

THE KING OF THE SOUTH



BY GERALD FLURRY

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The Prophet Daniel wrote about a future confrontation between the king of the north and the king of the south. We are now in the time when these two major powers are quickly rising! The king of the south is stirring up trouble even today. It is critical that you know the identity of this prophesied power!

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1

The King of the South

THE KING OF THE NORTH AND THE KING OF THE SOUTH ARE two powers prophesied to clash in this end time. So God's true Church must know who they are.

"And AT THE TIME OF THE END shall the *king of the south* push at him: and the *king of the north* shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (Daniel 11:40). Both powers are rising fast on the world scene right now. This clash WILL SHAKE THE WORLD AS NEVER BEFORE! And that is the good news. The bad news is, it will lead to World War III!

Do you know the identity of these "kings"? It is critical that you do! I want to prove to you that Islamic extremism is going to be the king of the south. You need this understanding.

THE TIME OF THE END

Let's look at the expression "time of the end." The king of the north and the king of the south arise in the "time of the end" (Daniel 11:40). Daniel 12:4 also mentions the "time of the end." Notice Daniel 12:9: "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the TIME OF THE END."

The phrase "time of the end" in these three verses comes from the same Hebrew words. Daniel 11:40 begins an end-time

story flow that continues through chapter 12. Daniel 12:1 discusses “at that time.” What time? “The time of the end” spoken of in Daniel 11:40. “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1). “At that time,” there is unparalleled world cataclysm, and God’s people are delivered from this Great Tribulation. So this is a “now” prophecy!

Daniel 11:40 tells us the king of the south will “push” at the king of the north. When does this *push* occur? It must happen *after* the book of Daniel was revealed in this end time. Daniel 12:9 tells us the *time of the end* BEGAN WHEN DANIEL WAS REVEALED. So the king of the south must arise after Daniel was revealed to God’s end-time Church—to Herbert W. Armstrong. However, many of the specifics of Daniel’s book have been revealed to the Philadelphia Church of God today.

Who are these two “kings”? To understand their identity, let’s look at some of their history.

HISTORY OF TWO KINGS

Notice Daniel 11:2-3: “And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.”

Here is what Mr. Armstrong wrote concerning these verses in his booklet *The Middle East in Prophecy*: “Actually there were 12 more kings in the Persian Empire, but only the first four following Cyrus were of importance for the purpose of this prophecy. They were Cambyses, pseudo-Smerdis, Darius and Xerxes. It was the last, or Xerxes, who was the richest of all and stirred up war with Greece.

“Then King Philip of Macedonia planned a great war to conquer the Persian Empire, with an army made up mostly of Grecians. He died before the plans were completed. But his son,

Alexander the Great, took over his plans, and invaded Persia. He met the Persian army at the Battle of Issus, 333 B.C. (Daniel 8:2, 5-6). Then he swept down into Egypt, and then to a final crushing defeat of the Persian Empire at the Battle of Arbella, 331 B.C., after which Alexander marched on a conquest clear to India, sweeping all before him.”

Daniel 11:4 continues the story: “And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.” Mr. Armstrong then wrote, “How marvelously—how accurately—that came to pass.” He quoted from *A Manual of Ancient History*, by George Rawlinson, an authoritative history: “Cut off unexpectedly in the vigor of early manhood [the 33rd year of his age, June 323 B.C.], he [Alexander] left no inheritor, either of his power or of his projects.” Mr. Armstrong continued: “The empire was left leaderless and in confusion, but out of this emerged, by the year 301 B.C., FOUR DIVISIONS, just as prophesied, by a division of the empire into four divisions by Alexander’s generals. They were:

“1. Ptolemy (Soter), ruling Egypt, part of Syria, and Judaea.

“2. Seleucus (Nicator), ruling Syria, Babylonia, and territory east to India.

“3. Lysimachus, ruling Asia Minor.

“4. Cassander, ruling Greece and Macedonia.

“Thus,” Mr. Armstrong wrote, “was the prophecy of verse 4 fulfilled to the letter.” He continued: “Now notice what follows. From here the prophecy foretells the activities only of two of these four divisions, Egypt, [anciently] called ‘king of the south,’ because it is south of Jerusalem; and the Syrian kingdom, [anciently] the king of the north, just north of Judaea.”

Today I believe that much of the king of the south’s land area will be south of Jerusalem, but not all. For example, Sudan is already in the radical Islamic camp. Algeria may be there very soon. But *all* of the king of the south’s land area is south of the end-time king of the north.

Mr. Armstrong continued, “It is because the Holy Land passed back and forth between those two divisions, and because *their different wars were principally over possession of Judea*, that the

prophecy is concerned with them.” Notice Daniel 11:5: “And the king of the south [Egypt, the ancient type of the end-time fulfillment] shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.”

Mr. Armstrong said of these two kings that “their different wars were principally over possession of Judea,” called Israel today. And it appears they go to war again over the land of Judah—specifically Jerusalem.

During the Crusades, Jerusalem was always the main prize. This city is of supreme religious importance to Jews, Christians and Muslims. The so-called Christian Crusades were really *Catholic* crusades. The Roman Catholics generally clashed with Muslim armies.

It is important that we understand this history. It is about to be repeated—again. After prophecy, history is our next indication of what the future holds.

Jerusalem was the capital of Israel. And in the end-time prophecies about Jerusalem, America and Britain are included. The British peoples (biblical Ephraim), America (biblical Manasseh) and Judah are all prophesied to fall at the same time (Hosea 5:5). (A thorough explanation of the modern identity of these biblical names can be found in our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Request your free copy.)

Shortly after the king of the north conquers the king of the south, its ambition will grow beyond just conquering Jerusalem. (Request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.)

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “In actual history, we learn that the original Ptolemy I, called Soter, became very strong and powerful, developing Egypt beyond the greatest dreams of Alexander. One of his princes, or generals, Seleucus Nicator, also became very strong and powerful. And, in 312 B.C., taking advantage of Ptolemy’s being tied up in a war, he established himself in Syria, and assumed the diadem as king.”

Let’s drop down to verses 34 and 35 of Daniel 11. “Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, **EVEN TO THE TIME OF THE END:** because it is yet for a time appointed.”

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Here is described in general the whole course of God's people, from the days of Christ to the present. Compare with such passages as Revelation 12:6, 11, 13-17. And notice the vision carries on down to this present TIME OF THE END."

Daniel 11:36: "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done." Mr. Armstrong continued, "The king of the north—who is he, now in the early and middle NEW TESTAMENT times, to which our prophecy has come? In 65 B.C., Syria was swallowed up by the ROMAN EMPIRE, and became a Roman province. The Roman emperor now controlled Judaea, and therefore *the king of the north*, here referred to, is, at this time, the *emperor of the ROMAN EMPIRE*."

This is a critical piece of the puzzle. The Bible prophesies of 10 resurrections of this Roman Empire, the last seven of which are guided by the Roman Catholic Church (request our free booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*). History shows that all but one of those resurrections has already happened. The last resurrection is nearly upon us. This fits perfectly with the prophecy that the king of the north would cause great tribulation. The "time of the end" discussed in Daniel 11:40 through chapter 12 involves the king of the north, which is the seventh resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. The king of the north will inflict that tribulation on the nations of biblical Israel (primarily the U.S., Britain and the Jews of the Middle East).

After all of the prophecy in Daniel 11 that has already been fulfilled, the prophecy skips forward to this present day, or the "time of the end." Verse 40: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south PUSH at him"

This refers to a king of the south that is *yet future*.

The king of the north is comprised of several nations, led by one nation, Germany. It makes sense that the king of the south would have a similar composition. All indications point to Iran as the nation that produces the king of the south. Since the early 1990s, we have believed and taught that Iran would lead the radical Islamist world and be the king of the south. Today Iran is "king" in the Middle East.

THE ROOT OF TERRORISM

History teaches us some powerful lessons—if we are willing to learn. For example, history teaches us that America and its allies cannot win their war against terrorism. We can learn some essential lessons about our future through history.

History is a wonderful teacher. So we'll start there. Then we can move on to a far greater teacher of why we can't conquer terrorism unless massive changes are made—if it isn't already too late!

The Iraq campaign is the latest round in America's global war on terrorism. But where did all of this world terrorism begin? Iraq is a dangerous part of the equation, but it is not the head of the terrorist snake.

We must go back in history to see terrorism's roots. It's not enough to destroy the branches. We must pull the terrorist tree up by the roots. It's the *only* way to win this war.

When Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi led Iran, he was a strong ally of America. But our liberal press and politicians thought he was too undemocratic, so they helped to drive him from power. As he was falling, America gave him little or no support.

Then, in 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew the shah. Khomeini established Iran as the world's number-one state sponsor of terrorism. Ten years later, shortly after Khomeini died, Hashemi Rafsanjani became president and intensified Iran's international network of terrorism. It was only then that some observers began to see what a terrible mistake liberals had made in assisting the shah's downfall.

Back in 1994, then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Iran "the world's most significant state sponsor of terrorism." How pathetic to make such a statement and do nothing about it! Just how much of a superpower is America? America has known for years who "the world's most significant state sponsor of terrorism" is. But it lacks the *will* to deal with Iran—to hold Iran accountable for its terrorist acts of war!

In the 1990s, state-sponsored terrorism became deeply entrenched in Iran, and America's leaders did almost nothing to combat it. And the U.S. "superpower" allows Iran to continue sponsoring violent terrorism to this day!

