introduce their standards into the city: and on one occasion, when Pilate gave orders that they should be carried in by night, so much stir was made in the matter by the principal inhabitants, that for the sake of peace the governor was eventually induced to give up the point (Joseph, *Antiq.* Xviii. 3, I). Those, however, who suppose that ‘the holy place’ of the text must be the temple itself, may find the accomplishment of the prediction in the fact that, when the city had been taken by the Romans, and the holy house destroyed, the soldiers brought their standards in due form to the temple, set them up over the eastern gate, and *offered sacrifice to them* (Joseph. *Bell, Jud.* Vi. 6 I)” (Ibid. Vol. I, p. 23).

Obviously, then, it would be folly to insist upon a narrow, literal interpretation of precisely what is meant by “stand in the holy place.” Does it mean anywhere *in Jerusalem*. Does it mean that some ancient corner stone of the temple will be discovered; a pavilion, or temporary “tabernacle” be erected, and the site dedicated for sacrifices? Is it possible the ancient *arc of the covenant* might yet be unearthed, returned to Jerusalem, and become such an object of reverence to the Jewish population that sacrifices would commence? Or, *will* a temple actually be built?

**IMPORTANT QUESTION:** What would *cause* a return to sacrifices in Israel? Why would the Jewish state, largely *irreligious*, experience a wave of re-dedication – consecrate a “holy place,” commence sacrifices, which would then be violated by the “abomination of desolation”?

## How Big Will this War be?

Today, Israel’s hostile Arab neighbors are far stronger than they were in 1948, ’56, ’67, or ’73. (Each year saw major warfare in the region.) Today, Israel’s enemies are more numerous, much wealthier and far more advanced. We’ve just seen another round of war sparked by thousands of rockets fired by Hamas terrorists from Gaza toward civilian cities in Israel. A major difference from wars past is the terrorist ideology which glorifies attacks against innocent civilians, innocent but for their refusal to worship Mohamed. Nuclear weapons have yet to be introduced into the Middle East conflict, but given current circumstances that combine the frothing hatred of the ayatollah’s with Iran’s covert nuclear program, that possibility cannot be ruled out.

Notice Daniel’s poignant prophecy concerning the final struggle in the Mideast! “And at the *time of*



the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

“He shall enter also into the glorious land [Palestine: modern Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom [Turkey], and Moab [probably Iraq], and the chief of the children of Ammon [Jordan. Amman is its capitol city].

“He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape” (Dan. 11:40-42).

The eleventh chapter of Daniel is the longest single prophecy in the Bible. See the *Critical and Experimental Commentary*, by Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, together with *Five Great Empires* by Rawlinson, for detailed analysis. As you notice in verses 3 and 4, the death of Alexander is predicted, and the division of his Graeco-Macedonian Empire to the four winds (Macedonia, Babylon, Syria and Egypt). Four generals who served under Alexander carved up his empire. They were Ptolemy Soter, in Egypt (who is the “king of the south” of the prophecy), Laomedon in Syria (whose eventual successor, Antiochus Epiphanes, becomes the “king of the north” of the ancient prophecy), Antipater in Macedonia, and Seleucus Nicator in Babylon.

By the time the “vile person” of verse 21 is introduced, many years have passed, and Antiochus Epiphanes has become the “king of the north.” Interestingly, Heliodorus, the “raiser of taxes” is a shadowy type of the Hohenzollerns of Germany (Kaizer Wilhelm). Their name meant “tax collector.” The “vile person” who obtains the kingdom “peaceably,” or during a time of

peace by “flatteries” (Dan. 11:21) is a shadowy type of Adolph Hitler, who is one of the ten successive horns of the fourth beast of Daniel 7 (Dan. 7:20-27).

Today, we live in a time when the stage is set for the emergence of the final “king of the north” and “king of the south” who shall fulfill the end time prophecy. Previously, the king of the south was an *Egyptian*. Notice the Bible language. It says the king of the south will “push at” the king of the north (the end-time successor to the prophecy; typified by Antiochus Epiphanes), who will retaliate by moving into the Mideast; swallowing up “many countries,” including *Egypt*, while those countries

Japan) shall trouble him; therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

“And he shall plant the tabernacles [pavilions] of his palace between the seas [an expression meaning Jerusalem, between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea] in the glorious holy mountain: yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (Dan. 11:44, 45). This is describing World War III. This shows the king of the north, who prophecy strongly indicates is a future “United States of Europe,” will move into the Mideast. They will occupy Israel, setting the stage for the fulfillment of Jesus Christ’s Olivet prophecy.

