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# Could the Dollar Fall?

*Could the dollar be challenged and replaced by another world currency? Will something that until recently was "unthinkable" become a reality? The global financial slump is challenging long-held assumptions.*

by Darris McNeely

**T**wo recent headlines in the *Financial Times* illustrate a continuing thought among world financial leaders. The first headline says, "Brazil and China Challenge Dollar." The second spotlights the lack of confidence in American financial leadership: "Dollar Falls as Geithner Hails Recovery Hopes."

A warning shot is being fired across America's bow. Many want an end to the era of the dollar as the world's reserve currency. If that happens, your financial world will be forever altered.

### Could this happen?

Similar remarks from Russia and a comment by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in March publicly expressed "worries" over China's significant holdings of U.S. government bonds. The Chinese have a stock of about \$769 billion of U.S. treasuries. This ties China to America's good times and its bad times.

By calling for the creation of another reserve currency, China, Russia and other nations seek to create an insurance for their economy against the problems generated when one country's economy goes bad. It also seeks to end the American dominance of the world economy. America's decline and China's rise fit their geopolitical ambitions.

Ending the dollar's role in the world economy is not an easy mat-



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*What would it mean for the American consumer if the dollar were no longer the world's reserve currency?*

ter. *The Wall Street Journal* wrote, "The technical and political hurdles to implementing China's recommendation are enormous, so even if backed by other nations, the proposal is unlikely to change the dollar's role in the short term. Central banks around the world hold more U.S. dollars and dollar securities than they do assets denominated in any other individual foreign currency. Such reserves can be used to stabilize the value of the central banks' domestic currencies" ("China Takes Aim at Dollar," March 24, 2009).

(See "DOLLAR," page 3)



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"Whom heaven must receive until the times of

# Restoration

of all things ... ACTS 3:21

## U.K.'s Scandal Plagues Parliament

**G**reat Britain has recently been rocked with scandal. Disclosures that members of Parliament have routinely padded their expense accounts with personal costs has led to a crisis in confidence in the leadership of one of the foremost nations of the free world. What we have is a crisis in character.

The speaker of the House of Commons has been forced to resign. It is the first such occurrence in more than three centuries. Many members of Parliament (MPs) have been implicated, across all parties, and many have also announced they will leave office at the end of the current session in less than a year. The abuses range from small amounts of money to the expense of entirely remodeling a home—all at taxpayer expense. Queen Elizabeth II is reportedly deeply disturbed by the revelations.

Britain has drastically changed in the past generation. Many lament the lack of values and adherence to a Judeo-Christian religious ethic that puts the Ten Commandments squarely in the center of a moral life. Of course, just talking about the Ten Commandments doesn't make a nation righteous, but there is an argument to be made that when these values are taught, there is a corresponding positive impact upon a people.

*World News and Prophecy* senior editor Melvin Rhodes recently returned from a two-week visit to his home country and has written "Financial Scandals Highlight Spiritual Void" (see page 10). Commenting on the change between the 1950s and the 1960s in Britain, which has impacted the changing of the guard of British leadership, he says: "In the 1950s the old standards still prevailed. Each school day began with a Bible reading and prayers. On Fridays we ended the day similarly, as if we all needed fortifying for the temptations the coming weekend might offer! We were taught the Ten Commandments and basic biblical principles common to all churches. In short, there was a certain familiarity with the Bible..."

"By the middle of the 1960s all this was to change... Replacing it were new values that were not really values at all. Materialistic values, money, promiscuity and a good time became the new gods as the nation rejected the old values, many of which were based on the Bible."

The changes in education in the 1960s have produced a different world today. *Character* is a word not fully understood. Greed consumes all levels of society. It is easy to shake our finger at those MPs who grossly abuse the public trust. But is that any different from misrepresenting our tax returns? Much of the current financial meltdown was caused by homeowners, lenders and financiers who failed basic tests of financial character. We see the results all around us today.

The national decay identified by the prophet Isaiah is applicable today. "Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward. Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints" (Isaiah 1:4-5).

The problem is spiritual. The solution can only be found by a return to spiritual values and character based on the Ten Commandments.