More than any other nation (apart from Iran itself), America is responsible for the overthrow of the shah and the ushering in of Ayatollah Khomeini. Our weakness could prove to be the biggest foreign-policy disaster of the 20th century!

How did it all happen?

We must understand how this relates to the present situation in Iraq. History shows how Islamic extremism can dramatically change the politics within a country, and it gives us an indication of the kind of power Iran could be very close to achieving.

Let's look at Egypt, where Islamic extremism—which spawns terrorism—is gaining power at a frightening pace. THERE, ONE ASSASSINATION TURNED THE COURSE OF THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST!

RADICAL CHANGES IN EGYPT

A few years before the fall of the shah of Iran, Anwar al-Sadat was the warrior leader of Egypt and the Middle East. For example, he was the key leader of the Arab world in the Yom Kippur War against the Jews.

But, then the world was shocked—especially the Arab world. About the time Iran's shah fell, Mr. Sadat was becoming an astounding Middle East peacemaker. He enraged the Arab radicals by speaking at the Jewish Knesset (their congress, or parliament). One man was literally swinging the Middle East toward peace with the West.

But Mr. Sadat was working against the tide of radical Islam.

It is interesting that the late Herbert W. Armstrong visited with two Egyptian presidents: Sadat and Hosni Mubarak. He gave both men a strong warning that we were not going to have peace until Allah, or God, gave it to us!

In 1981, Mike Wallace of the television program *60 Minutes* interviewed Ayatollah Khomeini (who had come to power only two years before). He told the ayatollah that Sadat had called him a "lunatic."

Almost immediately afterward, within just days, President Sadat was assassinated!

That is the kind of power the leader of radical Islam has! America and the world allowed this evil power to change his-

tory. Now terrorism is rampant around the world! America didn't have the will to stop such state-sponsored madness when it would have been relatively easy to do so.

When the Sadat assassination occurred, Mr. Armstrong said it was a turning point in Middle East history! And that was almost an understatement. But virtually nobody in the media saw—or they refused to see—what a world-changing event that was!

Iran's terrorist network was working frighteningly well.

Mr. Sadat was in the process of changing the Middle East for the good of the world. He took a stand against many of his own people and the Arab world to make peace with Israel. He proved to be a truly great man by putting the interests of the world and Egypt above his personal safety. If the leaders of the U.S. and Britain had shown his courage, they would have dealt with Iran then. Because of U.S. weakness, the Middle East began to look to the king of terror for leadership. It all happened because of American, British and Israeli weakness.

Islamic radicals are very effective in assassinating top leaders. They probably also assassinated the speaker of Egypt's parliament, Rifaat al-Mahgoub (the country's second-ranking official at the time), in 1990. Gunmen on motorcycles sprayed his chauffeured sedan with automatic rifle fire. Radicals likely were also behind the killing of Algeria's President Mohammed Boudiaf in 1992. Radical forces aimed at bringing down what was the moderate, pro-Western government of Lebanon assassinated Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005 in a car bomb, beginning a series of assassinations of prominent anti-Syrian Lebanese figures. In 2008, the governing coalition capitulated and a new government favoring Hezbollah was formed. These are just a few examples of how Islamic extremism can influence Mideast politics.

President Mubarak, a moderate, could be assassinated just as Anwar el-Sadat was. This could implement another gigantic change in Egyptian politics, similar to what happened in Iran's 1979 revolution.

Daniel 11:42 implies that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south, or Iran. This prophecy indicates that there would be a far-reaching change in Egyptian politics! We have been saying

since 1994 this would occur, and look at Egypt today. The Muslim Brotherhood is becoming more and more popular. In 2007, the relationship between Iran and Egypt started warming up considerably, with the two countries edging toward restoring full diplomatic relations with each other. In January 2008, Mubarak held talks with Iran's parliament speaker, the first such high-level meeting in almost 30 years. The fact that Mubarak himself held this meeting indicates how much pressure he is under from pro-Iranian forces within his country. This prophecy is moving toward fulfillment right before our eyes in this end time, and it is mainly because of Iran's "push" toward radical Islam. But that pushy foreign policy is going to lead to its downfall in a way that most people cannot imagine!

IRAN'S GLOBAL AMBITIONS

A Stratfor intelligence brief dated August 22, 2003, explained that in May of that year, following what was seen as a decisive allied military victory in Iraq, the surrounding countries, including Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iran, saw the U.S. as the "ascendant power in the region" and recognized the need to accommodate U.S. demands. However, as events on the ground changed and stability in Iraq deteriorated, these nations began to see things differently. The U.S. was no longer seen as the ascendant force—it was seen as weak and needing help. This change had the most impact on Iran, which strongly influences the Shiites in Iraq.

Stratfor stated, "[I]f the Iranians start to believe that the situation in the region is out of control from the U.S. point of view, then either their price for keeping the lid on the Shiites will become astronomical or, more likely, they will decide not to bet on what they see as the losing horse. [I believe that Iran is more aggressive in this scenario than Stratfor does.]

"The situation in the region is, in our view, reaching the crisis stage for the United States. Things are going very wrong for the Bush administration. The threat of AN ISLAMIST RISING FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE PERSIAN GULF NO LONGER IS AN INTERESTING THEORETICAL CONCEPT. [This influence and control would even extend beyond the Mediterranean, into North

Africa.] Except for Jordan, it is becoming a reality.” The reality of an Iran-led Islamist rising throughout the region has grown dramatically in the years since Stratfor wrote those words! That is because *still no one* has effectively confronted *Iran!*

Saddam Hussein was definitely a terrorist threat. But the *primary* source of terrorism is Iran. Decisive action in Iraq, without dealing with Iran, will not stop the terrorism.

The real power behind the Palestinians is Iran. No other nation would dare finance and blatantly encourage such terrorism in Israel. Iran has even been caught publicly sending enormous amounts of weapons to the Palestinians. Virtually the whole world knows what Iran is doing, and Israel’s terrorist problem keeps rapidly getting worse.

Israel is losing its war with the terrorists, and so will the U.S. and Britain. Such terrorism will tear any free society apart. Israel is a classic example.

The only way to win such a war is to deal with the main source of the terrorism, or cut off the head of the terrorist snake. But neither the U.S. nor Israel has the will to tackle Iran—even though it is the *key part* of the “axis of evil” in the Middle East.

In 2002, President Bush labeled Iran, Iraq and North Korea an “axis of evil.” Iraq’s government has been toppled. However, we can’t win this war unless we also remove Iran’s leadership. But American and British leaders lack the understanding and courage to win. And the press is dangerously pacifist. Our peoples lack the will to win this war against terrorism.

President Bush’s labeling of the axis of evil was absolutely correct. Nevertheless, he was attacked by the liberal politicians and press for that statement. That painfully illustrates America’s dangerous lack of will power.

President Bush’s term in office is about to end. And Iran is very much aware of the political scene in the U.S. and Britain.

Tony Blair’s government fell, in no small part, because of his support for the Iraqi war. After such a display by Britain’s military in Iraq, the people should have embraced Mr. Blair. But the British (and American) people are too weak to fight a real war. We lack the will to win a bloody, protracted war.

The *fruits* and *evidence* of the past two decades overwhelmingly prove where the king of state-sponsored terrorism is! THE

WHOLE WORLD CAN SEE THAT. However, the solution to terrorism lies in DOING something about it! We must confront the source. The terrorist movement flows from Iran.

Mr. Armstrong said over two decades ago that “America has won its last war.” He saw then that the pride in our military power had been broken!

The entire geographic area that Stratfor discussed is now strongly influenced by Iran. IF IRAQ FALLS TO THIS TERRORIST NATION, THEN IRAN COULD VIRTUALLY CONTROL THIS WHOLE AREA—WHICH CONTAINS MOST OF THE WORLD’S OIL!

But the situation gets even scarier.

A NUCLEAR POWER

Back in 1992, the *New York Times* wrote, “Becoming second to Saudi Arabia as a world oil power, IRAN EXPECTS TO FURTHER ITS GREATER AMBITION OF BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL POWER IN THE PERSIAN GULF, A LONG-HELD FOREIGN-POLICY OBJECTIVE” (Nov. 7, 1992).

The article examined how Iran planned to achieve this objective: “More troubling to other countries in the area and to the West is the other side of Iran’s plan to achieve this objective: A HUGE REARMAMENT PROGRAM, financed largely by the new oil money.”

The *Islamic Affairs Analyst* of Gloucester, England, printed an article in August 1994 that said, “Iran is pursuing a parallel policy of surrounding Israel with implacable enemies. ... Turkey is moving closer to Iran” To Israel’s north, Iran has deluged Hezbollah in Lebanon with money and weapons. With Hamas in control of Gaza, Tehran could ignite another conflict on Israel’s western and northern borders at any moment. Iran is also opening another front in the West Bank, which crawls with zealots sympathetic to if not in the pay of Iran.

Of course, the Shiites control Iran and are a *majority* (60 percent) in Iraq. The U.S.’s removal of Saddam Hussein in 2003 opened the way for Iran to heavily infiltrate Iraq, providing armaments, financing and training to Shiite militias, sending thousands of operatives into the country and establishing economic ties with it. Moreover, the most powerful political party in Iraq is

allied with Tehran. This could be a decisive factor causing *Iraq* to fall under Iran's control.

