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# European Financial Crisis May Result in Significant Political Changes

*As European leaders talk of the need for greater integration of their finances, some countries may have to leave the eurozone. Could this lead to a two-tiered Europe, with a solid core of nations built around Germany and German principles of tight money?*

by Melvin Rhodes

**T**he world looks different from the heart of Europe.

English-language television channels in hotels are not a given, and sometimes it's difficult to even find a newspaper in English. This is not meant as a criticism—it's even more difficult to find a German- or French-language newspaper in the Midwest of the United States. But the shortage of English-language media can be frustrating when you like to keep up on what's happening in the world.

CNBC Europe was offered in one of the hotels I stayed in during a recent visit. As its name suggests, this is a European-based version of CNBC, an American financial news channel. It's very European-oriented, with business news from all over Europe and Turkey.

There was some news of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico but not much. Most of the news was centered on the European financial crisis and attempts to resolve it.

One commentator remarked on how there are two clearly differing approaches to the current inter-



Reuters/Albert Gea

*Public-sector workers in Spain march in Barcelona June 8, 2010, during a strike to protest an austerity package.*

national financial crisis: what she called “the Anglo-American model” and the “Franco-German model.” Whereas the United States believes that the solution to the international debt crisis is yet more debt, Germany model advocates that only tight money will get us out of this mess.

(See “FINANCIAL,” page 3)



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"Whom heaven must receive until the times of

# Restoration

of all things ... ACTS 3:21

## Connections

**D**o any of you suffer from digital deprivation if you are away from your computer or smartphone for more than a few minutes? Do you feel the need to be continually connected to the Internet and social media? If so, you may be one of those people who scientists say get a shot of dopamine to the brain with the digital stimulation of e-mail and Internet surfing. You can actually get to the point where you need this stimulation. It's like an addiction.

Now, don't worry. I am not going to advocate completely unplugging from our wired world, although I admit I've had the temptation sometimes. But when I ran across a recent *New York Times* article that profiled a guy who cannot bear to be unplugged, it got me thinking about my habits.

This Internet entrepreneur goes to sleep at night with his iPhone or iPad on his chest. When he wakes in the morning, it is the first thing he reaches for. When he takes the subway into the city, he knows exactly how long he will be off-line—221 seconds—as the train goes through a tunnel.

Scientists who study the impact of multitasking and Web surfing on the human brain say such activity is rewiring our brains. Multitasking may increase productivity, but it can lead to a distinct lack of focus and fractured thinking. Beyond this, the heavy use of technology can have a significant impact on relations within families, as people neglect relationships with their mates and their children.

But the most important relationship that can suffer is the one with our Creator. Too much digital life can sever the connection to a spiritual life. If we disconnect spiritually, we are in deep trouble.

I was recently reading in the book of Amos, "The LORD called me away from my flock and told me, 'Go and prophesy to my people in Israel'" (Amos 7:15, New Living Translation).

I wondered, How did God call and speak to Amos, or to any prophet for that matter? I can understand visions, which many prophets had. But when they say "the LORD spoke" or something similar, what exactly was the method?

Amos took care of sheep for a living. He spent time out in the fields. He slept in the open, under the stars. His spent a lot of time alone, and he probably had limited human contact. He had little to distract him so he could actually "hear" God. You and I are not called to deliver prophetic utterances, but we do desire to obey and respond to God's instruction.

Are you able to filter out the clutter of modern life and focus enough to hear the "still small voice" of God amid the loud thunder of the modern world?

Elijah fled into a cave during a personal crisis and learned a lesson about "hearing" God. God was not in the noise and clamor of wind, earthquake and fire. God was loud and clear in a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12).

Do you want to "hear" God? Do you want to be led by His Spirit? We can begin by creating conditions that allow us to hear. For a lot of us that may mean removing the clutter and distractions of our modern world. Or at the very least, managing them better so we do not lose that all-important connection with our spiritual Father.

Hearing and being led by the voice of God requires dedicated quiet time. We don't have to be prophets to respond to the calling of God and to do deeds of righteousness. All we have to be are sincere Christians yielding ourselves to God's will. Let us determine to use our modern digital world wisely, remembering our priorities, so we can hear and obey God.

—Darris McNeely



Darris McNeely

“FINANCIAL” (Continued from page 1)

Even the new British government has reined in spending.

There was a great deal of talk about what used to be called a two-tiered Europe, although I did not hear that term used once on CNBC. The idea was expressed frequently, though, as a solution to Europe’s crisis—dropping the “PIIGS” (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain), while the other 11 members of the eurozone would surge ahead with an even closer union, built around Germany. It was also speculated that some of the PIIGS might drop out themselves, since they would then have greater freedom to maneuver.

Meanwhile, the recent 25 percent fall in the value of the euro has not done Germany great harm. *The Wall Street Journal’s* European edition reported June 9 that manufacturing orders for German products is up 29.8 percent over last year (“Industrial Output Grows in Germany”). It was also pointed out on CNBC Europe that the average value for the euro during the last 10 years has been \$1.17, so the currency is still higher than the historical average. The fall in the value of the euro has boosted international orders for German products. Other countries in the eurozone are also benefitting (“Euro Zone Posts Trade Surplus,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 16, 2010).

### Austerity ahead

But austerity was the dominant subject on the financial news channel. Faced with massive public spending cuts, European nations are set to experience great austerity in coming years. It should be mentioned that the United States is likely to follow, as American states are in no better shape than European countries.

Germans are not inclined to follow America’s example of more stimulus money. The popular idea taught in American schools is that only big government spending programs got the United States out of the Depression in the 1930s. German memories are different.

