

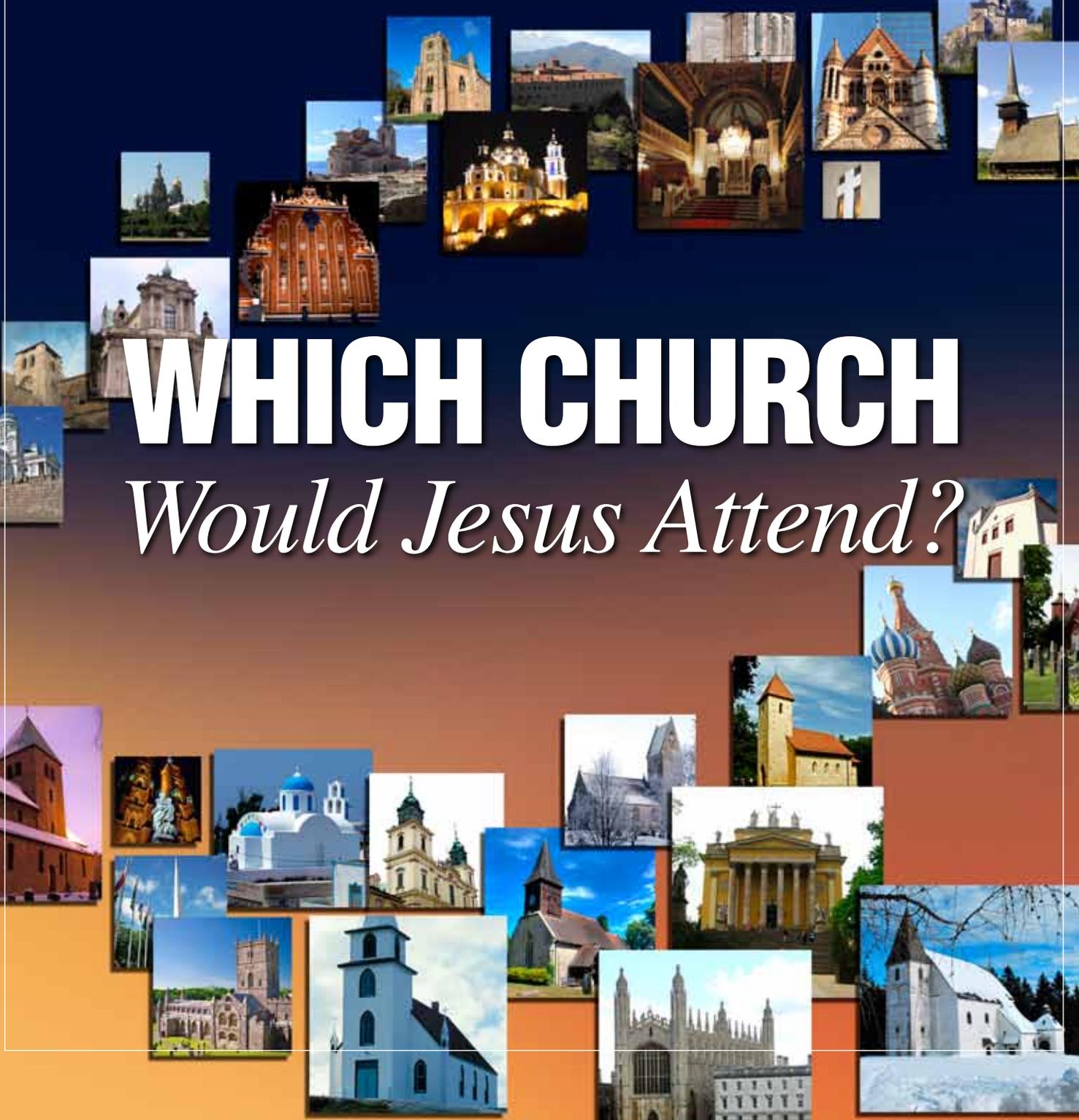
JANUARY 2011

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



WHICH CHURCH

Would Jesus Attend?

THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. IX | NO. 1 | JANUARY 2011

A R T I C L E S

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■ **RIOTOUS BEHAVIOR:** Garbage lies on the ground after being thrown at police cars by demonstrators near the Italian Chamber of Deputies during a protest against the vote on education reform in Rome, Italy (Nov. 30, 2010).

PHOTO: FILIPPO MONTEFORTE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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■ **FRONT COVER:** *Real Truth* photo illustration by Paula C. Rondeau.

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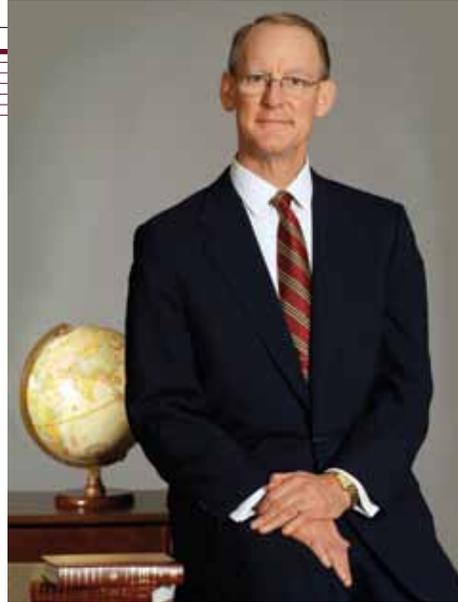
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



When Christ Returns...

WHERE IS THE world going? Why is it filled with problems, troubles, evils and ills, which cause so much unhappiness, confusion and misery of every kind? What lies ahead?

Is there hope for a different—and truly *better*—world?

There is! A *wonderful world*—unlike anything ever seen or *imagined* on Earth—is coming. Its arrival is certain. And this article presents what it will be like!

Almost everything occurring in today's world can only be described as ALL WRONG! Why, when things go wrong, do so few search for the CAUSE?

Every effect—good or bad—can be traced to a root CAUSE. Conversely, every cause brings an EFFECT. Since the world is *filled* with bad effects, why do so few examine the cause? Why do scientists, educators, religionists, and other so-called “experts” and “thinkers” primarily devote their efforts to addressing the effects?

Think for a moment. The world is filled with problems of every conceivable nature—and they are only growing worse, and greater in number. Therefore, the headlines of today's newspapers are filled with bad news. Here is a sampling of headlines we are all too familiar with. Bear with me as we begin to make a powerful point:

“Suicide Bombings Increase,” “More Countries with Nuclear Weapons,” “Sniper Kills 10, Wounds 20,” “HIV to Kill 10 Million Annually—and Rise,” “Market Crashes—Recession, Even Depression, on Horizon,”

“CEO Indicted—Billions Missing,” “God Banned from Schools,” “Typhoon Kills Thousands,” “Record Drought Grips (you fill in the country),” “Pollution Chokes All Nations,” “More Dead Zones in Oceans and Lakes,” “Over 24,000 Starve to Death Daily,” “500 Million Contract Malaria Annually,” “Swine Flu Now a Pandemic,” “3 of 4 Marriages Suffer Adultery,” “Two-thirds of Inner-city Births Illegitimate,” “3,000 New Porn Websites Appear Daily,” “Drug Lords Cause Civil War,” “Riots Kill 75,” “Same-sex Marriage Now Lawful!” and on and on and on...

In reality, these headlines are reporting nothing more than a long list of bad effects. Since man does not know the causes to his troubles, world problems only grow greater and humanity's general state of misery only seems to compound with the passing of time. Headlines scream worse and worse messages to those who can bear to read them.

I ask, why?

But What If...?

While news organizations know that bad news sells, all people long for good news in their own lives—while also hoping that the world improves. Most people assume that, somehow, problems will eventually “work out all right,” merely because they *want* them to.

People yearn to enjoy peace, happiness, abundance, well-being, good health, and general prosperity.

Let's ask: Could these things happen for everyone? Could they become universal? Could *all* the peoples of

the world come to enjoy *all* these conditions? Is it possible that the problems now plaguing civilization on such a grand scale could abate—and eventually *disappear*? Could newspapers one day find themselves only able to report *good* news—and everywhere?

Instead of the preceding headlines, could these replace them?

Let's start with *food*. Picture these headlines: "Food Production Sufficient to Feed Entire World—with Plenty to Spare!" "All Chemical Fertilizers Banned—Soil Begins to Heal from Years of Neglect and Abuse!" "Food Now Much More Nutritious—and Tastes Better, Too!"

How about *disease*? "All Deadly Viruses Eradicated—including HIV, Ebola, West Nile, H1N1, Polio and Smallpox!" "All Lethal Bacteria Disappear," "No More Fatal Illness—Cancer, Strokes, Heart Disease, Diabetes and All Other Killers Now Gone!" "All Blind, Deaf and Crippled Made Whole in Mass Worldwide Healing!" "No More Sickness—Millions Report Perfect Health!" "All Hospitals and Clinics Put Out of Business—Millions of Doctors, Nurses, Staff and Paramedics Find More Useful Vocations!" "Health 'Breaks Out' Everywhere—All Report 'No Problems'!"

Let's go further. What about the *family*? Imagine: "Divorce Disappears—No More Broken Families!" "All Teenagers Practice Respect and Obedience to Parents and Authority!" "All Deadbeat Dads Take Responsibility and Find Employment!" "All Mothers Find Nurturing Children at Home Rewarding!"

Next, think of headlines about *war* this way: "War Outlawed Around the World—All Nations Disarmed!" "Destructive Weapons Destroyed and Recycled!" "All Military Personnel Moving into Construction Projects—Rebuilding

Bridges, Roads and Other Critical Infrastructure!" "Many Lands Recover from Civil War—Being Resettled and Farmed Productively!" "Global Trade Competition Ceases—Every Nation Cooperating!"

And then there is *crime*. Think: "No More Crime—All Rates Plunge to Zero!" "Murder—Thing of the Past!" "Armed Robbery Disappears—and So Does Fear!" "All Thieves Repent—Now Seeking Honest Employment!" "City Streets Now Safe—Children Play Freely in Once Dangerous Neighborhoods!"

There is also *education*. Consider these: "Education Now Focuses on Right Values—No More Situation Ethics, Secular Humanism and No Absolutes!" "Bible Taught in Every School!" "Evolution Debunked as Fiction," "All Peoples Learn and Speak One Language!" "Law of Cause and Effect Revealed—Explains Why Past Disease, War, Famine, Poverty, Ignorance and Misery!"

And finally, *weather*. Picture these: "Weather Revolution Brings Stability to World!" "Today's Weather—Beautiful Skies and Rain in Due Season Tomorrow!" "Deserts Blossom Worldwide—Become Favorite Garden Spots!" "Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Hurricanes and Floods No Longer a Threat!"

Do these headlines sound impossible? They are not! Actually, they are real—in fact, they are *certain*! A wonderful, prophesied utopian world is coming to planet Earth. It will happen *soon*—and in *your* lifetime!

But that time is not yet.

A Condemned Building

Billions today live with no hope. Yet all wish for better lives, a better tomorrow for themselves and their families. Most also recognize that the collective future of all nations seems equally hopeless. If one considers history, the course of the past 6,000 years, it is difficult to avoid pessimism. When the full picture is

brought into view—when all facts are considered—this world *is* hopeless. Modern civilization is beset—overwhelmed!—with every conceivable problem, evil and ill that competing, grasping, self-promoting human beings could devise. Having always been sick, it is now deep in terminal illness, wheezing out its final desperate gasps before breathing its last.

The present world is a condemned building. It is like an old, empty row house—abandoned, overgrown, burned out, littered with trash, marred by broken windows, and covered in graffiti. Built on a *wrong foundation* from the beginning, its already weak underpinnings have now eroded to the point of collapse under its own weight. Like all condemned structures, dangerous if left standing, this building *must* come down. With God's explosive charges now in place, it is soon to be imploded and the rubble scraped away in advance of a new and absolutely magnificent "world architecture" foretold long ago to replace it.