That 1994 *Islamic Affairs Analyst* article said further, "Starting at the foot of the Red Sea, Iran is set to increase its influence considerably in both Somalia and Yemen. ... Further up the Red Sea coast, Sudan is already firmly in pro-Iranian hands with [Omar Hassan] al-Bashir's military regime no more than a front for Hassan al-Tourabi's Islamists. And it is from bases in Sudan that Islamist fundamentalists are beginning to undermine the stability of the newly independent Eritrea, which, it should be noted, now controls all of what was formerly Ethiopia's Red Sea coastline.

"It is also from bases in Sudan that Iran has done so much to undermine the stability of the West's most-important Arab ally: Egypt" These trends have continued to today. Iran has continued to send arms shipments to Islamists in Somalia. In March 2008, Iran signed a military agreement with Sudan. In May 2008, it further boosted its ties with Eritrea. Iran has a frightening influence and control in North Africa. It is also deeply entrenched in Afghanistan. Many moderate Arab nations fear, and are afraid to offend, Iran.

One of the most worrying aspects of Iran's growing power is its flirtation with nuclear weaponry. Back in 1992, the *European* newspaper ran a front-page article titled "Iran Has N-Bomb," which stated, "Iran has obtained at least two nuclear warheads out of a batch officially listed as 'missing' from the newly independent republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union" (May 7, 1992). Considering Iran's aggressive foreign policy, this report certainly has the ring of truth.

On top of this, Iran has had a nuclear program of its own for many years. There have been information leaks that show Iran, while publicly stating that its program is purely for energy use, actually wants other nations to know it could be a nuclear threat. Though the U.S. National Intelligence Estimate of December 2007 downplayed the Iranian nuclear threat, U.S. National Intelligence Director Vice Adm. John Michael McConnell clarified the danger in February 2008 when he said that Iran "would be technically capable of producing enough highly enriched uranium for a weapon" by the end of 2009.

Here is what the *Islamic Affairs Analyst* of May 13, 1992, said: “The main strategic aim of Iran is to dominate the Persian Gulf and environs. An important step in achieving this goal is to GAIN UNDISPUTED LEADERSHIP OF THE RADICAL ISLAMIC CAMP.” Many of the good intelligence reports about Iran have proven true. Do we see just how powerful Iran is becoming militarily?

Prof. Barry Rubin wrote in July 2007, “Iran tries to extend its influence in three ways: propaganda and incitement; the promotion of client groups, and projecting the state’s own power. Today, Iran sponsors radical Islamist groups in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, and among the Palestinians as well as in other countries. Its two most important clients are Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Palestinian Hamas group” (*Global Politician*, July 25, 2007).

And the U.S. “superpower” allows Iran to continue sponsoring violent terrorism!

THE PUSH

Regarding an issue where Iran asserted its authority in a territorial claim in Gulf waters in 1993, the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* wrote, “Apparently the Iranians are calculating exactly how far they can PUSH their neighbors ...” (June 1993). That same pushy approach was demonstrated when in March 2007 Iran captured 15 British seamen in Iraqi waters and held them for 13 days.

The stage is being set for an Islamic group of nations to be led by Iran as the prophesied king of the south, which will push at the king of the north, the European Union. “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south PUSH at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40). Let’s not forget that this is an *end-time* prophecy.

Iran has a foreign policy with a lot of “PUSH.” And since the end of its war with Iraq in 1988, Iran has accumulated a massive arsenal of weapons to back up its aggressive foreign policy, and that arsenal includes chemical and biological weapons.

The king of the south, or Iran, is going to “push at him”—that is, the king of the north (the European Union). *Gesenius’*

Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon says the word *push* means “to strike—used of horned animals,” or “to push with the horn.” It is “used figuratively of a victor who prostrates the nations before him.” It also means to wage war. *Push* is a violent word! This *push* no doubt revolves around Jerusalem and biblical Judah (called Israel today)—just as the clashes in the time of the Crusades did. That city is the third-most holy city in the Islamic world. Pope John Paul II spoke publicly of possibly moving the Roman Catholic Church headquarters there.

These two great and powerful religions both passionately desire Jerusalem. Most people believe the Israeli peace process and other similar negotiations are leading to peace. **ACTUALLY THEY ARE LEADING TO WAR!**

THE BLATANTLY BOLD AND AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICY OF IRAN MUST LEAD TO WAR. IT WILL EITHER CONQUER OR BE CONQUERED. Bible prophecy makes it clear that Iran will be conquered—but not at the hand of America and Britain. These latter two countries are going to fall into social and economic ruin before this prophecy is even fulfilled.

If that is not true, then why isn't America leading, or at least involved in, this war?

A *new superpower* is rising in the European Union. The Bible labels this conglomerate the *king* of the north. It takes one *king* to topple another *king*.

THE TIME WHEN BRITAIN AND AMERICA WERE SUPERPOWERS, OR KINGS, IS HISTORY! And we need to understand *why*.

Can we see this new European superpower rising on the world scene now? Yes, we can. You can get a good insight into it by watching Germany and France. Britain and America defeated Germany in two world wars. Then they led the Germans in rebuilding their powerful nation—especially after World War II. Britain and America saved France in both world wars.

France and Germany both have every reason to be close friends with America and Britain. But the opposite is true! Media headlines are showing us that daily. Believe it or not, God is raising up that European power to punish America and Britain. (To see how, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*).

HISTORY LESSONS UNLEARNED

Middle East peace treaties dominate the news—as all kinds of peace treaties did just before World War II began! It is just *another major sign* that WAR IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE IN THE MIDDLE EAST! And it will lead to World War III.

Being spellbound by peace treaties has kept the Western world from fully seeing and recognizing Iran's massive plot to control the Middle East. That will never be stopped by a peace treaty! Only a superior power could ever stop this extreme Islamic movement! *The most precious jewel of Iran's plan is to CONQUER JERUSALEM.* This would then galvanize the Islamic world behind Iran! It will go far in its ambition but never fully conquer Jerusalem.

How could I possibly know this? If Iran or radical Islam were to conquer Jerusalem, then we would look very ignorant. But your Bible says it will *not* happen. However, the Bible also states that another specific power *will* conquer Jerusalem.

Such statements should cause you to prove why we can make these prophetic statements and watch them come to pass exactly as we said. You need to prove what we say—while there is time!

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair courageously restricted Iran's influence by toppling the governments of Afghanistan and Iraq. However, these are ongoing terrorist wars. We will still lose those wars if our nations don't unite behind the war effort. That is almost certainly not going to happen.

Mr. Blair and Mr. Bush had the vision to see that our nations can't win the war against terrorism without using our power! But even they didn't want to take on Iran.

Most of our politicians, the press and our universities do *not* understand terrorism—nor do they understand *history!* Winston Churchill said “the history of man is war.” Misinformed people like to believe that is not true.

Superpowers cannot survive in this evil, warring world without the *will* to wage long, hard wars. This is the real world in which we live; fantasies won't change that reality.

In the 1930s, Winston Churchill warned Britain and America about Hitler. The politicians, media and educational institutions were overwhelmingly pacifist and against him. (This is thoroughly explained in our free booklet *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman*). In fact, he stood *alone* among world leaders! And it

almost cost us victory in World War II! WE HAVE LEARNED VIRTUALLY NOTHING FROM CHURCHILL'S WARNING. In fact, the pacifists have grown much stronger today.

We either wake up or lose World War III! Any nation or bloc of nations that knocks off the number-one superpower *becomes* the number-one superpower! This is the lesson of *human nature* and of our *history* books. A superpower can't run and hide.

Our leaders fail to understand history because they refuse to understand that evil human nature is within every individual on Earth—including you and me! (Jeremiah 17:9). For example, our refusal to use our military might is often not righteousness, as we like to believe, but despicable weakness resulting from our sins. We simply lack the faith, character and courage to fight against Iran, the number-one terrorist nation today. Unless we change our ways, we will prove too weak to survive!

The king of the south is about state-sponsored terrorism. That is how Iran became *king*! Daniel 11:40-43 is an *end-time* prophecy. It is about a nation that is always *pushy* in its foreign policy. It pushes until it starts a war. Having such power means that it must be a large oil-producing country. Prophecy shows that this king is close to Jerusalem, Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya.

Who else could it be in this end time but Iran?

Iran is extremely radical—the king over radical Islam. Where is this nation's pushiness leading? To war! Just as it has in the past. It's leading to terrifying war with weapons of mass destruction. It can lead no place else.

A basic understanding of human nature and history should tell us that. All the wishful thinking in this world won't stop that calamity—just as the pacifist dreamers of the 1930s didn't stop Adolf Hitler!

HISTORY THUNDERS FOR US TO AWAKEN.

The great Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky feared Russian *radicalism* and what it would do to his country. Only days after he died, the tsar was killed and overthrown by radicals. Where did their radical movement lead? To Joseph Stalin and the spread of violent communism over much of the world.

So where is Iranian radical thinking leading Iran? To state-sponsored terrorism—which is going to trigger a nuclear World War III! At this point, we have ample power to stop it but not the will.

We fear facing the *origin* of state-sponsored terrorism in the Middle East. We can never win the war against terrorism until we comprehend and deal with this reality. We can't *negotiate* a victory. Only *superior power*, and *the will to use it*, can win. That is the *only* way to stop state-sponsored terrorism.