“The two economic events which were seen as having had the most decisive influence on modern German



Reuters/Tobias Schwarz

*German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle participate in a news conference in Berlin June 7, 2010, where Merkel announced the results of the 2011 draft budget and financial planning for the next four years. Some commentators say the annual cuts of up to 10 billion euros (\$11.4 billion), possibly with limited tax increases, will be Germany’s biggest austerity program since World War II.*

history were, firstly, the *Gründerkrach* [Founders Crash] of 1873-4 and the subsequent period of stagnation... and, secondly, the Slump of 1929-32, usually seen as the main cause of the collapse of the Weimar Republic. In the popular mind, however, equal if not greater importance has long been attached to the 1923 hyperinflation, the ‘memory’ of which is frequently cited to explain the relative stringency of recent... German monetary policy” (Niall Ferguson, *Paper and Iron*, 1995, introduction).

Of course, there is little “memory” of these events other than what people learn in school or from a book or documentary, just as Americans have learned that the solution to an economic slump is big spending. These are clearly two different approaches. It remains to be seen which one will win out.

Bible prophecy shows that a final union of 10 kings or leaders will form in Europe, a modern successor to

the Roman Empire. “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour [a short time] as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast” (Revelation 17:12-13).

Eighty years ago, the international financial crisis resulted in significant changes in Europe. The slump that followed the 1929 crash led to the collapse of democracy in a number of countries, not just Germany where Hitler’s Third Reich replaced the democratic Weimar Republic. Right across Europe fascism triumphed.

I’m not suggesting that fascism as it was could triumph again, but democracy as it is today is unlikely to weather the severe austerity storms that lie ahead. Greece has seen massive riots and strikes following an announcement of cuts in public spending. Public order will need to be enforced even as people see their



standard of living drop dramatically. Portugal, Spain and Greece were fascist dictatorships until the 1970s—it's not inconceivable that they could turn once again to a strong centralized form of government.

Revelation 17:13 shows that such a development will happen among the 10 as "they will give their power and authority to the beast." The "beast" refers to the supreme federal leader, the dictator who will emerge at the top of the new union, as well as the empire he rules.

Whenever I travel through Europe, I like to read *The Wall Street Journal's* European edition. It has a good feel for developments across the continent. The headlines on June 9 included the following: "Spain's Government Workers Begin Strike"; "UK Should Slash Debts, Says Fitch"; "Budget Fears Take Over Dutch Voting"; "Hungary Moves to Close Budget Gap"; "Greek Inflation Jumps, Lifted by Fuel Costs, Taxes"; "EU Aides Urge Joint Planning." The last item shows the push for greater financial integration.

The French and German leaders met a few days later and agreed on the need for greater control of national budgets to avoid another Greek or Spanish crisis. This would mean a far greater loss of independence than the

British would agree to. Others may feel they cannot abide by the strict rules. The outcome could be a very different Europe.

### Odds of a prolonged slump are rising

Further food for thought on the global financial crisis, and the implications for Europe and the United States appeared June 18 on the Eurointelligence.com Web site.

Quoting from U.S. economist Paul Krugman in a segment titled "Krugman says it's back to the 1930s," the Web site states: "German deficit hawkery... has nothing to do with fiscal realism. Instead, it's about moralizing and posturing. Germans tend to think of running deficits as being morally wrong, while balancing budgets is considered virtuous, never mind the circumstances of economic logic.

"German austerity will worsen the crisis in the euro area, making it that much harder for Spain and other troubled economies to recover. Europe's troubles are also leading to a weak euro, which perversely helps German manufacturing, but also exports the consequences of German austerity to the rest of the world, including the United States.

"How bad will it be? Will it really be 1937 all over again? I don't know.

What I do know is that economic policy around the world has taken a major wrong turn, and that the odds of a prolonged slump are rising by the day."

Eurointelligence.com also quoted from the former chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, who warned in *The Wall Street Journal* that "the US might soon face a borrowing limit," which would mean an end to stimulus programs and necessitate austerity measures similar to the nations of Europe.

The BBC's Web site June 18 quoted President Obama as warning other nations not to reduce their debts too quickly, "as it would put economic recovery at risk."

The article later noted, "But Mr. Obama said the US would still aim to halve its own deficit by 2013. The US budget deficit would be cut to 3% of GDP by 2015, the president said" ("Obama Warns G20 Leaders on Budget Cuts").

Interestingly, 3 percent is the euro-zone limit rule, which has been in effect for a decade, though countries like Greece did not abide by the rule. This is what's behind the push for stricter controls in Europe.

Looking at the worsening financial situation from both sides of the Atlantic gives an interesting perspective. Whereas approaches are certainly different, the end result may be the same in both Europe and the United States—austerity and a prolonged slump! ♦



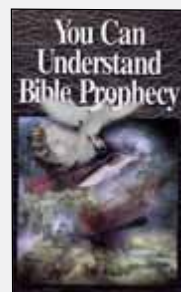
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Contact any of our offices listed on page 15, or request or download it from our Web site at **www.WNPonline.org**

# 2010: Another Step Toward Frankenstein

*Science magazine recently announced a significant step toward creating artificial life. The breakthrough has caused many scientists to praise the potential for beneficial research. Others, however, warn of the potential threat of a technology we do not yet fully understand or can control. What might this open door lead to in the not-so-distant future?*

by Mario Seiglie

**"A**fter days and nights of incredible labor and fatigue, I succeeded in discovering the cause of generation and life; nay, more, I became myself capable of bestowing animation upon lifeless matter. The astonishment which I had at first experienced on this discovery soon gave place to delight and rapture. After so much time spent in painful labor, to arrive at once at the summit of my desires was the most gratifying consummation of my toils" (Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818, Chapter 4).

The creation of an animated being is thus described in the famous novel *Frankenstein*. Now the prestigious magazine *Science* announced in May that the first significant step toward creating artificial life has occurred. Craig Venter, the principal scientist, named this new life form *Synthia*.