The plight of all nations today stands in stark contrast to the world that is coming. An artistic masterpiece soon to be unveiled, a fantastic future—truly incredible!—lies ahead for every nation of the world! But it will not and could never occur under the hand of men.

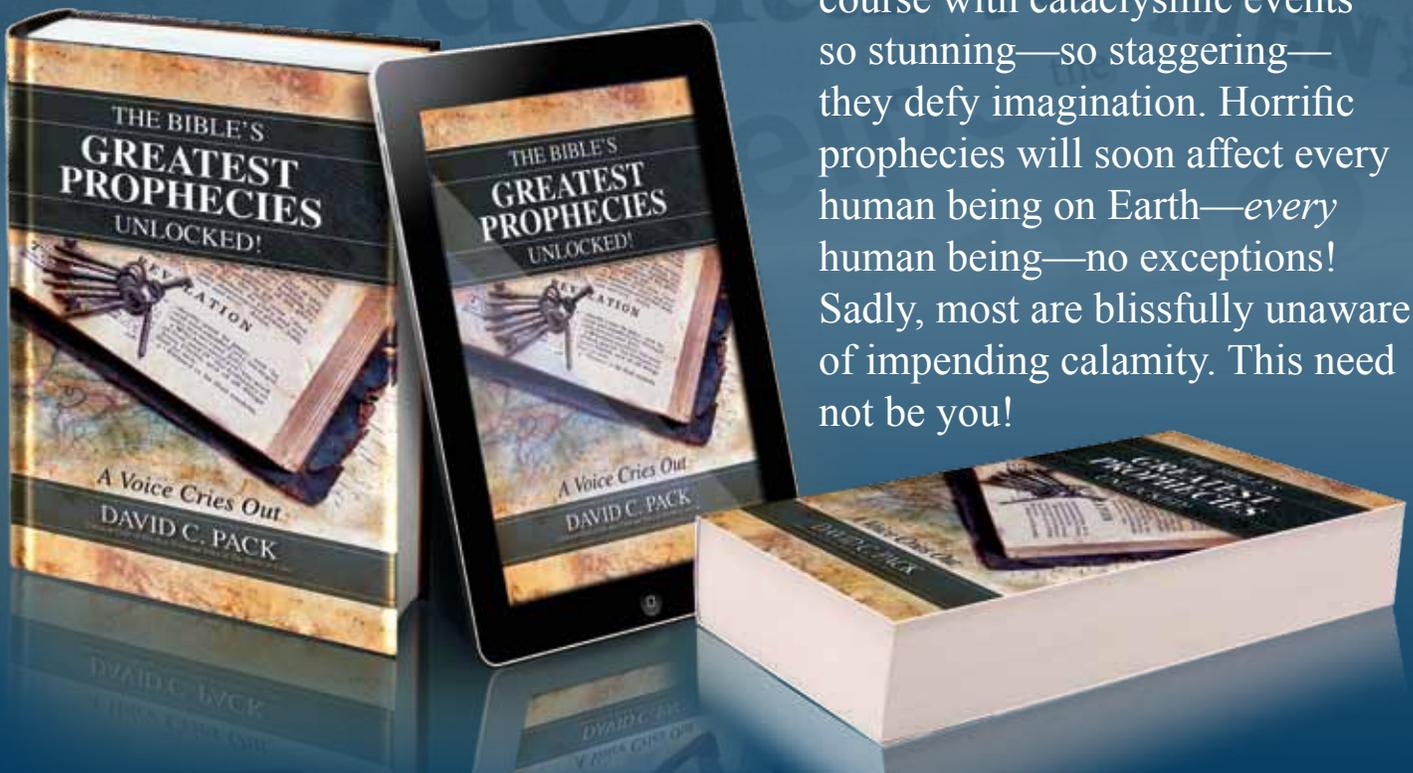
It was always the Creator's Plan that a whole new and infinitely better world would come—one built from the beginning on the *right* foundation.

One full third of the Bible is prophecy—history recorded in advance. Large sections of this describe the establishment of another world, one completely different from anything ever before seen on planet Earth. The coming utopian age that God planned long ago will be absolutely marvelous—breathtaking.

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 24

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

Mankind is on a collision course with cataclysmic events so stunning—so staggering—they defy imagination. Horrific prophecies will soon affect every human being on Earth—*every* human being—no exceptions! Sadly, most are blissfully unaware of impending calamity. This need not be you!



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Why the AGE of RAGE

Has the World Gone Mad?

The endless cycle of meltdowns, outbursts and violence is growing worse. What is behind the rage?

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

IN THE SAN FRANCISCO Bay Area, a 51-year-old father of eight works two jobs to care for his family. Due to an irregular work schedule, and a stressful commute from his Antioch home, he sleeps in his car between shifts, home only on weekends. The pressures of being away from his family, marital troubles, and working two jobs to make ends meet leads to an emotional meltdown. Driving his SUV across the Bay Bridge, he calls 911 on his cellphone and threatens to commit

suicide with a pipe bomb—a threat that shuts down traffic and holds the bridge hostage for hours.

Across the water in East Oakland, two groups of costumed women on Halloween night hurl insults at each other, followed by chairs and dishes, trashing a Denny's restaurant in the process.

Elsewhere, a jealousy-enraged Florida mother of three burns her husband's boat, go-kart and Jacuzzi over an argument about a popular actress. The wife also punches her husband and threatens to put his dog "to sleep."

■ **IRONIC FACE OFF:** Before the start of a neo-Nazi rally near City Hall in Los Angeles, California, a black woman tries to protect a reportedly homeless man from being attacked by anti-neo-Nazi demonstrators because he bears a tattoo of the Nazi symbol (April 17, 2010).

PHOTO: EVERT ELZINGA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

In New Hampshire, a 17-year-old girl seeks to get even with her mother for an unresolved argument they had two days earlier. She poisons her mother's drink with a household disinfectant.

A 52-year-old Delaware man ends his online relationship with a 33-year-old North Carolina woman he met in "Second Life," a popular Internet-based virtual reality game. Distraught, the woman drives to the man's workplace in Pennsylvania and attempts to kidnap him at gunpoint. Having failed, she breaks into his home two weeks later, bringing with her handcuffs, duct tape, a Taser and a BB gun.

On I-95 in Virginia, a Toyota cuts off a Lexus, whose driver reacts by tailgating. The Toyota's driver responds by tapping his brakes. The driver of the Lexus pulls up and throws a small container of yogurt at the Toyota, the driver of which flashes a small handgun. Each calls law enforcement authorities on his cellphone and reports the other. A state trooper arrests both drivers.

Welcome to the age of rage, in which seemingly normal, everyday people emotionally "flip out," "go wild" and



■ **ESCALATING VIOLENCE:** Chicago police investigate the scene of a gunfight, which caused three cars to collide and hospitalized five people (Aug. 13, 2008).

PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

do the unthinkable, only to quickly regret their words and actions—sometimes after a life has been taken.

What is behind such rash behavior and thirst for quick revenge?

Seeking a Solution

Human behavior experts struggle to offer concise explanations for today's rage. Some define the problem as IED: "intermittent explosive disorder."

According to *Psychology Today*, IED may result from losing one's job, being suspended from school, "divorce, difficulties with interpersonal relationships or other impairment in social or occupational areas, accidents (such as in vehicles), hospitalization because of injuries from fights or accidents, financial problems, incarcerations or other legal problems."

In other words, some people are unable to cope with the stresses, pressures, trials and setbacks of everyday life, which in turn triggers the kind of sudden outbursts and violent actions associated with IED.

What was once recognized as a lack of emotional maturity is now considered a disorder—a medical problem.

Scientists assert that one's biological makeup, possibly a genetic disposition, as well as being reared in an envi-

ronment in which explosive behavior and physical abuse were common, contribute to IED. Psychologists originally concluded the disorder was rare, but now believe it could be more widespread.

Relying on scientific reasoning, authorities offer sometimes unrealistic advice: Don't drive when upset, tired or angry. Avoid all conflict, if possible. Recognize and control your anger, and pay attention to your emotional level.

Experts recommend drugs to help control IED, such as antidepressants, anticonvulsants, anti-anxiety agents and mood regulators. But this means dealing with the often hazardous side effects, including dependency.

People wracked by emotional troubles often try self-help books, 12-step support groups, or psychiatry. They find solace knowing that others are going through what they are, attempt to embrace the power of positive thinking, or try to sort out their feelings by verbalizing them.

Others turn to religion, seeking the advice of ministers. While counsel from these religious leaders often comes in the form of Bible passages intended to be inspirational, in the end, they also largely tell churchgoers to seek medical advice to solve their problems.

What most miss when they pick up the Bible is that it thoroughly explores the human condition, and provides instruction and real answers. It offers in-depth insight into *why* people think, communicate and behave the way they do—and why they increasingly commit bizarre actions in the heat of the moment.

Most assume the Bible's text is antiquated and unable to offer relevant solutions to the high-pressure, never-ending, 21st-century rat race. Yet the insightful wisdom contained in this undervalued, much-neglected and widely misinterpreted book is of supreme value.

Foretold Long Ago

Knowing the character of society would worsen with each passing generation, God foretold in the book of II Timothy what conditions would be like in the last days—what could also be called the age of rage: "This know also, that in the *last days* perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (3:1-5).

A close examination of these verses reveals that perilous times *are here now!*

■ **Perilous:** The above passage was originally recorded in ancient Greek. To describe today's "perilous times," the word *chalepos* was used, which means "troublesome, dangerous, harsh, fierce, savage."

How true of modern society!

Examples of *savage* acts of rage regularly make news headlines. In Cleveland, Ohio, a 25-year-old college student argued with a 27-year-old parking lot attendant, who charged double the posted \$10 price for parking. The heated argument turned violent, with the attendant holding the other in a headlock, then letting go and telling



him to leave. Embarrassed for being humiliated in front of his date, the student opened his car trunk, grabbed his .40-caliber pistol and shot the attendant three times—twice in the stomach and once behind his ear as he lie on the ground bleeding. Found guilty of murder, the college student was sentenced to 18 years in prison before he is eligible for parole.

■ **Lovers of their own selves:** In other words, selfishness to the extreme. The “Me Generation,” in which each person always demands his own way—no matter the cost. The 21st-century is an age of “Me-isms”—me first, what about me—perhaps best summed up by the 1969-70 pop song “I, Me, Mine.”

This is the attitude behind an online feud between childhood friends that may have ended with the world’s first Twitter murder. According to prosecutors, the two men, who lived on the same floor of a high-rise apartment building in Harlem, New York,

■ **LOSS OF LIFE:** Local youths carry floral tributes near a murder scene in Leytonstone in northeast London, England (April 7, 2007). A 14-year-old boy was stabbed to death in what is believed to be an attack by a gang of youths.

PHOTO: PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

exchanged angry comments through microblog postings—tweets—arguing over a girl. One man died after being shot in the neck as he left his home. The murder weapon, along with a spent shell, was found in Central Park.

■ **Incontinent:** The original Greek word means “without self-control, intemperate” and describes an age in which people “fly off the handle” and give themselves to emotional meltdowns they soon regret. In turn, they feel they have to get even by any means necessary.

Consider the example of the 16-year-old Iowa girl who burned down her family’s home, killing two dogs and a cat, because she disagreed with her mother’s punishment of taking away her cellphone and Internet privileges. The teen could receive

a 25-year prison sentence if found guilty.

■ **Fierce:** The meaning of this is “savage, untamed, wild.” Certainly this describes those who suddenly “go wild,” as when an intoxicated 60-year-old West Virginia man became upset with his wife because she did not have dinner ready. After throwing furniture, and breaking glass in cabinets, he burned down his home.