“And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And *I will break the pride of your power*; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass” (Leviticus 26:18-19). The Prophet Daniel related that this is an end-time prophecy (Daniel 12:9; 9:12-14). Little Israel has more military might than Iran but fears to use it. The same is the case with Britain. And certainly that is true of America. But our nations fear to use their power—because of our sins. The “pride of [our] power” *has been broken!* We simply lack the will to sustain our war against terrorism.

We are fighting the terrorist war the way state-sponsored terrorists want to fight it—which means we can never win. They understand that they will win fighting the war their way. That is *why* they are waging this war of terror! Terrorist warfare would be a failure if we had the will to use our power against state-sponsored terrorism.

Nations must be held accountable and responsible for sponsoring terrorism. HOW DARE ANY NATION FINANCE OR SUPPORT TERRORISM IN ANOTHER NATION!

Most of the intelligence reports reveal that Saudi Arabia heavily finances terrorism in Israel (and even against the U.S.). Why? It is because SAUDIS FEAR THE TERRORISTS MORE THAN THEY FEAR THE AMERICAN “SUPERPOWER”!

A REAL SUPERPOWER SIMPLY WOULD NOT ALLOW SUCH TREACHERY. IT IS AN ACT OF WAR TO FINANCE TERRORISTS! The supporters of terrorism are more guilty than the terrorists. They make it all possible.

If America and Britain held the terrorist-supporting nations accountable, we would drain the terrorist swamp. They should be given one clear warning to stop. If they don't, then strong action should be taken.

If the Iranian leadership were eliminated, the whole course of Mideast history would change radically for the better, because it is the *king*. Sadly, Bible prophecy reveals that will not happen.

OUR ULTIMATE SUCCESS WILL BE DETERMINED BY OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. If God is for us, we can't lose. But if God is *against* us, we can't win. And Bible prophecy relates that God is against us and is cursing us. We should repent and become a true superpower!

After having toppled Saddam Hussein, America had a marvelous opportunity to pressure Iran. We have a huge country from which to operate, and it adjoins Iran. It would stand no chance against our massive power. Then we would have heavy influence over a large portion of the world's oil.

Syria would quickly cave in if Iran were beaten or forced to stop supporting terrorism. So would other Islamic nations.

Instead, Syria and Iran see how divided we are at home. The Blair and Bush governments became enormously unpopular—simply because they *did have* the will to use our power! Prime Minister Blair was pushed from office, and President Bush is about to leave amid a storm of hateful criticism. The terrorist nations see our shameful division and weakness and are encouraged to support terrorism even more!

The pride in our power has been broken!

We must stop those powers that nurture terrorism. If we fail, our future is extremely black. On the other hand, the outcome could be the opposite. We could be a terror to any nation that dared sponsor terrorism against us and our allies. But those days are gone with the wind!

So brace yourself for a terrifying future.

All we have to do is look at Israel to see the outcome of our war in Iraq. Can Israel win its war against terrorism? Iran and other nations keep arming the endless stream of terrorists. The *only* way to turn it around is to stop Iran.

President Bush said that terrorist attacks come, not because of our strength, but because we are perceived to be weak. But it is more than a *perception* of weakness. *We are weak*. We must face reality if we are ever to correct that problem.

Iran and terrorists are preying on our weakness. STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM EXISTS BECAUSE OF OUR WEAKNESS!

Even if we don't change our evil ways, however, this nightmare is all leading DIRECTLY to the return of Jesus Christ. That is the best possible news this world could ever hear! This evil

world of terrorism and war is about to end forever. It will soon be replaced by a world full of prosperity and peace.

IS IRAQ ABOUT TO FALL TO IRAN?

Iran is the most powerful Islamic country in the Middle East. Can you imagine the power it would have if it gained control of Iraq, which was at one time the third-leading exporter of oil in the world? I predicted as far back as 1992 that this could happen.

Here is what I wrote in December of 1994: "Such a takeover [of Iraq] by Iran would SHOCK the world—especially Europe. It would be a strong impetus for Europe to unite quickly. Such a move would, in all likelihood, give Iran power to cause a sizable increase in the price of oil. [In reality, it would then control virtually all of the Middle East oil.] This could help trigger a collapse of the Western world's weak currencies. This in turn could cause Europe to quickly unite into the most powerful economic bloc in the world. That very event is prophesied to occur in your own Bible!" ("Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?", *Philadelphia Trumpet*).

You should read that paragraph again!

The way events have unfolded since that time have opened the way for that scenario to be fulfilled even more dramatically than I imagined.

In 2003, the United States eliminated the leadership of Iraq. Saddam Hussein was the only leader that Iran feared. The U.S. took him out of the way, but does it have the will or strength to guard the spoils of war? Prophecy states that it does not.

The U.S. effectively cleared the way for Shiite Iran to rule over Shiite Iraq!

It was the U.S. that overpowered Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic in 1999's Kosovo war. He was the only leader in Europe that Germany feared.

THE STAGGERING PARADOX MAY BE THAT U.S. POWER CLEARED THE WAY FOR BOTH THE KING OF THE NORTH AND THE KING OF THE SOUTH—AND ULTIMATELY PAVED THE WAY FOR ITS OWN DESTRUCTION, IF WE DON'T REPENT.

The *New York Times* of May 1, 2003, said, "In recent weeks, there has been a steady trickle of intelligence reports about efforts by Iran to influence and shape events inside Iraq.

“Iran, in the view of American analysts, does not welcome a strong American role in Iraq, which would extend American political and military influence in the region.

“Under this assessment, Iran is not looking to confront American forces but to influence events so that the United States fails in its effort to shape Iraq and decides to leave.” Events have since shown how true this assessment was.

Of course, Iran isn’t foolish enough to confront the U.S. directly at this point. After the Iraq campaign, America seemed very strong.

But certain aspects of the Iraq campaign actually exposed American weakness. And though the current U.S. administration is vowing not to allow an Iranian-style theocracy to gain hold in Iraq, there are also signs in the way it is rebuilding the country that show a lack of political will to see this pledge through. Perhaps it will not be during the term of the current president, but the Bible shows that America will fail to contain Iran the way it hopes to.

It is clear that Iran is working every possible angle in order to extend its influence over the majority Shiite population in Iraq and assume control over its massive oil wealth.

Shortly after Baghdad was taken by coalition forces, it quickly became clear how much the Iranian Shiites had already made inroads into Iraq, even under Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship.

The intelligence group Stratfor wrote this in its War Diary of April 23, 2003: “The Shiite population is creating a serious administrative problem for the United States. This was partly expected, partly a surprise. The surprise is not to the extent of anti-Americanism but the extent of the organization. The Shiites are much better organized than U.S. intelligence believed. It is clear that their long-term goal is to govern Iraq. ... [It was building toward that goal long before the U.S. attacked Iraq.]

“The United States cannot really crack down on the Shiites, and the Shiites know it. U.S. troops in riot control mode is not the image Washington wants. ... In the end, the solution to this problem is likely in Tehran. The Iraqi Shiite community, to the extent to which it is organized, owes that organization to Iran. Iran’s goal is simple: Get the United States out of Iraq. Officials in Tehran do not expect this to happen immediately, but they do expect it to happen.”

Washington is in a dreadfully difficult position with respect to Iran. Rather than now using Iraq as a new Middle East base from which to project power over Iran, the U.S. is forced to play nice with its new neighbor so as not to provoke it. Remember, it was just in the 2002 State of the Union address that President Bush labeled Iran number two in the “axis of evil.” Right after Baghdad fell, threatening hints were dropped that Iran had better watch its step. Now—although the U.S. is being discreet about it—*Iran is being looked to as an ALLY to motivate the Iraqi Shiites into establishing order within the area of conquest!*

Of course, Iran is working through standard political and diplomatic channels to position itself to be able to hold stock in the new Iraq, working with the Iraqi government, cementing economic ties and exploiting other diplomatic channels. But truly interesting are the steps the U.S. is taking to secure its interests that are demonstrating its newfound *dependence* upon the Islamic regime.

To take one example: Facing an energy shortage within the bombed-out country, at the end of August 2003, Iraq’s U.S.-appointed interim government announced that it would buy electricity from Iran, as well as Syria. The *Boston Globe* correctly labeled it “a deal that would probably enrich with U.S. funds two countries that top the White House list of states that support terrorism” (Sept. 8, 2003).

Another, more telling, example was America’s approach to Shia militias. The public line is that the U.S. has “zero tolerance” for independent militias in Iraq. But on more than one occasion, coalition forces have looked the other way as armed members of these militias have policed southern Iraqi cities. According to a National Public Radio report of September 8, 2003, the Badr Brigade has worked with U.S. forces, for example going on raids with them to track down Saddam supporters, and the Americans have approved members of the brigade carrying weapons.

The ties to Iran are strong, and clearly the U.S. finds itself with no other good options. The question is, what will be the Shiites’ price for helping the U.S.? Stratfor makes the case that they will want nothing less than the establishment of a Shiite-dominated government in Iraq.

In a September 2003 interview with the IRNA news agency,

former Iranian president Hashemi Rafsanjani gave a chilling version of these events. “Even though the United States has a physical presence in the countries that surround us, THE REALITY IS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN FACT SURROUNDED BY IRAN,” he said.