*The Economist* magazine heralded the breakthrough with these words, "In the end there was no castle, no thunderstorm and definitely no hunchbacked cackling lab assistant. Nevertheless, Craig Venter, Hamilton Smith and their colleagues have done for real what Mary Shelley merely imagined. On May 20th, in the pages of *Science*, they announced that they had created a living creature" ("Genesis Redux," May 20, 2010).

"The creation of a living being in a laboratory," says science editor Michael Hanlon, "is one of the staples of science fiction. Now it is a scientific fact. Yesterday's announcement of the birth of a 'synthetic cell'—made by injecting a bacterium shell with genetic material created from scratch by scientists—raises many questions...

"[Craig Venter] began talking about making an artificial lifeform in the lab. Not a Frankenstein's monster, or even a mouse, but a bacterium, one of the simplest living

organisms... The potential is huge—but so are the dangers. An artificial species, created in the lab, might not 'obey the rules' of the natural world... It is possible to imagine a synthetic microbe going on the rampage, perhaps wiping out all the world's crop plants or even humanity itself" ("Artificial Life: Have Scientists Created a Monster?" [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk), May 21, 2010).

Yet there is quite a bit of controversy about how significant Venter's creation really is. Bioengineer James Collins, who headed the Human Genome Project, questioned its importance and stated, "This is an important advance in our ability to re-engineer organisms, not make new life from scratch. Frankly, scientists don't know enough about biology to create life. Although the Human Genome Project has expanded the parts list for cells, there is no instruction manual for putting them together to produce a living cell. It is like trying to assemble an operational jumbo jet from its parts list—impossible. Although some of us in synthetic biology have delusions of grandeur, our goals are much more modest" ("Sizing Up the 'Synthetic Cell,'" [www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com), May 20, 2010).

Regardless of how significant this accomplishment turns out to be, it unquestionably does open the door to a new world, as atomic energy once did in the 1940s, with the accompanying great potential for good and evil.

Professor Julian Savulescu, an Oxford University ethicist, warned, "Venter is creaking open the most profound door in humanity's history, potentially peeking into its destiny. He is not merely copying life artificially or modifying it by genetic engineering. He is going towards the role of God: Creating artificial life that could never have existed" (quoted by Fiona MacRae, "Scientist

*Can we be so naive to think biological computer software that can be programmed inside cells will only be used for benign purposes? Do we think the military and the business world will remain passive and not want to take advantage of this newfound ability?*



*A biotechnician works in the laboratory at the J. Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, Maryland, where Venter claims artificial life was successfully synthesized.*

Accused of Playing God After Creating Artificial Life by Making Designer Microbe From Scratch—But Could It Wipe Out Humanity?” [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk), June 3, 2010).

*The Daily Mail* article continues in reference to Dr. Savulescu, “He said the creation of the first designer bug was a step towards ‘the creation of living beings with capacities and a nature that could never have naturally evolved.’ The risks were ‘unparalleled,’ he added. And he warned: ‘This could be used in the future to make the most powerful bioweapons imaginable. The challenge is to eat the fruit without the worm.’”

So now humanity has found another way it can potentially destroy itself—by designing biological life-forms similar to computer viruses, but that can attack other living beings, including humans. We have seen what happened when man discovered how to design computer software. It wasn’t long before some devious people used the knowledge to create malicious computer viruses.

Can we be so naive to think biological computer software that can be programmed inside cells will only be used for benign purposes? Do we think the military and the business world will

remain passive and not want to take advantage of this newfound ability?

*The Economist*, in its article “And Man Made Life,” admits this is an unsettling issue: “To create life is the prerogative of gods. Deep in the human psyche, whatever the rational pleadings of physics and chemistry, there exists a sense that biology is different, is more than just the sum of atoms moving about and reacting with one another, is somehow infused with a divine spark, a vital essence. It may come as a shock, then, that mere mortals have now made artificial life...”

“Pedants may quibble that only the DNA of the new beast was actually manufactured in a laboratory; the researchers had to use the shell of an existing bug to get that DNA to do its stuff. Nevertheless, a Rubicon has been crossed. It is now possible to conceive of a world in which new bacteria (and eventually, new animals and plants) are designed on a computer and then grown to order. That ability would prove mankind’s mastery over nature in a way more profound than even the detonation of the first atomic bomb...”

“Unfortunately and inevitably, some of those ideas [about creating artificial life] will be malicious. And

the problem with malicious biological inventions—unlike, say, guns and explosives—is that once released, they can breed by themselves... No one now knows how easy it would be to turbocharge an existing human pathogen, or take one that infects another type of animal and assist its passage over the species barrier. We will soon find out, though” (May 22, 2010, p. 11).

Yes, we have passed the point of no return of genetic engineering. As God once said when He saw humanity’s technological prowess grow by leaps and bounds as it built the Tower of Babel, “And this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them” (Genesis 11:6).

So, on May 20, 2010, humanity announced it had unlocked another secret that promises to be as significant as nuclear power, which led to the development of the atomic bomb and man’s lethal ability to wipe itself off the face of the earth. This fulfilled the description in Matthew 24:22, “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

In Mary Shelley’s novel, Dr. Frankenstein had the best of intentions—he wanted to benefit mankind with his discovery of how to animate life—just as Dr. Venter appears to have done. Unfortunately, Dr. Frankenstein’s technology overran his morality, and eventually what he created became something he could not control. From recent history we see humanity has not changed its proclivity to use new discoveries for good and evil, and the 20th century saw technology multiply humanity’s destructive powers and horrific experiments in World War I, World War II and beyond.

