

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2003

THE

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# REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



WHO WILL BE  
**THE NEXT  
POPE?**

*America's Education Crisis  
Evolution—Fact or Fiction?*

# THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. I | NO. 6 | NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2003

A R T I C L E S

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## The True Origin of Christmas

Where did Christmas originate? From the Bible or paganism? What is the *real* origin of Santa Claus—mistletoe—Christmas trees—holly wreaths—and the custom of exchanging gifts? Many are concerned about putting “Christ back into Christmas.” Was He ever there? Here are the stunning answers!  
**Page 20**

**ABOUT OUR COVER:** With Pope John Paul II in ill health, the Roman Catholic Church—and the world—stands at the crossroads of a new age.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Page 26 (U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency); Amazon.com; page 33 (Jacques Desclotres, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC); all other photos courtesy of stock.xcng.

## Post-September 11—A Permanent or Temporary Change?

The world was shocked by the horrific attacks against the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001. As a result, Americans united, reaching out to each other and becoming much more concerned about the well-being of others. But where is the care and concern *today*?

**Page 3**

## Evolution—Fact or Fiction?

Many voices in the scientific community are questioning the validity of the theory of evolution. Others state it as fact. What is the truth about this theory?

**Page 4**

## The Deadly Art of Character Assassination

It happened in California, and it will happen again across the United States in 2004. Mudslinging, especially during election campaigns, has become political sport—and the worst is yet to come.

**Page 7**

## Abortion—Woman’s Choice or Modern Holocaust? (Part Two)

Is abortion simply “a woman exercising her rights over her body”—or something much more grave?

**Page 10**

## Papal Succession—Who Will Be Next?

At the printing of this publication, reports of the Pope’s ill health abound. The entire world is watching and waiting as they glorify this man. What has he done for the Catholic Church and the world? What will his death mean, and who will be the next Pope? How will this affect you?

**Page 16**

## America’s Education Crisis (Part Two)

In Part Two of this series, we continue to examine the *effects* of the crisis in America’s education system—and reveal the true *cause* of its failure to properly teach children *how* to live.

**Page 24**

## The Cultural War

There is a war being waged on American soil—a *cultural* war—and its main objective is to control your mind!

**Page 28**

F E A T U R E S

Personal from David C. Pack  
World News Desk

1  
32

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

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

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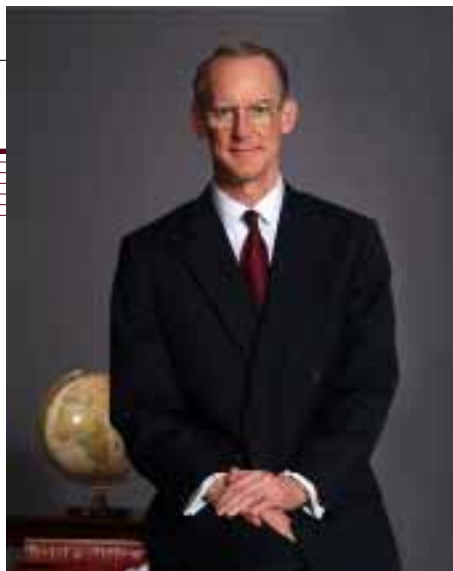
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## PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



# Which is the REAL GOSPEL?

## P A R T T W O

**T**HE APOSTLE PAUL wrote that Jesus, after His Resurrection, became “the *first-born* from the dead” (Col. 1:18), and “that He might be the **FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN**” (Rom. 8:29). When connected, these two verses show that Christ is the first-born from the dead, and that many others will follow. But when—and into what—will these—others—be born?

In John 3:3, Christ said to Nicodemus, “Verily, verily [this means truly, truly], I say unto you, Except a man be *born again*, he cannot *see* the kingdom of God.” In verse 6, He continues, “That which is born of the flesh *is* flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit *is* spirit.” Believe this plain verse. One must *become spirit* to see the kingdom of God.

Paul also wrote, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor. 15:50). The following two verses explain that the resurrection will occur at the Seventh (last) Trumpet, when “the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

The resurrection of the dead will occur at the Seventh Trumpet, when Christ returns. There is no misunderstanding this great event. People who were once fleshly human beings will be changed into spirit—will be **BORN AGAIN**—and enter into the kingdom of God.

John 4:24 states that “God is a Spirit.” Under the

Father, Christ leads His kingdom, which is composed of resurrected spirit beings. At His Return, Christ, as a member of the Family of God, will have many younger “brothers and sisters,” who will have qualified to rule with Him in His kingdom.

There is a plant kingdom, an animal kingdom, human kingdoms and an angelic kingdom. There is also the kingdom of God.

Notice Genesis 1:26: “And God said, Let *Us* make man in *Our* image, after *Our* likeness.” Referring to Themselves, the One speaking says, “Us,” “Our,” “Our.” This verse reveals that there is more than one Being in the Godhead. In fact, there are two! In this scripture, the Hebrew word for God is *Elohim*. It is a uniplural term like *group*, *team*, *committee* or *family*. All of these terms represent one entity, comprised of several persons.

Thus, the Bible teaches that there is one God, composed of two Persons—the Father and Christ—with many more to be added later. The first great time when God will add more sons to His Family is when Christ’s kingdom is established.

At that time, “many sons shall be brought unto glory” through the work of the “Captain of our salvation” (Heb. 2:10). Verse 11 says that Christ “is not ashamed to call them brethren”—those of whom Christ is called the “*first born*.”

Do you see what is described here? A true Christian's goal is to be BORN into the coming kingdom (government) of God as a spirit being who will rule under Christ. What could be more wonderful—more glorious—for a Christian to look forward to?

### **There Are Conditions to Entering the Kingdom**

Christ said to a young rich man who inquired about eternal life, "...if you will enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Matt. 19:17). Christ explained that one must keep the *Ten Commandments*, and specifically cited five of them.

In Romans 6:23, Paul wrote, "For the wages of sin is *death*; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." You receive wages from your job. These wages constitute payment for work you have done. Wages are something that you *earn*. Death is what all have earned—through sin! If Christ had not paid this penalty, the final "paycheck" that all people would receive is death—the ultimate "pink slip." On the other hand, salvation is a *gift*. You *cannot* earn it.

But what *is* sin? Since committing it results in death, should you not know what it *is*? I John 3:4 records, "sin is the transgression of the law." This is the same law that the young rich man was told he must obey to inherit eternal life.

Recall Christ's words in Mark 1:15: "*Repent* you, and believe the gospel." Repentance is from sin (Acts 3:19). A Christian is one who has repented of sin, and been baptized (Acts 2:38) and converted (3:19). Through a lifetime of overcoming sin, the Christian qualifies for (though he cannot "earn") salvation and spiritual birth into the kingdom of God.

### **The Kingdom of God Must Still Be Preached Today**

In His Matthew 24 prophecy, Christ was asked about the signs of His Second Coming and "the end of the

world [age]." He said that a number of different trends and events would occur first. In verse 14, He stated, "And this *gospel of the kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the *end* come." The true gospel was prophesied to be preached until "the end come." This plainly means that *someone* will be preaching it now, in our present age—because the end has not *yet* come. The Restored Church of God is doing this!

Preaching the truth of the gospel to the world was restored by Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986). He was used by God to reach hundreds of millions of people with this message throughout a 52-year ministry, which ended with his death in 1986. It was this man who taught me the true gospel and who trained me to be able to take this same message to the world.

Some believe that Paul preached a "different" gospel, unaware that it was Paul who pronounced a curse on anyone who did this (Gal. 1:8-9). But we have seen that Paul preached the kingdom of God. However, notice two verses in Acts showing that he did not neglect the subject of Christ's role in the salvation process.

First, Acts 20:25, 21: "I have gone preaching *the kingdom of God*...repentance toward God, AND *faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*." Paul preached the same gospel to both Jew and Gentile. Now notice Acts 28:30-31: "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, AND *teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ*."

Luke, the writer of Acts, differentiates between preaching about the *kingdom of God* and preaching about *Jesus Christ*! While both are vitally important, they are clearly two *separate* subjects!

Recall Acts 8:12, where Philip also preached both of these same teachings: "But when they believed Philip...concerning the kingdom of

God, AND the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." We see that Philip not only preached the gospel of the kingdom of God, but he also differentiated it from the teaching *about* Christ. Remember, the messenger is not the message.

Jesus is *not* the gospel. However, He does stand directly *alongside* the true gospel and *will* rule the entire earth when He returns and establishes His kingdom. We must not forget this!

Finally, consider another verse in which Paul made a distinction between the gospel and the person of Christ. II Corinthians 11:4 contains a powerful warning: "For if he that comes preaches *another Jesus*, whom we have not preached...or *another gospel* which you have not accepted, you might well bear with him" (the margin more correctly renders this last phrase "with *me*"). Paul wanted the Corinthians to reject false teachers and hold to what *he* had taught them. The point is that Paul distinguishes between the teaching of a *false Jesus* and a *false gospel*. These were—and are—two separate things.

Ask yourself: If Christ IS the gospel, then why did Paul (twice) and Philip speak of them *as two separate matters*?

### **The Kingdom of God Is Coming**

Make no mistake! Christ *will* soon return to earth and establish His kingdom. No *human being* could set up a single, world-ruling government that could work. In late 1966, wondering about the possibilities, I asked my United States Congressman if he thought that this could ever happen. He had been in Congress for over thirty years, to that point. He loudly asserted that it was not possible. Interestingly, he did say that if he thought it could work, he would "shout it from the housetops." I shall never forget his words. He was absolutely right—it certainly would

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 15



# POST-SEPTEMBER 11

## A Permanent or Temporary Change?

**I**N MANY ways, America changed after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Intelligence agencies improved, and now strive to prevent future breakdowns in communications. Significant measures were taken to create safer airlines, including bulletproof cockpit doors, armed pilots and overall higher security. The country took action to protect its infrastructure, including nuclear and chemical plants, water and electric systems, and bridges. Emergency response also improved.

On a personal level, Americans seemed to change after the attacks. Of course, the immediate reaction was one of sadness, shock and fear. For many, this soon became anger and a desire to seek retribution.

At the same time, it caused many to slow down, stop and ask themselves some bigger questions: “What if I had lost *my* family?”—“What if *I* was one of those who died?”—“What if they were *my* friends who lost their lives?”

The world was shocked by the horrific attacks against the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001. As a result, Americans united, reaching out to each other and becoming much more concerned about the well-being of others. But where is the care and concern *today*?

BY KEVIN D. DENEK

These and many more questions caused an entire nation to stop in its tracks, and it gave each citizen an opportunity to reflect.

What was the effect?

### **An Emotional Response**

American citizens began to reach out in a number of ways. Phoning distant relatives, reconciling broken relationships, rededicating themselves to family relationships, examining their beliefs in God, and turning to religion are a few of the many reactions.

Overall, people were warmer to each other—even to strangers on the street! Many also took notice of the

many blessings in their lives and became more thankful for them.

After September 11, donations to charitable organizations skyrocketed. Thousands across the country lined up to give blood and, as one article put it, “Sept. 11’s horror was answered with giving.” Donations hit half a billion dollars within two weeks of the tragedy. In the end, Americans gave over two billion dollars—the greatest flurry of donations to charities that the world has ever seen.

Yet sadly, the reaction—the need to give—only lasted a short time. It was a

Please see **SEPTEMBER 11**, page 31

# ev. O. Lu. t

## [FACT or FIC]

Many voices in the scientific community are questioning the validity of the theory of evolution. Others state it as fact. What is the truth about this theory?

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

**E**VOLUTION. It has been called the basis for many fields of scientific study. Be it biology, geology or biochemistry, the scientific world bases many of its modern concepts and theories on the theory of evolution.

But how has evolution become so established when it is only a theory? Certainly, it must have a firm and proven foundation. But does it?

As you read, you may find that certain parts of this article are confusing or difficult to understand. Make no mistake, the rationale invented to bring supposed support for evolution is bewildering and complicated—to the point of even being boring. The facts get left behind, and the tortured and tedious scholarly language used by evolutionists stops most from examining this subject in detail. Left frustrat-

ed, most people assume evolution to be true.

However, this subject defies true logic, so it is to be expected that you will periodically become lost.

We will demystify this subject. You will see convoluted—and illogical—theories simplified in a way never presented before. While some parts are technical, the more you understand about evolution, the more you will begin to see through its “smoke and mirrors.” Although it may appear complicated, it easily breaks down in the face of simple logic.

Clarity will come from understanding what evolution is *not*. This opens the door to what disproving evolution truly points to—the REAL ORIGIN of the universe!

But before we can show what really happened, we must prove what *did not happen*.

Even a cursory study of this topic

shows that it is still hotly contested! After many decades, much study has gone into it. The results are best summarized by a quote from the late Colin Patterson, once the world’s foremost fossil expert: “One morning I woke up and something had happened in the night, and it struck me that I had been working on this stuff [evolution] for twenty years and there was *not one thing I knew about it*.”

He addressed his concerns to both the geology staff at the Field Museum of Natural History and the Evolutionary Morphology Seminar at the University of Chicago, saying, “Can you tell me anything you know about evolution, any one thing that is true?” Each time, he was met with nearly complete silence.

The only comment came from the Evolutionary Morphology Seminar, in which one participant stated, “I do know one thing—it ought not to be taught in high school.”

This led Mr. Patterson to comment that “It does seem that the level of knowledge about evolution is remarkably shallow. We know it ought not to be taught in high school, and that’s all we know about it.”

But what are the REAL FACTS about the theory of evolution? What do we

# Evolution?

actually *know*? What is the basis for its nearly universal acceptance? We will cover in detail the facts, myths and suppositions that make up the body of the theory of evolution. You will be amazed at what the evidence actually shows!

## The Science of Logic

In the realm of science, logic is fundamental in interpreting data. Before delving into the raw data about evolution, it is important to understand some of the methods used to explain it. Rules of logic cannot be circumvented and, by extension, common logical fallacies should never be employed.

It is these fallacies that confuse data and leave the general public uncertain about what is being explained. Clear, simple logic should never leave one confused. Once you are aware of these logical fallacies, you will begin to notice how often they are employed in other fields—advertising, for instance. The following examples are illustrations of logical fallacies commonly employed in science. Keep these fallacies in mind while reading this article.

**Hasty Generalization:** This occurs when a small sampling of data is used to “prove” a large conclusion. For

example, a particular car dealership has nothing but red cars; it would be a hasty generalization to conclude that all cars everywhere are red.

**Begging the Question:** This can also be referred to as reasoning in a circle, or circular logic. When an assumption or conclusion is used to validate a premise, one is begging the question. In other words, there is no factual standing for the premise, because it is based on an assumption.

**Misuse of Authority:** When one points to a group of “experts” to validate a conclusion, even if that group disagrees with the conclusion. An example would be to state—without ever conducting a poll—that all dentists prefer a certain kind of toothpaste.

**Appeal to the People:** Using the general public as your basis for establishing something as fact, instead of relying on relevant evidence.

**Argument to Future:** Stating that while something is not true now, it will eventually be proven to be correct with further study and investigation.

**Hypothesis Contrary to Fact:** Trying to prove a point by creating a hypothesis that has already been disproved. For example, stating that the sky is green, when, in fact, it is obviously not true.

**Chronological Snobbery:** This fallacy occurs when a point is refuted or proven by simply dating the evidence as very old, thus making it impossible to be verified or proven.