Is this just bluster? Look at the situation honestly, and you can see that it is true! Iran has indeed “surrounded” America, because it is the KING of terrorist-sponsoring nations!

The prophecies we have been looking at show that the United States will not be a major player in the region for very much longer. And this king of the south will set its sights on another target—the king of the north.

THE WHIRLWIND

After the *push*, the king of the north will come at the king of the south like a “whirlwind.” We have seen how the king of the south could *push* at the king of the north. *Gesenius’ Lexicon* says this about the word *whirlwind*: “used of the commotion of a storm or tempest ... to sweep away in a storm, to rush like a tempest; to be fierce as a tempest; with the implication that the people are ‘terror stricken.’” *Strong’s Concordance* defines it, “to cause to shiver with fear.”

This is the type of warfare implemented by the king of the north. It is *blitzkrieg* warfare! That is because Germany leads the European combine. It could well be a nuclear bomb attack which creates a firestorm! The king of the north will destroy the king of the south. *Gesenius’ Lexicon* further defines *whirlwind* as “creeping of the skin of a person terror stricken.” We are now entering such terrifying times!

All of the enormous stockpiles of armaments *are going to be used*. THE WEAPONS CREATED BY MEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN USED! Bible prophecy tells us how they are to be employed.

Both kings are vying for power IN A VERY AGGRESSIVE WAY. The clash between these two kings is not an insignificant event on the world scene. IT IS A CLASH THAT WILL ALARM THE WHOLE WORLD!

It is implied in Daniel 11:40 that there will be an immediate response to the *push*. That is the Nazi-style warfare of World

War II. The king of the south probably thinks Germany will react like the U.S.—which is indecisive at best. If it thinks that, it is in for a bitter jolt!

Even the style of warfare described here is somewhat revealing about which nation heads the king of the north. The Germans move lightning fast in warfare—unlike the slower Russian bear.

When the king of the south clashes with the king of the north, the European king will be victorious. Then, the king of the north will unite with the rest of the Arab world not allied with Iran to destroy America, Britain and Judah (called “Israel” today).

After war explodes in the Middle East, there will probably be a thunderous call for a peacekeeper in Jerusalem. The king of the north will no doubt take the job, but then quickly will continue its war-making! (Ezekiel 23 discusses a shameful double cross. Request our free book *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*.)

Russia and China will then strike fear in the king of the north. “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many” (Daniel 11:44). The king of the north will then be defeated. “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (verse 45). Here we see a great religious leader—with “tabernacles of his palace”—moving his headquarters to Jerusalem. But he also will come to his end. Why?

Back in 1994, before the much-hyped millennial jubilee celebrations by the Vatican, Pope John Paul II made this statement: “We trust that with the approach of the year 2000, Jerusalem will become the *city of peace* for the entire world and that all the people will be able to meet there, in particular the believers in the religions that find their birthright in the faith of Abraham” (*Parade*, April 3, 1994).

The pope was very accurate in this statement: “Jerusalem *will* BECOME THE CITY OF PEACE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD,” but *not* the way he believes.

Jesus Christ will be here in the very near future. And He will bring peace to the entire world! That is one big reason there is so much violence over Jerusalem in this end time. Satan knows that God is going to rule the world, and even the universe, *from*

Jerusalem. The Bible says we are about to see a religious clash that will stagger the world! This prophecy is yet to be fulfilled.

Of course, Satan hates this prophecy because at that time he will be cast into a bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3).

What a glorious future man has. And all of that glory is going to emanate from Jerusalem!

A Mysterious Alliance

LET'S LOOK AT A PSALM THAT STRONGLY INDICATES which countries will be allied with the king of the south. This prophecy lists several moderate Islamic nations that will ally themselves with Assur (Assyria), or modern-day Germany. Because this will happen *after* Germany and the European Union conquer the king of the south, we can deduce that these countries will not be destroyed in the “whirlwind” described in Daniel 11:40.

“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken CRAFTY COUNSEL against thy people [Israel], and consulted against thy *hidden* [or *sheltered*] ones” (Psalm 83:1-3). God’s “hidden ones” are His own, very elect, Church members. In the midst of these warring nations, God protects His people (Revelation 12:14). As with many other biblical prophecies, we see God’s very elect in the spotlight.

The “enemies” are an Islamic alliance with the king of the north, which are about to attack the modern descendants of Israel. The victims are primarily America, Britain and Judah (the little nation called *Israel* today). Bible prophecy says the end-time nations of Israel are unusually fearful and gullible, like a “silly dove” (Hosea 7:8-12). Their enemies take advantage of their weaknesses to destroy them (Hosea 5:5). God only protects the nations of Israel from grave danger if they are obedient—which they are *not* in this end time.

This will be a deceitful alliance. “They have said, Come, and LET US CUT THEM OFF FROM BEING A NATION; THAT THE NAME OF ISRAEL MAY BE NO MORE IN REMEMBRANCE” (Psalm 83:4). Their goal is to *utterly* destroy Israel—including America and Britain!

“For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre;

Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah” (verses 5-8). Here are the modern names of these nations, as taught at Ambassador College under Herbert W. Armstrong: *Edom*—Turkey; *Ishmaelites*—Saudi Arabia; *Moab*—Jordan; *Hagarenes*—anciently dwelt in the land known as Syria today; *Gebal*—Lebanon; *Ammon*—also Jordan. (We cannot be extremely precise in this understanding, but it gives a good general idea.)

Here is what was written in the *Plain Truth* magazine under the title, “The Truth About the Race Question”: “Notice some of the sons of Esau: Teman, Omar, Amalek (Genesis 25:11). These are not Jewish names! Yet some claim that the Jews are the children of Esau. Nothing could be further from the truth—as we shall presently see.

“Esau, or Edom, as he is also called, lived southeast of Palestine near Petra. Arab Bedouins live there now. Then where have Esau’s children gone?

“From the days of Nebuchadnezzar, who carried them captive, they disappear for 1,000 years from history. Then suddenly we find Amalek the name of a city in *Turkestan in Central Asia* (from Paul Herrmann’s *Sieben vorbei und Acht Verweht*, page 451). The Egyptians used to call the Amalekites *Amu*. In Turkestan is the River *Amu* today! In Bible times the Edomites inhabited Mt. Seir (Genesis 32:4). In Turkestan is the Syr Darya—the River of Syr, or Seir.

“The leading Turkish tribe is the *Ottoman*. The prophecies referring to Edom or Esau mention *Teman* as the leading tribe in these latter days (Obadiah 9). The conclusion is inescapable. The Ottoman Turks are the sons of Teman. Merely the vowels in spelling have been changed over these past millenniums. From Central Asia the Turks, or Edomites, moved into Asia Minor. That is where Esau’s children live today! Turkey controls the ‘crossway’ of the nations—the Dardanelles (Obadiah 14).

“How clear, ESAU, OR EDOM, IS TURKEY *today!* ...

“The Philistines, who came from Mizraim, inhabited Southern Palestine even in the days of Abraham

(Genesis 21:34). They are still there today—in the Gaza strip in Palestine [Palestinians]—causing no end of trouble (Zechariah 9:6-7). ... Both the Philistines and the Caphtorim destroyed the Canaanites in South Palestine and lived in their place (Deuteronomy 2:23). No wonder there are so few Canaanites left!” (July 1957).

Iraq and Iran are missing in the prophecy of Psalm 83. And clearly, Egypt is not a part of this alliance. Is this because these countries by this point have already been defeated or controlled by the king of the north?

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH AN ALLIANCE TO ATTACK OR TOTALLY DESTROY ISRAEL IN HISTORY. Concerning this Psalm, the *Anchor Bible* reads, “History transmits no record of the national crisis when the nations enumerated in this Psalm formed a league to wipe out Israel ...” *Lange’s Commentary* points out, “The 10 nations who are here enumerated as being combined against Israel, are never mentioned elsewhere as enemies allied at the same time and for the purpose of annihilating Israel.” Other commentaries make the same point. This must be an end-time prophecy!

Most of the Muslims were allied with Germany in World War II. They knew what Hitler was doing to the Jews, and we know the way many Muslims feel toward the Jews. Since America and Britain support the Jews today, it is not difficult to envision the Muslims and Germans allied against them. And this prophecy ties in with other end-time Bible prophecies very well. After all, God does tell us to put various Bible verses together in order to understand prophecy (Isaiah 28:13).

Is this Psalm closely related to what Daniel saw in a vision?

“And ... the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (Daniel 11:40-41). The area of Jordan (here described as Edom and Moab) will escape.

“He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape” (verse 42). Egypt will

be conquered or controlled by the king of the north—probably because of Egypt’s alliance with the king of the south. The radical Islamic movement, led by Iran, is very strong in Egypt and Algeria. This religion will probably take control of both countries very soon. Iran appears to be on the verge of becoming a world superpower.

Daniel’s prophecy could certainly account for Iran, Iraq and Egypt not being in the Psalm 83 alliance.

2

The Last Crusade

THE CRUSADES WERE A SERIES OF ROMAN CATHOLIC “HOLY” wars to wrest control of the Holy Land from Muslims. They produced some of the bloodiest battles in history.

Did you ever wonder how the Catholics reconcile that “holy” slaughter *with the Bible*, which states, “Thou shalt not kill”? Or how they can read the Sermon on the Mount and still lead the religious world in spilling rivers of blood?