It now looks like 2010 will be a seminal year in prophecy, as Craig Venter and his colleagues claim they have created the first artificial living creature. Little do they realize they have reached another prophetic milestone. Their discovery demonstrates an even greater need for Christ to return and stop mankind’s technological Tower of Babel from unleashing even further evils upon itself. ❖

# The Long-Neglected Prophecies of Jeremiah: Applicable to 21st-Century America?

*Do the crises we Americans see happening to our beloved country today relate to biblical prophecy? Many do not even realize we are seriously transgressing God's spiritual law. What does the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah reveal about our lives today—and where we are headed in the future?*

by John Ross Schroeder

**J**eremiah lived a long time ago. Over 2,500 years have passed since he walked the streets of Jerusalem, courageously warning ancient Judah about its increasingly bad behavior—and what would surely happen if the nation were to allow it to continue unabated. God is a god of justice as well as infinite mercy!

From our Creator's point of view, Jeremiah's spiritual credentials are unassailable. This major prophet stated: "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations'" (Jeremiah 1:4-5, emphasis added throughout). Notice that nations are expressed in the plural. His crucial prophecies were not for Judah alone, *then and now*.

## **The multifaceted commission of Jeremiah**

Many passages in this major prophetic book constitute conversations between God and Jeremiah, occasionally animated ones frankly expressing the prophet's seriously difficult circumstances in the course of carrying out his divine commission. Yet despite determined governmental opposition, he successfully carried out his duties as God's spiritual representative on earth.

God told Jeremiah: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. *See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms*, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant" (verses 9-10). No other Old Testament prophet was ever told this in so many words. His authoritative statements have resonated down through the ages of man—even into this present transition period heralding the

magnificent new, restored utopian world that God will bring humankind after Jesus Christ returns to this earth (see Acts 3:19-21).

Did you realize that what God prophesied for ancient Judah is equally applicable to the modern-day nations of America, Britain, Canada and Australia? This may be startling to those who read this statement. Yet it is true. God has a message for these modern societies through this ancient prophet. God has unfinished business with what the world commonly calls the "lost 10 tribes of Israel." Scripture reveals they are not lost, and you can understand where they are today.

We need to understand that Bible prophecy can often be *dual in nature*. That is, prophetic statements sometimes carry more than one fulfillment. The basic principles defining duality are thoroughly explained on pages 20 and 21 of our free booklet *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy*. Request a personal copy in print, or download it from our Web site.

God says to these modern nations today, the descendants of the patriarch Joseph: "I brought you into a bountiful country, to eat its fruit and its goodness. *But when you entered, you defiled My land and made My heritage an abomination*" (Jeremiah 2:7). Note that both the land and the heritage are subject to divine ownership. King David of Israel wrote: "The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters" (Psalm 24:1-2).

## **How we defile the land even today**

Leviticus 18 addresses laws against a whole range of illicit sexual practices. A concluding passage states: "Do not defile your-

*As a people we do not seem to understand the basic cause-and-effect principle that is so implicit throughout God's Word. We don't comprehend why we are experiencing so very many varied and stubbornly difficult national problems... To our Creator the real reasons for our national plight are as plain as day.*





*A major problem has emerged in modern marriages: Many spouses are not honest about financial matters with one another. Monetary infidelity is more frequent than most people might imagine, and financial infidelity often pairs with sexual infidelity.*

selves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out [of the Promised Land] before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, *and the land vomits out its inhabitants*" (Leviticus 18:24-25).

Let's just focus on one aspect of this iniquity by addressing the ramifications of the Seventh Commandment concerning adultery as outlined in Leviticus 18:20: "Do not defile yourself by having sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife" (New Living Translation).

Although criminal laws against adultery are still on the books in many American states, these statutes are gradually being challenged as unconstitutional. For instance, the 200-year-old law about adultery in New Hampshire is currently under review. Illinois and Minnesota have also attempted to decriminalize adultery. The modern belief is that society's moral dictates should not be enforced with criminal sanctions. However, this runs counter to the viewpoint of many

religious Americans who still rightly believe that adultery is wrong.

Adultery remains a major causal factor in the high divorce rate, a rate that typically increases with multiple marriages." A *Time* essay stated: "Statistics show that more second marriages break up than first ones and more third marriages—about 75%—break up than second ones" (Belinda Luscombe, "Should Larry King's Marriage License Be Revoked?" May 3, 2010). Of course, the ultimate cause goes back to a lack of belief in God and His Word.

The essay continues: "Evolution favors the alpha-male serial monogamist who bonds with a mate until she gets old and is replaced by a more fertile one" (ibid.). The biblical view that God instituted marriage between a man and a woman and ideally intended it to be permanent until one party dies (see Mark 10:2-12) is gradually being trashed by our secular, Darwinist society.

Still another major problem has emerged in modern marriages: Many

spouses are not honest about financial matters with one another. Monetary infidelity is more frequent than most people might imagine, and financial infidelity often pairs with sexual infidelity (USA Today, "Money, Fidelity Go Hand in Hand," March 17, 2008).

God said of the nation of Judah, "For the land is full of adulterers" (Jeremiah 23:10). He knew! No one can hide his or her sins from our Creator.

The United States still remains one of the most religious countries in the world. Yet God also asks us today, just as He did ancient Judah: "Will you steal, murder, *commit adultery*, swear falsely...and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, '*We are delivered to do all these abominations?*'" (Jeremiah 7:9-10). Surveys generally show that modern, mainstream Christians are no better than their secular contemporaries when it comes to observing the Ten Commandments.

### **America's response to God today**

Of course, illicit sex remains far from the only major sin afflicting America and the whole Western world today. Idolatry, murder, violence, greed, theft, injustice and Sabbath-breaking—a whole range of unacceptable conduct eats away at our vulnerable society like a virulent, aggressive cancer. To demonstrate the evidence for each sin by quoting current secular sources would take up far too much space in this magazine.