**He said there would be an  
“abomination of desolation stand  
in the holy place,” and “armies  
surrounding Jerusalem.”**

generally east of the Jordan river, and Soviet supplied, “shall escape out of his hand.”

The language *seems* to indicate the usage, once again, of *oil* as a major political weapon. Europe is extremely dependent on mid-eastern oil! If a new round of war in the Mideast went badly for Israel; if the U.S. and Europe all intervened; if a powerful Arab leader convinced his cohorts a new *oil embargo* should be clamped down which would threaten to throw the European economy into chaos, a *multilateral European force might move into the Mideast – into Palestine – into Jerusalem, to guarantee the peace!* Any such move will be done with either tacit approval of the Soviet Union and major eastern powers (China, Japan), or in such a way, and so suddenly, they have no time to react!

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north (north and east from Palestine is Russia, and China, and

Remember, His prophecy is dual. He said there would be an “abomination of desolation stand in the holy place,” and “armies surrounding Jerusalem.” Notice the language about the Beast power setting up the “*tabernacles of his palace*” in *Jerusalem*.

Now, a *possible* scenario: In the event of another war in the Mideast, this time with Israel getting very much the worst of it, the major powers would be forced to intervene to prevent escalation into a nuclear-bomb world war. Israel has threatened to “pull down the temple of humanity” before being annihilated! A united Europe, denied *oil* by an Islamic leader who controlled the major oil-producers; threatened with economic collapse, would act swiftly – with the tacit approval or even cooperation of the Soviet Union (explaining why Soviet surrogates in the Mideast, like Syria, Iraq, etc.,

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## Crises

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ently, there's no danger that U.S. armed services personnel will contract the disease. At least that's what the administration is saying. But as we all know, doctors and aides who are experts on the disease, who were taking every precaution to avoid contracting it including wearing hazmat garb, came down with it anyway. After hog-tying the American military, having them "stand down" during the attacks in Ben Ghazi, preventing them from going after the bad guys in the Middle East, it

must be insult on top of injury to order them into the midst of an Ebola epidemic. What if, contrary to official assurances, some do come down with the disease? Do you think for one minute they'll be quarantined in Liberia?

Having refused to take seriously the tens of thousands here on expired visas from regions rife with terror; after refusing to stanch the flood of Central Americans continually pouring illegally into the United States; Ebola may well be the next unwelcome guest we're expected to host. We can only wonder if it too will be covered by the promised ex-

ecutive order granting amnesty.

### Southern Border

America's southern border has become a gateway to "social justice," as an ongoing flood of illiterate, utterly dependent Central Americans continues unabated. They've been secretly whisked to virtually every state in the union, arriving at unknown locations to be "processed" and released into society.

It's been described as an untold economic burden, as many are registered as "homeless" and therefore qualified for economic assistance from numerous government pro-

## Middle East

Continued from page 27

are not involved, initially.

Successive popes have called for *Corpus Separatum*," for Jerusalem; declaring the city a "separate entity," not a part of the sovereign territory of any specific state – but open to all the major religions.

Now, what if? What if the pope, seeing that Jerusalem is the absolute PIVOTAL POINT of all these ages of struggle, makes the following announcement? "The most ancient site of the 'mother church' is *not Rome*, but JERUSALEM! Jerusalem is where our Savior taught; where He died, and ascended to Heaven. Jerusalem is where the apostles first taught! Yes, what if the pope were to relocate to Jerusalem?

Think about it. He could *dare* the warring powers to move against him. No *western* power would *dare* resist him! He could then establish himself in a temporary building, while a major basilica, or temple, would be constructed. (Or, if, and I emphasize "if," a temple has already been built *by the*

*Jews* prior to these events, he could move into it. This would set the stage for the fulfillment of Christ's warnings: "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes...for then shall be great trib-



A model of the New Jerusalem. Credit: wikipedia.org

ing national punishments to come against God's people in the United States, Britain, and many other countries, including Canada, South Africa, Australia, etc., is to begin!