■ **Heady:** “Rash, reckless, headstrong”—the Greek literally means “to fall forward.” Society is full of those who are quick to “fall forward”—to act first and think of consequences later (if at all). These reckless acts can happen anywhere, and over the tiniest inconveniences.

Please see **RAGE**, page 21



When the Police Are Sent Home...

Budget cuts are leaving thousands of law enforcement officers in Western nations without jobs. How will this impact the lives of average citizens?

BY MARK P. DENEE

YOU AWAKE TO the sound of breaking glass, shouts and screams. Stumbling toward the window, you realize the commotion is coming from your neighbor's house. You pick up the phone and call emergency services. Naturally, you expect the police to quickly arrive.

Minutes pass. There are no sirens, no flashing blue and red lights, no crackle of police chatter on two-way radios. You wonder why they have not responded.

Pulling back a curtain, you watch intruders ransack your neighbor's home, slowly coming to a horrifying realization: *Is my family next?*

The average person rarely thinks about the police (unless caught for a minor offense, such as breaking a

traffic law), or ponders the meaning of the motto "to protect and serve" painted on squad cars throughout the United States. For generations, officers have always been there when needed: to keep traffic flowing during the lunch rush, sort out the aftermath of an automobile wreck, or check into a suspicious person prowling a neighborhood after dark.

Yet this may soon change. The global financial crisis has created a

■ **DAILY SLAUGHTER:** Members of the federal police cover the corpse of a policeman killed by drug traffickers in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico's most violent city (April 23, 2010).

PHOTO: JESUS ALCAZAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



■ **THIN BLUE LINE:** Members of the federal police arrive at a crime scene after three members of the municipal police were killed in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico (Dec. 8, 2010).

PHOTO: JESUS ALCAZAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

government budget crunch, which has affected law enforcement agencies. Less money to spend means fiscal cutbacks, which translate into layoffs and a reduced police presence. Frontline officers—those who patrol the streets and respond to 911 calls—are often the first to go.

With sweeping budget cuts certain, cities in prominent Western nations will have to adapt to the reality of life with fewer police on patrol. What impact will this have on individual lives? And more important, what will these cutbacks reveal about society itself?

Reduced Manpower

Across the United States, record numbers of law enforcement and public safety employees are being laid off due to budget shortfalls. Already, police fatalities nationwide have jumped 37 percent over the previous year.

New York City, which reduced its force by 4,685 officers in 2010 and plans to cut 3,150 more by 2011, saw homicides jump 22 percent and shootings 14 percent. In Manhattan alone, robberies increased by 14 percent and burglaries by 19.8 percent. There has also been a noticeable rise in nearly all other reported crimes, including rape, prostitution, drug sales and car thefts.

The Associated Press reported that Craig Floyd, the director of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, said officers are being asked to “do more with less.”

“We’re asking them to fight conventional crime, and we’re asking them to serve on the front lines in the war against terror,” he said.

“There is a more cold-blooded, brazen criminal element prowling the streets of America today,” Mr. Floyd said. “These people have a lack

of respect for human life, and they don’t think twice about killing a cop. They pose a real threat to our law enforcement officers” (ibid.).

In Oakland, California, one of the nation’s most violent cities, 25 percent of police officers were laid off due to a \$42 million dollar budget gap, forcing prioritized dispatch responses.

“If you come home to find your house burglarized and you call, we’re not coming,” an Oakland Police spokesperson said in *USA Today*. As a result, some residents have begun to call police stations in neighboring districts.

In Miami, Florida, over 100 officers were laid off. Likewise, in crime-plagued East St. Louis, Missouri, leaders approved a measure to reduce the number of officers by 30 percent. The Tulsa, Oklahoma, department cut 110 officers and no longer responds to calls about larceny, fraud and car theft. In Michigan, where there are only 24 officers per 10,000 people, law enforcement authorities have to prioritize

work, while knowing that they may not have backup officers to assist them should a dangerous situation arise.

Fewer personnel means there will be less time for intensive investigations, tedious crime-lab procedures, stakeouts, drunk driving arrests, and riot control.

San Diego's police chief, who cut \$15.9 million from the 2011-12 budget, warned reporters the cutbacks are "threatening the very lifeline of safety in the city of San Diego. And that public safety is (in danger of) being sacrificed as we speak" (*KFMB-TV*).

Layoffs Worldwide

America is not the only country at risk for a crime wave due to financial turmoil. Across the globe, law enforcement chiefs must make similar fiscal slashes.

■ **United Kingdom:** The Sussex Police Authority is slated to remove some 500 officers and a similar number of support staff over the next five years in an attempt to save roughly \$80 million.

"I think we live in difficult times and we have some dark, dark days ahead," Councilor Godfrey Daniel stated in the *Hastings & St. Leonards Observer*. "I cannot be enthusiastic about this...People are crying out for more officers on the beat."

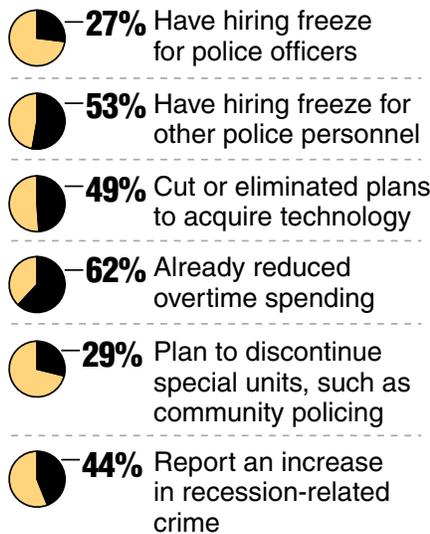
■ **Australia:** *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the New South Wales police force is expected to recruit fewer officers as it attempts to meet proposed budget cuts of more than \$250 million.

■ **Canada:** About 2,500 Montreal officers protested against recent cuts. The demonstrators alleged there is a severe backlog of fraud claims and that sexual assault victims are told their cases will be looked into "as soon as possible" (*Montreal Gazette*).

■ **Scotland:** Budgets may be cut by as much as \$136 million (the equivalent of losing about 2,808 police officers). Scottish Police Federation General Secretary Calum Steele fears the proposal will cost more in the long run: "Crime levels would increase, as would the fear and cost of crime,

Recession Hits the Police

A survey of 233 U.S. police departments shows many face or have already made budget cuts.



© 2009 MCT
Source: Police Executive Research Forum
Graphic: Judy Treible

and there would be a big knock-on effect on costs to the National Health Service, the courts, social work and other agencies" (*The Daily Record*).

None of these situations have yet spiraled completely out of control, as the budget cuts are still hypothetical or have only just gone into effect.

Life in Juarez

What does a city look like without the rule of law? Look no further than Mexico's Ciudad Juarez. A drug war has turned this border town from tourist attraction to world murder capital in a handful of years.

The city of 1.5 million people, which has been directly involved in a gang turf war for years, demonstrates the effect of a city that has lost the ability to enforce law and order.

In 2008, Mexico's government sent 10,000 soldiers to squelch narcotics gang violence and police corruption. The army focused on the most pressing matter, stopping the cartels, and did not regularly investigate other crimes. As a result, kidnapping, extortion, car theft and robbery rates have skyrocketed.

The Miami Herald article "In Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, Murder Is a Way of Life" stated:

"Residents hunker in trepidation. Most answer cellphone calls only from people they know to avoid random extortion attempts. Instead of going out on the town, they hold private parties—and only with close friends."

The peace and safety from the rule of law are gone. While police officers were once there to protect and serve, now gang members will "protect"—but only if their extortion demands are met.

Without peace, the economy suffers: "People are afraid to go out into the street, so the restaurants are doing badly," a Mexican architect told *The Miami Herald*. "You don't go out to eat. You go to the mall, which has more security."

"Six thousand businesses have closed during the last nine months," the head of the local branch of the National Chamber of Commerce told the newspaper. Closed shops mean many thousands without jobs.

In a lawless land, lives are cheap, with some hired killers murdering for as little as \$25 a head, according to law enforcement officials (*ibid.*).

Perhaps most tragic, violence-plagued societies mean an early loss of innocence.

"On another day, after a hit squad in the Erendira district executed a man, a radio report said children in an adjacent park 'kept on playing,' paying no heed to the slaying" (*ibid.*).

Lawlessness and Disorder

Whether the cause is a failing drug war or budget crisis, a decrease in law enforcement inevitably leads to lawless disorder. Crime increases. Murder, rape and torture become commonplace and regularly go unpunished. Robbery, drugs and prostitution become a large part of the "economy." Protests turn into full-scale riots.

It is the ultimate "while the cat's away, the mice will play" scenario.

Please see **POLICE**, page 23

Is Heaven Your Reward?

Millions believe that when they die they will “go to heaven.”
Is this what the Bible teaches?

BY DAVID C. PACK

BY WHAT AUTHORITY have countless millions believed that they are bound for heaven when they die? What assurance do they have?

You probably consider yourself a Christian. You certainly want to be saved. You have probably also been assured that you will go to heaven someday. Should you not demand *proof* that heaven is really what you seek—and where you will go?

It is about time you know if you will spend all eternity in heaven!

Romans 10:9 states, “That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be *saved*.” Verse 13 adds, “For *whosoever* shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be *saved*.”

Certain popular verses are routinely cited to validate the simplicity of just believing in Christ to be saved. This makes salvation seem routine and easy. Heaven becomes little more than an assumption in a formula that virtually every professing Christian takes for granted: “Believe in Jesus, go to heaven.”

Yet when a famous evangelist was asked, “What will we *do* in heaven?” he answered, “I don’t know, but it will be wonderful.” Such ignorance!—and if he does not know this much, how can he “know” it will be wonderful?

Answers like this are why people assume they will “ride clouds”—“walk the streets of gold before the pearly gates”—“play harps”—“grow wings”—or generally “roll around heaven all day.” All of these ideas are manmade—fiction! The Bible teaches *none* of them—yet almost *everyone* believes them as fact.

So, let’s get the *facts*—the truth—of what GOD teaches.

Perhaps the plainest scripture in the Bible regarding “going to heaven” does not even mention the word *heaven*. Few know of this most important verse. Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek: for they shall *inherit the earth*” (Matt. 5:5).

Have you ever heard even one minister say that God’s purpose for Christians is to “inherit the EARTH”? I doubt it.

And yet there it is—and at the very beginning of the New Testament.

A second plain scripture adds another element.

The apostle John recorded: “And has made *us* [the saints] unto our God *kings and priests*: and *we* [the saints] shall *reign on the earth*” (Rev. 5:10).

The reward of God’s saints is to inherit future rulership “on the earth”—as “kings and priests.” Now that’s plain!

I’ll ask again: have you ever heard a minister say that God’s purpose for you is to “reign on Earth”—as a “king priest”?

Be honest—of course not! You must at least admit that becoming a king is more appealing than riding clouds, playing harps or rolling around heaven for eternity.

Will you believe the plain words of the Bible—or continue in popular but baseless assumptions?

Now go to the Old Testament. The prophet Daniel, amplifying the saints’ role as kings and priests, wrote about the Return of Christ and the establishing of God’s kingdom on Earth.

Before Jesus’ Return, God will officially grant Him the authority to rule the world. Notice: “And there was GIVEN Him [Jesus Christ] dominion, and glory, and a *kingdom*...” (Dan. 7:14).

Where will this kingdom be? Daniel answers, “...that all people, *nations*, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His *kingdom* that which shall not be destroyed.”

It will be on Earth.

Yet *how* will God rule the peoples and nations of Earth? “But the *saints* of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever” (vs. 18). The Christian’s ultimate destiny is to join Christ and share rulership in the kingdom of God over all nations and peoples ON EARTH!

To learn much more on the reward of the saved, watch my broadcast “Is Heaven Your Reward?” online at www.worldtocome.org. □

If Jesus Were on Earth Today, Which Church Would He Attend?