They are called the *Christian* Crusades. That label itself is a deception. They were primarily *Catholic* crusades. Other Christian religions have their problems, but let’s not blame them for what the Catholics did—*and will do*. Some background will help us understand.

POPE URBAN II

In A.D. 622, Catholics fought and were defeated in a crusade against the Persians and the Jews. Some 60,000 Catholics were killed, and 35,000 enslaved. The fall of Jerusalem left the Catholic world shocked and mourning.

This war left Catholics bitter against the Jews for the role they played in the war. Much anti-Semitism began because of it.

Some historians consider this the First Crusade. But the Crusades we best remember came later, beginning in the 11th century.

Pope Urban II unleashed a savage Catholic army and started these later Crusades. This “righteous” army marched 3,000 miles to conquer the Holy Land.

Here is an excerpt from the book *Crusades*, by Terry Jones and Alan Ereira, which became a BBC television series: “By summoning an army under the banner of the Cross, THE POPE WAS EXTENDING THE CHURCH’S MANTLE OVER ALL CHRISTENDOM. THIS WAS THE IDEA AT THE VERY HEART OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PAPACY; in place of separate local churches at the center of discreet communities, THERE WAS TO BE ONE OVERARCHING CHURCH, RULED BY ONE OVERARCHING POPE. The Crusade was to be its expression and its instrument” (emphasis mine throughout).

They state that this thinking was AT THE HEART OF THE PAPACY. The popes wanted to rule any church called Christian. Through the Holy Roman Empire, they also tried repeatedly to rule the entire world. They have succeeded six times and are about to succeed again, for the last time, according to Bible prophecy. (Write for our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

The Protestant churches are prophesied to be brought back into the Catholic Church (Isaiah 47). Mostly this will be done through bloodshed. Remember, this wish to rule all Christianity is at “the very heart of the revolutionary papacy.” That means this philosophy has motivated them for nearly 2,000 years. And they still believe violent and bloody crusades are righteous. Have they ever truly repented of this condemning history? The answer is no. The best they have managed is some recent vague apologies.

History proves the Catholic Church to be one of the most militant institutions ever created. It does not believe in a democratic philosophy. It has routinely and often “converted” people by the sword. And yet, this world seems unwilling to hold it accountable for its war crimes.

Modern historians have shown how closely the Vatican worked with the Nazis. It was through the Catholic Church that most of the leading Nazis escaped after World War II. That history is well documented. No one should doubt it. (Read *The Unholy Trinity* by Mark Aarons and John Loftus, available at bookstores.)

And doesn’t that crime reveal that the Catholics were deeply involved with the Nazi war machine? Just a little evidence of logic should teach us that!

This subject is too important to let our emotions stand in the way, because the worst is yet to come!

The last crusade will be the supreme inquisition of all history. It is time we understood the bloody history of the Crusades and let it be a warning!

The world seems almost unaware of these monstrous crimes.

The Jones and Ereira book continues, “Urban’s army would also rescue Jerusalem, the spiritual (and therefore the physical) CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE. He hoped that the redeemed Jerusalem would be directly ruled by the church.

“Every man who enrolled for the struggle must mark himself out by wearing a cross and, most important, vow to continue on his way until he reached Jerusalem.

“Urban’s method of raising this army was completely original; as well as pay, he could offer paradise [much like the Islamic terrorists]—anyone who took part had all their sins forgiven. ‘Whoever for devotion alone, not to gain honor or money, goes to Jerusalem to liberate the church of God can substitute this journey for all penance.’”

Any Bible student ought to know that *only God* can offer paradise and forgive sins. But that is the big problem with most Christians: They don’t believe and obey the Bible!

The whole world, including the religious world, is deceived (Revelation 12:9). Enormous problems like the Crusades will continue until we confront our own deception.

Jones and Ereira conclude, “By saying that carrying out a military/political enterprise would make you a better person, wiping out past sins, Urban had invented a way by which every person could internalize papal policy. Fighting in the pope’s cause was not only an obligation, it made you righteous. With that one idea, mass political action was launched. With that one idea, ideology was born. With that one idea, the Crusade was set in motion. URBAN DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE HAD DONE.”

Perhaps this pope did not know what he had done. BUT WHAT HE BEGAN LED TO A NUMBER OF INDESCRIBABLY BRUTAL WARS BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND MUSLIMS.

The real tragedy is that the world, like Pope Urban, still doesn’t understand what he did, and what the Catholic Church

continues to do. Its real beliefs surface when it gains power. Today, it is building the greatest power it has ever had. If you understand its history, its future is very predictable—far more than most historians believe. Add Bible prophecy to that equation and you will see that this world faces a frightening specter.

FIGHTING ON BOTH SIDES

THE CRUSADES CREATED RIVERS OF BLOOD. AND IT WAS ALL DONE IN THE NAME OF GOD. Of course, the Muslims responded with massive slaughters against the Crusaders, also in the name of God. Does it make any sense for God to be fighting on both sides? Or are these warring factions just giving our God of love a bloody reputation?

Jerusalem is considered a holy place by *both* religions. It is indeed considered the “center of the universe” to the Catholics. They believe conquering Jerusalem makes them righteous. That has been their ideology from the beginning. It is still true today. The fruits are there to prove it. The Bible says that “by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20). They believe in war as an instrument to achieve their religious goals.

“The following morning the Crusaders re-entered the al-Aqsa Mosque and slaughtered every Muslim sheltering there. No one knows how many died; the Muslim chronicler reports 70,000. ONE OF THE CRUSADES REPORTS PICKING HIS WAY THROUGH A MESS OF BLOOD AND BODIES MORE THAN KNEE-DEEP” (ibid.). This is only one episode of many. Many people have seen pictures of this very mosque.

How many Muslims still remember the history of this mosque being knee-deep in Muslim blood? And all of this savagery supposedly made Catholics righteous! A warrior who burned Muslim babies in the Crusade was considered worthy of glory for all eternity! Does this really make sense to a sound mind?

“But killing, the pope now declared, need not be a sin after all. It depended on who you killed. In fact, if you killed the enemies of Christ, killing did not require penance—it *was* the penance. HOLY SLAUGHTER COULD BE AS EFFECTIVE A DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITY AS PRAYER, OR FASTING, OR PILGRIMAGE.”

The pope said, “Now we are proposing that you should fight wars which contain the glorious reward of martyrdom, in which you can gain the title of present and eternal glory.”

“The pope had also pointed out the importance of rescuing Jerusalem from the infidel. He seems to have suggested that ‘rescue’ meant ‘seize and keep’” (ibid.).

The pope also said, “Take the road to the Holy Sepulcher, rescue that land from a dreadful race and rule over it yourselves.”

Muslim and Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem were slaughtered like pigs. And all of this was done by Catholics who presumably became more righteous in the process.

Were these killers true Christians? A true Christian is one who follows Christ. If we look in the Gospels, Christ tells us to love our enemies, even die for them—not kill them!

The memory of such horrendous massacres still lives in the minds of many Muslims.

Those memories have provoked Arabs and Jews to massacre Catholics throughout history in a similar manner—all in the name of religion.

KING PETER'S CRUSADE

King Peter launched his crusade from the little Mediterranean island of Cyprus, which was captured by Catholic Crusaders during the Third Crusade. Here is what Steven Runciman wrote about King Peter's crusade in *A History of the Crusades*: “King Peter arrived at Rhodes early in the month, and on the 25th the whole Cypriot fleet sailed into the harbor, 108 vessels in all, galleys, transports, merchant ships and light skiffs. With the great galleys of the Venetians and those provided by the Hospital, the armada numbered 165 ships. They carried a full complement of men, with ample horses, provisions and arms. Not since the Third Crusade had a proportionate expedition set out for the Holy War. . . .

“During the Friday night there was a fierce Muslim counter-attack through one of the southern gates, which the Christians in their excitement had burned down. It was beaten off; and by the Saturday afternoon, all Alexandria was in the Crusaders' hands.

“THE VICTORY WAS CELEBRATED WITH UNPARALLELED SAVAGERY. TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES OF HOLY WARFARE HAD

TAUGHT THE CRUSADERS NOTHING OF HUMANITY. The massacres were only equalled by those of Jerusalem in 1099 and Constantinople in 1204. The Muslims had not been so ferocious at Antioch or at Acre. Alexandria's wealth had been phenomenal; and the victors were maddened at the sight of so much booty. They spared no one. The native Christians and the Jews suffered as much as the Muslims; and even the European merchants settled in the city saw their factories and storehouses ruthlessly looted. Mosques and tombs were raided and their ornaments stolen or destroyed; churches too were sacked, though a gallant crippled Coptic lady managed to save some of the treasures of her sect at the sacrifice of her private fortune. Houses were entered, and HOUSEHOLDERS WHO DID NOT IMMEDIATELY HAND OVER ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS WERE SLAUGHTERED WITH THEIR FAMILIES. Some 5,000 prisoners, Christians and Jews as well as Muslims, were taken to be sold as slaves. A long line of horses, asses and camels carried the loot to the ships in the harbor and there having performed their task were killed. THE WHOLE CITY STANK WITH THE ODOR OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL CORPSES."

This author said, "THE CRUSADES WERE THE POPE'S WORK." The Crusade philosophy has made Catholic popes the bloodiest religious leaders ever!

Still, most people try to hide from this frightening reality. That is the main reason why the worst Catholic crusade is yet to come. Mankind refuses to believe the truth and believe God.