This is just a sampling of the many logical fallacies covered in A.J. Hoover’s book, *Don’t You Believe It*. They will be reiterated as we come to them in this article. It is surprising how many are used by scientists when trying to explain the subject of evolution—a subject that is thought, by many, to be proven!

## What Is Evolution?

The question of evolution, per se, comes in many shapes and definitions. In its most basic form, it is the brainchild of Charles Darwin. In his book, *The Origin of Species*, Darwin postulated that all living creatures and, by extension, matter itself had come from previous, simpler substances. The example you may have most often heard is that humans came from apes.

But even among evolutionists, the scope of evolution is largely contested. There are six basic areas in which evolution can be defined: Cosmic, chemical, stellar and planetary, organic, macro and micro.

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

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

*Stellar and planetary evolution* is the discipline used to explain the origin of the stars and planets. This is distinct from, yet at times overlaps, cosmic evolution.

*Organic evolution* attempts to explain the origin of living matter. Those in origin of life studies most often focus on this discipline of evolution.

The two final disciplines of evolution are also the most often confused by people. They are *macro-evolution* and *micro-evolution*. Micro-evolution states that all living organisms experi-

ence mutations and have the ability to develop genetic adaptations. The difference between this and macro-evolution is that micro-evolution only deals with mutations *within* a species. Macro-evolution, on the other hand, states that such adaptations and mutations allow other species to form.

This may sound complicated—because it is! Often, evolutionists cannot even agree on where the lines of these particular disciplines start and stop. This has led to much confusion among the general public on which research and evidence is related to which particular discipline of evolution.

For instance, there is ample evidence to prove that micro-evolution is constantly happening around us. When a virus becomes resistant to antibiotics, it is demonstrating micro-evolution. Often, this evidence is used to “prove” macro-evolution. Such a case would be a perfect example of a *hasty generalization*.

**Assumption No. 1:  
Evolution is more than a theory—  
it is fact!**

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

Such certainty among some evolutionary scientists has led most schools in North America to teach evolution as a “historical fact.”

But not all evolutionists agree with this conclusion: “What was the ulti-

observation that has been confirmed repeatedly and is accepted as true.” From the quotes above, we can see that observations and tests show inconsistencies, and that evolutionists themselves have not accepted evolution as true.

How could such divergent opinions exist, yet some consider evolution to be fact? The answer is clear. Evolution has not been sufficiently proven in the scientific community to be considered fact!

Further, by true scientific standards, is evolution even a *theory*? A scientific theory is defined as a “theory that explains scientific observations; scientific theories must be falsifiable.”

What this means is that in order for a scientific theory to be valid, there must exist a test that can prove it either right or wrong. Without putting the theory to a test, one can never prove it—either true or false!

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“When something is dated very old to prove a point, we are dealing with...*chronological snobbery*.”

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This has led to much confusion in the general public, and to heated debates among evolutionists. But the problems in evolution go even deeper. Recall the logical fallacy of *begging the question*. The core of evolution is based upon this fallacy. Many of the pillars supporting the theory of evolution are based on assumptions. Those assumptions are then used to expand and prove other aspects of evolution. Again, this is simply begging the question.

So, if any aspect of these evolutionary “pillars” can be shown as unprovable assumptions, no other conclusions can be based upon them. We will cover twelve basic pillars of the theory of evolution. Most are so important to the theory that disproving them causes the *whole* theory to collapse.

As we cover each point, the logical fallacy that it employs will also be pointed out. You will be amazed at the “science” used to substantiate this nearly universally believed theory.

mate origin of man?...Unfortunately, any answers which can at present be given to these questions are based on indirect evidence and thus are **LARGELY CONJECTURAL**” (W. LeGros Clark, 1955).

Some evolutionists today make similar statements. Pierre-Paul Grassé, a world renowned zoologist and former president of the Academie des Sciences, stated, “Their success among certain biologists, philosophers, and sociologists notwithstanding, the explanatory doctrines of biological evolution do not stand up to an object, in-depth criticism. They prove to be either in *conflict with reality* or else incapable of solving the major problems involved” (*The Evolution of Living Organisms*, 1977).

While these quotes speak loudly, in this first assumption, we are not trying to disprove evolution, but to show that it is *not* a tried and tested fact. A scientific fact is defined as “an

For example, one could observe an orange sunset, and then theorize that the sun is always orange. There exists a means to either prove or disprove this theory, therefore making it a valid theory. Of course, if a theory is proven wrong, it should no longer be considered a valid theory. In this case, if one continues to watch the sky, they will see changes in its color.

If the same standards are applied to the theory of evolution, we must fulfill these two conditions. Evolution must be able to be observed and also be able to be put to the test. Because there have not been any observed examples of macro-evolution on record, the first condition is not met. We will cover supposed examples later in our coming brochure on this subject. Those who support this theory state that most major evolutionary changes happened millions of years ago. Past events are

Please see **EVOLUTION**, page 19



# *The Deadly Art of* **CHARACTER ASSASSINATION**

It happened in California, and it will happen again across the United States in 2004. Mudslinging, especially during election campaigns, has become political sport—and the worst is yet to come.

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

**S**UPPOSE YOU ran a successful multimillion-dollar company, and you were looking to hire a new manager to help expand your product line. What if, upon reviewing countless resumes, three job candidates stood out from the crowd—Jones, Smith and Brown? Now imagine that, as you interview Smith, he explains why he is the best man for the job:

“I’m sure that Jones and Brown are fine gentlemen,” he says. “However, I’m much more qualified than they are. I graduated from a finer university, and have far more on-the-job experience than they have. Also, my vision to improve and expand your product line is greater and much more realistic than what these two men propose.

“Confidentially, there are reports that Jones has a drinking problem, and occasionally beats his wife and children. Brown, on the other hand, used to experiment with illegal drugs back in

his college days, and still tends to associate with certain shady individuals.

“Of course, you would never need to worry about breaches of ethics under my watch. Hire me, and my leadership will stand for integrity and decency.”

Would you hire such a person—someone who shamelessly praised and exalted himself while slinging mud at the character and reputations of others? Of course not. Anyone who sought employment like this would sentence himself to a continuous spot in the unemployment line!

Yet many politicians run for office (seek to be hired by the voting public) by slinging mud at their opponents. Few, it seems, shy away from touting their own virtues while launching verbal attacks with wild accusations, rumors and innuendo against their rivals—all in hopes of attaining office by virtually any means necessary. And, the mindset goes, if that calls for tarnishing the reputation of others—tearing down their hopes and dreams, and even ripping apart marriages and families—then so be it. *Everyone* and *everything* is considered fair game.

## **Nothing New Under the Sun**

Numerous opinion polls reveal that most voters oppose negative campaign advertisements, yet both Democrats and Republicans often resort to smear campaigns—WHY?

Because negative campaign ads work! They have helped many politicians attain office. As a result, the road leading to political prominence is littered with the ruined reputations and shattered dreams of those who once held promise.

Those candidates who survive such vicious character attacks are often left politically scarred—and, in some cases, ruined. Their term in office is spent bowing to constant pressure of having to answer accusations and questions. They drown in gridlock, and their terms of office often end in failure.

Case in point: When popular film star Arnold Schwarzenegger decided to run for governor in the recent California recall election, his friends warned him that his personal reputation would be ferociously attacked—that every skeleton in his closet would be exposed for all to see.

Mr. Schwarzenegger’s friends were proven correct. And though he did win the recall vote, the film star has assumed the governorship at a steep price. Time will tell if the anguish he and his family experienced was worth it.

Unfortunately, this account is far from unique. A study of the history of American politics shows that it is partly built on the foundation of mudslinging, malicious accusations, vicious rumors, sleazy innuendo and outright lies.

Many who have sought the office of U.S. President have been targets of character assassination. And many of these targets were guilty of doing the same against their opponents. Thomas Jefferson was an architect of the Declaration of Independence and a founding father of this great nation—yet, he was not above hiring a journalist to slander John Adams, another founding father, in vying for the presidency. Abraham Lincoln suffered relentless attacks from his rivals before and all throughout his term in office. So have nearly all other presidents.

Therefore, expect character assassination to rear its ugly head during

*The REAL TRUTH*'s predecessor magazine, true character is (1) the ability to *know* right from wrong, (2) the willful desire to *choose* right over wrong, and (3) *doing* what is right and rejecting the wrong, even in the face of overwhelming trials, pressures and temptations to do otherwise.

In light of this definition, there are two major reasons why mudslinging exists: Those who maliciously attack the reputations of others lack character themselves! And in many cases, the targets of such attacks have also lacked character, often guilty of what they have been accused.

Unfortunately, we are nearing an age when TRUE CHARACTER—virtue, excellence and integrity—will be all but extinct.

#### **No Standard Accepted**

Every human being is born believing that *his* way is the *right* way. The

umbrella of traditional Christianity.

Praying to God the Father, Jesus Christ said that “Your word”—the Bible—“is truth” (John 17:17). Later, He inspired the apostle Paul to write, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for DOCTRINE [Greek: “teaching”], for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, for INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS [keeping God’s commandments; see Psalm 119:172]” (II Tim. 3:16).

The vast majority of professing Christians agree that the Bible is a holy book inspired by God. Yet few *believe*—and even fewer actually *DO*—what it *teaches*. Every sect, denomination and movement is bent on offering its own “spin” and interpretation of what the scriptures say.

Speaking of those who do this, Christ said, “Well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honor Me with their lips,

“...professing Christians agree that the Bible is a holy book inspired by God. Yet few *believe*—and even fewer actually *DO*—what it *teaches*.”

the 2004 U.S. presidential campaign. To date, the Democratic challengers have concentrated on attacking each other and whoever is the latest front-runner, while taking potshots at the president. But once a viable Democratic challenger emerges victorious from the primaries, you can expect mudslinging and character assassination on a grand scale. Get ready to be buried under an avalanche of verbal assaults and (mis)information through speeches, news interviews, campaign commercials, press releases, talk radio, editorials, etc.

Character assassination is alive and well, and will only grow worse.

#### **What Is Character?**

*Merriam-Webster* defines character, in part, as “moral excellence and firmness.”

To paraphrase Herbert W. Armstrong, founder and publisher of

result is that people cannot fully agree on a *universal standard* that defines right from wrong.

For example, some believe that abortion under any circumstance is wrong. Others think that abortion is permissible if the pregnancy is a result of a sexual assault or incest, or if the unborn child has a genetic birth defect. Others believe that, though abortion is wrong, mothers-to-be possess rights that override the rights of the unborn, including the right to live. Some think that it is okay to abort an unborn child only within the mother’s first trimester. Others believe it can include the second trimester. And still others believe that a woman has a right to abort her child at *any* time during the pregnancy!

Clearly, people cannot agree as to what is right and what is wrong. Perhaps the most blatant example of this is found beneath the overarching

but *their heart is far from Me*. Howbeit *in vain do they worship Me*, teaching for doctrines *the commandments of men*. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men...Full well you reject the commandment of God, *that you may keep your own tradition*” (Mark 7:6-9).

Most who call themselves Christian reject the Bible as the ultimate defining standard of right and wrong. They observe Christmas, Easter, New Year’s and other popular holidays, despite abundant historical evidence that these worldly observances have ancient pagan roots.

“I celebrate the holidays to worship God,” goes the argument. “As long as I use them to point to Christ, there’s nothing wrong with keeping Christmas, New Year’s and such.”

But what does the inspired Word of God actually teach? Notice: “Learn not

the way of the heathen [Moffatt Translation: “pagans”]...For the customs of the people are vain” (Jer. 10:2, 3). These and numerous other verses reveal that the God of the Bible does not tolerate celebrations and observances that are rooted in paganism.

Unfortunately, most people are not concerned with what God thinks. Each person would rather do “that which [is] right in his own eyes” (Jud. 21:25). This is why mudslinging and breaches of character thrive and will continue to grow worse.

### Ultimate Standard Rejected

Carnal nature convinces each human being that *his* way is the RIGHT way. Scriptures such as Proverbs 16:2 (“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes”) and 21:2 (“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes”) show this mindset.

However, God’s Word also reveals that “There is a way which *seems* right unto a man, *but the end thereof are the ways of death*” (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). Also notice Jeremiah 10: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: *it is not in man that walks to direct his steps*” (vs. 23).

Clearly, the Bible shows that men do not have the natural ability to determine right from wrong. Yet, ironically, men believe they *do* have this ability. How can this be?

Because “The heart [mind] is *deceitful above all things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). The human mind deceives people into believing that they possess the natural ability to properly judge right from wrong.

Where did this deception originate? The book of Genesis reveals the answer. Chapters 2 and 3 record that there were two symbolic trees in the Garden of Eden. The Tree of Life represented the ULTIMATE STANDARD of *how to live*. It symbolized the way of GIVE—outgoing concern for others—reliance upon God for direction and guidance. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented the way of GET—concern only for self—reliance only upon self, not God.

Had they eaten of the Tree of Life, Adam and Eve, the world’s first humans, would have chosen to rely upon God to guide them in making the right decisions. And so would their offspring. Civilization would be radically different from what we see today. War, murder, theft, adultery and other ills that plague our society would be nonexistent.

However, Adam and Eve chose to eat of the wrong tree. Ever since, they and their descendants have chosen to do “that which was right in his own eyes.” The result?—the chaotic, violent, increasingly perverse world in which we live today.

Cut off from God, men cannot agree upon a universal standard of right and wrong. Each man has his own idea of how to live.

### What If...?

Suppose everyone *did* accept God’s Word as the ultimate standard of right living. What if mankind chose to rely upon God to teach them right from wrong, and turned to the Bible, allowing it to simply interpret itself?

Every problem, issue and concern we face today would be successfully resolved! There would be no more debates about smoking, gun control or abortion. There would be no more differing views of Christianity. Never again would people say, “Now here’s what I think” and come up with their own flavor of biblical teachings. Everyone would know and agree on right from wrong.

But simply knowing is not enough. People must *choose* to do what is right.

For example, men have set up laws regulating how motorists should behave while driving in traffic. Yet, have you noticed what happens when you drive the exact highway speed limit? Most cars speed by you as though you were standing still! Drivers routinely tailgate other motorists who are not going “fast enough.” They recklessly zip across traffic lanes without using their turn signals. And they speed through red lights without care or concern for the lives of others.

Laws, rules and standards are effective only when men CHOOSE to obey them.

And yet even *this* is not enough. Even if people *know* and *choose* what is right, they must actively DO it—rejecting all temptations and pressures to take the easy way out!

This is true CHARACTER.

If men followed these steps, mudslinging would be a thing of the past.

Why?

Because everyone would know that it is wrong to assassinate the character of others. And no matter what “evidence” was presented to them, they would refuse to resort to smear campaigns—even if it meant not getting “hired” into office. Also, people would not do the sort of things that would cause their reputations to be attacked in the first place!

Regrettably, few—if any—have this type of godly character.

Until mankind accepts the only universal code—the Bible—that truly defines right from wrong in all matters of life, character assassination will increase, and character itself will continue to weaken and eventually fade away completely. □

### HOW YOUR REAL TRUTH SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID

Restoring plain understanding of the problems, symptoms and causes behind today’s headlines, *The REAL TRUTH* magazine examines world events, troubles and trends from a biblical perspective, preaching—and publishing (Mark 13:10)—the gospel message of the kingdom of God “for a witness to all nations” (Matt. 24:14). The gospel of Jesus Christ is not to be sold like mere merchandise. Therefore, in the spirit of Proverbs 23:23 (“Buy the truth, and sell it not”), *The REAL TRUTH* is provided free of charge. This is made possible by the freely given tithes and offerings of the members of The Restored Church of God, and by the voluntary offerings and donations of co-workers and donors—those who have elected to help spread Christ’s gospel to all.