**Millions believe Jesus would choose their church, but
His decision would greatly surprise you!**

BY JAMES F. TURCK

IMAGINE JESUS CHRIST physically living on Earth today. He decides to do some sight-seeing while visiting a large city. Walking past a church building, He hears a piano playing softly and decides to step inside the church's entryway to take a look.

Would this church hold up to scrutiny from the Person whose name is used by Christianity?

In the world of churchgoers, adherents are encouraged to attend the congregation of their choice. Among the kaleidoscope of options are traditional, evangelical, charismatic, full gospel, healing gospel, Pentecostal, freewill, "spirit-led," outreach ministries, mega-sized and non-denominational. Millions attend thousands of these different sects and denominations, which share certain beliefs, but have many more disagreeing and competing teachings.

As with most things in life, an individual shopping for a church bases his decision on the church's appeal and desirability. He also bases it on whether he agrees with the church's beliefs, purposes and goals. He considers whether he identifies with the church, and seeks out parishioners of like mind. Location is also a major factor.

But what if you could know which church Jesus would choose? This would make all the difference. Christ's own words recorded in the Bible reveal the only logical answer.

Setting the Criteria

In deciding, Jesus Christ would be presented with a myriad of different churches, all claiming to represent Him, profess His teachings, have His appointed ministers, and be His Church. Yet most of these have disagreeing doctrines.

A few key scriptures build a foundation on which the search would begin. The Bible records Jesus is

the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8) and does not change (Mal. 3:6). Therefore, He would have the same beliefs—doctrines—today as He did when He walked Earth, now almost 2,000 years ago.

At the end of Christ's earthly ministry, just before His ascension into heaven, He gave a command to the soon-to-be apostles: "Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]: teaching them to observe *all things* whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20). The disciples received instruction from Christ, in words (John 5:24; Luke 6:47-48) and by example (John 13:15; I Pet. 2:21).

Whatever Christ taught the original apostles, He would expect to find in His Church.

From Church to Church

Walking into the church's dimly lit entryway, Jesus sees a series of tracts

laid out on a table. He picks up one titled "Which Church Saves?" The text reads: "The Christian church is divided into many denominations. While there are differences in how each church worships and operates, they are unified because they all profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."

Jesus recalls His words, "I will build My church" (Matt. 16:18). He knows that He did not say *churches* and remembers what He inspired the apostle Paul to write in I Corinthians 1:13: "Is Christ divided?" (The context of this verse reveals the answer is an obvious "No.")

Shaking His head, Christ replaces the tract. He knows He must look elsewhere for the Church He established on Pentecost AD 31.

Continuing on, Jesus happens upon a building with a spired bell tower. He ascends a series of concrete steps and sees the structure is apparently named after one of His apostles. In the foyer, He finds an unassuming library with a sign instructing to "Browse and Borrow." He flips through the pages of a book explaining the church's catechism, and finds that its doctrines teach there is only one church and that it has a hierarchical government.

"Well," He thinks, "This church understands there is only one true church" (Matt. 16:18), "and it is not divided into many groups or organizations" (I Cor. 1:13).

Upon further investigation of the church's government structure, He finds there are the ranks of pope, cardinal and bishop. "This is incorrect," He thinks. "In establishing government within My church, which is from the top down, I had Paul record that I 'gave some [to be], *apostles*; and some, *prophets*; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors* and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ'" (Eph. 4:11-12; I Cor. 12:28).

Jesus hears footsteps as a man in a long black robe with a white collar approaches a mother holding a small baby, who has also just entered the building.

"Hello," the man says while patting the baby's head. "I am Father Smith, the priest assigned to this parish. Can I help you?"

Christ recalls telling His disciples to "call no man your [spiritual] father"—including ministers—"upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 23:9).

Continuing along a city sidewalk, He sees a sign affixed to a plain-faced brick building that catches His eye, reading KINGDOM HALL. Opening the front door, He is immediately stopped by two members of this church, who begin explaining their beliefs.

Jesus learns that this church does not keep the popular religious holidays of Christmas and Easter, a point of doctrine with which He agrees.

He asks the two men if their church teaches its members to observe the seven annual Holy Days, which He kept, and instructed His followers to keep (Lev. 23; Matt. 26:17; John 2:23, 4:45, 7:2-8, 10, 14, 37).

"No, we do not," one responds.

Christ politely tells the men He must be on His way, and exits the hall.

Entering another church, Jesus quietly slips into the back of the sanctuary during the middle of a service.

The preacher reads from I Corinthians 11: "That the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me" (vs. 23-24).

When the minister finishes reciting these words, ushers begin passing wicker baskets filled with bread to parishioners. Everyone quietly takes a piece.

The pastor continues: "After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do you, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" (vs. 25).

As the churchgoers all drink a mouthful of grape juice from tiny plastic cups, Jesus heads for the door. A pamphlet in the foyer details how

this church takes communion many times a year, by eating bits of bread and drinking juice.

Christ knows this is not what He taught. The ordinance of eating unleavened bread and drinking wine was meant to occur only *once a year* on *Passover* (Luke 22:7-8, 14-20; I Cor. 11:23-26).

Next, He finds a church of "latter day saints." Inside, a well-dressed young man greets Him and eagerly explains some of his church's beliefs. He quickly lists that the church practices tithing because it is an ancient command, that baptism is by immersion, and the Holy Spirit is received by the laying on of hands. The young man also talks about how they adhere to the same organization of apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists as existed in the early Church, and that the principles and ordinances of the gospel are faith, repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit.

"I did place ministerial ranks and various offices in My church, which this organization seems to understand," Jesus thinks. "I certainly commanded that tithes should be paid, telling people 'this ought you to have done' (Matt. 23:23). And baptism is by immersion, and the Holy Spirit is received through the laying on of hands."

The young man continues, talking about celebrating Christmas and Easter, and how wonderful those days are.

Christ concludes, "This church keeps manmade religious holidays, instead of the Holy Days outlined in the Bible. I do not agree with celebrating Christmas and Easter, as they have pagan origins."

The Search Continues

Later, Jesus comes upon a church holding its weekly Bible study. The minister calls on someone in the audience. The person wants to know if keeping the Ten Commandments is required to receive eternal life, to which the preacher answers, "Well, while it is good to attempt to keep them, you do not have to keep the

Commandments to receive eternal life. Jesus did away with those ‘Old Testament Laws’ and nailed them to the cross.”

The audience applauds and many shout, “Amen, preacher” and “Praise Jesus.”

The words recorded in the book of Matthew come to Christ’s mind: “...if you will enter into life, *keep the commandments*” (19:17), along with, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am *not* come to destroy, but to fulfill. Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (5:17-18).

After traveling a few more blocks, Christ comes to a building with music blasting out from a propped open door. Peering inside, He sees a minister on a stage running around, jumping and yelling “Hallelujah!”—“Praise God!”—“Can I get an amen?” Congregants sway back and forth, with many falling over backward, and writhing in the aisles and shaking uncontrollably. People are loudly talking about being “slain in the Spirit” and “speaking in tongues.” Yet all Jesus hears is unintelligible gibberish.

“This church is nothing but confusion,” He concludes. “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. In My Church, all things are to be done decently and in order. But this is chaos!” (Read I Corinthians 14:33, 40.)

Jesus visits church after church. Some have stained-glass windows with supposed depictions of Him and statues of angels, directly contradicting the Second Commandment to “not make unto you any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth” (Ex. 20:4).

He finds that some churches preach a gospel of healing, others preach a wealth gospel and still others preach social gospels.

Almost all believe that His Body, the Church, is divided among *all* denominations, and that they do not

need to believe and speak the exact same doctrines. Some even have millions of adherents around the world, which does not fit the description of His church: a “little flock” that would remain small in number through the ages (Luke 12:32).

There is one thing, however, that almost all the churches have in common. They keep Sunday, the first day of the week.

“I am Lord of the Sabbath,” Jesus says, recalling Mark 2:28 and Luke 6:5. “I kept the seventh day of the week and commanded My disciples to do likewise. I am the One who created the Sabbath when I rested after the renewal of the Earth. My Fourth Commandment states, ‘Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God’” (Deut. 5:12-14).

“None of these churches follow My example or obey My Word. They actually teach *against* keeping My Holy Days.”

He does find a few Sabbath-keeping churches in the city, with names including words such as “adventist” and “seventh day.” While Jesus notices that these and similar churches keep the Sabbath, He finds they do not keep God’s annual Holy Days. Christ knows these cannot be His Church.

These Sabbath-keeping churches lack a crucially important doctrine—the *true* gospel, which does not incorporate the *Messenger* of the gospel, Jesus Christ, into the *message* itself. The only gospel Jesus taught during His earthly ministry was the gospel *of the kingdom*—the good news of the coming world-ruling supergovernment that will bring peace and prosperity to all nations on Earth (Matt. 4:23, 24:14; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43; John 3:5).

“*Any* church that does not bring the exact message that I did and tell people to change their lives is *not* the Church I built” (Matt. 16:18), Christ thinks. “In fact, anyone who

preaches a different gospel than what I preached is *CURSED*” (Gal. 1:8-9).

After visiting all of the churches in the city, Jesus Christ concludes, “I am the same yesterday, today and forever. As God, I do not change. I believe and practice the doctrines I established—the same ones I instructed My disciples to believe and keep during My earthly ministry. I placed *My* doctrines in My Church. I *will not* compromise them, or start believing men’s ideas about Christian doctrine.”

“I will not—I *CANNOT*—attend any of these churches. If I did, I would make Myself a hypocrite.”

Roadmap to the Right Church

Throughout the Bible, there are criteria on how to find the Church Jesus built. Putting these clues together creates a roadmap that will lead a person to it.

The Church carries the name “Church of God,” which is found throughout the New Testament (Acts 20:28; I Cor. 1:2, 10:32, 11:22). It is a little flock. It keeps the Sabbath, from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. It observes the seven annual Holy Days and not manmade religious holidays.

Members of the Church Christ built tithe, are baptized by full immersion, know there is government in the Church, as well as fully understand that Christ’s Body—His Church—is *NOT* divided, but is one organization in *full agreement* with all of these doctrines.

If a church fails to teach and observe even one of the doctrines outlined in the Bible, then Jesus Christ would *NOT* choose it. It is that simple.

His Church *does* exist, and it *can* be found!

Recall that Jesus said, “I *will* build My church; and the gates of hell [the grave] shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18), meaning it would never cease to exist.

To learn how you can *absolutely prove* the identity of the *one* Church that Jesus built—and where it is today—read David C. Pack’s book *Where Is the True Church? – and Its Incredible History!* □



■ **INUNDATED:** A mudflow carrying debris damages a house after heavy rains in La Canada Flintridge, California (Feb. 6, 2010).
PHOTO: DAVID MCNEU/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IT WAS THE YEAR of revolutions, religious change, natural disasters and economic instability. The year in which terrorism began chipping away the security of continents, one package bomb at a time—riots due to austerity measures took the news hostage daily—food prices skyrocketed, forcing the United Nations to cut aid to countries in need—aspiring nuclear nations

such as North Korea and Iran were emboldened—and old diseases, including dengue fever, whooping cough and cholera, re-emerged with a vengeance.

While some scientists classified it as “the year the Earth fought back,” because the world experienced some of the most deadly earthquakes and storms in recent history, others maintained it was “the year the people fought back.”

Political party candidates and their supporters repeatedly attempted to destabilize opponents, in some cases, forcing entire governments to shut down. Street demonstrations, widespread protests, and violent rallies became routine in Western nations, as citizens struggled to grasp onto old forms of governance, or uproot it altogether.

Even though many were accustomed to ignoring world conditions, the events of 2010 forced them to

2010: Year of Incre

As the first decade of the new millennium ends, *The Real Truth* reflects on world events, lessons learned—and what lies ahead.