No matter how the step-by-step events unfold; no matter which nations, or grouping of nations is eventually involved, make no mistake about it! Jerusalem is *pivotal!* What is developing *now*; increasing pressure from the U.S. and Europe upon Israel for the creation of an autonomous Palestinian State *may* just be that match that ignites another conflagration in the Mideast, one so huge that only the second coming of Jesus Christ can put out!

Again, we warn our readers, WATCH! (Luke 21:36). WATCH for moves toward the full political union of Europe! Watch what the POPE does; his role in trying to ne-

gulate... (Matt. 24:16-21).

So the movement into the Mideast, into Jerusalem by both the great false prophet [abomination of desolation! See II Thess. 2:3-8] and "armies" is the sign Christ gave that the great tribulation—the time of "Jacob's trouble," meaning the horrify-

giate peace in the Mideast. Watch Jerusalem; watch the Jewish state of Israel. And remember, Jesus said we are not only to watch, but to "pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." □



grams. Media outlets have been stonewalled by federal agencies in their quest to report on the situation, and many in the mainstream simply are not interested.

Even more secret is the identity and status of those from terrorist regions. Some apprehended crossing the border have reportedly been turned over to ICE or Homeland Security with no further word. The only thing we know for sure is that the southern border can be breached at will, and routinely is. Sheriff Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona says that he's turned some illegals over to the Feds as many as twenty five times, only to catch and arrest them again. It is less than reassuring, even though we are routinely told that the border has never been more secure.

With unknown millions illegally subsisting in U.S. society at public expense, everyone is braced for an executive order that will magically bestow legal status upon them. This promised wave of wand has been delayed until after November for obvious reasons, which has really irked the president's base of support. Not only are the illegals and their lawyers ticked, the LGBT (no, its not a sandwich) crowd is reportedly going to take up the cause with mass demonstrations in DC and at the "holding centers" where they are housed before being released. Maybe this bunch can find out where they are!

### Iran's Nuclear Program

Iran continues its program to develop nuclear weapons. The mullahs

and diplomats insist that their project is only for the production of power, but evidence shows otherwise. They are, according to every outside observer, pursuing their program in ways that can only be attributed to weaponization.

Iran is also widely known to be the primary supplier of rockets and missiles to Hamas in Gaza. It appears that Iran, with sanctions having been largely dropped and attention shifted first to the conflict in Israel then to ISIS, is at liberty to forge ahead with its nefarious nuclear work. We're going to hate the circumstances that bring the Iranian



Arak Heavy Water4 - Nuclear program of Iran.  
Credit: Wikipedia.org/ Nanking2012

nuclear program back to the front pages.

### Israel vs. Hamas

The explosive projectiles fired at Israeli population centers by the hundreds somehow failed to incite American passion against Hamas, even though an American teenager was kidnapped and murdered along with three other Israelis during the conflict.

Israel came under constant and unrelenting rocket attack from the longest-range projectiles seen from Gaza to date, demonstrated to be able to reach Tel Aviv, the international airport at Lod, and the outskirts of Jerusalem. The whole world watched, painfully, as Israel spent weeks with its

soldiers on the ground in Gaza trying to ferret out tunnels and destroy rocket arsenals. The exercise turned much of Gaza to rubble, resulted in a couple of thousand Palestinian dead and some 66 dead Israelis before a cease fire finally held and the rockets ceased, for now.

We've seen similar scenarios play out over recent years, when the organized terrorist attacks from Lebanon or Gaza finally become too disruptive to Israel's society to be allowed to continue. But something was decidedly different this time. While the current U.S. administration tried to find a "moral equivalence" quotient in its attempt to pressure Israel to halt its military campaign, several prominent Arab countries actually sided with Israel against Hamas, at least publicly.

Hamas is known to be a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was promoted by the administration and State Department in its "Occupy Wall Street" style takeover of Egypt. It took less than one year of despotic

rule and shortages of basic necessities for an even larger revolution to run Morsi and his bearded band of religious autocrats out of power. The powers that be in D.C. were flabbergasted and outraged that their chosen Egyptian leaders were thrust out by an overwhelming majority of the Egyptian people. They turned to the respected Egyptian general Sisi, who had kept Egypt's military forces at bay during the first revolution that overthrew President Mubarak,

*Continued next page*





# Crises

*Continued from page 29*

and the subsequent uprising against the Muslim Brotherhood. Egypt elected Sisi president to the dismay of the current U.S. administration, and have you noticed? We've seen no more mass demonstrations in Tahrir Square. Obviously, the supply lines of basic necessities have been restored.