The world so quickly forgets. And because it does, the massive bloodshed continues. The Catholics did these appalling, despicable deeds before the world. But has anyone heard them REPENT before the world?

There is good news: Jesus Christ will *personally* stop the next crusade! Sadly, however, that will only occur after the worst suffering ever on this Earth (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21-22).

CYPRUS

More than one crusade has been launched from Cyprus. Will we see the last crusade launched from there as well? Is history about to repeat itself?

Turkey, just north of Cyprus, has been a strong member of

the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for many years. Yet, a German-led European Union has rejected it from joining the EU—even though it has been applying since 1963, when there were only six members!

Cyprus, on the other hand, joined the EU in 2004.

Why, then, has the EU consistently rejected Turkey? Is it because Turkey is predominantly Islamic?

The EU is prophesied to be ultimately comprised of 10 nations, or groups of nations, dominated by Catholicism. Already the EU is being called the Holy Roman Empire. It has traditionally been the enemy of the Muslims.

And why did the EU want tiny Cyprus to be a member? Is the EU already thinking about Cyprus as a launching pad from which to protect its Jerusalem interests?

You can be certain that the EU is thinking about how to protect the holy places in and around Jerusalem. Europe has thought like this for almost 2,000 years!

Though Cyprus is moving toward unification now, at the time Cyprus was accepted into the EU some people feared a war between Greece and Turkey, which share influence over the island. Greece became the 10th member state of the EU in 1981, and Russia sold missiles to Greece, whose intention was to bully Turkey with them.

Here is what Christopher Lockwood, diplomatic editor in Nicosia, wrote in the *Daily Telegraph*, March 30, 1998: “The EU has maneuvered itself into a position where it may soon have to take a bitterly divided island, with a propensity for violence and even war, into its bosom.

“It has poisoned relations with Turkey, a crucial NATO ally; made a solution to the Cyprus problem harder to achieve than ever”

Why did Europe risk such serious problems, even warfare, over this tiny island?

Even the people building the EU don't fully understand what is happening. There is a spirit and force behind these events that the world does not see.

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And THEY WORSHIPPED THE DRAGON WHICH GAVE POWER UNTO THE BEAST: and they worshipped the beast, saying,

Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months” (Revelation 13:3-5).

If the people of the world truly understood what is happening in Europe, they would be trembling in fear.

Does this great evil spirit being, Satan the devil, have plans for Cyprus? Is there a final crusade planned to be launched into the Middle East from there? This evil spirit being knows Bible prophecy and what the future holds.

The beast will hold power for 3½ years, and then Christ will destroy that evil empire forever! We are entering the worst times ever, but they will lead into the best news we could ever receive!

FINAL CRUSADE PROPHESED

One of the main tourist attractions in Jordan is the Crusader castles. The Catholics built most of them to war against the Muslims and control Jerusalem. These castles are stark reminders of the bloody past—and a far more bloody future!

The Jews have Jerusalem now. But not for long. Both Muslims and Catholics have designs for Jerusalem. These two great powers are about to clash again—go head to head in the final crusade over Jerusalem!

In 1997, Iran conducted major war games code-named “Road to Jerusalem.” Between 150,000 and 500,000 soldiers participated.

What could be more provocative? Iran is advertising its strategy to the world. Few people understand this Muslim passion for Jerusalem and its holy sites! It is the kind of passion that causes war!

Iran will undoubtedly lead the king of the south. This power will be comprised of the radical Islamic movement. Iran is working fiercely to lead this radically militant religion.

Iran has virtually destroyed the peace process single-handedly. But still, the world continues to talk about peace. Iran and radical Islam don’t want peace, and words won’t deter them.

Joseph de Courcy once wrote this in the *Islamic Affairs Analyst*: “Subscribers should be in absolutely no doubt about this. From Iran’s support for subversion in Bahrain, through its

improving ties with Egypt, its support for Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamist revolutionaries in Khartoum, to its close strategic alliance with Moscow, everything has the same ultimate purpose: *the liberation of Jerusalem from under the Zionist yoke.*”

The U.S. has tried to isolate Iran. Almost no other nation supports America. This attempt has failed. The U.S. is fighting against Bible prophecy.

Here is what the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in 1996: “We know but one word: struggle, struggle. *Jihad, jihad, jihad.* When we stop our intifada, when we stop our revolution, we go to the greater *jihad*, the *jihad* of the independent Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem.”

Jihad is the Arab cry for holy war. They will get their war. But it will not be holy. It will lead to the worst suffering this planet has ever experienced!

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40). This king of the south is undoubtedly the Iran-led radical Muslims. They are strong and are PUSHING others around in the Middle East.

Soon they will PUSH at the king of the north, the so-called Holy Roman Empire—the same religious power that was behind the Crusades. And that push will surely revolve around Jerusalem.

Just 20 years ago, nobody could have even imagined two world powers coming out of the Middle East and Europe. But God knew exactly what would happen. Nobody but God could have inspired these prophecies. Everybody can see these two great powers today.

Just look at what is happening in Europe—and has been for years. Pope John Paul II worked feverishly to revive the Holy Roman Empire. Early in his pontificate, in Spain, November 9, 1981, he said: “It can be said that the European identity is not understandable without Christianity and that it is precisely in Christianity that are found those common roots by which the Continent has seen its civilization mature: its culture, its

dynamism, its activity, its capacity for constructive expansion in other continents as well; in a word, all that makes up its glory. . . .

“Find yourself again. Be yourself. Discover your origins, revive your roots. Return to those authentic values which MADE YOUR HISTORY A GLORIOUS ONE and your presence so beneficent in the other continents.” Pope Benedict XVI has been repeating that same message: *Discover your origins, revive your roots.*

During the Inquisition, OVER 50 MILLION innocent people WERE KILLED IN THE NAME OF “CHRISTIANITY”! That’s right—50 million! And you can add many millions more as victims of the Holy Roman Empire. The “origins” and “roots” and that “history” to which John Paul referred caused many millions of people to die!

In Revelation 17, God paints a vivid picture of a great church as a lavishly dressed harlot, holding sway over the nations. God sees things as they truly are! Let’s look at God’s view: “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration” (Revelation 17:6). God sees this whore “drunken” on the blood of the saints! Is killing God’s saints “glorious”?

The Holy Roman Empire will come at the king of the south like a whirlwind. Will there be a surprise attack from Cyprus? Will we see the final crusade launched from there? A WHIRLWIND COMES SUDDENLY. SO IT DOESN’T APPEAR THE ATTACK WILL BE LAUNCHED FROM EUROPE.

We must understand the Holy Roman Empire and the Crusades to understand the Catholic passion for Jerusalem. They have a long history of spilling rivers of blood over Jerusalem.

Notice what their first action is after they are victorious. “He shall enter also into the GLORIOUS LAND, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41). They “enter” into the glorious land, or the Holy Land. The Hebrew indicates this is a peaceful entry—not forced.

The Jews appear to invite them in as peacekeepers. But it leads to a great double cross, prophesied in Ezekiel 23. (Request our free publications *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet* and *Hosea—Reaping the Whirlwind.*)

This betrayal will lead to a disaster where no stone is left on top of another stone at the Wailing Wall (Matthew 24:1-3). Those are Christ's own words!

The Jews should remember the history of the violence and bloodshed by the Crusaders. Then perhaps they would not invite the enemy into Jerusalem.

“He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and *the land of Egypt shall not escape*. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps” (Daniel 11:42-43). Other countries are going to fall to this great power too.

It states that Egypt will not escape. For over two decades, Egypt has been the most moderate nation in the Middle East. Iran has PUSHED Egypt toward its camp. It has been able to do this because Egypt fears terrorism and its own radical Muslims. We have seen that happen before our eyes, just as God prophesied it would!

THE GOOD NEWS

At that point in prophecy, the Holy Roman Empire will face disaster. “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many” (verse 44). The Russians and Chinese will prepare for war with Europe. The Europeans will see it happening and strike first. They will, however, be defeated.

“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet HE SHALL COME TO HIS END, and none shall help him” (verse 45). Notice, the religious leader will move his headquarters to Jerusalem—and not just for protection. He could go to many other cities that would be safer. But this will be a religious act of faith. This religious leader considers Jerusalem to be the most holy place on Earth—the “center of the universe.” Still, he will come to a most ignominious end. Nobody will be there to help him.

There should be no chapter break between Daniel 11 and 12. The story flow continues to illustrate that this religious war will trigger a nuclear World War III.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1). There has never before been trouble like this. God promises to protect His people physically. Otherwise, they would perish in a nuclear nightmare.

As bad as this news is, IT LEADS TO THE BEST NEWS THIS WORLD HAS EVER HEARD! “And from the time that the *daily sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days” (verse 11). The *daily sacrifice* is referring to GOD’S WORK. That work will be taken away—removed when God takes His people to a place of safety (Matthew 24:15-16; Luke 21:20-21). That must happen because the abomination of desolation, or the king of the north, is going to conquer America and Britain. But when that happens, you will be able to start counting days to the return of Jesus Christ. He will end these “holy wars” forever.

Any child should understand that the fruits of these “holy wars” have been diabolical! There is no excuse for America and Britain not knowing the truth. God has been sending His message in power for over 70 years! They have rejected it repeatedly. That is why they now must suffer so intensely. Finally, God will get their attention and lead them to peace, full joy and abundance.