■ **GLOBAL VIEW:** Top left, ships continue efforts to recover oil and cap the Deepwater Horizon leak site in the Gulf of Mexico (July 3, 2010). Top right, Filipinos repair their damaged house in northern Philippines (Oct. 21, 2010). Bottom left, Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano, which has been erupting since 2006, spews out lava and ash (Dec. 4, 2010). Bottom right, angry student demonstrators clash with police in London's Parliament Square in protest against tripling university tuition fees (Dec. 9, 2010).

PHOTOS: JOE RAEDLE (TOP LEFT), JAY DIRECTO (TOP RIGHT), PABLO COZZAGLIO (BOTTOM LEFT), CARL COURT (BOTTOM RIGHT)/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

take interest. Search engine company Yahoo Inc. reported that for the first time, a news story—the Gulf of Mexico oil spill—topped the list of searches, beating out the first-ever World Cup to be hosted by an African nation, a popular smart phone, six pop stars, and a reality television show.

It was clear a new form of uncertainty gripped nations. People who once yawned with disinterest at world

events had no choice but to rub the sleep from their eyes and wake up to the reality that something had changed.

Mounting Disasters

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that leveled Haiti at the turn of the year, killing more than 250,000 people, reminded the world of its own fragility, yet it was a harbinger of the disasters 2010 would ultimately bring.

As images of wailing residents kneeling by debris-covered corpses in the poorest country in the Americas reached news stations, government agencies and ordinary citizens flocked to offer humanitarian aid, with relief groups encouraging cellphone users to donate money via text messages. But with food and water supplies dwindling, authorities warned unsanitary conditions would lead to malaria and other diseases.

eased Uncertainty

They were right.

Despite prevention efforts, cholera soon broke out within crowded refugee camps in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, killing more than 2,500 people. The hopeless situation of the country even drove some to seek out scapegoats, with news agencies reporting that mobs of Haitians burned alive or hacked to death 45 voodoo priests accused of spreading cholera.

Just one month after the Haitian disaster, Chile was struck by an 8.8-magnitude earthquake—one of the strongest ever recorded. During the following days, several tsunamis and at least 100 powerful aftershocks rocked the region, sweeping away entire coastal villages.

Two months later, a 6.9-magnitude earthquake hit the Western Chinese province of Qinghai, near Tibet, killing 2,600 and injuring more than 12,000.

One disaster after another seemed to tumble together to make 2010 one of the world's deadliest years in a decade, with seismologists confirming that the number of quakes to hit densely populated areas rose in 2010.

"More people were killed worldwide by natural disasters this year than have been killed in terrorism attacks in the past 40 years combined," *The Associated Press* reported.

Throughout the year, journalists detailed disasters such as building-guzzling sinkholes in Guatemala and Germany, the largest typhoon in decades in the Philippines, record droughts across the Amazon Basin, wildfires in Russia and Israel, destructive mudslides in California, a toxic mud wave that covered Hungarian villages, traffic-halting snowstorms in Britain, and some of the worst flooding in more than 100 years in the southeastern United States.

The U.S. also experienced an unprecedented event: the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion, which left 11 people dead, marred 50 miles of Louisiana coastline, destroyed 300-plus acres of wetlands,

caused at least \$50 billion in damage claims, and dumped an estimated 40,000 barrels of oil each day into the Gulf for at least three months.

Even countries normally unaffected by the elements were not spared. Australia experienced record locust plagues and a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck New Zealand. A rare 5.0-magnitude earthquake shook parts of eastern Canada, and a Russian summer heat wave—the hottest in the nation's 1,000-year history—contributed to the deaths of at least 15,000 people.

Then there was Indonesia, which was first pounded by a tsunami, and then a week later by volcanic blasts from Mount Merapi, which combined killed more than 500 residents, and left at least 300,000 homeless.

The year 2010 also saw one of the largest disasters in history. Torrential rains in drought-stricken Pakistan submerged one-fifth of the country, killing more than 2,000 and affecting more than 20 million people nationwide, 2 million of which were left homeless. The UN estimates it will take at least \$2 billion to fix the country—the largest amount of money ever needed to combat such a crisis.

One of the biggest stories, albeit not the most deadly, was the mayhem caused by an Icelandic volcano that shut down air transportation across Europe for more than a week. As food rotted in grounded planes and thousands of stranded passengers bathed in airport sinks, scientists speculated that it could be months—even years—before the volcano stopped spewing ash. Yet six surreal days later, planes once again were able to take to the skies.

As with almost all other disasters throughout 2010, it was just another example of humanity's inability to fight the tremendous power of nature.

Teetering Economy

The year 2010 was also a time of economic firsts: the creation of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a 43.5 percent surge in trade between Africa and China, and bailouts for Greece and Ireland. It was a year in which the global economic

system continued to near collapse, and it became startling clear to America—and the world—that the once-mighty superpower could no longer support itself and others.

"It has been more than three years now since the first economic fractures began showing up in the U.S. economy," *PBS* reported. "Since then, more than seven million jobs have been lost, median home prices have fallen more than 20 percent and government debt has exploded more than 50 percent, now closing in at \$14 trillion."

With the passage of the healthcare overhaul and the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the U.S. experienced a level of government control and intervention not seen for decades. As the economy continued spiraling downward, fed-up Americans rallied behind Tea Party groups to protest governmental grievances.

"People across the United States, and in some cases beyond its borders, simply said enough—enough of the old ways of doing things in banking, medical insurance, corporations, and government, too," a *Yahoo Finance* editorial stated.

Following the elections, in which polls revealed the economy was most voters' top priority, the U.S. Congress underwent a turnover, with Republicans gaining a majority of the House for the first time in more than 60 years, and control of the most state legislatures since 1938.

Yet such governmental change did not only take place in the United States, but also in New Zealand and Britain. In the United Kingdom, following the resignation of English Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the center-right Conservative Party allied with the left-wing Liberal Democrats to form a coalition government, choosing David Cameron as their leader. In Australia, the nation's ruling Labor Party ousted Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, giving the position instead to the nation's first female leader, Julia Gillard.

Although the number of foreclosed homes in the U.S. reached the high-

est level since the crisis began, and home values continued to depreciate in Britain, both economies evidenced some signs of progress. According to statistics, the U.S. economy grew by 1 million jobs and Britain's budget deficit shrank significantly.

Any article detailing economic progress across the Atlantic, however, was accompanied by news of bail-outs to Ireland and Greece, massive deficits, sluggish growth and looming bankruptcy among European Union member-states.

A June 2010 *Real Truth* article stated: "European officials are nervously aware that the problem could spread to Portugal, Italy, Ireland and Spain, which could destabilize the euro and world markets while tainting the European Union's prestige."

In the midst of the crisis, European Union President Herman Van Rompuy called for a new, stronger EU economic regime empowered to legislate, supervise and impose budgets, and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel said EU rules should be amended to expel countries that exceed the debt limit established for member-states.

The year 2010 was also the first time in which the phrase "economic world order" became common. Many international leaders openly advocated for one, while encouraging America to take a backseat role—especially after the release of 250,000 diplomatic cables exposed U.S. leaders unfavorably describing foreign dignitaries.

As people responded with protests and a media backlash ensued, it became clear governments across the globe were failing.

New Forms of Terror

While 2010 was filled with economic difficulties, the most fear-inducing stories involved the widespread threat of terrorism. Certainly, it was the year in which some of the West's worst nightmares began to come true. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the number and pace of attacks on American soil

this year surpassed the number of attempts previously made during any one-year period.

Stories such as troop surges and pullbacks in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars became lost in the mix of reports about the latest foiled terror plot. In contrast to the September 11 attacks, which killed more than 3,000, each new attempt worked to further destabilize society. It was not just symbolic buildings that were targets, but rather everyday people, shopping malls and grocery stores—what *Time* magazine referred to as "microterrorism."

It was not unusual to read that 12 suspects accused of planning terror acts were arrested in London, that an Islamic extremist was detained for planning to bomb subway trains in Washington, D.C., or even that a suicide attack set up in a busy shopping center failed, such as happened in New York City's Times Square and in Stockholm, Sweden. Nor was it very surprising to hear that a suitcase containing batteries, a detonator and clock, discovered in Windhoek, Namibia, and bound for Munich, could be a precursor of other attacks on Germany, or that terrorists were now capable of using breast implants filled with explosives—undetectable to airport scanners—to cause maximum damage.

As the U.S. government ratcheted up its efforts to protect citizens, invasive body searches became the norm, forcing travelers to confront the issue of national security versus personal rights. Both Americans and Europeans were compelled to accept the presence of machine-gun-toting security personnel in subway and train stations.

South of the United States, violent Mexican drug warlords continued terrorizing the country, with the death toll topping 30,197 people since President Felipe Calderon took office four years ago. It was the first year, though, in which violence began to noticeably spill into the quiet city of El Paso, Texas, where two bodies hung from a bridge stopped traffic on the U.S. side and reports of bullet holes from shots fired from across the Rio Grande put citizens on alert.

In addition, a 2010 U.S. Justice Department report showed Mexican drug-trafficking organizations now operate in every corner of the United States and pose a significant threat to law officials trying to counteract them.

Terror also came in other forms, with Iran officially declaring itself a nuclear state and North Korea shelling a marine base and a civilian village, setting several houses in South Korea on fire in an act that is threatening to spell full-scale war in the coming months.

It was indeed a frightful year.

Growing Religious Influence

Behind the scenes, another force was also in play in 2010: religion. This year caught a glimpse of the increasing involvement of the Vatican in the world political arena and Islam's growing influence on society.

A *Catholic News Service* article about the Vatican revealed just how much the papacy is involved in international affairs: "If there's one clear conclusion that can be drawn from the Vatican-related WikiLeaks disclosures, it's that the United States takes the Vatican and its diplomatic activity very seriously.

"In memo after memo in recent years, officials of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See have reported back to Washington on the impact of papal trips, statements and documents; on the Vatican's behind-the-scenes efforts to head off conflicts; on church-state tensions in Latin America; on the evolution of Catholic teaching on bioethics; and even on the international repercussions of ecumenical affairs.

"When a Vatican agency organized a conference on genetically modified foods, the U.S. embassy paid attention. When the Vatican condemned human trafficking, embassy officials met with Vatican counterparts to broaden areas of cooperation on that issue.

"And when Pope Benedict XVI said in 2007 that 'nothing positive

Please see UNCERTAINTY, page 20

What Does It Reveal About America?

The public release of sensitive government documents has the globe split into two camps—with most everyone missing the event's true significance.

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, an impassioned 15-year-old teenager speaks resolutely for his generation, assuring authorities that he and those like him rule the streets—and declaring that no matter how many times police sweep them away, they will return. Their goal: stop the government from hiking university tuition fees.

If this means starting a riot, they will riot. If it means destroying other people's property, they will gladly unleash widespread destruction, spreading fear and intimidation in the process. And if it means assaulting Prince Charles and his wife while chanting, "Off with their heads," they will not hesitate to attack Britain's royal heir apparent. After all, the thinking goes, higher education is a *right* to be demanded and expected, not a *privilege* to be earned.

Wielding grassroots power in brazen defiance of the government is intoxicating for demonstrators. Likewise,

undermining the foreign interests of the United States—the world's waning superpower—by revealing sensitive and potentially embarrassing information is equally intoxicating.

The founder of the WikiLeaks website, and those who share his views, are committed to the idea that the masses have a *right* to know every detail about how governments render decisions. The website has continually hosted confidential government and business documents.

The release of more than 90,000 classified U.S. military records and 250,000 diplomatic cables containing communication between American embassies has divided the world into two camps: those who paint the WikiLeaks founder as a 21st-century folk hero, a high-tech revolutionary who is shining a light on the shadowy world of government secrecy and international diplomacy—and those who view him as an annoying and embarrassing fly in the ointment of foreign policy and international relations.