# ABORTIO

Is abortion simply “a woman exercising her rights over her body”—or something much more grave?

**S**INCE THE legalization of abortion in 1973, America has been dealing—in part—with its social, economic and moral problems through the disposing of the unborn. It can be said that each child born in the U.S. since 1973 is not only an American citizen—but is also a *survivor* of its laws.

With over two decades since *Roe v. Wade*, and as the world descends further into the fog of “the new morality” (which began taking shape in the mid-twentieth century), society still cannot even agree on the simplest of issues concerning abortion. Many, claiming that abortion is a woman’s God-given right over her body, continue this practice blissfully unaware—not wanting to know the truth behind such unresolved issues as: Have millions of *human lives* been aborted, or were they merely *fetal tissue*? And, what exactly is the value of a fetus?

According to today’s standards, it is not worth much. In the October 2003 issue of *Reader’s Digest*, Dr. Eric Keroack, an ob-gyn in Boston, stated, “A fetus is considered so precious that we spare no expense to save its life; yet it’s also so worthless that it can be legally disposed of.”

Why is it that after thirty years, the

most monumental issues surrounding abortion still remain in debate? How can it be that, while millions of either human beings or “blobs of organic matter” are being aborted, so many questions concerning this procedure remain unanswered?

Why can science send men to the moon, discover amazing complexities of the human cell, and create the most intricate, technological innovations, yet *cannot* even answer the crux of the abortion debate: *WHEN* does life begin?—and—*WHO* has the right to take it away?

According to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Blackmun, such difficult questions need *not* be resolved. But is this true? Should we dismiss such an all-encompassing decision, simply because those trained in the fields of medicine, philosophy and theology are unable to come to a *unanimous* consensus? Can one dare risk the lives of millions while waiting for such a universal decision—coming from a mankind who cannot even agree on the simplest of matters?

In this part of the series, we will analyze these questions. We will also examine the global effects of abortion and how it has affected the marriage and family institutions, and learn why the media has presented such a one-sided view of “abortion on demand” to the now not-so-trusting public. We

will also see, after examining the facts, the true implications of abortion.

## Global Scope of Abortion

In Part One, we saw how legalized abortion has affected America. But what effects has it had on society as a whole? Although abortion does not seem to be as controversial in the rest of world as it is in America, this is not because the procedure rarely occurs.

Notice: While nearly 50 million abortions have taken place in America alone since 1973, an estimated 46 million abortions take place around the world *each year*—over 126,000 a day. According to a United Nations Population Newsletter, 20 million of these are performed *illegally*.

According to “Abortion Policies: A Global Review,” by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, of 192 countries and territories analyzed, 55 provide abortion on demand. Of these, 27 restrict abortion on demand only to the first trimester (weeks 1 through 13).

Of these same 192 countries and territories, all but four offer legal abortions to save the mother’s life. Also, 135 offer abortions to mothers who may suffer from a health or mental “risk” (and this is open to interpretation), if the pregnancy is the result of rape, the unborn has a birth defect, or simply upon demand.

In countries (mainly Catholic) where abortions are prohibited, mothers who self-induce abortions—and this is becoming more common each day—are charged with *infanticide* and imprisoned. Yet, in a bordering coun-

# N Woman's Choice or Modern Holocaust?

P A R T T W O

try, the procedure may be legally available, and all a mother needs to do is visit a clinic.

Illegal abortions are commonly performed in unsanitary conditions, with unsafe surgical procedures and by untrained people, and account for an estimated 78,000 deaths of pregnant women worldwide each year.

On the worldwide scale, the abortion rate (the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44) can range from a low of 6.5 in the Netherlands, to a high of 77.7 in Cuba. The U.S. abortion rate is 21.3, comparable to other developed nations, such as an 18.7 rate in Sweden and a 22.2 rate in Australia.

sial in America. Why? In an article, "The war that never ends," *The Economist* explains that although other countries (mainly in Europe) have legalized abortion, it is not such a debated issue as it is in America. This is mainly due to *how* it was legalized in the U.S.

European nations legalized abortion through legislation, occasionally through referenda. This open-forum discussion allowed opponents' objections to help mold the laws to suit both sides as much as possible. This gained the support of both sides, who felt that their opinion was voiced. Also, Europe provides abortions free, with slightly

into technical ones—and then hand them over to technocratic elites. America is a country of fundamentalists, thanks to its constitutional tradition, its legal culture and perhaps its Puritan heritage. For Americans, abortion can never be just about health. It has to be a clash of absolutes: the *right to choose* versus the *right to life*. Add to that the openness of the American political system, which makes it impossible to hand controversial questions over to technocratic elites, and you have the making of an *endless argument about fundamentals*."

In effect, abortion has become a battle of "rights." On one side of the

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“And, as stated, any American born after 1973 is a survivor of legalized abortion—not simply a citizen of their country.”

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In Poland—where abortion was declared illegal nearly ten years ago—a Dutch “abortion boat,” consisting of a tugboat with a women’s clinic, is reported to have been stationed in international waters to offer Polish women pregnancy counseling, birth control and the abortion pill known as RU486 and, if asked, to perform abortions. This group of abortionists, called “Women on Waves,” is hoping that Poland will ease its stance on abortion once it is part of the EU. These “abortion tours” are becoming more common, and frequently visit international waters near nations that restrict abortions.

Ironically, while abortion is prolific around the world, it is most controver-

stricter time limits for when the procedure can be performed, stating that it is available for the *health* of the woman—not her *right*.

On the other hand, America placed abortion rights on par with freedom of speech and religion—stating that it is a part of one’s right to privacy. Placing abortion rights under the banner of the American Constitution is what has caused the firestorm among so many.

*The Economist* further attributes the battle over abortion to America’s supposed high regard for “Christian values and morals,” and for an American fondness for “arguing about fundamentals.” The article continues, “Europeans routinely turn moral issues

trench are those standing up for the “right” of a mother to decide whether her unborn child lives or dies. On the other side are those defending their “right” to uphold life and to practice what they believe to be “Christian” morals and ethics.

But there is an additional *right* that many have overlooked. This right is found on a document signed on July 2, 1776—called the Declaration of Independence—which states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are *endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights*, that among these are LIFE, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

# Media Bias?

Another incredible force behind society's slanted views of abortion is the media. While the media is supposed to present unbiased reporting on all issues—including abortion—watching news telecasts from various media outlets presents a far different picture.

What has this created?—A wave of ideologue rhetoric, spoon-feeding the American public on how they should think on certain issues. All this, while under the banner of presenting the unbiased facts of the day. Many people are

beginning to identify this, as evidenced by a recent Gallup Poll, in which nearly half the country stated that they believe the media has a liberal bias.

For example, imagine if a disease spread around the world, and 126,000 lives were lost. One can expect to go home and hear some reporting on this epidemic of holocaust proportions. What if a war broke out, and 126,000 soldiers were killed in one day? Surely, one could expect to turn on the television and see thousands protesting the war—calling

for its quick end. Yet, each day, this many unborn children are aborted worldwide, with nearly 50 million in America alone since 1973!

Instead, what fills newspapers and broadcasts are headlines of abortion clinic bombings, or intolerant, “anti-choice” groups trying to take away a woman's right over her body. Biased references to both sides of the debate are all over headlines: “Anti-choice” and “anti-women,” versus “pro-choice” and “pro-women.”

However, certain black-and-white developments

regarding abortion—such as President Bush's banning of partial-birth abortion—have been particularly difficult for the mass media to ignore and shuffle away under news headlines about “the war against women continues” or “another bombing at an abortion clinic by crazed ‘anti-choicer.’”

According to the technocrats, this right to life, however, hinges on the exact moment when human life begins. Some believe it to be at conception—when the sperm and the ovum meet. Others claim that life does not begin until the fetus takes in its first breath, similar to when life entered Adam in the Garden of Eden.

Since brain waves are one of the legal criteria in determining whether someone is alive, and are measurable in the unborn child by week seven, it has been said that, legally, life begins at that time. However, the exact moment that life begins *must* be determined. After all, millions of lives hang in the balance.

## What Science Reveals

For over two decades, some in the medical profession—whom the world has “knighted” with the responsibility to discover when human life begins—have claimed that they still do not have the irrefutable proof needed to determine when life begins. But there are many others in medicinal science who plainly state that this proof has been found—yet it continues to be dismissed by the skeptics.

Notice: “I have learned from my earliest medical education that human life begins at the time of conception. I submit that human life is present throughout this entire sequence from

conception to adulthood and any interruption at any point constitutes a termination of a human life” (Dr. Jerome LeJeune, genetics professor, University of Descartes in Paris).

“Each individual has a very neat beginning, at conception” (Prof. Micheline Matthews-Roth, Harvard University Medical School).

“The beginning of a single human life is from a biological point of view a simple and straightforward matter—the beginning is conception” (Dr. Landrum Shettles, discovered male and female-producing sperm).

“By all the criteria of modern molecular biology, life is present from the moment of conception” (Dr. Hymie Gordon, Chairman of the Department of Genetics at the Mayo Clinic).

“The exact moment of the beginning of personhood and of the human body is at the moment of conception” (Dr. McCarthy de Mere, medical doctor and law professor, University of Tennessee).

“The majority of our group could find no point in time between the union of sperm and egg, or at least the blastocyst stage, and the birth of the infant at which point we could say that this was not a human life” (*Willke & Willke, Handbook on Abortion*, 1971, 1975, 1979 Edit., ch. 3).

“Scientifically there is absolutely

no question whatsoever that the immediate product of fertilization is a newly existing human being. A human zygote is a human being. It is not a ‘potential’ or a ‘possible’ human being. It is an actual human being—with the potential to grow bigger and develop its capacities” (Dr. Dianne Irving, “When Does Life Begin? Scientific Myths and Scientific Facts,” *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 1999).

When asked in an interview, “When does life begin?,” Hadley Arkes, author of “Natural Rights and the Right to Choose,” replies, “The leading textbooks on embryology say it's the union of two gametes, a male gamete or spermatozoon and a female gamete or mature ovum. You can phrase it different ways, but on the medical side there is no dissident on this matter. What we find is that people are not arguing over the science, they're arguing over the social definition of a human being. People throw in all these other attributes—it has to be alert, and articulate. Well, many of those things aren't manifest in a newborn child. He's not snapping off witty sentences...But we know the capacity for it is there” (*Newsweek*, “The War Over Fetal Rights,” June 9, 2003).

The mountain of proof that life begins at conception is so great, Dr.

William Harrison, an ob-gyn in Fayetteville, Arkansas, stated, “The real issue in the abortion debate is *not* when life begins, but is it morally meaningful life? Well, I don’t know.”

With every passing year, the fundamental views regarding the beginning of human life are changing. Medical science is discovering that they are able to save premature babies at earlier stages. With state-of-the-art innovations, allowing mothers to see their unborn child develop, smile, blink and move within the womb, assumptions on when human life begins are in question. In fact, it is reported that many women seeking an abortion have a change of heart once they see the baby through ultrasound images.

As technology continues to evolve, those who ignore the above statements are presented with a tragic dilemma: As society descends deeper into the modern “new morality,” how long can millions of potential lives be disposed of until medical science *unanimously* agrees to some irrefutable proof of when human life is worth saving? How long will it be until the public becomes so accustomed to this “constitutionally-protected right,” that it simply refuses to know the answer?

Science has clearly *proven* that life begins at CONCEPTION—when the sperm and the ovum meet. It is then only a matter of time for the physical human features to develop.

Why do so many people continue to debate nonsensical questions such as “When is the fetus’s life worth the value of a human life?” According to the facts presented by science—*it is at conception!* At that moment, to take the life of the human fetus is morally and ethically wrong—it is outright MURDER!

### Family and Marriage

Another aspect of modern society that has been deeply affected by abortion is the institution of marriage and family. Since the mid-twentieth century, the new morality has been molding society, especially the younger, more susceptible minds.

What does this new morality entail?—Premarital sex, unmarried couples living together, open sexual experimentation, tolerance and exhibition of different sexual lifestyles, constant conditioning of children to be accepting of *any* and *all* forms of sexuality—and the list goes on.

Before this new morality came on the world scene, couples dated for marriage, and held a high regard for the institution of marriage. Sexual relations were saved for *after* marriage. Children were a blessing to have, not a curse—as they are to many in today’s “get” society. Women would never dream of having an abortion, nevermind to maintain a career or a single lifestyle.

But it is far different today.

Couples no longer feel that they have to get married, because “so many people are getting divorced, we’ll just live together.” Today, single and even married women have the occasional abortion because they cannot handle the stress or responsibility of a child. Families are torn apart through adultery and other domestic problems, and, because of the “tolerance” taught in schools, children are unable to grasp a clear-cut definition of exactly what a family should be. Because of sex education in classrooms as early as elementary school, by the time teens graduate from high school, many have had more sexual encounters than they can actually count.

And, as stated, any American born after 1973 is a survivor of legalized abortion—not simply a citizen of their country.

*This* is the NEW MORALITY—and is further promoted by many in the media and politics to appease the degenerating morals of a decadent society, paralleled by that of ancient Rome. (To learn more about the God-ordained institution of marriage, read our free booklet *The Purpose of MARRIAGE—Ever Obsolete?*)

William J. Bennett, in his book *The Broken Hearth*, writes, “Men and women today can have sex more promiscuously, more casually, and with

much lower odds of pregnancy and childbirth. For the first time, on a large scale, sex has been de-linked from both marriage and procreation. The results of this revolutionary shift are all around us, in our homes, on our streets, in the books we read and the movies and television shows we watch. Sexual promiscuity, heterosexual and homosexual alike, is a fact of life, incorporated into the mentality and often then behavior of even the youngest adolescents, and reinforced even by well-meaning adults through programs like the free distribution of condoms in schools. As for the by-product of increased promiscuity, the more measurable ones can be found in high rates of abortion and out-of-wedlock births, as well as the relentless march of sexual diseases both old and new.”

Again, *this* is the NEW MORALITY.

According to what is acceptable in society today, the God-ordained institution of marriage and the family is no longer the same. No longer do all families have a father and a mother, raising healthy, happy children to live the way God intended. In fact, God has been pushed completely out of most people’s lives. They do not want the Creator of all things—the *Originator* of human existence—to be in *their* lives, homes, schools or government. That is the true origin of the abortion debate—the governments of men have thrown out God’s instructions in His Holy Word—the Bible!

Now that you have seen what science states regarding the facts behind the origin of life, ask yourself the all-encompassing question: What does *God* think about abortion? Although society has strayed from the true God, removing Him from the picture, what does He—as the *AUTHOR* of human life—say on this matter?

### Crime and Sin

To understand what God thinks of abortion, one must understand the difference between crime and sin. They are not the same, nor are they defined by the same set of laws.

According to most of man’s governments, abortion is a legal procedure. In

countries where it is illegal, it is a crime to have an abortion, often resulting in a prison sentence. If someone holds up a bank and steals money, this is a crime. A crime is the breaking of *man's* laws.

Sin is similar, and is defined in I John 3:4: "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for *sin is the transgression of the law.*" Sin is the breaking of *God's* laws. Depending on where you live, it may not necessarily be a crime to have an abortion, but it is a SIN—and is a clear *breaking* of the Sixth Commandment, "*Thou shall not kill*" (Ex. 20:13).