So our focus here is about how the nations tend to respond to God's correction from the Bible. "This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God *nor receive correction*. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth" (Jeremiah 7:28). Jesus Christ plainly defined truth by saying to God in prayer: "*Your word is truth*" (John 17:17).

Yet many in the United States seem determined to continue to turn away from precious traditional truths preserved in the Bible. God says: "Everyone is dull-hearted, without [biblical] knowledge" (Jeremiah 10:14). The Creator is not just speaking of the



general population. “For the shepherds [national and regional leaders] have become dull-hearted, and have not sought the LORD” (verse 21).

Nowhere is this trend more prevalent than with religious prelates. “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so” (Jeremiah 5:31). Many seem addicted to falsehood, preferring deceit to truth. People usually don’t like being disturbed by someone who would deliver straight, unvarnished truths right out of the pages of the Bible.

But God says: “Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen!’” (Jeremiah 6:17). Further: “‘They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me,’ says the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:3).

Were you previously aware that this Old Testament Hebrew prophet was inspired to record all these things from the mouth of God? Jesus said: “It is written [in Deuteronomy 8:3], ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4). The apostles Peter and Paul both subscribe to the divine origin of God’s Word (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17). It is God-breathed!

### **Bewildered by it all**

Americans seem genuinely puzzled by the cause of the many troubles now dominating both the domestic and international scenes. We are currently experiencing perhaps the worst ecological disaster in living memory with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico while simultaneously trying to conduct two foreign wars, with a possible third threatening in the Koreas. Domestically, a massive national debt hangs over the country—caused by hefty financial bailouts and a looming (very expensive) new national health program.

No wonder the people say: “We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and there was trouble!” (Jeremiah 8:15)—repeated several chapters later (Jeremiah 14:19).

As a people, we do not seem to understand the basic cause-and-effect principle that is so implicit throughout God’s Word. We don’t comprehend why we are experiencing so very many varied and stubbornly difficult national problems.

God simply replies: “Your iniquities have turned these things away, *and your sins have withheld good from you*” (Jeremiah 5:25). Also: “Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you” (Jeremiah 2:19). To our Creator the real reasons for our national plight are as plain as day.

### **What God urgently requires from us**

Our Creator speaks very plainly about national solutions in His Word. “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘*Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place*’” (Jeremiah 7:3).

Later in this very passage God explains what He means. “*For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, if you do not oppress the stranger,*

the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood [murder and deadly violence] in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt [idolatry], then I will cause you to dwell in this place” (verses 5-7).

Arrogant national leaders, irresponsible religious shepherds and an increasing immoral citizenry are destined for another outcome. If God severely disciplined his two nations—the northern 10-tribed house of Israel and the southern nation of Judah, sending both into national captivity—will He exempt His peoples today from similar national punishments if we fail to repent of our many sins on a nationwide basis? We should carefully heed these wise words of Jeremiah that are ultimately from God Himself.

### **What now?**

What’s ahead of us now? What does the Bible reveal about our future? We offer well-researched literature that can help you understand. Request or download our free booklets *You Can Understand Prophecy, The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* and *Are We Living in the Time of the End?* ❖

*Our Creator speaks very plainly about national solutions in His Word. “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place’” (Jeremiah 7:3).*



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# World War: Will It Happen Again?

*The lack of a major world conflict for the past 65 years reassures some that the world will never again face another world war. But is our world really growing safer? And what does Bible prophecy reveal about a future world war?*

by Rod Hall

*The harsh realities of our world demonstrate that the cycle of war remains unbroken. Technological advances make war more deadly than ever before. The global realignment of world power will likely lead to more infighting and conflict as the root cause of war, human nature, pushes mankind to the brink of total annihilation.*

This year marks 65 years since the end of World War II. Nations around the globe pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate price by sacrificing their lives for their countries in the greatest conflict the world has ever seen. Some people hope remembering the catastrophic events will help ensure such a devastating global war will never happen again.

But have the nations of the world really learned their lessons? The cycle of war continues unabated and technological advances make future wars more dangerous. The current reshuffling in the world's balance of power will likely generate more instability, infighting and conflict. And still lurking behind the scenes is the deadly root cause of war. What does the Bible reveal about where our world is ultimately headed?

## **Honoring the sacrifice**

My wife and I had the opportunity to visit the U.S. World War II memorial while touring Washington, D.C., earlier this year. It is strategically located at the east end of the reflecting pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Both the Atlantic and Pacific pavilion pillars are dedicated in honor of the 16 million who served in the armed forces, the more than 400,000 Americans who died and the millions who supported the war effort from home. It is a tribute to what some call "the greatest generation" and their sacrifice, heroism and commitment in the common defense of the nation and to the broader causes of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the world.

Former NBC television news anchor Tom Brokaw encapsulated the war effort during the dedication ceremony in 2004. "Men, women, young and old, everyone had a role. Farm boys who had never been in an airplane were soon flying new bombers with four engines. Surgical nurses were in mash [sic] units on front lines operating while they were being shelled.

"Teenagers were wearing sergeant stripes and fighting from North Africa to Rome. Guys from the city streets were in close quarter combat in dense jungles. Women were building ships and whatever were needed and driving trucks. Kids went without gum and new toys and in too many cases they went the rest of their lives without fathers they never knew" ("Dedication Speakers," [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), May 29, 2004).

## **Worldwide impact**

Looking back, it may be hard to comprehend the far-reaching impact of the deadliest military conflict in history. During the six years of the war, more than 100 nations became involved on several continents. The number of military personnel mobilized exceeded 100 million. And most nations placed their entire economic, industrial and scientific capabilities into the war effort as the world degenerated into a state of "total war."