3

Emphasis on God's Very Elect

DANIEL 11 IS THE HISTORY AND PROPHECY OF THE WARRING kings of the north and south. The time frame is before the time of Christ's first coming to His Second Coming. However, we must remember that Daniel was written for the end time (Daniel 12:4, 9). So the time frame is focused on the end time. But now we have moved into the specific "last end" (Daniel 8:19) of the end-time period.

Now notice how deeply God's very elect are embedded and emphasized within the 11th and 12th chapters of Daniel.

"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the *people that do know their God* shall be strong, and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32). The word *exploits* means heroic acts. The very elect "stand firm and take action" (Revised Standard Version).

Our six-year court battle with the Worldwide Church of God over the right to print Herbert W. Armstrong's writings is an example. The Philadelphia Church of God won that battle, when it looked like we had no chance of winning. God gave us the victory. Now the copyrights to Mr. Armstrong's writings belong to us. If you are unfamiliar with this story, request a free copy of our booklet *Habakkuk*.

"And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days" (verse 33). God's very elect *instruct*

many of the Laodiceans (Christ's lukewarm Church) and the world. The word "instruct" means to turn minds to *discernment and understanding*. "The word inculcates the concept of distinguishing between good and evil" (*Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible*).

Only God truly knows how to distinguish between good and evil! Nobody else does! In the midst of billions of people, only a few thousand teach God's true message. This tiny group instructs many, but only small numbers submit to God. However, the message is a *witness* to all the world (Matthew 24:14). That means God will still use our message to bring them to repentance. This is only the first stage.

Here we see a small group of people with a God-sized message. The whole world should heed today. But most people won't become converted until Christ returns—which is probably within 10 to 15 years or less.

Our work is about God and His message. So is the book of Daniel. The whole world should heed now. They will turn to this message—it's just a matter of *when*.

We *instruct* many. That means God gives us new and old revelation "to reach the largest audience possible," in the words of Mr. Armstrong. We must reach out to God's Laodiceans and the world.

"Now when they shall fall, they shall be [helped] with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries" (Daniel 11:34). The Laodiceans have fallen in this spiritual war. God, through us, gives them a *little help*, because most of them refuse to repent—even though some fake repentance "with flatteries."

Most of the Laodiceans were against us in our court battle for God's revealed truth. Many even became antichrists and fought against Christ and the PCG. (Write for our booklet on the Epistles of John. All of our literature is free.)

WORLD EMPIRES

God's perspective is exciting beyond words. IN THE MIDST OF WARNING COUNTRIES AND WORLD EMPIRES, GOD *EMPHASIZES* HIS VERY ELECT MOST OF ALL! They are right at the center of this history and prophecy.

Can we see how important the work of the PCG is? We all need *God's perspective* on this subject.

God won a court case for us. Why? Because we need Mr. Armstrong's writings to teach the foundational part of our message. Mr. Armstrong "restored all things" (Matthew 17:10-11)—all of the major doctrines of God's Church. People can't understand our message without first comprehending his.

DANIEL 11 SHOWS THE CLASHING OF WORLD EMPIRES. BUT THE SPOTLIGHT IS STILL ON GOD'S CHURCH. Even Church division is discussed. God wants His people to know how important they are in His eyes. Nobody takes precedence over God's people.

In the midst of geopolitical turmoil, God gives striking details about His own Church! "And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed" (Daniel 11:35). Now God directs His warning specifically to those doing the daily. Verse 33 says *many* will fall. That refers to the Laodiceans. Here it says *some*. So EVEN SOME OF THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND AND ARE DOING GOD'S WORK WILL FALL.

God is talking to the end-time Philadelphians directly! Daniel said this was for a "time appointed." It's for a specific time period—our time. And right up to the very end, some of us will fall. Haven't all in God's Church seen that happen? The word *try* in verse 35 means to smelt, like smelting metal. It means a fiery trial. Even when people come into this remnant and understand, they can still fall.

Should we be shocked if some few leave? God says it will happen right up to the end. We are in a war. And in a war, there are casualties. Will you be a casualty? It will happen "even to the time of the end."

This is dangerous knowledge. Eternal life is at stake for God's people. In the midst of world calamities, God reveals that this small, loyal remnant will have spiritual war casualties.

God reveals details about His own Church that He does not reveal about the king of the south. That is because what we do has eternal consequences.

And all this was prophesied well before the first coming of Christ!

There were casualties in the Iraqi war, and there are casualties in our spiritual war. But if we stick with God, we will never be a spiritual casualty.

“But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things” (verse 38). First of all, where it says “God of forces,” *god* should not be capitalized. This man is worshiping a god that his spiritual fathers did not know.

“In his estate” means he’s sitting in the seat of the God of gods. This is a parallel prophecy to 2 Thessalonians 2:4. He’s in God’s seat saying that he is God—not by his words, but by his deeds! For the word *estate*, the margin says *stead*. (*Gesenius’ Lexicon* says “in his place.”) He’s in the place of Christ. This is happening in God’s sanctuary. This man betrayed God.

The “god of forces” is a demon army. Satan and his fallen angels have been cast down to this Earth (Revelation 12:9, 12), and they are more wrathful than ever before. That is because they know their time is *short*. God is about to cast them into outer darkness.

This demon army fights God’s Church—spiritual Israel—most of all. Then it attacks the nations of Israel. These demons are stirring up the Gentiles against America, the Jews in the Middle East and the British peoples. It is going to intensify until they destroy our nations, if we don’t repent.

God has chosen His very elect to warn the nations of Israel. This is the message they must heed, and they can heed either now—or after the worst punishment ever. **THERE IS NO ESCAPING THIS MESSAGE IF WE ARE TO BE IN GOD’S KINGDOM.** God’s message is in their midst. But most will not listen until it is too late—physically.

“And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them” (Ezekiel 33:33). They finally learn that there was a prophet of God in their midst *after* the Tribulation has struck. Not several prophets—only one!

There is only one safe way. We must get God’s perspective—see through His eyes.

“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41). The last part of this verse is interesting. God will spare Edom, Moab and the chief of the children of Ammon—or the sons of Ammon. The word *chief* means “with regard to time, *first fruits*” (*Gesenius' Lexicon*). This undoubtedly is referring to God's people, who, as Mr. Armstrong taught for so many years, are the firstfruits to be harvested in God's plan. These people will be saved out of the beast's hand.

Understand the context here! To this point in Daniel 11, we have seen how Satan has literally destroyed a whole Church of God *spiritually*, except for the few who understand and who instruct many. Satan could not get to the very elect *spiritually*. So now he tries to get to them physically, through the beast. But God will protect us from the wrath of Satan the devil. He will save this little sanctuary of strength.

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many” (verse 44). Tidings out of Russia and China only expedite the beast power's plans to “destroy, and utterly to make away many”—or, as the *Companion Bible* says, “to devote many to extermination.”

Remember, this is all one vision. There is a chronological flow here, so don't let the chapter break distract you. “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1). It says “at that time.” When? At the time of the clash between the king of the north and the king of the south. Shortly after that clash, God's people will be delivered. Then the king of the north will attack America, Britain and Israel (Hosea 5:5).

The archangel Gabriel is still dictating this message. He refers to the archangel Michael, who stands up for the “*sons* [it should read] of thy people.” He *stands* for the sons of God—it's a military expression. He is armed, and he takes his stand, ready to

fight. That's his job. Unless we know what Michael's role is, we will not be protected.

The great archangel Michael stands up for spiritual Israel, which is God's very elect. They are taken to a place of safety in the worst time of suffering ever.

Only the loyal "sons" are protected. The Laodicean rebels failed to honor their Father (Malachi 1:6). They are not protected. This is all about God's Family. That is what the gospel is—the *good news* about the coming Family of God. The whole world has the potential to be part of that family. The suffering is to help all mankind reach that goal.

We instruct *many* about their potential in the God Family. This is their *only hope* in a hopeless world. Most people today fight against their own breathtaking potential. Soon all that is going to change. Christ is about to return!

In the midst of clashing empires, God emphasizes the mind-dazzling potential of mankind. They don't see that potential yet. But a small remnant do. They are *preparing* now to teach the whole world—billions of people!

Our message is vibrating with transcendental hope. God wants us to dedicate our lives to getting this message out.

MICHAEL THE POWERFUL ARCHANGEL HAS ALREADY RISEN UP TO PROTECT GOD'S VERY ELECT. Our need for that protection will intensify in the troubled times ahead. Will that protection include you?

God protects those saints who "turn many to righteousness" (Daniel 12:3). This is in the context of the king of the south. Getting out this message is why we understand God's revealed truth. Our work is to give people a chance to turn to God. Those who do not turn will be a witness to God's message. The coming Tribulation and Day of the Lord suffering will finally awaken them. They will know how to repent because of our message. God rewards us as no other saints. We are to shine like the stars and the brightness of the firmament forever! We are to be the only Bride of Christ.

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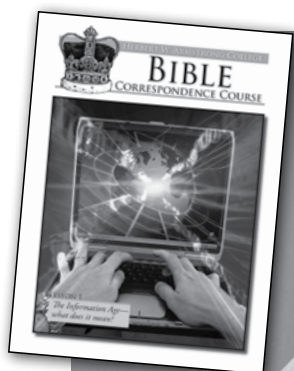
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