In living contrary to God's ways, humanity has resorted to killing millions of innocent children—all in the name of creating his own laws, apart from God.

*This* has been the effect of Adam rejecting God's revealed knowledge in the Garden of Eden. Instead of learning and obeying God's laws, man chose to decide for himself right from wrong (Gen. 3:6; I John 2:16; Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

In II Timothy 3, Paul further describes how society would be in the end times—almost 6,000 years after Adam's fateful decision in the Garden: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. *For men shall be lovers of their own selves* [abortion kills children, simply so that people are free of them], covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, *Without natural affection* [all parents want the best for their child—abortion is the complete opposite], trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, *lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God* [while many profess to esteem Christian ethics and morals, they continuously go against Him]; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth [mankind has had a wealth of knowledge at his disposal, yet cannot come to agreement over the most basic understanding]" (vs. 1-5, 7).

It is this same mentality, described by Paul, which made the court ruling in 1973 to legalize abortion in the United States. This same mentality fuels both sides of the abortion debate, bringing it to ever-increasing confusion and violence, and is the same mentality that Paul stated would *abound* in the last days of mankind's rule over the earth.

### **When Life Begins**

For 6,000 years, humanity has been cut off from God and His Holy Spirit (Isa. 59:1-2)—which imparts spiritual understanding—leaving only fallible human reasoning to solve all of man's greatest problems. In the Garden of Eden, God offered man His Spirit, which would have been available to the entire world had Adam eaten of the Tree of Life (Gen. 2-3).

Instead, Adam ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:9), which gave him the capacity to understand only *physical* knowledge. Since then, society has lived contrary to God's *spiritual* laws, only acquiring physical knowledge. Humanity has also been in ignorance of God's spiritual Plan of salvation for humanity.

But, God has revealed His Plan for humanity through His Word—the Holy Bible. This great truth cannot be understood by the most intellectual minds; neither can the God-rejecting mind—which seeks to remove God from every aspect of life today—understand it unless God allows it to.

God's supreme purpose is to reproduce Himself through man! While man is earthly, made of dust, God is spiritual, composed of eternal and inherent life. (To learn more about God's Plan to reproduce Himself, read our free book *The AWESOME POTENTIAL of Man.*)

At the end of man's 6,000 years of misrule, war and misery, Christ *will* return, establishing God's kingdom and government on the earth. Christ's saints—those who obey God's Word and are in God's Church, the spiritual mother (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22-23)—will then rule the earth with Him. Today, true Christians have in them an

earnest—or small portion—of God's Spirit (II Cor. 1:22; 5:5), which will change Christians into spirit-composed sons of God.

This great understanding parallels physical reproduction—the conception and birth of a human life—to spiritual reproduction—the conception and birth into spirit life. *This* is the grand purpose of human life today, and is the gospel message that Christ brought—that of birth into the FAMILY AND KINGDOM OF GOD.

After repentance and baptism, the life of a Christian begins through spiritual conception—the receiving of God's Holy Spirit. Spiritual conception is pictured by physical conception, which begins human life. Until the Christian is BORN—born in the Spirit and into the Family of God at Christ's Return—he is in a period of spiritual gestation. Just as the human fetus grows and develops within the mother's protective womb, a Christian is nurtured within God's Church, and grows to become a full-grown Christian (II Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:12-13), like Christ our elder Brother (Rom. 8:14-17).

At Christ's Return, this small amount of God's Spirit within each Christian will change, causing the physical, carnal man to be born of the DIVINE NATURE of God's Family (I John 3:1-2).

The parallels between the physical conception and birth into a human family and the spiritual conception and birth into the God Family are not by coincidence—they were authored by God, and have always been a part of His Plan for mankind. If you understand this great truth, it also is not by coincidence—God is revealing it to you!

This is the AWESOME POTENTIAL OF MAN—so says your Bible. The truth behind the modern holocaust of abortion is that vast numbers of potential sons of God are being slaughtered every day!

### **There Is Still Hope**

As we have seen, human life begins at conception. To deliberately kill or



injure such a life is MURDER, and is punishable only by God the Father—the great Lawgiver. Tragically, this world, cut off from this great understanding, continues to slaughter God's greatest creations—His future sons!

But there is still hope. If you have experienced an abortion in your family, or have perhaps undergone the turmoil of this procedure yourself, God

reveals that a time is coming when the world will be at peace, and all who have died will be raised to live again.

At that time, *all* who have died—including the many millions of aborted children—will be resurrected, and reunited with their families. At that soon-coming time of *God's kingdom*, these aborted children will get a chance to live, and learn what it means

to be born into the human family—and later into the GOD FAMILY.

This is the *good news* of the wonderful world that awaits mankind. *This* is the gospel message that Christ brought to this world. If society would only give heed to this warning (Ezek. 33) and obey God, they could prepare for this time of lasting *peace* and *happiness* for all! □

## PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

never work, *if left in the hands of men!* But this is not what Christ will do.

Recall Daniel wrote, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: *and the kingdom shall not be left to other people*, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, *and it shall stand forever*” (Dan. 2:44). The kingdom of God will reign over the entire earth—all nations—and the resurrected saints shall share this reign with Christ.

Christ stated in the “Sermon on the Mount” that “the meek shall inherit the *earth*” (Matt. 5:5). Now you know why! Actually, Christ was quoting Psalm 37:11, where David said precisely the same thing. Other passages show that David knew he would one day rule (over all the tribes of Israel) within the kingdom of God.

Now turn to Daniel 7 and examine three separate verses. Notice verse 18: “But the *saints* of the Most High shall take the *kingdom*, and possess the *kingdom* forever, even forever and ever.” Verse 22 states, “Until the Ancient of Days [Christ here, and the Father in verse 13] came, and judgment was given to the *saints* of the Most High; and the time came that the *saints* possessed the *kingdom*.” Then notice verse 27: “And the *kingdom* and dominion, and the greatness of the *kingdom* under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the

*saints* of the Most High, whose *kingdom* is an everlasting *kingdom*, and all dominions [rulers] shall serve and obey Him.”

Daniel understood that the *saints* will reign on the earth!

Now notice three separate verses in Revelation. Through John, Christ states, “To him that *overcomes* will I grant to sit with Me in My *throne*, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His *throne*” (3:21). Also notice 2:26-27: “And he that *overcomes*...to him will I give *power over the nations*: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron.” And, finally, “and [God] has made us...kings and priests: and we shall *reign on the earth*” (5:10).

Has anyone ever told you about *any* of these basic verses? Almost certainly not. Yet, they have been in the Bible for thousands of years!

No wonder that when Christ was on trial for His life, He said, “My KINGDOM is not of this world: if My KINGDOM were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom *not from here*” (John 18:36). Pilate had asked Him, “Are you a *king* then?” Christ answered, “*To this end was I born*, and for this cause came I into the world...” (vs. 37). Jesus fully understood that He was born to be a KING (Luke 1:31-33)!

The prophet Isaiah also recorded, “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 pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (2:2-4).

The exact same prophecy is repeated in Micah 4:1-3! In front of the United Nations Building is the sculptured image of a large man forging a plow from a sword. I have seen it hundreds of times because I conducted Sabbath services across the street from that spot for over four years. But no one seems to any longer take notice of, or even believe, the great prophecy this famous sculpture depicts.

Christ came to be a KING. When His reign begins, world peace will “break out”—along with worldwide happiness, prosperity, abundance and supreme joy! No human government has ever been able to bring these things to even *one country* on earth. This soon-coming kingdom is the core of the very gospel that Christ brought.

Do you believe it? *Will* you believe it?

The Restored Church of God is boldly preaching this greatest of prophetic truths. This prophecy is sure—it is certain! When it is fulfilled, you too can be a part of God's great GOVERNMENT! □



# PAPAL SUCCESSION

WHO WILL BE NEXT?

At the printing of this publication, reports of the Pope's ill health abound. The entire world is watching and waiting as they glorify this man. What has he done for the Catholic Church and the world? What will his death mean, and who will be the next Pope? How will this affect you?

BY MARK P. DENEE

**M**OST TODAY would question, as they do with religion in general, the relevance of the Pope in a world of global economies, technology, and terrorists and dictators who seemingly must be fought unilaterally.

And so we ask: What is his significance on the international scene? What can he do about the world's problems?

As the current Pope, John Paul II, slowly fails in health, the world more closely examines what he has done for the Catholic Church, the direction he has taken the church, and the course he has set for it. He has, as we will more

closely look at, almost completely appointed all members of the Sacred College of Cardinals—the body that will elect his successor.

Again, we ask: Who will be the next Pope? How will he compare to John Paul II? What are the implications?

Concerns over John Paul's ill health increased recently as he ordained 31 new Cardinals months earlier than expected, and a few high-ranking church officials made statements to the press that his time was drawing short. As recently as October 25, Daniel Williams reported in *The Washington Post* on one of his recent public appearances, "He can't speak clearly or for long and can barely gesture. His head slumps until it rests on his chest."

Three Cardinals, Ratzinger, Sodano and Sandri, have been appointed to speak for him and to even appear at certain functions in his place. Mr. Williams' article continues, "Pope John Paul II has become a preacher who cannot preach, the latest and clearest sign that his reign over the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics is nearing its end."

## The Beginnings of a Pope

The speculation and analysis of who will be the next Pope has been occurring for upwards of two decades, likely beginning when Pope John Paul II began showing signs of Parkinson's Disease. Among all of it, one thing is evident (and we will see why later): The next Pope will more than likely be very similar to the current one.

However, to see where the Catholic Church is headed, we must see where it has been, and take a brief look at who and what John Paul II is and was.

Born Karol Jozef Wojtyła (upon accepting the role, each Pope chooses a new papal name) in 1920 to Karol Sr., a retired army officer and tailor, and Emilia Kaczorowska, a schoolteacher of Lithuanian descent, John Paul II spent most of this childhood

and teenage years between his birthplace, Wadowice, Poland, and Krakow, Poland. At a time and in a place such as that, he was immediately exposed to a very volatile and violent world. In the 16th century, Poland had been a large and rich country in Europe, but slowly and painfully lost that superior position over time.

For two centuries, up to the fall of Communism, Poland and its people had been victims of the Germans, Austrians and Russians. Poland was constantly divided and devoured by its neighbors, and it was in the end of this tumult that John Paul grew up. By the age of 20, he had lost all members of his immediate family and turned his life to the Catholic Church.

The Polish Catholic Church was intensely authoritarian, orderly and hierarchical, and the priests who made it so molded Wojtyla into the Pope we know today. Notice: “Those who have been lifted through the ranks become hierarchical and authoritarian in their turn. As Pope, John Paul II has paid assiduous attention to his appointments (virtually all of his bishops share his views), and has never shrunk from using his power against whatever is egalitarian, inchoate, and disorderly” (*PBS Frontline: “John Paul II—The Millennial Pope”*).

Also interesting is the description of arguably the most important of all his “spiritual” mentors, Jan Tyranowski. The relationship began in 1940, at a weekly discussion group in the parish church. Tyranowski was, as Helen Whitney describes him, “a strange man—a forty year-old tailor with white-blond hair, a high-pitched laugh and piercing eyes. Neighbors spoke to us about his oddness and intensity” (*Ibid.*).

Tyranowski’s recruitment of young Catholic men off the streets of Krakow for his “Living Rosary,” a prayer circle and theology discussion group, was aggressive. He insisted on asking the young men intrusive personal questions, alarming some. But Wojtyla was enthralled by Tyranowski’s persona and the power of his philosophies.

Mieczyslaw Malinski, an eventual

priest and seminarian friend of Wojtyla’s, recalls the meetings: “Every moment of the day was organized around activity and relaxation. We were asked to keep detailed records of our prayers and thoughts. Tyranowski took us through each stage very calmly and methodically until we reached the central core of his teaching—what he called the plenitude of inner life.”

Many consider the papacy of John Paul II to have been one of restoration of the Catholic Church. The Vatican Council II (1962-1965) shook the church to its core, and he went immediately about re-grounding it in its conservative traditions. Richard John Neuhaus, editor of the Catholic magazine *First Things*, said in this regard, “This pope has the church in a stronger position than it’s been in since the Protestant division in the 16th century. When has the Catholic Church had as much respect as it does today?” (*CNN Biography, “Pope John Paul II—The Papal Years”*).

Despite objections, Pope John Paul II has supported conservative Catholic groups such as Opus Dei and the Legionaries of Christ. This September, in a message addressed to Peter Hans Kolvenbach, superior general of the Jesuits, Pope John Paul II reminded the Society of Jesus of the special bond that unites them to Rome.

The Pope wrote, “This is an opportune occasion to better discover, starting from its origins, the charisma that joins you intimately to the See of Peter. St. Ignatius’ [the Society’s founder] inspiration to foster ‘greater devotion to obedience of the Apostolic See’ retains its full value at the beginning of this third millennium. You must be witnesses and agents, in all parts of the world, of the catholicity of the church, which is the sacrament of Christ in the midst of men” (*Zenit News Agency*).

One important legacy of John Paul II is that of turning his attention and office, and thus the Vatican and church, toward the whole world. Up until his reign, popes and the Vatican were consistently introvert in nature, focusing much of their time and atten-

tion inward, concerning themselves largely only with church affairs.

Thomas Reese, editor of *America* magazine and author of the book *Inside the Vatican*, said, “It used to be that the pope stayed home in Europe. But in his travels and use of the media, this pope has brought a lot of attention to his role in helping and encouraging the church around the world” (*CNN Biography, “Pope John Paul II—The Papal Years”*).

Interestingly, *The Economist* indicated that due to the amount of his travels, he has delegated a lot of authority to the Curia, the Vatican’s conservative core. John Paul, however, has been instrumental in making the world’s business his business—and thus the church’s as well. In his book, *Papal Power*, Australian priest Paul Collins stated that this has created “an entirely new situation in church history: the seemingly omnipresent papacy.” We will later see the great importance of this significant shift.

### Recent History

In making that shift, John Paul has managed to seize the high moral ground in world affairs and portray his office as an authority to be reckoned with. This is particularly the case, and will be increasingly so, with the decline in strength of the United Nations. We have seen this specifically in regard to the recent U.S.-led war in Iraq. Just before the war broke out, the Vatican re-issued its position, claiming that any military intervention would be considered a “crime.”

Archbishop Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, had this to say on Vatican Radio: “It is a crime against peace that cries out vengeance before God.”

In another statement that week, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said, “Those who decide that all peaceful means that international law makes available are exhausted assume a grave responsibility before God, their conscience and history” (*Zenit News Agency*).

An earlier *Washington Post* article indicated that the Vatican would con-

sider the U.S. the “aggressor” nation. One got the sense from these statements that the Roman Catholic Church is anticipating, and even working toward, becoming the official moral judge of the world and would be—at some point in the near future—in a position to “punish” the perpetrators of said or similar “crime.”

On a front closer to home, the Pope has been stringent with insisting that the new European Constitution not only mention Christianity as a “foundation” of the continent, but that those peoples as a whole return to their Christian and Catholic roots. In a lengthy exhortation to the church in Europe this past summer, he practically insisted that “Catholic countries” such as Italy, Spain, Ireland and Poland work harder to implement the Vatican’s desire (*BBC News*).