Margaret MacMillan of *The Guardian* newspaper summarizes the resulting upheaval: "During the war, millions more had fled their homes or been forcibly moved... In Germany, it has been estimated, 70% of housing had gone and, in the Soviet Union,

1,700 towns and 70,000 villages. Factories and workshops were in ruins, fields, forests and vineyards ripped to pieces...

“Britain had largely bankrupted itself fighting the war and France had been stripped bare by the Germans... The four horsemen of the apocalypse—pestilence, war, famine and death—so familiar during the middle ages, appeared again in the modern world” (“Rebuilding the World After the Second World War,” Sept. 11, 2009).

The war expanded to include all of the enemy’s territory, blurring the distinction between combatant and noncombatant. So monstrous was the devastation that between 50 and 70 million people perished. About 65 percent were civilians, a major increase from the 5 percent common in war at the beginning of the 20th century, according to the United Nations.

Today, civilian casualties of war are as high as 90 percent, reflecting humanity’s increasing indiscriminate capacity to kill.

### Cycle of wars

In spite of the unspeakable devastation, carnage and death, neither World War II nor World War I, which preceded it by two decades, proved to be the war to end all wars. The cycle of war simply appears unbreakable.

*The Encyclopedia of Conflicts* records “more than 170 significant post-World War II conflicts around the globe” (second edition, December 2006). And Cornell University’s Peace Studies Program totals more than 41 million war-related deaths since World War II (Milton Leitenberg, “Deaths in Wars and Conflicts in the 20th Century,” 2006).

At any given time, about a fourth of the nations of the world are caught up in some form of armed conflict. *Foreign Policy* magazine reports, “From the bloody civil wars in Africa to the rag-tag insurgences [sic] in Southeast Asia, 33 conflicts are raging around the world today” (Kayvan Farzaneh, Andrew Swift



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*The Hiroshima mushroom cloud is visible through a window in one of the three B-29s that went on the bombing run Aug. 6, 1945.*

and Peter Williams, “Planet War,” Feb. 22, 2010).

To many people, the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the ongoing struggle with Islamic extremism may seem like only distant conflicts. Yet these wars have taken the lives of more than 6,400 coalition forces and more than 20 times that many enemy combatants and civilians.

Terrorists bring the bloody reality of war closer to home with an estimated 36,000 attacks and 57,000 fatalities since Sept. 11, 2001.

Past wars have not taught us to be more peaceful. They have taught us to kill more indiscriminately and more efficiently.

### Sophisticated weaponry

The growing technological sophistication of modern implements of war makes future wars even more frightening. Consider nuclear weapons, the most potent explosive devices ever invented. The fission bombs

of 1945 are no more than primitive versions of the first-stage triggers of modern nuclear weapons, like a match that lights the explosion.

A 1-megaton thermonuclear weapon releases 100,000 times greater energy than the largest 10-ton “blockbuster” bomb of World War II. Its yield is equivalent to a million tons of TNT, producing an incandescent fireball that vaporizes everything in its path with blinding light, searing heat and lethal radioactive fallout over many miles.

And newly developed sea- and land-based delivery systems can bring this ominous threat to a nation in less than 30 minutes.

Nuclear terrorism is also a major concern. U.S. President Barack Obama identifies it as “the most immediate and extreme threat to global security.” *The Washington Post* also reports that “Just 55 pounds of highly enriched uranium—about the size of a grapefruit—is needed to



make a small nuclear device.” And “there is enough ‘weapons-usable nuclear material’ in the world to build more than 120,000 nuclear bombs” (Scott Wilson and Mary Beth Sheridan, “Obama Leads Summit Effort to Secure Nuclear Materials,” April 11, 2010).

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton describes the impact of a small nuclear weapon with only about half the explosive power of the one dropped on Nagasaki at the close of World War II. “A 10-kiloton nuclear bomb detonated in Times Square in New York City would kill a million people.

“Many more would suffer from the hemorrhaging and weakness

that comes from radiation sickness... Beyond the human cost a nuclear terrorist attack would also touch off a tsunami of social and economic consequences across our country” (Associated Press, “US: al-Qaida Exemplifies New-Age Nuclear Threat,” April 9, 2010).

The growing sophistication of our weapons of war makes it appallingly clear that our technology has surpassed our humanity.

### Changing balance of power

Major tectonic shifts in the world’s balance of power could lead to more chaotic times furthering the likelihood of war. As old alliances break down, the world becomes a

less stable place. Small skirmishes are more likely to mushroom into regional or even world war.

Many experts express concern, including former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. Kissinger, in an interview a couple of years ago on the *Charlie Rose Show*, stated that the “international system is in a period of change like we haven’t seen for *several hundred years*” (emphasis added throughout)

On the same program Brzezinski said, “The *political awakening* that is happening worldwide is a major challenge for America, because it means that *the world is much more restless. It’s stirring.* It has aspirations which are not easily satisfied” (June 15, 2007).

Kissinger underscored this point in his classic book *Diplomacy*: “International systems live precariously. Every ‘world order’ expresses an aspiration to permanence; the very term has a ring of eternity about it. Yet the elements which comprise it are in constant flux; indeed, with each century, the duration of international systems has been shrinking... Never before have the components of world order, their capacity to interact, and their goals *all changed quite so rapidly, so deeply, or so globally.*”

“Whenever the entities constituting the international system change their character, *a period of turmoil inevitably follows*” (1994, p. 806).

This major global readjustment is occurring on many fronts simultaneously. The Middle East appears in perpetual conflict. North Korea and Iran seek power through nuclear weapons.

Almost two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia is like a mother bear that lost her cubs—looking for a new identity and her place in the world. Her paw still packs a powerful nuclear punch.

The European Union (EU) is like a multiheaded beast with old forces of national self-interest and disorder lurking beneath the surface.