What will it take for the Palestinians in Gaza to realize that full immersion in hatred for Israel and unbridled blood-lust toward Jews can only destroy whatever pitiful modicum of civilized existence they've been able to enjoy under the brutal Hamas.

As for the Israelis, they've had about all the "advice" and pressure they can stand from the U.S. administration. "Leave us alone. Go focus on Syria," said Uri Ariel, Knesset member and Israeli minister of housing, in a message intended for the American president. "We never thought it would be the Americans who would lead the pressure."

## **Russia's Designs on East Europe**

Russian annexation of Crimea poses a threat to eastern Ukraine and other former Soviet possessions in east Europe. Now Putin's "separatist" proxies have shot down a civilian airliner with a Russian missile battery. The Dutch, who lost 189 of the 298 people on board the Boeing 777, are especially angry and holding Putin to blame. But, in another example of twisted logic, Putin is blaming the Ukrainian government for battling the "Russian separatists" in their attempt to carve out the eastern half of the country and annex it to Russia!

As we go to press, a cease-fire between the Russian separatists (known to be taking orders from Putin) and the Ukrainian forces is in

effect. But with the west, and particularly the U.S. telegraphing weakness, it can be only a matter of time before Putin probes further.

## **The Euro Debt Crisis**

The crisis that threatens the European Union as we know it first emerged some four years ago. The nations of southern Europe, including Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece, were defaulting on their debts, and just like every other crisis listed above, without a credible solution. The crisis was postponed with re-negotiations of national debts agreed to by Germany, against promises



of salary cuts for bureaucrats and a steep reduction in social programs. The austerity measures have been deeply unpopular and the European economy has continued to stagnate. Now the European Central Bank and the European Union itself is beginning to fall out of popular favor all across Europe as recent parliamentary elections demonstrated. It also seems to have become conventional wisdom that the British will pull out of the EU in the next few years. The French are also getting fed up with economic regulations in the EU which prevent "quantitative easing" (currency printing of the sort practiced in the U.S.), and if France goes too, which looks increasingly likely, the EU will be irreparably defunct.

Though not the stuff of headlines, particularly in the current news environment, the British *Economist* says that popular sentiment in the depressed economies of Europe will bring this crisis back front and cen-

ter, and the reemergence of the euro-crisis as a major factor is just over the horizon.

## **America's Debt Crisis**

It may actually not be a legitimate crisis at the moment. But it certainly has been at crucial moments when the government's authority to spend money it doesn't have has expired. The politicians have enshrined automatic "continuing resolutions" for these occasions, so that each deadline doesn't result in another political cat-fight featuring threats to shut the government down along with the routine outrage and political recriminations. But no one denies, there is a day of reckoning somewhere down the road, and the current administration seems to have no qualms whatever about the ever-growing nanny-state status that has been imposed upon Americans, against the will of the vast majority who are economically productive.

We know that the number of people that have dropped out of the workforce in the U.S. has undergone a dramatic rise in recent years and is now calculated to be some 92,000,000. All 92 million are undoubtedly receiving their complement of government benefits. Over 46 million receive government food assistance at a cost of \$71,800,000,000 annually. Add to that the unknowable vast footprint of government programs and agencies, and it's a mind-boggling thing. Even the most prosperous nation in the history of the world cannot indefinitely finance everyone who would rather accept support than engage in productive work. Even so, there's no shortage of advertising even on radio, and especially on the Internet, encouraging people to sign up for free government money.