The Real Truth magazine takes no position. It does, however, recognize that WikiLeaks is revealing America's

weak points—in effect, assisting to fulfill the Old Testament prophecy of Leviticus 26, verse 19: "I will break the *pride* of your power"—as well as embarrassing its network of diplomatic "lovers" among the international community.

Notice the Ezekiel 16:37 prophecy regarding prominent Western nations: "Behold, therefore I will gather all your lovers, with whom you have taken pleasure, and all them that you have loved, with all them that you have hated; I will even gather them round about against you, and will *discover your nakedness* unto them, that they may see all your nakedness."

For decades, America had the power and means to lend a helping hand. At even a hint of calamity or injustice, the nation stood ready to swoop in and save the day—whether removing dictators under human cruelty charges or generously outpouring aid after devastating natural disasters.

But here is the trouble with juggling multiple "lovers": one has to satisfy the often-competing needs and interests of each—and all such lovers have only their own best interests in



■ **ORGANIZED CHAOS:** Top left, participants attend the annual Chaos Communication Congress of the Chaos Computer Club in Berlin, Germany (Dec. 28, 2010). The Chaos Computer Club is Europe's biggest network of computer hackers and its annual meeting draws up to 3,000 participants. Bottom left, a view of the WikiLeaks homepage (Nov. 28, 2010). Right, hackers visit the WikiLeaks website in a coffeehouse in France (Dec. 9, 2010).

PHOTO: SEAN GALLUP (TOP LEFT), NICHOLAS KAMM (BOTTOM LEFT), PHILIPPE HUGUEN (RIGHT)/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

mind. Their loyalty is temporary at best, as it can only be “rented”—borrowed for a short period—until a more satisfying deal presents itself. Lovers tend to be jealous, and expect personal, undivided attention. They are known for unleashing quick retribution for any slight, real or imagined. Despite a history of receiving special favors, the question that concerns lovers most is, “What have you done for me *lately*?”

The cash-strapped and problem-ridden U.S. must now turn inward, unable to fulfill its self-appointed role as global savior. With America forced to step aside, the international scene is changing: Europe is finding its footing as a global player, serious discussions of creating a global currency to replace the dollar are underway, and both Africa and South America are increasingly turning to the rising-superpower China.

While nations debate over what to

do about WikiLeaks, governments continue charting their own course, striving to attain world peace through backdoor deals, diplomatic negotiations, rhetorical saber-rattling and military positioning. And America will continue to cater to its network of lovers in an attempt to further its interests—until the day when they no longer comply.

That day is coming soon. Read David C. Pack’s book *America and Britain in Prophecy* to understand why. □



■ **TENT CITY:** A view from a United Nations helicopter showing tents set up for flood-affected people near Pakistan's Manchar Lake (Dec. 3, 2010).

PHOTO: RIZWAN TABASSUM/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

UNCERTAINTY

Continued from page 17

comes from Iraq, torn apart by continual slaughter as the civil population flees,' the embassy quickly objected, telling a high-level Vatican official that Iraq was experiencing positive developments and that the papal comments were not constructive."

The pope also made inroads in bringing the Anglican and Orthodox churches into the Catholic fold. In an effort to build further religious ties, he visited the leader of the Orthodox Church in Cyprus and an evangelical Lutheran Church in a largely German-speaking community during Lent.

In 2011, the pope plans to visit his homeland of Germany for an official state visit, and according to *Zenit*, hopes to have Anglican bishops continue to come "into full communion with the Catholic Church."

Yet the year 2010 was not only one of religious unification, but also of division. Muslim influence continued to grow in places such as Europe and the United States—and with it, anger.

In the U.S., a planned mosque near the site of the twin towers sparked

controversy and protests, with one Florida pastor even threatening to burn Korans if the project continued.

Meanwhile, native Europeans continued to clash with the estimated 53 million Muslims that now live on the continent, becoming increasingly infuriated by clerics preaching the implementation of Shariah law and violent Jihad. In Germany, police raided homes, offices and schools accused of promoting extremist Muslim teachings, which included establishing an Islamic theocracy in the country. Officials estimate there could be as many as 20,000 Muslims across Europe willing to die for the same cause.

"I think we are on the brink of many more operations in the West," a prominent Muslim cleric in London told *MSNBC*. "This is going to be very, very nasty...The Muslims engaged in jihad are not going to stop. People will declare jihad in Britain and America. I don't think you can stomach something like that."

Such actions will only lead to greater cultural clashes in the future.

Year to Come

All of these news stories seemingly amount to one thing: an uncertain

future. Despite rosy predictions, and idealistic speculations from scientists, politicians and international leaders, this year proved things are not improving for mankind. Disasters are worsening, poverty and disease remain, and religious division and confusion abound.

One can only speculate about what kind of Earth-related events, economic hardships, terror attacks and religious contention the next year will bring.

Yet there are *reasons* the world is in such a condition. There are *reasons* mankind as a whole has not solved its biggest problems.

As world conditions spiral out of control, be careful you are not lulled into believing those who claim nothing has changed—those who say "peace and safety" when there is none. Guard yourself against being overcome by sleepiness, which can cause you to assume that the world will continue "as it always has." Stay awake to the truth of what is going on and investigate the true causes behind today's problems.

Keep reading this magazine in the coming year for more in-depth analysis of world events that will affect you! □

RAGE

Continued from page 6

For example, when a clerk would not sell him beer, a 22-year-old man in California rammed his car into a gas pump, exploding all eight pump machines and destroying the gas station attached to the convenience store.

■ **Highminded:** The Greek word used here is *typhoo*, related to typhoon, and it can be defined, “To be puffed up with haughtiness or pride; to blind with pride or conceit, to render foolish or stupid.” Such people, in effect, come off as disastrous storms, which endanger the peace, security and lives of others.

Responding to a party announced on Twitter by a 15-year-old girl, a mob of 150 drunken teenagers trashed her grandparents’ home, ripping off the patio doors, destroying paintings, smashing televisions and windows, stealing bottles of champagne and ornaments, and leaving empty beer bottles strewn across the lawn. Incredible!

Now let’s examine what has led to such perilous acts in this age of rage that the Bible defines as the “last days.”

Grand Architect

Man, in his folly, believes that he can discover all he needs to know through his five senses. He uses the scientific method to explain the world around him. If it cannot be detected through sight, sound, taste, smell or touch, then it cannot exist, the thinking goes.

This thinking drove the course of civilization. While there have always been advancements in technology, medicine and engineering—leading to the stunning achievements of today—man has never been able to solve his worst problems: disease, crime, poverty, starvation, violence, perversity and war. What is behind this paradox of incredible advancement and tremendous failure?

Again, the answer is found in the pages of the Bible: “Wherein in time past you walked according to the

course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience...” (Eph. 2:2).

What man has missed is that these problems are spiritual—meaning they cannot be solved through physical solutions—and are caused by the “prince of the power of the air.”

This being—Satan—is man’s source of carnal lusts and desires. The Bible describes him as the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). Like a powerful satellite orbiting Earth and transmitting signals to radios, televisions and cellphones around the globe, this being broadcasts attitudes, thoughts, ideas and sensuous urgings that appeal to the flesh.

His name literally means “adversary,” and he is the master deceiver, who “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). He is also called Apollyon, which means “destroyer.”

Satan is the grand architect of this age of rage, who maintains his existence as the unsuspected god of this world.

How effective is he at his craft? Of the world’s nearly 7 billion people, vast numbers do not even believe he exists, while others think he is behind every little thing that goes wrong, such as when a mop mysteriously falls in a closet. Both views are wrong and play right into the devil’s hands. He wants people to ridicule his existence, or reduce him to the laughable image of a man with horns, a pitchfork and a red suit.

Satan was once Lucifer, which means “light-bearer, shining one and morning star.” Scripture reveals that Lucifer was the most perfect being God could ever instantaneously create. From the moment God brought him into existence, Lucifer had it all: wisdom, beauty, talent, and riches, along with power and top position at the headquarters of God’s government (Ezek. 28:12-14). God declared that this great archangel was “perfect” from the very day he was created (vs. 15).

That is, until “iniquity was found” in him (same verse). What is meant by

“iniquity,” which in Hebrew means unrighteousness, wickedness or violent deeds of injustice? The answer is found in verse 17: “Your heart was *lifted up* because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness.” In other words, Lucifer was lifted up with pride and vanity.

This powerful archangel was handed *everything* on a silver platter, and did not earn anything by his own efforts. In his twisted thinking, he deceived himself into believing that he *deserved* his talents, abilities and position. Rather than fearing—reverencing—his Creator who had empowered him, Lucifer was swayed by pride and thought he *deserved* all his gifts—and *much* more.

Lucifer lusted for additional power, a higher position. He became jealous of God, and even conspired to replace Him (Isa. 14:13-14).

The archangel who already had everything was greedy for more. He duped one-third of God’s angels—millions and millions—into believing that he was right and their Creator was wrong. They followed his lead and attempted a cosmic coup d’etat. It failed miserably.

Lucifer became Satan, and the rebellious angels became demons—all enemies of God.

For the past 6,000 years, Satan and his demons have affected the course of human history, with the former Lucifer broadcasting the four major traits of his nature into the carnal mind: vanity, jealousy, lust and greed. These four contribute to creating and enabling today’s age of rage. (You can learn much more on this subject by reading our booklets *Who Is the Devil?* and *A World in Captivity*.)

Yet there is still another contributor to these perilous times, which the author of the age of rage uses quite effectively.

False Religion

Thousands of differing and competing denominations and movements, professing to follow Christ, litter the religious landscape—and all claim

to be His Church. Close examination of their beliefs and traditions, when compared to the Bible, can easily prove that these churches collectively represent *false* Christianity. And it is false Christianity that contributes to creating and enabling the age of rage by not teaching the truth about the missing component man needs to make him spiritually complete: the Holy Spirit.

When a human being receives this Spirit, his mind is spiritually begotten with the mind of God. It enables him to comprehend spiritual concepts that even the most learned of minds cannot grasp: “For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knows no man, but [by] the Spirit of God” (I Cor. 2:11).

How different are humanity’s ways and thoughts from the Creator’s? “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My [God’s] ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:9).

With the Holy Spirit, man can defeat the carnal broadcasts of “the prince of the power of the air,” the pulls of the flesh and the influential sways of this world. In doing so, the spirit-begotten Christian builds holy, righteous, godly character—which is necessary to receive eternal life.

Character is the ability to know right from wrong, to reject the wrong despite pressure to bend and compromise, and deliberately choose the right. It takes a lifetime of overcoming trials, tests and setbacks to build character.

False Christianity teaches none of this—and that is the way Satan wants it.

While this world’s “experts” of human behavior offer “common sense” advice to dealing with the age of rage, the Bible—God’s instruction manual to mankind—offers thorough spiritual instruction.

Psychiatrists and behavioral scientists recommend that people should recognize and control their anger, and that drivers should pay attention to their emotional levels. But the Bible instructs people to go further, and thoroughly and routinely examine



■ **VICTIM OF REVENGE:** A woman sits at the Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, recounting how her burned flesh smelled when her ex-husband doused her face with acid, scarring her for life (Sept. 21, 2010).

PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

themselves. “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15). God’s Word, the Bible, is truth (John 17:17); it expresses and reveals the mind of God, which no man can discover on his own.

Those who strive to live God’s Way must compare themselves to God and see *how* and *in what areas* they fall short, and work to improve. With the Holy Spirit working through them, human beings can produce the fruits of love (genuine, outgoing concern for others), peace, longsuffering and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

Romans 12 presents wisdom that surpasses any advice this world’s experts could offer: “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another...Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not...Recompense [repay] to no man evil for evil...avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord. Therefore, if your enemy

hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing you shall heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (vs. 10, 14, 17, 19-21).

With the Spirit of God working in and through them, converted human beings can conquer carnal nature and employ these verses.