*Soldiers with the Royal Canadian Regiment secure a street during a patrol in the village of Nakhonay in Panjwaii district, southern Afghanistan, June 10, 2010. Operation Enduring Freedom has been ongoing since October 2001.*



Reuters/Denis Sinyakov

China, the Asian dragon, is bobbing and weaving its way to independent superpower status with a growing anti-Western tone. China's and India's exploding populations and economic growth will likely lead to additional diplomatic and military entanglements at the expense of the United States and EU.

Mixing together all these profound global changes is like trying to brew a new world order with vastly different ingredients—some blending, some conflicting and some maybe even poisoning the entire global pot.

### Heart of the problem

Above all, what underlies the growing potential for a major world war is the root cause of war itself. *Newsweek* journalist Evan Thomas grapples with the age-old question of the cause of war in his new book titled *The War Lovers*. “The reasons and causes—territory, ideology, WMDs—may change with the times, but our lust for it is eternal... War fever, I believe, never really goes away. It is too fundamental to the male psyche” (“Why Men Love War,” *Newsweek*, May 10, 2010).

This root cause of war is an aspect of our human nature. The Bible explains that our human nature is a warring nature, and it resides in all of us to one degree or another. Until it is tamed and redirected for good, it naturally spawns selfishness, lust, and a desire for power over others. These forces lead to envy, strife and war (Romans 8:5-8; 13:13-14).

The apostle James makes this clear. “What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them” (James 4:1-2, New Living Translation).

Until warring human nature is changed, the world will never have peace. Literal peace on earth will only come when Jesus Christ

returns and begins to change the hearts of all mankind, putting an end to war and teaching a better way to live (Micah 4:1-4). He will transform the world by transforming human nature through the power of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17, 21).

Only then will humanity's history be marked by peaceful achievements and not by bloody wars (Amos 9:13-15; Ezekiel 36:35-38; Zechariah 14:10-11).

### Coming world war

Jesus Christ understood the reality of human nature and predicted wars would continue through the tiresome ebb and flow of history, culminating in a final world war (Matthew 24:6-8; 21-22). The apostle John's graphic vision of the ghoulish ride of the red horseman of the Apocalypse also illustrates this gruesome progression of war (Revelation 6:4).

Do not be lulled to sleep. A major world war is on the horizon. The harsh realities of our world demonstrate that the cycle of war remains



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*This root cause of war is an aspect of our human nature. The Bible explains that our human nature is a warring nature, and it resides in all of us to one degree or another.*

unbroken. Technological advances make war more deadly than ever before. The global realignment of world power will likely lead to more infighting and conflict as the root cause of war—human nature—pushes humanity to the brink of total annihilation.

Jesus Christ and the prophets Daniel, Jeremiah, Zechariah and John all describe this final world war as far worse than anything the world has ever seen—including World War II (Matthew 24:21-22; Daniel 11:40-12:1; Jeremiah 30:6-7; Zechariah 14:1-3; Revelation 9:13-19; 16:14-16).

The good news is that Jesus Christ will return in time to end

the madness of unchecked human nature. The Captain of humanity's salvation (Hebrews 2:10) will inaugurate a 1,000-year period of peace often called the Millennium (Revelation 20:6).

It is during this time that the incredible words recorded by Isaiah will be fulfilled: “He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

May God and His Son, Jesus Christ, the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6), hasten that day! ❖



“JERUSALEM” (Continued from page 16)

Jerusalem” has monumental features that blend together in a seamless tapestry of godly splendor.

Let’s notice what God prophetically states will be notably visible and awe-inspiring about this future destination.

The most noticeable feature is how Jerusalem’s future landscape is dominated by one heart toward God. The Jerusalem that we leave behind in man’s world is a divided city between Jew and Palestinian, and it is even further divided between all the religions that claim specific rights over various religious sites.

But such will not be the case in the Jerusalem of prophetic reality described in Isaiah 52:7-10. Isaiah speaks of “glad tidings of good things” (verse 7). This prophecy speaks of proclamations of “salvation.” Why? Because God reigns!

It speaks of people who “see eye to eye” and “sing together” (verses 8-9). It speaks of a city and its inhabitants that are “redeemed” (verse 9). It mentions in verse 10 how “the LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

The entire world is going to stare and wonder at the miracle of all the inhabitants of this city being unified under God. But this destination that God has in store for us is not walled in by granite like the Yosemite that I visit.

Rather, God shares in Isaiah 26:1-2 a different kind of wall and protection that looms up to embrace those who enter its environs.

Isaiah speaks of a day when the people of Judah will sing, “We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in” (verses 1-2).

What a beautiful sight to consider! The invitation to “Destination-Jerusalem” is real and reserved for us to consider what one united heart toward God can produce.

### **Excellence at every turn**

Another noticeable feature of “Destination: Jerusalem” is discovered in Isaiah 60:13-18. It is the incredible quality of enduring excellence in every feature of its territory. Here in these pro-



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*The view of Yosemite National Park from Wawona Tunnel.*

phetic scriptures God tells us how He is going to restore Jerusalem after the ruinous age of man, with its pockmarks of destruction on this battered city.

God speaks of building Jerusalem with pine and cypress to beautify the war-torn city. He speaks of how “I will make the place of My feet glorious” (verse 13). This is speaking of Jerusalem where Christ’s feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). It further describes how the city will be turned into a city of gold instead of bronze and silver instead of iron (Isaiah 60:17).

Notice how God is going to deal with not only the building materials of urban renewal, but the fiber of our hearts to bring about lasting human renewal. God will “also make your officers peace, and your magistrates righteousness. Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders” (verses 17-18).

Just imagine a responsive and honest government and a law-abiding citizenry! We are not only speaking of urban renewal but renewal of the heart. So often in today’s world we move people into brand-new physical environments rather than dealing with the environment of their hearts. When Christ intercedes in the ruins of men’s hearts, they, in turn, will deal with the ruins around them.