During a visit to Spain in May 2003, Pope John Paul II expressed his hope and desire that Spain’s Catholic legacy be used as a template for the new Europe. His words were, “I am certain that Spain will contribute the rich cultural and historical legacy of its Catholic roots and values to the integration of a Europe...” (*Zenit News Agency*). Upon evaluating this trip, Pope John Paul II announced that the Roman Catholic Church would do everything necessary to maintain the “Christian values” of Europe. He said, “This fifth apostolic trip to Spain has confirmed a profound conviction in me. The old nations of Europe retain a Christian [Catholic] spirit, which constitutes a whole with the genius and history of the respective peoples.”

The Pope had told a crowd of 700,000 young Spaniards, “You will be my witnesses.” He explained that he had “exhorted the Christians of Spain to remain faithful to the Gospel, to defend and promote the unity of the family, to preserve and renew continually the Catholic identity that is the nation’s source of pride,” and reaffirmed, “It will be in virtue of the perennial values of its tradition that that noble country will be able to make its contribution to the construction of the new Europe” (*Zenit News Agency*).

On a more international level, the Pope has continued to work toward Christian reconciliation and unity, while offering it to the world during the recent times of terrorism and war. He said this past spring, “In a world situation filled with danger and insecurity, all Christians are called to stand together in proclaiming the values of the Kingdom of God.” He went on to say that the “quest for full communion among all Christians is a duty which springs from the prayer of the Lord himself.”

When he was visited by an ecumenical delegation of Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Anglicans from the San Francisco area, he said, “At a time of conflict and grave unrest in our world, I pray that your witness to the Gospel message of reconciliation, solidarity and love will be a sign of hope and a promise of the unity of a humanity reborn and renewed in the grace of Christ” (*Zenit News Agency*).

We have seen what has made John Paul II the Pope that he is. We have seen some of the priorities that he has set for the church and worked on. He has to a large degree set the course for his successor to follow. The major issues of Christian unity, the Catholic Church as a moral judge of the world, and the United States of Europe are all “works in progress”—the Vatican and the next Pope will continue where John Paul II leaves off.

Although the life experiences of the Cardinal who will be the next Pope will certainly be different, the end result will be something very similar. Whether this Cardinal rose through Catholic hierarchy in Europe or South America, he has been shaped and molded by the same very strict and traditional environment—the Catholic Church.

### **The Sacred College of Cardinals**

Of the 135 cardinals, Pope John Paul II has ordained all but five of them. Hence, he has to a large degree controlled the selection of the next pope. It is more than likely that the voting cardinals will select a new Pope who is similar to his predecessor—strong-willed, autocratic and an arch-conserva-

tive. In addition, although the ratio of nations represented in the College has changed significantly with John Paul as Pope, it is still very much European at 48.9 percent. Also, John Paul II was the first non-Italian Pope in 456 years—there is some indication that the College may be ready to return to its roots.

According to Thomas Reese, editor of the Catholic magazine *America*, three factors will be important in the selection of the next Pope. Firstly, the cardinals will not choose a young Pope, as John Paul II (who has been Pope for 25 years) was when first appointed. There is reference to a desire for a “transitional” Pope, one who would closely follow the example set and remain relatively conservative, to provide time for the church to “digest” the previous papacy. Secondly, the next Pope must be able to speak several languages, with English and Italian a must. And third, he will have to have a good public presence—an ability to speak to the world through the mass media and, to a certain degree, exert control through it.

Despite a saying in Rome that goes, “To enter the conclave a pope is to exit a cardinal,” following is a list of cardinals who have been mentioned in various media as front-runners (source unless otherwise indicated: *Christian Science Monitor*, “Experts Ponder Papal Succession”):

**Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, Italy**—close to Opus Dei (*Newsday.com*, “The Men Who’ll Pick Next Pope”).

**Cardinal Francis Arinze, Nigeria**—the sensationalism of a black Pope will probably be too rich for the cardinal’s conservative palate (*CNN Biography*, “Pope John Paul II—Succession Overview”).

**Cardinal Godfried Danneels, Belgium**—a unifying figure acceptable to both conservatives and progressives.

**Cardinal Claudio Hummes, Brazil**—theologically conservative, considered one of the strongest Latin American candidates.

**Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, Colombia**—favorite of arch-conservatives.

**Cardinal Walter Kasper, Germany**—favorite of progressives, currently head of ecumenical affairs for the Vatican.

In the end, though, as Robert Moynihan, editor and publisher of the magazine *Inside the Vatican*, puts it, “In the Vatican, those who talk don’t know and those who know don’t talk.”

### The Future

We can be relatively certain that the next pope will follow closely in the footsteps of John Paul II. The course and priorities that he has set will be continued. Whether this next papacy is relatively short, providing a time of “transition,” or not, we can also be certain that it will go according to the great Plan of God.

The accelerating of world events, as part of the path of God’s Plan, may dictate that the next Pope, the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church make drastic changes. Or rather, world events may provide the church with an opportunity that they are patiently awaiting.

A great new superpower, as the seventh and final restoration of the

Holy Roman Empire, is indeed rising in Europe, and the Pope and Vatican (as the “little horn” of Daniel 7:8, 20-22, 24-27) will play an integral part in its domination of the entire world! (For more information, you may wish to read our free report *Out of the Ashes: THE RISE OF EUROPE*.)

Whether it is this next Pope, or the one after, a future Pope will head the Roman Catholic Church, depicted as a whore in Revelation 17, riding a seven-headed beast, the seventh head having ten horns (vs. 3). (To learn more, read our free booklet *Who or What is the BEAST of Revelation?*)

It may be this Pope who will be given powers by the god of this world—Satan the devil—as the “false prophet” (II Thes. 2:3; Rev. 16:13; 19:20) along with the civil ruler, the “king” of this empire, “...working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world...” (Rev. 16:14). It may also be this Pope who will even lead the world to worship this beast, and eventually deceive mankind into fighting Jesus Christ at His Second Coming (Rev. 16:9, 13-14; 17:13-14).

Several cardinals have recently indicated a need to treat the large cities of modern Western society, soaked in materialism and individualism, as new missionary territory. How this will be accomplished remains to be seen, but it will prove to be interesting. Events may dictate Europe to submit, either eagerly or passively, but Britain and the United States will have to be forced.

We live in exciting times! To most, they are even fearful times. But that need not be so. The knowledge of God’s Plan will bring confidence. If you are concerned about the Pope and the Catholic Church, and if you are interested in the world’s *near* future, read carefully the contents of this magazine and the recommended literature. Ask God, the Creator of all things, for understanding.

Near the end of His prophecy in Luke 21 concerning this time just ahead of us, Jesus Christ warned and commanded in verse 36, “WATCH you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” □

## EVOLUTION

*Continued from page 6*

not testable and, therefore, evolution is also not falsifiable.

Recall the logical fallacies discussed above. When something is dated very old to prove a point, we are dealing with what is called *chronological snobbery*. Make no mistake, evolutionists know that they are not dealing with either a scientific fact or theory, and must resort to logical fallacies to validate their claims.

This is best described by Dr. Michael Denton, a proclaimed evolutionist: “His [Darwin’s] general theory that all life on earth had originated and evolved by a gradual successive accumulation of fortuitous mutations, is still, as it was in Darwin’s time, a *highly speculative hypothesis* entirely without direct FACTUAL support and very far

from that self-evident axiom some of its more aggressive advocates would have us believe.”

As we have seen, evolution is definitely not a fact. It is not even a scientific theory. As Dr. Denton has stated, it is nothing more than a “highly speculative *hypothesis*.” Can you imagine something so contested, even by those who profess to believe it, taught in schools as fact? It leaves one to wonder, if it is not a fact or a theory, how exactly is it scientific?

As you continue through the coming brochure, something will happen to your knowledge of evolution. The FACTS will deflect the clever arguments of evolutionists. You will be able to *prove* what is true—not just *assume* it to be.

That is the fundamental difference between creationism and evolution—PROOF! God’s Word teaches us to “prove all things, hold fast that which

is good” (I Thes. 5:21). *Proving* something means to prove it either true or false. By the end of this brochure, you will have proven creation true, proven evolution false and, by the knowledge you will have obtained, be able to debunk silly assertions.

Evolution will go from something “understood *only* by the scholarly,” to an utterly illogical fallacy, believed *only* by the blind, foolish—and ignorant!

The concept of evolution implies a starting point—a beginning—from which all matter, and then life, formed. This event supposedly started with the BIG BANG!

But what does the evidence show? Did the big bang actually happen? To learn about this assumption of evolution and ten others, the many misconceptions about creationism and some proofs of intelligent design, read our free brochure “Evolution – Fact or Fiction?”, available December 2003. □

# The True Origin of CHRISTMAS

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

BY DAVID C. PACK

**E**VERY YEAR after Thanksgiving, most people’s thoughts turn to Christmas. It is the time when professing Christians are supposed to focus on Jesus Christ. After all, it is the “*Christ-mass*” season!

Christmas is thought by most to be a wonderful time, focusing the participants on giving, family togetherness, beautiful music and decorations, feasting on special foods and singing Christmas carols throughout the neighborhood (as my family did every year). All of this is supposedly centered around the worship of Christ. Surely the Bible instructs us to do all this—right?

The answers will shock you!

Why do people think that Christmas is wonderful? Most never reflect on *why* they believe what they believe or do what they do. We live in a world filled with customs, but few ever seek to understand their origin. We generally accept them without question. Most people basically do what everyone else does—because it is easy and natural!

Let’s carefully examine the roots of Christmas. Let’s look at why people follow the customs associated with it.

Why is it kept on December 25th? Did the early New Testament Church keep it? This article is filled with facts from history that, when placed together, paint a complete picture. Let’s avoid all assumptions and only accept what can be **PROVEN!**

## **Pagan Origin**

In 1990, the Solon, Ohio (a Cleveland suburb) school board banned all nativity and other Christmas scenes on any school property because they felt it violated the separation of church and state. They were challenged in court when outraged parents opposed them, feeling that Christmas was being stolen from their children and the community. *The board lost the case!* The citizenry had contended that Christmas was a worldwide tradition that was not part of, and transcended, religion. It was deemed to be secular—a part of virtually all *cultures* worldwide.

The court decision affirmed that Christmas has no Christian roots! However, the court’s opinion also noted that bible reading and prayer obviously *are* associated with Christianity—a remarkable admission! The court concluded that Christmas-keep-

ing and manger scenes could remain because they are not really part of either Christianity or religion—but prayer and Bible reading, which are, must remain excluded from schools!

Nearly all aspects of Christmas observance have their roots in Roman custom and religion. Consider the following admission from a large American newspaper (*The Buffalo News*, Nov. 22, 1984): “The earliest reference to Christmas being marked on Dec. 25 comes from the second century after Jesus’ birth. It is considered likely the first Christmas celebrations were in reaction to the Roman Saturnalia, a harvest festival that marked the winter solstice—the return of the sun—and honored Saturn, the god of sowing. Saturnalia was a rowdy time, much opposed by the more austere leaders among the still-minority Christian sect. Christmas developed, one scholar says, as a means of replacing worship of the sun with worship of the Son. By 529 A.D., after Christianity had become the official state religion of the Roman Empire, Emperor Justinian made Christmas a civic holiday. The celebration of Christmas reached its peak—some would say its worst moments—in the medieval period when it became a time for conspicuous consumption and unequalled revelry.”

Consider these quotes from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1911 edition, under “Christmas”: “Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church...the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt.” Further, “Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas.” Under “Natal Day,” Origen, an early Catholic

writer, admitted, "...In the Scriptures, no one is recorded to have kept a feast or held a great banquet on his birthday. It is only sinners (like Pharaoh and Herod) who make great rejoicings over the day in which they were born into this world" (emphasis mine).

The *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1956 edition, adds, "Christmas...was not observed in the first centuries of the Christian church, since the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth...a feast was established in memory of this event [Christ's birth] in the fourth century. In the fifth century the Western Church ordered the feast to be celebrated forever on the day of the Mithraic rites of the birth of the sun and at the close of the Saturnalia, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

There is no mistaking the origin of the modern Christmas celebration. Many additional sources could be cited and we will return to this later. Let's begin to tie some other facts together.

It was 300 years after Christ before the Roman church kept Christmas, and not until the fifth century that it was mandated to be kept throughout the empire as an official festival honoring "Christ."

### **Can Christ Be Honored by Christmas?**

The most common justification that one will hear regarding Christmas is that people have replaced old pagan customs and intents by asserting that they are now "focusing on Christ." I have heard many say that they are "honoring Christ" in their Christmas-keeping. The problem is that God *does not say this is acceptable to Him! Actually, He plainly commands against it!* Keeping Christmas *dishonors* Christ! He considers everything about it to be an abomination! We will soon see why.

Christ said, "But in *vain* they do *worship* Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9). Christmas is not a command of God—it is a tradition of men. Christ continued, "Full well you *reject* the com-

mandment of God, that you may keep your own *tradition*" (Mark 7:9). Every year, throughout the world, on December 25th, hundreds of millions do just that!

We will see that God plainly commands, "Follow not the way of the heathen." But most people do not fear God, and He allows them to make their own decisions. Human beings are free moral agents—free to obey or disobey God! But woe to those who ignore the plain Word of God!

### **Was Christ Born on December 25th?**

Christ was born in the fall of the year. Many have mistakenly believed He was born around the beginning of winter—December 25th! They are wrong! Notice the *Adam Clarke Commentary*, volume 5, page 370, New York edition: "It was custom among Jews to send out their sheep to the deserts about the Passover [early spring], and bring them home at the commencement of the first rain." The first rains began in early-to-mid fall. Continuing with this same quote: "During the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As...the first rain began early in the month of March-esvan, which answers to part of our October and November [begins sometime in October], we find that the sheep were kept out in the open country during the whole summer. And as these shepherds had not yet brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our Lord was not born on the 25th of December, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could He have been born later than September, as the flocks were still in the fields by night. On this very ground, the nativity in December should be given up. The feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact...See the quotations from the Talmudists in Lightfoot."

Luke 2:8 explains that when Christ was born, "there were in the same country shepherds *abiding in the field*, keeping watch over their flock *by night*." Note that they were "abiding" in the field. This never happened in

December. Both Ezra 10:9-13 and the Song of Solomon 2:11 show that winter was the rainy season and shepherds could not stay on cold, open fields at night.

Numerous encyclopedias plainly state that Christ was not born on December 25th! The *Catholic Encyclopedia* directly confirms this. In all likelihood, Christ was born in the fall! A lengthy technical explanation would prove this point.

Since we now know that December 25th was nowhere near Christ's actual birthdate, where did the festival associated with this date come from?

Now read this quote under "Christmas": "In the Roman world, the Saturnalia (December 17) was a time of merrymaking and exchanging of gifts. December 25 was also regarded as the birthdate of the Iranian mystery god Mithra, the Sun of Righteousness. On the Roman New Year (January 1), houses were decorated with greenery and lights, and gifts were given to children and the poor. To these observances were added the German and Celtic Yule rites when the Teutonic tribes penetrated into Gaul, Britain and central Europe. Food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, gifts and greetings all commemorated different aspects of this festive season. Fires and lights, symbols of warmth and lasting life, have always been associated with the winter festival, both pagan and Christian" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15th ed., vol. II, p. 903).

A final quote about the selection of December 25th as the birthdate of Christ is necessary. Note an article in *The Toronto Star*, December 1984, by Alan Edmonds, entitled, "We owe a lot to Druids, Dutch": "The Reformation cast a blight on Christmas. By then, of course, clever ecclesiastical politicians had adopted the Pagan mid-winter festival as the alleged birthdate of Jesus, of Nazareth, and thrown in a few other Pagan goodies to make their takeover more palatable."