Whenever the stresses of life start to build, people should examine themselves for pride, jealousy, greed and lust—characteristics of human nature that lead people to emotionally melt down and commit vile acts. They should remember “the carnal mind is enmity [naturally hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7), which can often lead it to succumb to vanity, jealousy, lust and greed—and cause people to bend to the pressures of the age of rage.

You now know why the age of rage exists. The perilous times foretold in the Bible’s pages are already here, and will continue to worsen. But those who yield themselves to the *true* God will survive—and thrive! □



■ **REBUILDING TRUST:** Police officers, patrolling the Garden District in New Orleans, Louisiana, help a couple who found a wallet on the ground (Aug. 16, 2010).

PHOTO: ROD LAMKEY JR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

POLICE

Continued from page 9

With no fear of repercussions, most will do whatever their heart desires—no matter the consequences.

In the end, without law and order, one thing will be on display: raw human nature.

Many think what is occurring in Juarez will never happen in prominent Western nations.

Consider, however, that without a police presence, New Orleans quickly spiraled into lawlessness and

disorder in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Some took advantage of the situation, ransacking and looting entire neighborhoods. Out of desperation for food and drink, most did whatever they deemed necessary to survive. For example, in the Louisiana Superdome, which housed thousands of Katrina refugees, crime was rampant. A desperate sense of “every man for himself” prevailed. Without police, human nature—exhibited through vanity, jealousy, lust and greed—rears its ugly head.

If people can no longer rely on consistent policing, many will question their

desire or need to follow the law. Some might ask themselves, *If no one else cares, why should I?*

Once laws are no longer enforced, many will simply do as they please, creating a vicious cycle whereby criminal lawlessness continually increases.

People in Western nations miss that when policemen enforce law and order, the true capabilities of human nature remain hidden.

To learn more about the depths of the human condition, read *The Real Truth Personal* by editor-in-chief David C. Pack, “What Is the Origin of Human Nature?” □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

ing to behold!—and it appears scripturally in vivid colors, with sharp outlines, and in exquisite detail, as a stunning, beautiful, panoramic, and previously unimagined future world-scape.

The Hope of Many

Many scientists and experts believe civilization is evolving toward a higher, and better, order. They see the future as a marvelous time of exciting, unending possibilities. They see general betterment of the human condition, medical advancement, improvement in agriculture—producing more and better foods—and scientific breakthroughs undreamed of now. These thinkers are so hopeful that they seem to barely recognize the severity and complexity of the world's problems.

They live in a dream world—and wear rose-tinted glasses that filter out the harsh reality of the world around them. But they do represent one popular school of thought. Only when the brutal reality of world-shattering conditions and events slams into them will they realize their hopes were only a pipe-dream. They will learn that God will work things out in a way for which they were not prepared. But He will not use the “magic” of science to pull a rabbit out of the hat—as so many hope and suppose. This is not how God will save men from themselves at the last possible moment—before they blast themselves from the planet!

Time of Great Tribulation

In Matthew 24, Jesus told His disciples in some detail of events that would occur just prior to His Return to Earth. He described an unparalleled time of world trouble—ironically, at the same time when statesmen are foretold to be crying, “Peace, peace, when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). He said, “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 [cut short], there should no flesh be saved [meaning, alive]: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened” (vs. 21-22).

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah also spoke of this time: “Alas! For that day is great, so that *none* is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it” (30:7).

So did the prophet Daniel. He recorded: “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of your people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as *never was* since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (12:1).

These must all be speaking of the same time. There cannot be *three* times that are all the worst time in history. While we do not have space to cover all the details of this subject now—this is done in my books and booklets—things are going to grow worse before they grow better. In fact, much, *much* worse. That is the plain truth of your Bible. But what comes beyond the bad news is unanticipated GOOD NEWS.

Men's Governments Do Not Work

Again we ask: *Why* is the world filled with problems, evils and ills of every sort? *Why* is it in such a state of confusion and ignorance? *How* did it come to be this way? *Why* do men's governments never permanently solve problems, but rather—at best—only postpone ill effects, while at the same time creating new problems?

Everything on Earth begins with *government*. The governments of men do not and have never worked. Themselves one of the biggest problems, these ineffective human inventions are unable to—and in fact will not—“snatch victory from the jaws of defeat” at the last moment before disaster!

You may have supposed that the governments of modern nations reflect God's Way. This is almost every-

one's assumption. While God does, in fact, establish and remove nations—and leaders—this is not His world. Regarding this world, Daniel 4:17 states, “This matter is by the decree of the watchers...to the intent that the living [this is all human beings] may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever He will, and sets up over it the *basest* of men.” Obviously, this is not very complimentary to world leaders.

Why cannot the governments of men get along—avoid war—and find peace and agreement? *Why* is there constant instability, scandal, and division among leaders, and seemingly endless revolutions and military coups? *Why* is there no shortage of demagogues, dictators and revolutionaries, always promising to make things better, yet only able to preside over a continual worsening of problems and conditions?

Look at the governments of this world. Generally speaking, there are three types today—*monarchies*, *dictatorships* and *democracies*—with some little variation within these.

Monarchies involve nobility—royalty—where *bloodline* is the key to succession of power. Through the death of a king or queen, a succeeding prince or princess ascends the throne. This can last for a few generations or many centuries. Generally, monarchies are eventually replaced, either violently or peacefully, with the king or queen sometimes permitted to retain minimal power.

Dictatorships and totalitarian governments are usually created through violence, by coup or revolution. They are often short-lived because something similar—or a democracy—quickly replaces them.

Democracies and republics are best described as collaborative, representative, or parliamentary, in that officials and leaders are elected—and represent “the will of the people.” This involves a voting or balloting process in the selection of one candidate in preference to one or more others. This form is generally considered to be the *best* of mankind's governments. Yet,

the great 20th-century British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, called democracy—the best that man has to offer—“the worst form of government, *except all other[s].*” This shows an amazing insight into how democracy *really* works, from an insider’s view.

But as bad as democracy may be, it IS far better than any *other* form of government in the hands of men. Democracy at least attempts to ensure more individual “freedoms” than other kinds of humanly devised government.

In the end, however, none of man’s governments work either very well or for very long. And, if the “best” of man’s forms of government is this bad—and is ultimately always ineffective in resolving a country’s largest problems—then where lies the answer to the great problems of civilization? How will they be permanently resolved so that the utopian world that writers, philosophers, politicians and the masses long for can become reality?

If crime is to stop—if poverty is to vanish—if war is to be gone—if disease is to be wiped out—if famine is to be eradicated—if pollution is to cease—if ignorance is to disappear—if religious confusion is to be removed—there must be a *reason*. The cause or causes of these things must be identified, and removed, before all the good effects prophesied for tomorrow can replace the widespread bad effects of today.

All the governments of men have *utterly* failed mankind! They have not removed the bad effects plaguing the world.

Coming Supergovernment?

Numerous scientists recognize that the planet and civilization are on a collision course with disaster! Many are scared—and their statements of what could happen are frightening! They speak of the need for one world *supergovernment* to stop mankind’s runaway problems. Yet virtually no one believes such a government would work if it were in the hands of men. The obstacles just to achieve the gov-

ernment—to say nothing of *how* it would solve man’s exploding troubles and ills—are enormous.

But there is good news in all this!

A better, PERFECT GOVERNMENT—one not left to the devices, machinations and confusion of men—is coming. It *will* usher in peace, happiness, unity, abundance and prosperity for *every* human being and *every* country on Earth. While such a vision may *seem* impossible, it *will* happen—and, I repeat, in your lifetime!

Many passages in the Old Testament could be cited to show what God plans for this new world now just ahead for all nations. But let’s look through only one of the prophets—Isaiah—and see what he records in just five passages. The first is familiar to millions, but seemingly believed by almost no one: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come you, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, *neither shall they learn war any more*” (Isa. 2:2-4).

For emphasis, God inspired the prophet Micah to record almost the exact same words in chapter 4, verses 1-4, of his book.

Continuing in Isaiah, next we go to a prophecy about Christ: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the *government* shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, *The Prince of Peace*. Of the increase of His *government* and *peace* there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His *kingdom*, to order it, and

to establish it with *judgment* and with *justice* from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts *will perform this*” (Isa. 9:6-7).

Now for a description from Isaiah 11 of how the nature of animals will be changed: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and *a little child* shall lead them. And the *cow* and the *bear* shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the *lion* shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (vs. 6-9).

This passage from Isaiah 35 describes how the land will be transformed, and people will be healed of all infirmities: “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God” (vs. 1-2). Verses 4-7 state this: “Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; He will come and *save you*. Then the eyes of the *blind* shall be opened, and the ears of the *deaf* shall be unstopped. Then shall the *lame* man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the *dumb* sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.”

Chapter 30 of Isaiah presents a picture of how God’s laws will be taught by Christ and His saints during the Millennium: “Shall not your teachers be removed into a corner any more, but your eyes shall see your teachers: and

your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk you in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left” (vs. 20-21).

Consider a closing passage from the prophet Zechariah, contrasting today’s Jerusalem with the one that will follow: “Thus says the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof” (8:4-5).

The Bible is almost entirely a message about a COMING WORLD GOVERNMENT. Everywhere Jesus Christ went, He preached—He *announced*—the coming of the kingdom of God. He explained that it would be a divine, all-nations-ruling world authority that

would replace all the governments of men. He brought exciting, thrilling good news, in *advance* of its arrival. He spoke of a utopian, WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW that is now *imminent*—and He explained how some would qualify to rule with Him. Jesus foretold in many scriptures the arrival of an all-powerful, world supergovernment to replace the confused, competing, ineffective and inefficient governments of men that are so powerless to solve *any* of the world’s biggest problems.

But the world of His day was not ready to receive His message.

When Jesus Christ comes, having been crowned as King of kings (have you considered that this means *other* kings will rule with Him?), He will possess limitless power to effect change of every kind. The nations of the world will at first resist Him.