This one noticeable monumental feature leads into another, as we see the seamless nature of God’s ways. Zechariah 8:1-5 directs us to another mountain. I’m not speaking of granite, but something “holy,” for a mountain is a biblical symbol conveying a government or kingdom.

This passage speaks of “the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain” (verse 3). It speaks of a government that promotes and establishes a society that is human-friendly. Verses 4 and 5 declare, “Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.”

Remember the troubled society I mentioned I will return to after my upcoming vacation? But the society in God’s Kingdom will be different. It will amaze all who gaze at the inspiring manner of God’s ways. Verse 6 proclaims, “‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’ says the LORD of hosts.”

### **People from everywhere come to marvel**

The next monumental feature of this future Jerusalem is the diversity of its visitors. Today many nations are boycott-



ting Israel due to that nation's political stance regarding the Palestinians. Most nations refuse to maintain embassies in Jerusalem as a political statement. They are simply staying away.

Still others from around the world come by the droves to gain a sense of the city's storied past revealed in multiple layers of former civilizations.

But the diverse nature of future visitors is for a totally different purpose. They will make Jerusalem their destination of choice, not for a vacation to learn about the ruins of Jerusalem past, but to understand how to repair the ruins of personal lives apart from God and to understand the vibrancy of this city under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Micah 4:1-2 offers an inspiring vision of these prophetic happenings: "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

How incredibly opposite from today as people are condemning what comes out of Jerusalem! How different from now, as government steadily removes the Ten Commandments and the value system they create from our children's awareness!

Again, what a sight to behold from the window opened up by prophetic scriptures. It appears there is going to be a traffic jam of humanity outside this future Jerusalem. But again, it's not as much the size of the traffic flow, but who will be coming. The prophet Isaiah speaks of a transportation system cutting through all political and ethnic barriers of today's world.

Isaiah 19:23-25 offers another word picture of this spectacular society: "In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall

bless, saying, 'Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.'"

I believe that highway will be running right through Jerusalem, where the "LORD of hosts" reigns and blesses.

Yes! Age-old enemies will become allies under the reign of Jesus Christ. "Destination: Jerusalem" is going to become the most sought-after spot to be on the entirety of the globe. God is granting you a head start, right now, to show up at "Destination: Jerusalem."

### "I want to go there and see that"

Just as my extended family has been preparing for months to experience the wonderment of Yosemite, so too we must now prepare for this more incredible destination. Last night, I sent an e-mail picture of Bridalveil Fall to our younger granddaughters to help them prepare and understand where and what Grandpa and Grandma desire them to experience. Four-year-old Cameron has already responded: "I want to go there and see that."

Likewise, that's why God offers prophetic postcards from the future of what it will be like in that ultimate destination of His Jerusalem to see, if by our daily actions, we too want "to go there and see that."

Such restless and anticipatory desire is essential to maintain our daily walk toward such wonder. Perhaps the admonition of "This is the way, walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21) is best heard in God's own voice as He declares:

"For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name. You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God" (Isaiah 62:1-3). ❖



Robin Webber

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by Robin Webber

## Destination: Jerusalem

**T**wo weeks from now, my extended family will be camping in one of the most beautiful spots on earth, Yosemite Valley. Perhaps with the mere mention of Yosemite, a picture of its famous valley floor, shimmering waterfalls and gray granite walls has already popped into your mind. We have all been saving our pennies and planning all year to experience this jewel of God’s creation.

For a few days, it is going to be good to “leave the world behind” on the other side of those looming canyon walls.

Left behind and not invited into our vacation spot is a world with ever-troubling news of expanding oil spills, stagnant economies, violence in Iraq and Afghanistan, the nuclear tension that is Iran, the conflict between the two Koreas, the seemingly unsolvable dilemma of peace for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, and the ongoing secularization of America, which is reeling from spiritual amnesia regarding its founding principles and God-given blessings.

### A feast for the eyes

Perhaps there is no more dazzling spot to feast your eyes upon Yosemite’s grandeur than as you come through Wawona Tunnel into the valley. It is here, as the tunnel opens up with a widening lens, that you experience a stunning sensory overload, as you behold from Inspiration Point, all at once, the many features of Yosemite Valley.

There before you lie the granite behemoths of El Capitan and Half Dome, the watery ribbon of Bridalveil Fall and the green carpet of pines guiding your eyes to the summit of Clouds Rest. Magnificent! Seemingly ageless!

But this exquisite moment will be simply fleeting for my loved ones and myself.

Why, you ask? We will have reached our destination, but when all is said and done, like all vacations, it has to come to an end. I will have to return home and re-engage myself in the whirl and twirl of man’s crumbling society that needs rescue from itself.

Am I wrong for having selected such a destination for a reprieve from the strenuous rhythms of this life? Absolutely not! But it is not an end in itself.

### Setting our sights on something grander

I will return from my brief vacation to live out my life-long vocation as a follower of Jesus Christ. As I do, I prepare my life and set my sights on a much grander spot that God wants each of us to experience. It, too, is a destination that God desires us to picture and carry as a snapshot that instantaneously comes alive in our hearts and minds at its very mention. I would like to share it with you.

It’s called Jerusalem. It, too, is guaranteed to stimulate all of our senses. There is one major difference. When we visit here in God’s future for us, we will not have to return to a world of disappointment. When we accept God’s invitation and arrive in Jerusalem in God’s Kingdom, there is no going back. We’ll be home!

### A prophetic inspiration tunnel

Just like driving through that eye-expanding tunnel into Yosemite Valley, we, too, can move through an entry-way of ever-widening wonder. We are transported from the present to the future through the prophecies regarding Jerusalem under the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ. Just like the first stunning gaze of Yosemite, “Destination:

(See “JERUSALEM,” page 14)