December 25th was not selected because it was the birth of Christ or because it was even near it. It was

selected because it coincided with the idolatrous pagan festival *Saturnalia*—and this celebration must be carefully examined. In any event, we do *not* know the exact date of Christ’s birth. While God certainly could have made it known, He chose to hide it from the world’s eyes!

### What About Santa Claus?

Parents reason that they *owe* the whole Christmas myth to their children! Christmas traditions are focused primarily on kids, and they are certainly the center of most of what happens. I know because I kept seventeen Christmases. My older sister and younger brother and I were the recipients of much and the givers of very little on that day—and it all started with the Santa Claus lie.

Some years ago, a priest in New Jersey told his Sunday school class that Santa was a myth. The outrage from parents and his supervisors was

even more recent than this.) “Old Nick” has long been recognized as a term for the devil.

In Revelation 2:6 and 15, we read about a “doctrine of the Nicolaitanes,” which Christ twice tells His Church “[He] hates.” Let’s analyze the word Nicolaitane. It means “follower of Nicholas.” *Nikos* means “conqueror, destroyer.” *Laos* means “people.” Nicolaitanes, then, are people who follow the conqueror or destroyer—Nimrod. If you have believed that following Christmas is an innocent Christian custom, let this truth sink in!

### Is It Scriptural to Exchange Gifts?

Merchants regularly report that over 60% of their annual retail sales occur during the Christmas shopping season. This represents a tremendous amount of gift buying. Most today believe that gift-giving comes from the Bible example of the “three wise

Numerous scriptures make this principle clear. (Read our article “Are Birthday Celebrations Christian?”) However, what if you went to a birthday party that had been prepared for you and everybody gave gifts to each other and you were left out? The idea is ridiculous! If this happened, you would say that people were being selfish and forgetting you. In fact, most people give to others on Christmas *merely because they expect to receive gifts themselves!*

Let’s briefly return to the “wise men” who gave gifts to Christ. The scripture describing this is Matthew 2:1-11: “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born *King of the Jews*?...And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped him:

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## “The Christmas tree, however, is directly mentioned in the Bible! Turn to Jeremiah 10:2-5...”

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swift. He had “killed Santa!” He had “destroyed family tradition!” He had “usurped family authority,” the article continued. He was officially censored by his superiors for being “overzealous and insensitive.”

His crime? He told the *truth!*

According to *Langer’s Encyclopedia of World History*, (article “Santa”), “Santa” was a common name for Nimrod throughout Asia Minor. This was also the same fire god who came down the chimneys of the ancient pagans and the same fire god to whom infants were burned and eaten in human sacrifice among those who were once God’s people.

Today Santa Claus comes from “Saint Nicholas.” Washington Irving, in 1809, is responsible for remaking the original old, stern bishop of this same name into the new “jolly St. Nick” in his *Knickerbocker History of New York*. (Most of the rest of America’s Christmas traditions are

men” (the Bible gives no number) presenting gifts to Christ. Is this true? Where did exchanging gifts come from, and what does God’s Word say about it?

The *Bibliotheca Sacra* states, “The interchange of presents between friends is a like characteristic of Christmas and the Saturnalia, and must have been adopted by Christians from the pagans, as the admonition of Tertullian plainly shows” (Vol. 12, pp. 153-155).

Like every other aspect of Christmas, the shocking truth is that even this supposed Christian custom does not come from the Bible. It is an irony that people love to believe they are following the custom of the wise men giving to Christ, when actually they are giving *almost exclusively to each other!* What hypocrisy! Christ is completely forgotten.

The Bible actually teaches that Christians should not keep birthdays.

*and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”*

It is commonly supposed that these were birthday presents for “baby Jesus.” But is this what the Bible actually says? Absolutely not! First, it is important to note that they *did* give the gifts to Jesus. They did not stand in his presence and exchange gifts among themselves or give them to others. The gifts were “presented *unto Him.*” Also, they arrived well after his “birthday.” This is another reason these could not have been “birthday presents.”

A long-standing, ancient custom of the East was to present gifts when coming before a king. These men understood they were in the presence of the “King of the Jews.” The Bible carries many examples of people sending gifts to kings or presenting them upon arrival into their presence. This custom is common today when



ambassadors or others come into the presence of a world leader.

Finally, notice what the *Adam Clarke Commentary*, volume 5, page 46, states about what really happened on this occasion: “Verse 11. They presented unto him gifts. The people of the east never approach the presence of kings and great personages, without a present in their hands. This custom is often noticed in the Old Testament, and still prevails in the east, and in some of the newly discovered South Seas Islands.” Gifts were customarily presented to kings.

What could be more plain?

### Origin of the Christmas Tree

No article about Christmas is complete without some explanation of the “Christmas tree.” We have touched on it without directly focusing on it. The modern Christmas tree originated in Germany. But the Germans got it from the Romans, who got it from the Babylonians and the Egyptians.

The following demonstrates what the Babylonians believe about the origin of the Christmas tree: “An old Babylonish fable told of an evergreen tree which sprang out of a dead tree stump. The old stump symbolized the dead Nimrod, the new evergreen tree symbolized that Nimrod had come to life again in Tammuz! Among the Druids the oak was sacred, among the Egyptians it was the palm, and in Rome it was the fir, which was decorated with red berries during the Saturnalia!” (Walsh, *Curiosities of Popular Customs*, p. 242).

Frederick J. Haskin’s *Answers to Questions* states, “The Christmas tree is from Egypt, and its origin dates from a period long anterior to the Christmas Era.” Did you know this—that the Christmas tree long preceded Christianity?

Most aspects of Christmas are not referred to in the Bible. Of course, the reason is that they are not from God—they are not part of the way He wants people to worship Him. The Christmas tree, however, *is directly mentioned in the Bible!* Turn to Jeremiah 10:2-5, “Thus says the Lord, *Learn not the way*

*of the heathen...For the customs of the people are vain:* for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.”

This plain description of the modern Christmas tree is clear. God directly refers to it as “the way of the heathen.” Just as directly, He commands His people to “*learn not the way of the heathen,*” calling these customs “*vain.*” Verse 23 adds a remarkable and powerful statement: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks *to direct his [own] steps.*” God must teach people how to live. Man simply cannot figure out God’s ways for himself.

There is no room in Jeremiah 10 to believe, as some have tried to suggest, that because these trees are powerless of themselves, it is not really *forbidden* to have a Christmas tree. God condemns the putting up of pagan (Christmas) trees with this plain Bible command!

### The Source of Holly Wreaths, Yule Logs and Mistletoe

The *Encyclopedia Americana* states, “The holly, the mistletoe, the Yule log...are relics of pre-Christian time.” In other words, paganism! The Yule log was commonly used in a rite of Teutonic nature worship.

Frederick Haskin further states, “The use of Christmas wreaths is believed by authorities to be traceable to the pagan customs of decorating buildings and places of worship at the feast which took place at the same time as Christmas.”

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, under “Celastrales,” exposes the origin of the holly wreath: “European pagans brought holly sprays into their homes, offering them to the fairy people of the forests as refuge from the harsh winter weather. During the Saturnalia, the Roman winter festival, branches of

holly were exchanged as tokens of friendship. The earliest Roman Christians apparently used holly as a decoration at the Christmas season.”

There are dozens of different types of holly. Virtually all of them come in *male and female varieties*—such as “Blue Prince and Blue Princess” or “Blue Boy and Blue Girl” or “China Boy and China Girl.” Female holly plants cannot have berries unless a nearby male plant pollinates them. It is easy to see why the holly wreath found its way into pagan rituals as a token of friendship and fertility!

Christmas is incomplete to many unless it involves “kissing under the mistletoe.” This pagan custom was natural on a night that involved much revelry done in the spirit of drunken orgies. Just like today, this “kissing” usually occurred at the beginning of any modern Saturnalia/Christmas celebration. I will never forget having to always kiss my friends’ mothers *upon entering each of their houses every Christmas*. It was the first thing that we did. I hated it—but it was something I “had to do”! Mistletoe was considered to have special powers of healing for those who “reveled” under it.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, under “Santalales,” states, “The European mistletoe is thought to have had special ritual significance in Druidical ceremonies and lives in folklore today, its special status as the Christmas mistletoe having come from Anglo-Saxon times.” Mistletoe is a parasite that lives on oak trees. (Recall that the Druids worshipped in oak tree groves.) The ancient Celts (associated with the Druids) used to give mistletoe as an herbal remedy to barren animals to make them *fertile*. It is still referred to as “*all healer*” in Celtic.

Like mistletoe, holly berries were also thought to be sacred to the sun god. The original “sun log” came to be called the yule log. “Yule” simply means “wheel,” which has long been a pagan representation of the sun. No wonder people today commonly speak of the “sacred yule-tide season.”

Please see **CHRISTMAS**, page 31

# AMERICA'S EDUCATION CRISIS

P A R T T W O

In Part Two of this series, we continue to examine the *effects* of the crisis in America's education system—and reveal the true *cause* of its failure to properly teach children *how* to live.

BY JAMES F. TURCK

**W**E HAVE examined the aptitude levels and literacy rates among U.S. high school students in comparison to other nations. We have also looked at other factors affecting education, such as crime and violence.

We will now examine various factors that contribute to the crisis in America's education system, and identify the true basis for right and proper education.

## **Drug Use Among Students**

An additional factor contributing to the decline of the American education system is widespread drug use. During the presidency of Ronald Reagan, a concerted effort was made to diminish drug use among young adults. Mrs. Nancy Reagan spearheaded the "Just say no" campaign in an effort to strengthen the resolve of those resisting peer pressure to use illegal drugs.

Television featured 30-second spot ads using the image of an egg being fried in a skillet to demonstrate the effects of drug use on the brain. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has promoted efforts to curtail the abuse of alcohol among young adults after countless deaths resulting from alcohol-related automobile accidents.

Yet, for all this effort, drug and alcohol experimentation and abuse among high school seniors have remained at a high level. Newspapers are filled with articles about tragic deaths of young adults whose lives were cut short because of drunk driving—either their own or someone else's. Drive down any highway or through various intersections, and the constant reminder of their deaths will be visible—a wreath or flowers marking the location where life ended. How often do we read of a drug overdose involving some new designer drug, considered safe because it is not like the "hard drugs" used by the previous generation?

Stop and consider: A recent survey of high school seniors revealed that 80 percent have consumed alcohol. Fifty percent admitted to using alcohol in the thirty days prior to the survey. Clearly, alcohol is their drug of choice, yet 50 percent say they have used an illicit drug, including marijuana, cocaine, heroin and LSD. An astonishing 25 percent claimed to have used illicit drugs in the same thirty-day period (University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, "Monitoring the Future").

One would think that the education system would be on the frontlines in the battle to keep children off drugs. This is simply not the case. In fact, it is largely responsible for a whole generation of very young children being placed on psychotropic substances, including Ritalin and Adderall. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has classified Ritalin as a Schedule Two drug comparable to cocaine!

Yet, 15 percent of our nation's children use these substances. Over 20 million prescriptions for these stimulants were written in one year alone, all used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), a "mental disorder" voted into acceptance in 1987 by the American Psychiatric Association. In the following year, 500,000 U.S. children were

diagnosed with the disorder. Yet, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Consensus Conference on ADHD, the NIH issued the following statement: "We do not have an independent, valid test for ADHD, and there is no data to indicate that ADHD is due to a brain malfunction."

The 18 behaviors that some deem as symptoms of the disease have no scientific validity at all. The very behaviors that are said to be an indication of ADHD are almost identical to the behaviors said to point to a gifted child!

Where is the first diagnosis of this supposed "mental disorder" occurring? In the schools! Teachers and administrators are trained to educate, not medicate. They do not possess the knowledge or the education to make this determination. Yet, many parents are coerced into drugging their children by school administrators, under the threat of a call being made to "Children's Protective Services."

It is far easier to drug a child into submission than to address the real cause of his behavioral problems.

Research has proven that children who spend endless hours watching television have a higher rate of behavioral problems. They have absorbed countless images of violence into their minds, whether through adult programs or so-called children's cartoons. Their attention span is conditioned to a seven-minute length, the result of commercial interruptions after every seven minutes of programming. Children carry this attention span into the classroom. They simply act out what they have been taught: Aggressive, violent behavior, unable to pay attention for longer than seven minutes at a time.

But instead of being taught correct behavior, children are conditioned to seek drugs to solve their problems. This will carry over into adulthood. America already consumes 90 percent of the global production of Ritalin.

### **Crisis of Funding**

As if all other problems facing the education system were not enough, there

always seems to be a shortage of funds. Fifty percent of all public schools report having buildings with at least one inadequate feature, and no room in the budget for repairs. They range from faulty roofs, floors and foundations, to poor heating and electrical systems, and other safety concerns.

Taxpayers are routinely burdened with ever-increasing demands for more money. They face property tax increases twice a year on local election ballots. Various states throughout the country face lawsuits from those seeking to change the way schools are funded.

For the fourth time since 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court told the governor and state legislature that they have not properly devised an adequate education system—coupled with adequate funding—that enables each child to succeed. Yet education is one of the first places state lawmakers look to cut budgets. While they pander to special interest groups and pad their own pockets, schools struggle to stay afloat.

Communities seem very willing to spend money to build multimillion-dollar sports stadiums and facilities for business owners so that grown men can play games, while many schools implement "pay-to-play" sports programs because of a lack of funding.

Still, more money does not necessarily guarantee that a school will produce better students. The Cleveland, Ohio School system, ranking ninth in spending per pupil, spends slightly more money per pupil than the wealthier community of Hudson. While more than 90 percent of Hudson children will go on to college, nearly one in five Cleveland ninth-graders will drop out before their class graduates—the worst dropout rate among the nation's largest school districts (*Akron Beacon Journal*).

If more money is not the answer, what is?

### **Who Is Teaching the Teachers?**

Teachers in every school system are the *product* of the very system they are teaching in. However, many of them cannot even pass state-mandated tests.

The Lawrence Public School superintendent in Massachusetts found it necessary to put 24 teachers on unpaid administrative leave because they failed English literacy tests. Yet the superintendent himself could not pass the literacy test!

Parents would expect support in how their children are taught to dress for the workforce. A recent article in *USA Today* reported an elementary school principal's recent experience in dealing with the fashions parading through his hallways, including flip-flops, tattoos, low-rise jeans and belly-button rings.

"I was shocked," said the principal of Eastover Elementary in Charlotte, North Carolina. "Ooh it was scary."

But in this case, as in an increasing number of schools across the U.S., those young women emulating Britney Spears are not her pre-teen fans, but a slightly more mature crowd: Their teachers!

Across the nation, administrators are finding it increasingly necessary to spell out the dress codes for teachers, certainly something they should have been taught when they were yet in school and college. Still, some teachers balk at the notion that they should dress professionally, and set a right and proper example to those they instruct. They cry that it is part of their "academic freedom" to dress as they see fit. The Hamilton Primary School principal in Bridgeport, New Jersey, states, "The dress code is: Anything goes." She has seen teachers wearing in the classroom what could easily be described as a teenager's wardrobe: Beach attire, halter-tops, short shorts and exposed midriffs—even during conferences with parents. Even tongue and bellybutton piercings are becoming commonplace!

When peering into a classroom, you should not have to guess who is the teacher and who is the student. But how can you possibly expect educators, who come out of a school system that has continually lowered standards of dress and conduct in the classroom, to know how to dress and act when standing in front of one?



## Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin and LSD

A cursory look at the way most children dress for school proves this point.

### What Is Being Taught?

In a recent editorial, “Teaching the Values That Make America Strong,” the National Education Association (NEA) president “urged the nation to recognize that public schools are on the frontlines in this new era (of reclaiming the nation’s spirit), because it is in the classrooms more than any other place, that we create and nurture the citizens of tomorrow.” This is a true statement. But the question is: What *kind* of future citizens are they creating and nurturing?

He goes on to state that America is defined by, among other things, its “commitment to an open, tolerant, democratic society...For two centuries, public schools have been preservers and transmitters of America’s ideals. In our schools, generation after generation of native-born and immigrant students have been taught America’s core values...”

“Public schools have never stopped teaching values. We teach them explicitly, and more important, we model those values. Everything we do and say in front of our students is a value statement—and those values include the all American values of honesty, responsibility, self-discipline and love of country. Public schools also stress one other value that is especially urgent today: tolerance and respect for people of different colors, cultures, and faiths...the student may not realize it, but *she* is a ‘combatant’...against terror and hate” (emphasis ours).

The NEA began in 1857 and has grown into a powerful labor union of 2.7 million members. This organization has a direct effect on what is taught in schools. They write the curriculum, enforce it, lobby for it and pay for it by supporting candidates who support their views. They believe that they know best—and that it takes a “village” (government) to raise a child.

The American Federation of Teachers president said this about then President Bill Clinton: “He is America’s No. 1 teacher and we are all his students.”

In light of these statements, what kind of values do these institutions truly model? What kind of tolerance do they really teach? Just what are the core values they profess to explicitly promote?

The NEA teacher’s manual claims that our children are not ready for the society they envision, one of tolerance for everything, without judgment of whether something is right or wrong. In their push to eliminate hate, they preach acceptance of *everything*. They proclaim that our children “may need mental health care...to conform to the planned society in which there will be no conflicts of attitudes or beliefs.”

They preach moral relativism—that if you have a good enough reason for doing something, then, in that case, it is right to do it. They teach that there are no absolutes of right and wrong.

The NEA promotes “values-free” sex education to elementary school children, under harmless-sounding names such as “Family Living.” As a

result, more and more children are being caught having sex on school buses, something unheard of just a few decades ago. Homosexuality is taught as a viable alternative lifestyle, with books such as *Heather Has Two Mommies*, *My Two Uncles*, *Daddy’s Roommate* and *Who’s in a Family* (a book that teaches children that all man-made definitions of a family are valid—including families headed by same-sex couples).

The following are actual courses taught in schools across the nation: “What They Didn’t Tell You About Queer Sex & Sexuality in Health Class: A Workshop For Youth Only, Ages 14-21” or “Teach Out,” which was held in Massachusetts. It featured that state’s Department of Education employees—government employees—instructing children as young as 14 in how to properly perform homosexual acts!

Another recommended book in the California school system, “One Teenager in Ten: Writings by Gay & Lesbian Youth,” discusses, in explicit detail, a 16-year old’s first lesbian experience with her 23-year old dance teacher. The story continues, teaching that she should hide the experience from her religious parents.

Make no mistake. These are the “core” values that educators want to be tolerated and taught. Yet, when a 16-year-old student at Woodbury High School near St. Paul, Minnesota, wore a shirt bearing the slogan “Straight Pride,” he discovered that there was no tolerance for his point of view—he was suspended from school!

The NEA also promotes the distri-

bution of condoms and contraceptives to children, along with abortion counseling without parental consent.

Recall the NEA president's statement regarding teaching honesty in schools. Are schools really teaching and promoting honesty? A 1998 survey by "Who's Who Among High School Students" found that 80 percent said they had cheated, and that 53 percent did not feel cheating was seriously unethical. With state-mandated testing, even teachers are resorting to cheating by providing students with the answers to the tests beforehand, to ensure passing grades. This is nothing less than moral relativism in action.

No longer can textbooks make references to God or most of the great principles of the founding fathers, of whom 52 of the 60 were "Christian" in ideals and practice. The Ten Commandments—the TRUE core values that should and need to be taught—cannot be displayed in public schools.

Battles rage in the courts over whether creationism can be taught, yet the theory of evolution—an attempt to explain the existence of the creation without a Creator—is taught as fact. The leaders of organized education do not want God in the picture. They will not acknowledge His existence, because they do not want to obey His standards of right and wrong (Rom. 1:28; 8:7; Jer. 17:9).

The lack of teaching these true values in schools is clearly responsible for the continued poor performance of students in critical areas of learning and the degeneration of student conduct. Truly, permissiveness and outright tol-

erance of perversion outscores discipline and true values!

### The Real Cause

In the second chapter of Genesis, God revealed Himself to Adam and Eve as their Creator and Supreme Educator. He revealed to them which trees were good for food, the proper use of sex in marriage between husband and wife, and the fact that they could die.

God gave them access to the Tree of Life, which represented obedience to Him and His way of life, based on His laws. That way of life is the only way to lasting peace, true happiness and abundant living. The Bible is God's Instruction Manual to His creation. It instructs man *how* to live life. In it, God declares that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of KNOWLEDGE" and "is the beginning of WISDOM: and the knowledge of the holy is UNDERSTANDING" (Prov. 1:7; 9:10). This is the only right and TRUE FOUNDATION—the beginning point—for the acquisition of all knowledge and education.

However, Adam and Eve rejected this foundation. There was another tree in the garden, one which God had instructed them not to eat of—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This tree represented rebellion against their Creator, and the decision to choose for themselves—apart from God—to acquire the knowledge of what was right and wrong.

When Satan approached Eve, he told her that God was lying to her, that He was holding back knowledge she should have, and that she would not die by eating of that tree. Did Eve believe God's instruction? No! She

relied on human reasoning and scientific experimentation. She relied on what her physical senses told her. She and Adam rejected God as their educator and the revealed knowledge that can only come from Him. They chose instead to educate themselves, under the influence and guidance of Satan—the god and author of this society—who has deceived the whole world (Gen. 3:1-6; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 12:9). They chose Satan as their *educator* in place of God. The first human scientific experiment resulted in their deaths!

Man's education systems are built on the wrong foundation. That wrong foundation is the CAUSE for the crisis in education—the rise in immorality and perversion, and the decline in right conduct among our children and society. God's Instruction Manual says, "It is not in man that walks to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Cut off from God, mankind simply does not know *how* to live.

### The Solution

But the time is coming when "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" (Isa. 11:9).

The Creator God will re-establish His government on the earth very soon. And at that time, all of humanity will be taught not only how to earn a *living*, but also the true and right way to LIVE. Education will be built upon the right foundation—the Word of God. (To learn more about this future time, read our free book *TOMORROW'S WONDERFUL WORLD – An Inside View!*) □

## "Alternative Lifestyle" Books



T H E

# CULTURAL WAR

There is a war being waged on American soil—a *cultural war*—and its main objective is to control your mind!

BY GEORGE C. ROGERS

**T**ODAY, CONFLICTS of ideologies rage among and within nations. At the center of one ongoing conflict is the Judeo-Christian creed. There exists a small minority that supports this mentality—however loosely they interpret it. They are opposed by the majority, who counter from political, religious and cultural standpoints. The common ground of most of their opponents is rejection of “moral restraints,” and animosity against traditional Western values.

The United Nations is a perfect example. As resolutions are presented to the floor of the General Assembly—especially when condemning Israeli military actions against Palestinian homicide bombings—a predictable outcome emerges: The UN vote is usually lopsided, such as 168 to 4. Aside from Israel, the other losing votes defending that nation usually consist of the United Kingdom, the United States, and sometimes a former U.S. territory. Increasingly, it is the world against these nations.

The battle lines of this alignment are complicated and difficult for many

to grasp. For instance, one would assume that nations aligning with Israel represent the dominant viewpoint of their respective citizenry. However, this is not the case.

Within the U.S., over 90 percent of the news media promotes an ideology contrary to traditional Judeo-Christian ethics. While similar dissension and factionalism exist both in the UK and Israel, we will focus primarily on the well-publicized battle of ideologies in the U.S.

### **In the Wake of 9/11**

The current U.S. administration strives to maintain the traditional Judeo-Christian ethic, against overwhelming opposition from the established interests controlling education, news and entertainment.

This adherence to traditional values increases criticism from liberal politicians. This opposition largely aligns with the ideology of the predominant bloc in the UN.

As a case in point, following the 9/11 attacks, American television networks actually showed Palestinians celebrating this destruction. Palestinian men were shown firing automatic weapons into the air, while women and children danced and cheered.

Chairman Yasir Arafat was so enraged upon hearing that this footage was released in America that he issued a warning to all media personnel in Israel—foreign or otherwise—that any found filming this celebration would be *shot on sight!* This was not to imply that he had legal jurisdiction to issue such a directive, but it served as a “left-handed” admission that he controls such groups in Israel who could readily carry out this action. He halted publicity that would further alert Americans to these celebrations.

Most news organizations also complied, and were careful not to criticize Mr. Arafat, which would have been politically incorrect.

The diet that most Americans are offered by the news media presents a skewed picture of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Unfortunately, Americans have systematically been “dumbed down” by decades of a less-than-mediocre education system and filtered misinformation by news organizations. Simply put, these organizations and many in U.S. politics have adopted a stance (both cultural and political) that places them in opposition to Judeo-Christian values. Meanwhile, the masses caught in the middle are thoroughly confused!

### **A War of Values**

The ongoing ideological conflict—global in scope—seems to be more focused in the U.S., due to various confrontations in the political and cultural arenas. Certain factions in

America have had to fight an uphill battle in affirming what remains of traditional values. This is well illustrated by an event discussed by the famous actor Charlton Heston, as he appeared before the Harvard Law School forum on February 16, 1999.

Before describing the specific event discussed in this forum, Mr. Heston explained that his position as president of the National Rifle Association (NRA)—an organization continually in the media’s crosshairs—was based upon his convictions regarding the second amendment.

Mr. Heston explained that the NRA is not only one of the rallying points for those advocating second amendment rights, but its agenda also includes the broad spectrum of rights guaranteed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

This event is very telling and shows how vested interests in the entertainment business have little concern for their impact on the masses. Notice Mr. Heston’s following statements from the forum, titled “Winning the Cultural War”:

“A few years back I heard a rapper...who was selling a CD called ‘Cop Killer’ celebrating ambushing and murdering police officers. It was being marketed by none other than Time/Warner, the biggest entertainment conglomerate in the world.

“Police across the country were outraged. Rightfully so—at least one had been murdered [as inspired by the contents of that CD]. But Time/Warner was stonewalling because the CD was a cash cow for them, and the media were tiptoeing around it...I heard Time/Warner had a stockholders meeting scheduled in Beverly Hills. I owned some shares at the time, so I decided to attend.

“What I did there was against the advice of my family and colleagues. I asked for the floor. To a hushed room of a thousand average American stockholders, I simply read the full lyrics of ‘Cop Killer’—every vicious, vulgar, instructional word.

‘I got my 12 gauge sawed off,

I got my headlights turned off,  
I’m about to bust some shots off.  
I’m about to dust some cops off...’

“It got worse, a lot worse. I won’t read the rest of it to you. But trust me, the room was a sea of shocked, frozen, blanched faces. The Time/Warner executives squirmed in their chairs and stared at their shoes. They hated me for that.”

“Two months later, Time/Warner terminated [the rapper’s] contract. I’ll never be offered another film by Warners, or get a good review from Time magazine.”

But Mr. Heston had made his point to the entertainment industry.

He continued by citing equally outrageous events, such as a mugger suing his elderly victim for defending herself, as well as a university pressured to lower its standards to the point that 80 percent of the students graduated with honors. Mr. Heston cited the words of Lincoln, “We are now engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.”

Mr. Heston insisted, “Those words are true again. I believe that we again are engaged in a great Civil War, a cultural war that’s about to hijack your birthright to think and say what regards in your heart. I fear you [the students he was addressing in the forum and in the nation in general] no longer trust the life blood of liberty inside you—the stuff that made this country rise from wilderness into the miracle that it is.”

This is just the tip of the iceberg. There are more telling aspects of modern society, testifying to its inevitable collapse.

### Political Correctness

The very definition of *political correctness* helps one to understand the cultural war:

“Of, relating to, or supporting a program of broad social, political, and educational change, especially to redress historical injustices in matters such as race, class, gender, and sexu-

al orientation” (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Third Edition, 1992).

On the surface, it appears that this program of social, political and educational change serves to compensate various minority segments who have previously suffered injustices. However, the motives of political correctness far transcend any intention to redress historical injustices.

We can actually translate this definition as interpreted by delegates to the United Nations, liberal educators, legislators and international news organizations. This is best done by defining what is politically *incorrect*. Then, by process of elimination, everything else is assumed to be politically correct or, at least, tolerable.

According to those who establish and enforce these definitions and rules, if an individual is politically to the right of center (anything other than liberal), with religious views predominantly based upon the Judeo-Christian ethic, he would be dismissed as a right-wing fanatic.

One of the weapons used to counter political incorrectness is to allow unlimited immigration into the country. This would serve to undermine the voting power of their opposition. (During the 1990s, the number of illegal aliens mushroomed and continues to rise.)

The ideal citizens (according to those who write these rules) are those who are first and foremost dependent upon the government for much of their needs. They also believe all they hear in the news and willingly cast their votes to politicians who have contributed the most favors. This is what many politicians are striving to attain, and they are successfully achieving such aims.

In April of 2002, Representative Jim DeMint of South Carolina spoke before the Heritage Foundation forum, addressing the trend of Americans becoming increasingly dependent upon government. He pointed out that politicians are all too willing to take advantage of this trend. Mr. DeMint stated, “Everyday

in America, more and more people are receiving benefits from the federal government, and fewer and fewer people are paying for it...We must figure out how to convince people that they are most secure when they hold their own future in their own hand..." ("Americans' Dependence on Government Empowers Feds," *NewsMax.com*).

The same article quoted Peter Kirsanow, appointee (at that time) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, agreeing that government dependency is the "antithesis of liberty." Mr. Kirsanow continued, "When citizens have figured out that they can vote themselves benefits paid for by others, they're going to do so with unbridled gusto." Reread this incredible statement!

One has to question the real motives of politicians who seek to expand the number of constituents dependent upon the government. The following observation by Scottish historian Alexander Tyler shows even better the danger level when any democracy becomes characterized by apathy and dependency. It was written in 1787, concerning the fall of the ancient Athenian Republic:

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse [generous bestowal of gifts] from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over a loose fiscal policy followed by a dictatorship.

"The average age of the world's great civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: from bondage to spiritual faith, from spiritual faith to great courage, from courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to complacency, from complacency to apathy, from apathy to dependency, from dependency back again into bondage."

Now reread this statement!

### **A General's Convictions**

Occasionally, news stories serve as weathervanes as to where trends are taking us. One such development, given notoriety in October 2003, has been the remarks by Lt. General William G. Boykin, the new deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence. He has been criticized for comments made during talks to evangelical Christian groups, in which he openly expressed his personal convictions that America is a Christian nation at war with radical Islam.

One specific quote that had his critics calling for his transfer or resignation pertained to a Muslim military leader he confronted in Somalia: "Well you know what I knew: I knew that my God was bigger than his. I know that my God was a real God, and his was an idol." Another statement attributed to this general was: "We're a Christian nation because our foundation and our roots are Judeo-Christian and the enemy is a guy named Satan."