Now that there are well over a hundred thousand illegal Central Americans in the U.S., the agencies

## Letters from our Supporters

**T**hank you for sending me the new issue of the 21st Century Watch magazine. I don't recall signing up for it, but I am glad I got it. I *really* needed it. I have ordered many booklets from you over the years and never paid anything. I think it's time to start paying you folks back. Garner Ted's messages have meant a lot to me over the years. - *J.Z., Otego, NY*

**T**hanks so much for the DVD "Iron & Clay." That woke me up and it whetted my appetite for more! As I read the Bible because of your encouragement, I am now aware of why such events occur in the world. Again, thank you very much and keep me posted. - *F.L., Nashville, TN*

**T**hank you for everything you do! Thank you for keeping Garner Ted Armstrong's legacy and all his many works going! It is a blessing to me! Thank you, and may God bless you all! - *J.L.S., Roswell, NM*

**I**would like to thank you for the Watch magazine and would like for you to keep sending it to me if possible. Also, thank you for the free CD's and books. They have helped me to know and understand so many things that I've questioned in my mind since I was a

little girl... Thank you so much and please send me the Feast of Tabernacles 2014. - *S.P., Miller, MO*

**I**glean so much from Garner Ted Armstrong's sermons. I really appreciate these "gifts" of inspiration. - *G.I., Sacramento, CA*

**T**hank you for your wonderful letter of August 2014. Always looking forward to the news you give - just like your Dad GTA and your grandad HWA! It's scary but as you say, "We've been warned and it's our job to spread the WORD." - *F.F., Great Falls, MT*

**M**ay Almighty God bless the work of the Intercontinental Church of God. May the church successfully accomplish its mandate of gospel preaching and teaching as an end-time warning to all humanity. Stay courageous Mark and keep up the good work! With faith, Almighty God will bestow upon you and team members needed health, strength, and the necessary resources for the successful accomplishment of the work! May His love, grace, peace, and protection remain with you always. - *W.R., St. Lucia, West Indies*

**I** have enjoyed several of your

booklets and many online articles but have never written to you before so thought it was about time. Just got your latest letter of August 25 and I think it is especially pertinent to these crazy times we're living in, and would like to share it with a friend of mine. So, would it be possible to send me two CD's of "Holy Times, Holy Places"? I would like to give my friend a CD and a copy of your letter.

Several years ago I was flipping through the TV channels on a Saturday morning and happened to catch the very beginning of the TV program where Garner Ted always asks the interesting questions. So I stuck around and listened. What I heard was so refreshing, because it was pure scripture instead of a bunch of old wife's tales, that I didn't miss another program until it was taken off the air. Sad day, indeed. But I need you to know that your ministry has literally changed my life, as I was able to finally see what the scriptures actually said, and didn't say, about the trinity, immortal souls, going to heaven, eternal hell, etc. When I stop and think about it I wonder how those ideas ever got so entrenched in our minds in the first place.

Keep up the good work and hopefully a very rich entity will come along and get the program back on TV where it belongs. Many thanks, - *W.A., Copperopolis, CA* □

### Continued from page 30

of the current administration are anxious to see them fed, sheltered, educated, doctored and lawyered at taxpayer expense. "Oh, that's just a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of government expenditures," the apologists respond.

But the system is being overloaded, and the bucket will one day overflow with debt. The dollar's only salvation at present, is how much trouble the rest of the world's currencies are in. For the moment, the dollar looks strong against the weakness of the euro, and depressed economies worldwide. But that day

of reckoning is coming, the only question is when.

Americans who are paying attention (maybe 20 million or so?) know that our nation currently projects an image of weakness to the rest of the world. They know that our allies do not trust the current administration, and that our enemies both large and small neither fear nor respect today's USA. The last time the nation made a dramatic turnaround of the magnitude needed was when Jimmy Carter left the White House and Ronald Reagan took the helm.

But matters are far more complicated now than then, and the neces-

sary rehabilitation would be much more painful (perhaps impossible) given the dishonesty of the agenda-driven media and the near collapse of national morality. Near as we can tell there is no Ronald Reagan waiting in the wings, and no sign of a people ready to repent for having desecrated everything sacred.

Without the comfort of God's truth, the knowledge of His Laws and the hope of salvation the whole situation would be overwhelmingly depressing. Serious observers can at least take heart in the fact that we can save our souls, if not our country. □



# *“Christmas... The Untold Story”*

*Why is Christmas not mentioned  
in the Bible?*

*What connection does “Santa  
Claus” have with Christ?*

*What is the real meaning of  
mistletoe, the holly wreath, and  
orbs on trees?*

*Was Jesus really born on  
December 25<sup>th</sup>?*

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