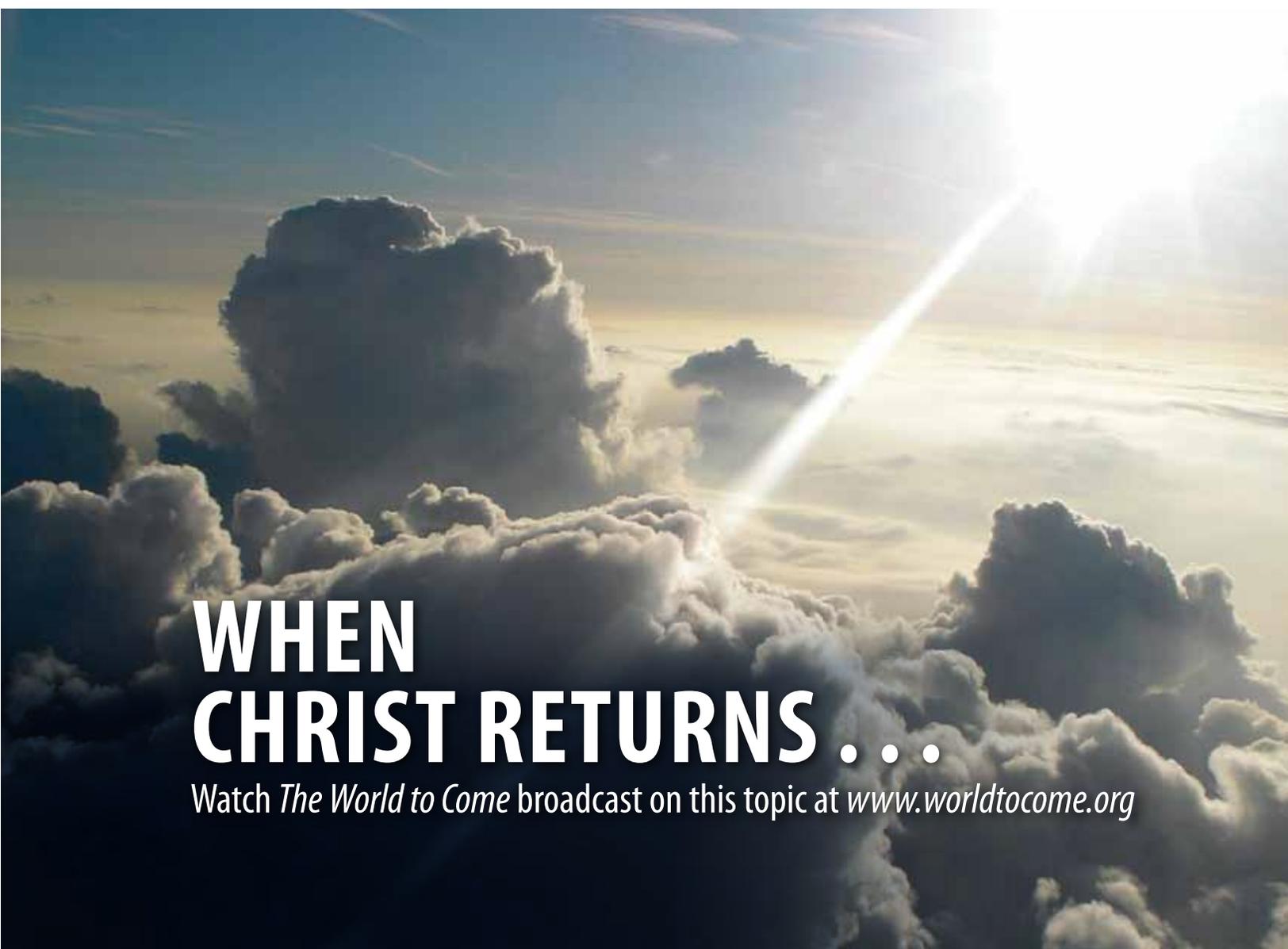
But He will force them to be happy, healthy, and prosperous, enjoying the abundant life. How ironic that mankind will have to be required—*forced!*—to accept and enjoy these conditions—conditions everyone longs for.

All the world’s troubles, evils, and problems will vanish. There will be no more insoluble problems, which today bring misery for most of humanity.

But mankind will not produce or bring these things. All this will be done *to*—not *by*—men!

For now, realize that a wonderful new world *is* on the way—and this article has offered only the smallest glimpse!

Take time to read my eye-opening book *Tomorrow’s Wonderful World – An Inside View!* to learn more about the incredible GOOD NEWS that lies just ahead for mankind. Your thinking will forever be changed. □



WHEN CHRIST RETURNS . . .

Watch *The World to Come* broadcast on this topic at www.worldtocome.org

ECONOMY & PERSONAL FINANCE

Increasing Food Prices May Spark Global Crisis

The food price index has reached its highest level in two years, according to the United Nations—meaning that prices of many staple foods are sharply increasing.

“World wheat and maize prices have risen 57 percent, rice 45 percent and sugar 55 percent over the last six months and soybeans are at their highest price for 16 months,” the *Guardian* reported.

The same article quoted Robert Zoellick, president of the World Bank: “There is growing concern among countries about continuing volatility and uncertainty in food markets.”

Additionally, many worry that this latest escalation will be a repeat of 2008, when high energy costs caused a similar price increase.

Market speculation is considered a major factor in the surging prices. An article in *New Scientist* magazine stated, “As long as extreme speculation causes constant price bubbles and crashes, either farmers will not get good enough returns to continue investing in production, or consumers will not be able to afford the food.”

Although harvests and global food stocks are higher than in 2008, predicted chaotic weather for the next few years is fueling the buying frenzy in world food markets.

“With prices rising this autumn for many commodities like sugar and cot-



■ **PRICE CHANGE:** A supermarket worker changes a food price board in Hefei, east China's Anhui province (Nov. 17, 2010). Premier Wen Jiabao said China was drafting measures to contain prices as authorities grow increasingly concerned about surging inflation rates and food prices.

PHOTO: STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ton, [China's] cabinet announced...it would impose price controls on food, introduce subsidies for the needy and increase the availability of fuel supplies,” *The New York Times* reported.

Adding to the potential crisis are Russia's recent drought and wildfires,

as well as heavy rains and flooding in countries such as Canada and Pakistan. Also, the United States continues to increasingly use its corn harvests to produce ethanol, leaving much less available for beef production. □

HEALTH ISSUES

Teens: Marijuana Use More Common than Tobacco

Marijuana is more popular with teenagers than tobacco, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reported.

“For 12th-graders, declines in cigarette use accompanied by recent increases in marijuana use have put marijuana ahead of cigarette smoking by some measures,” a NIDA statement revealed. “In 2010, 21.4 percent of high school seniors used

marijuana in the past 30 days, while 19.2 percent smoked cigarettes.”

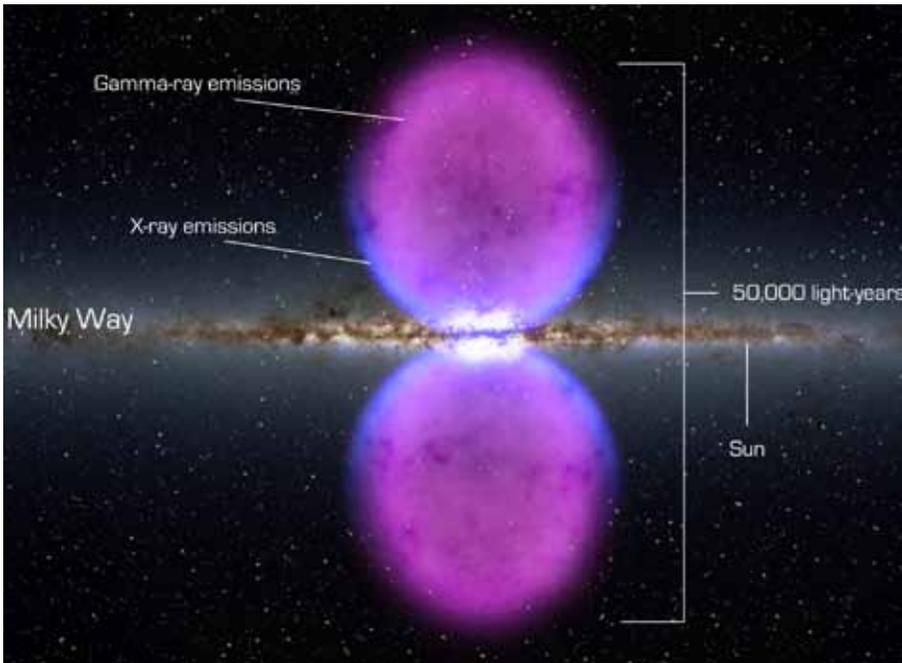
Other illicit drugs, such as Ecstasy, have also risen in popularity with teens over the last decade, according to the institute. “In other words, about half of the high school seniors in the class of 2010 have tried an illicit drug, and well over a third have used on one or more occasions in the prior 12 months,” the report stated.

NIDA director Nora Volkow said in an article by *The Associated Press* that use of marijuana by adolescents can cause complications such as increased rates of anxiety, depression and suicide later in their lives.

“These high rates of marijuana use during the teen and pre-teen years, when the brain continues to develop, place our young people at particular risk,” she said. □

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Surprise Discovery: Gigantic Galaxy “Bubbles”



■ **UNIQUE VIEW:** From end to end, the newly discovered gamma-ray bubbles extend 50,000 light-years, or roughly half of the Milky Way's diameter, as shown in this illustration.

PHOTO: NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER/STR/AFP

The existence of two recently discovered massive formations at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, which were created by an energy discharge equivalent to 100,000 exploding stars, have surprised astronomers and prompted intrigue about their origins.

The dumbbell-shaped structures named “Fermi bubbles” are composed of gamma radiation, the highest-energy form of light, and have a 50,000 light-year diameter—half the span of the Milky Way—stretching north and south of the galaxy’s center.

Scientists from Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics first spotted the bubbles using data from NASA’s Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. To make the discovery, researchers had to peer through a “fog” of radiation caused by fast-moving particles interacting with light and interstellar gas. For this reason, the existence of the formations had previously eluded astronomers.

Experts have already begun to theorize what causes the Fermi bubbles. One idea attributes their origin to particles jetting from the super-massive black hole at the galaxy’s center. Another theory speculates that the structures formed as a result of a burst of gas after a period of rapid star formation.

Researchers and scientists are excited about what the discovery could mean for the future of their fields.

Astronomer David Spergel of Princeton University stated, “Whatever the energy source behind these huge bubbles may be, it is connected to many deep questions in astrophysics.”

To learn more on the significance of such findings, read the article “Earth’s Galactic Position Investigated! – Part 2.” □

WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

Shark Attacks Spark Terror in Red Sea

Within a six-day span, a popular tourist resort on Egypt’s Red Sea, Sharm el-Sheikh, witnessed a record five shark attacks, which claimed one life and left four people severely injured.

“That compares to just six attacks over the previous decade in Egypt, according to the Global Shark Attack File, a scientific archive that documents shark attacks worldwide,” *Time* magazine reported. “And at least six of those 11 incidents are believed to have involved the solitary oceanic whitetip—a shark species that doesn’t usually rank among the top killers.”

The article continued by saying that sharks are uncommon in the “clear, coral-rimmed waters off Sharm el-Sheikh.”

Despite the rarity of consecutive shark attacks, or of the animals frequenting such shallow waters, the *Telegraph* reported that “photographic evidence clearly showed that a whitetip with a distinctive notch in its tail-fin attacked a Russian man on Nov 30, taking off part of his leg. Six days later, the same shark returned to a nearby stretch of water by the Hyatt Regency hotel.”

There is widespread speculation among scientists regarding the causes

of the animals’ unusually aggressive behavior.

“Overfishing or depletion of food sources has been blamed for driving sharks closer to shore in search of food,” *Daily Mail* reported. “There are also accusations that tourist boats are illegally dumping meat into the water to attract sharks for passengers wanting to photograph them.”

According to *Ahram Online*, Russian tourism to Egypt has dropped 20 percent since the attacks began.

To learn more about this subject, read “Animal Attacks – Why Increased Aggression!” □

EUROPE

Violence in Rome after Controversial Vote



■ **STUDENT RIOTS IN ROME:** Top, youths fight with policemen (Dec. 14, 2010). Bottom left, a riot policeman stands guard against student demonstrators trying to reach the Italian Chamber of Deputies to protest the vote on education reform (Nov. 30, 2010). Bottom right, students face police officers (Nov. 30, 2010).

PHOTO: FILIPPO MONTEFORTE (TOP), VINCENZO PINTO (BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT)/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

In Rome's most violent protest since the 1970s, 50,000 rioters took to the streets after Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi narrowly survived a move to oust him from power. More than 100 people were injured.

Fights first broke out among disagreeing politicians at the Parliament building, and once vote results were made public, protestors set vehicles on fire, attacked police officers with metal bars, and vandalized

area stores. Elsewhere in the country, demonstrators stormed the Milan Stock Exchange building.

Mr. Berlusconi won by three votes in the lower house of Parliament, despite waning popularity due to his proposed sweeping budget cuts, and allegations of political corruption, charges of incompetency, and sex scandals.

The prime minister said the near-gridlocked Parliament will not stop

his party's plans to reduce government spending.

"We will go forward to guarantee stability of the country," he said (*The Financial Times*).

Additional protests, similar to the ongoing violent riots that have taken over the streets of Athens, London and Paris, are expected if Mr. Berlusconi's proposed austerity measures are implemented in the coming year. □



The White Horse



The Red Horse



The Black Horse



The Pale Horse



The Four Horsemen

The FOUR HORSEMEN of REVELATION EXPLAINED AT LAST!

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