Sadly, anyone in such a sensitive position must be "discreet" with his words, and the matter has been taken up with the Inspector General and is being addressed through the proper channels. But why such media focus on this incident?

Ironically, most Muslim mullahs openly charge the U.S. as being "the great Satan," yet a statement by an American general brings irate calls from both major political parties for his removal.

General Boykin did make an apology, but did not refute his own words. This entire matter is hardly newsworthy. The complaint of many legislators centers upon how the general's remarks could cause conflict with Muslim nations, as well as Muslims within the U.S.

Among the political opposition, exactly what is the real target of their protests? Could it be the general's alleged indiscretion, the lack of chastisement that should have been forthcoming, or their opposition to the general's convictions? If his convictions

are at issue here, this could signal what we might witness more of in the near future—efforts to curb expression of religion, especially within Judeo-Christianity.

### **What Is Behind the Cultural War?**

It is plain to see that trends in entertainment are becoming increasingly *openly* defiant to the codes of conduct established in the Bible, upon which the Judeo-Christian creed is supposedly based. In the end, it is not just the Judeo-Christian ethic that is in the crosshairs of education, politics, entertainment and mass media—what is at issue is *anything* pertaining to GOD: The laws of God, the truth of God, even the mention of the name of God. Something is seriously wrong when a nation or society cannot discuss anything pertaining to God without legal implications.

Could the real matter at issue be animosity against the Author of the Bible and all that it stands for? Romans 8:7 show us the source of this cultural war: "Because the CARNAL MIND is *enmity* [hostile] *against God*: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

The modern mindset has included variations of modern humanism, hedonism, and other philosophies collectively representing man's attempt to interpret and address world conditions on *his* terms. Man will soon learn that his best efforts have fallen short. He will come to recognize that the original Source of true Judeo-Christian ethics and traditional values would have granted mankind real peace, joy and abundant living, had he only obeyed.

In light of this, and in the face of increasing attacks on traditional values—on various fronts—*The REAL TRUTH* magazine is announcing that moral decay was prophesied to accompany these closing years before a new era descends upon an unsuspecting world. But before the dawn of this new era, which mankind has sought but has been unable to attain, the civilizations of this world must face the consequences for the course they have taken. □



## SEPTEMBER 11

Continued from page 3

temporary emotional response. The outgoing concern for others, the reflection and the rededication did not last.

While charities did witness a great increase in giving, they also witnessed the other side of the coin. Shortly after the attacks, as life became normal again, charities saw a fall in donations to a mere trickle.

The everyday pressures of life again took center stage, and the need to look after one's own wants and needs gradually resurfaced. Most turned again to what was important—SELF!

### An Example

One example that all will remember is the demand for the American flag right after the attacks of 9/11. Sales soared as people reacted emotionally, rushing out to buy flags to show that they cared. On September 12, 2001, Wal-Mart sold 88,000 flags, compared to only 6,400 that same day a year earlier.

The flag almost became a symbol of bonding—an opportunity for people to talk. It was also a sign that Americans stood together—for each

other and for their country.

One need only take a brief look at American streets today and see the enormous difference in the number of flags flying as compared to shortly after 9/11. One newspaper commented on what has happened: “Although quite a few American flags continue to wave over houses and from cars, the patriotic symbolism that surged in the weeks after the terrorist attacks seems to be waning. Displays of patriotism—flags, blood donations, small memorials to those who died in the attacks—have gone down or been ignored” (*St. Petersburg Times*).

America continues to war against terrorism, but as many newspapers have reported, the flag is not flying anymore. At a time when the nation needs support, even the simple sign of the patriotic flag is almost nowhere to be seen.

It seems as if, after being shaken, people reached out and supported each other, but now most have slowly returned to “getting on with their lives”—focusing on themselves.

### The Right Reaction

The reaction to 9/11 was understandable. It was a time of great shock, fear

and mourning. Certainly, this tragedy was a “time to mourn” (Ecc. 3:4).

When there are times of trouble, we are told to stop and “consider” (7:14). It is during these times that we make changes in our lives, attitudes and perspectives. Christians are to spend their ENTIRE LIVES repenting—*permanently* changing!

The aftermath of 9/11 shows exactly what happens when human—carnal—nature is dominant. Cut off from God—left only with the fleshly nature—mankind cannot change (Jer. 13:23). What we saw in society collectively and in people individually was just a temporary response.

Every human being reacts emotionally; this is both natural and normal. But without God's Holy Spirit, man is cut off from Him, and any change founded on emotion will eventually turn back to selfishness.

God's way of life truly is a way of GIVE. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is a God of love—completely selfless—continually showing an outgoing concern for others. Unlike the temporary response to September 11, with God's Holy Spirit, we can become like Him—and make *permanent* changes in our lives! □

## CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 23

### What Should You Do?

Finally, let's examine what God told His people they should do and the way they ought to teach their children.

Human beings do not want to obey God (Rom. 8:7). They would rather follow their own “imagination.” They do not understand that God wants their lives to go “well.” He wants happiness, joy and blessings to flow into people's lives. All these are the results of obeying Him.

God inspired Moses to warn parents of the grave responsibility that they have in what and how they teach their children. Notice His instruction in Deuteronomy 6:1, 6-7, 20-21, 25: “Now

these are the *commandments*...which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you go to possess it...And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: *And you shall teach them diligently unto your children*, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up...*And when your son asks you in time to come*, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God has commanded you? Then you shall say unto your son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand...And it shall be our righteousness, *if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God*, as He has commanded us.”

God took Israel out of Egypt—out of the customs of the world around them and revealed His Law to them. He does not want His people going back to the traditions, customs and ways from which He has called them.

When all of the interconnected traditions, filled with the symbolism of worshipping an ancient pagan, humanly devised god, are taught, this is not worshipping the true Creator.

The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write, “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression” (58:1). I have done this. □

To learn more about the plain truth concerning the origin of Christmas, read our free booklet *The True Origin of CHRISTMAS*.



## EUROPE

### European “Super-Region”

**C**omparable to the “Core Europe” that some have suggested and pushed for in the recent past, a new “super-region” is being proposed, but this time a little more to the east. Politicians in Austria, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia are discussing the uniting of their peoples, in what would be a significant part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that ended in 1918. Included in this group of politicians is Austria’s Jorg Haider, founder of that country’s far-right Freedom party.

Although economic and/or environmental regions have been created within the EU before (Germany and the Netherlands have one, as do Poland and the Czech Republic), they typically

focus on one issue. Riccardo Illy, president of the northeastern Italian region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, said, “We want to give birth to a broader coordination of infrastructure, economic development, energy, culture, health and tourism [policies].”

Although the plan is likely to receive an icy response from Tony Blair and other European leaders, one must wonder if some in Germany feel a little differently.

Source: *The Guardian*

### Europe and Its Army

**A**merican and EU diplomats, along with NATO officials, continue to grapple with the consequences of a separate European military capability, specifically in regard to undermining the purpose of NATO, but more generally in terms of how it would operate in international affairs. America is most concerned with proposals for an operational EU military headquarters, describing such a reality as a serious threat to the continued existence of a viable NATO. Adding more concern to the American side is the recent middle-of-the-road course taken by UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, who maintains resistance to the most ambitious Franco-German plans, but believes that Europe needs a military capability independent of NATO.

At an extraordinary meeting on Monday, European countries adamantly assured the U.S. that a EU military would complement NATO and go to great lengths to avoid duplication. It was obvious, however, that they failed to address America’s primary concern that a EU military headquarters could conduct planning and operations outside NATO supervision and control.

Propelling the discussion is the drafting of the European Constitution, which would include a definition of European defense commitments.

Source: *International Herald Tribune*

### Russia Flexes Military Muscle

**D**uring a Moscow conference of Russian military leaders, both the President and Defense Minister issued chilling statements regarding their country’s military capabilities. Firstly, Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov insisted that Russia (along with the U.S.) would not rule out the use of pre-emptive strikes anywhere in the world, if national interests were at stake. In another statement, “national interests” included any Russian alliances.

Secondly, President Vladimir Putin assured that the Russian military still possessed a fearsome nuclear arsenal. “Their combat characteristics, including the surmounting of any systems of anti-missile defenses, are unrivaled,” he said, adding that the arsenal included many strategic nuclear missiles never before deployed.

In addition, a report released at the conference by the Russian Defense Ministry called on NATO to review its strategy (particularly its eastward expansion), warning that it may force Russia to consider “a radical reconstruction of Russian military planning, including changes in Russian nuclear strategy.”

Sound familiar? Many have insisted that the Cold War has ended—but it seems as though it is only warming up...

Source: *BBC News*

## NORTH AMERICA

### Ed Koch Editorial: “Coming for the Jews”

**E**d Koch (former New York City mayor) had an interesting radio commentary in response to recent anti-Semitic statements made by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, and to the current state in general of anti-Semitism in the world. In a speech to the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, the prime minister said:

“The Europeans killed six million Jews out of 12 million, but today the Jews rule the world by proxy... They get others to fight and die for them.” Muslims are “up against a people who think,” he said, adding that the Jews “invented socialism, communism, human rights and democracy so that persecuting them would appear to be wrong, so that they can enjoy equal rights with others.”

Mr. Koch said an editorial in *The*

*New York Times* was correct by saying, “It is hard to know what is more alarming—a toxic statement of hatred of Jews by the Malaysian Prime Minister at an Islamic summit meeting this week or the unanimous applause it engendered from the kings, presidents and emirs in the audience.”

Mr. Koch showed concern regarding the rest of the world’s response as well. The EU considered a condemning statement, but in the end declined. While President Bush rebuked Mr. Mahathir, Mr. Koch felt it was far too light. He also asked where the response of outrage was from other world leaders such as Pope John Paul II, Nelson Mandela, Tony Blair, a leader of the Eastern Orthodox church, and someone like Billy Graham.

Mr. Koch asks, “Is it any wonder that 60 years after World War II, Jews and

righteous gentiles are thinking here we go again?” He points to not only the level of Islamic anti-Semitism around the world, but also a level of general anti-Semitic feelings that have permeated even nations such as Britain and France, where similar statements from politicians are most often passed off as “anti-Israeli” or “anti-Zionist.”

He concludes, “Never Again’ is the lesson of the Holocaust. Today, those words ring hollow. Once again they’re getting ready to come for the Jews. It’s time to sound the alarm.”

Source: *The World Tribune*

## SOCIETY AND LIFESTYLES

### Jerusalem to Host Gay Parade

**A**ccording to recent reports, Jerusalem is slated to host the 2005 International Gay Parade. The last such parade, which took place three years ago in Rome, involved about half a million participants. Promoters anticipate similar numbers in 2005.

The chairman of Jerusalem’s Gay and Lesbian Center stated, “An event of this magnitude has never occurred before anywhere in Israel.” It was only two years ago that Jerusalem, a largely conservative city with strong reli-

gious and traditional values, hosted its first gay parade.

Even that local event caused major uproar among the nation’s populous. Notice: “The city was later ordered by the Supreme Court to pay the organizers NIS 40,000 for the annual event, in keeping with the amount the municipality contributed towards other city marches.”

Time will tell what the repercussions of this international event will be. (Notice such scriptures as Jeremiah 23:13-14 and Revelation 11:8.)



Source: *Jerusalem Post*

## ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

### Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Enter Nuclear Pact

**A**reliable Pakistani source has informed *The Washington Times* that the result of a 26-hour state visit to Pakistan by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz is a “secret” agreement on nuclear cooperation that will provide the Saudis with nuclear weapons in exchange for inexpensive oil. Despite claims to the contrary, the CIA believes Pakistan is already actively involved in the export of its nuclear technology, most recently with North Korea in exchange for missile technology.

The Pakistani source indicates that

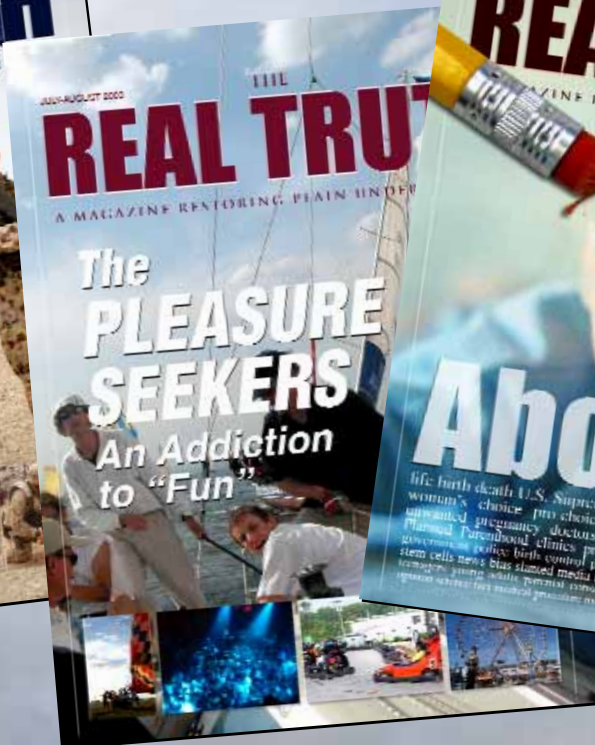
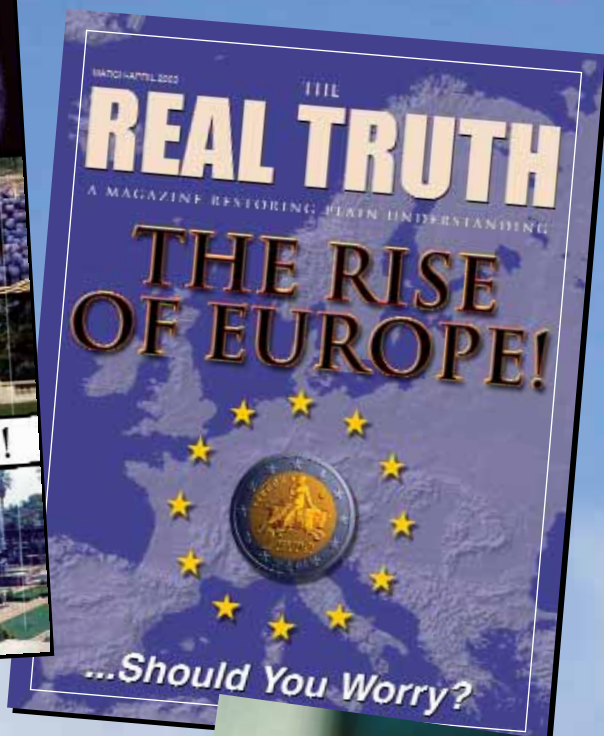
both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia believe the world is moving from non-proliferation of nuclear weapons to proliferation. Saudi Arabia, a Sunni Muslim nation, is concerned with Iran’s (a Shi-ite Muslim nation) nuclear capability, and Pakistan is concerned with India’s recent military agreement with Israel, a long-time nuclear power with a suspected inventory of 200-400 weapons. In addition, the Saudis, with the absence of American forces in their country for protection, are increasingly concerned about the vulnerability of their oil fields.

In a recent paper, Simon Henderson,

an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, stated, “Apart from proliferation concerns, Washington likely harbors more general fears about what would happen if either of the regimes in Riyadh or Islamabad became radically Islamic.” Such fears create a giant sink for American money, as the CIA and U.S. State Department will dedicate available resources to try and ensure that those fears do not become a reality.

Source: *The Washington Times*

If you have not read these previous issues...



...read them online at your convenience!

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