—Darris McNeely



Darris McNeely

“DOLLAR” (Continued from page 1)

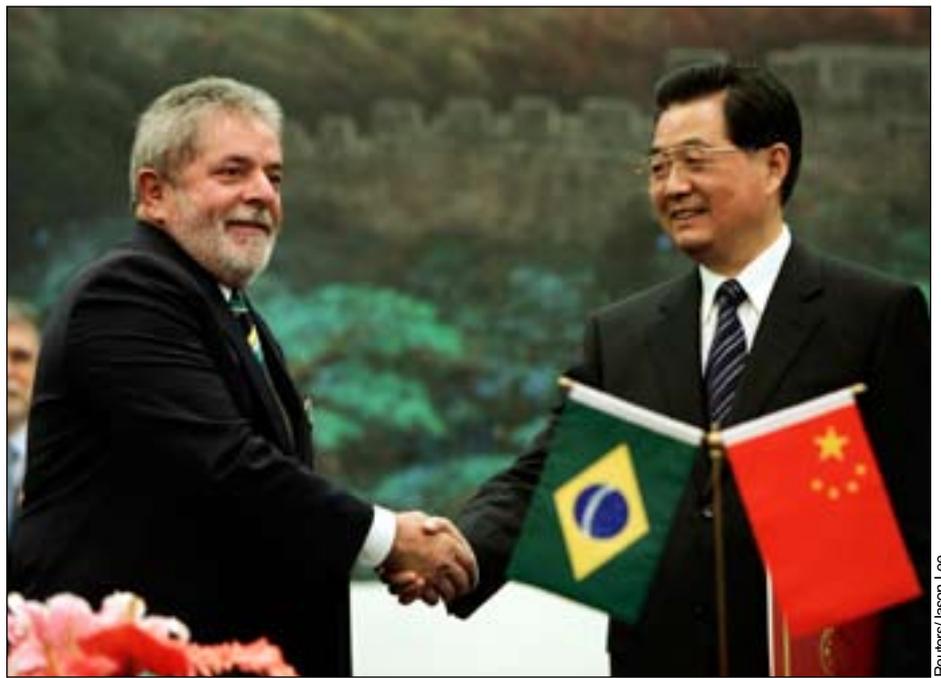
Before the dollar, the British pound sterling formed the underpinning of the global economy. It took two world wars and several decades to change from the pound to the dollar as the world standard. Since the end of World War II, the dollar has been king.

Although the current financial problems ignited in America have led to a global meltdown, it will take more than what we have already experienced to topple America from its current role. That is not to say it could not or will not happen. At the current pace of events, it seems it will not happen in the near term.

Creating another world currency requires several factors to be in place. Research analysts at Stratfor Global Intelligence outlined what those factors would be:

“As to a world beyond the dollar, the issue is that a reserve currency is not decided upon; it creates itself. Two things are needed to create a reserve currency. First, there must be sufficient liquidity to support a global system. That requires a central bank with an enormous amount of autonomy from a state government, and the U.S. Federal Reserve is unparalleled on this count. Not even the European Central Bank can compete. Second, the economy upon which the currency is based must be large enough to withstand fluctuations caused by other economies buying and selling its assets in massive amounts. Again, the United States is the only economy that potentially could qualify.

“Part and parcel of any replacement of the U.S. dollar would be a large-scale abandonment of U.S. T-bills [treasury bills] as the core of Chinese currency reserves, which—as the conventional wisdom holds—would force intractable economic problems upon the United States. But a closer look reveals that this is not the case. First, selling U.S. T-bills en masse simply is not possible. Every seller requires a buyer, and the volumes at hand cannot be exchanged quickly. Second, starting down that road would cause



*Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (left) shakes hands with China's President Hu Jintao during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing May 19, 2009.*

the value of the securities in question to plummet, destroying the savings the Chinese have been building up for years. The so-called ‘nuclear option’ really is not an option at all” (“China’s Calculated Currency Rhetoric,” March 25, 2009).

China has its own problems. The huge middle class created by their recent boom is beginning to experience layoffs and financial setbacks. The ruling Communist Party cannot afford discontent from this segment of its society. Once people have tasted materialism, they won’t go back. For now it is in China’s interest to blame a foreign power (America). It deflects attention from the home front.

### **What would it mean for you?**

What would it mean for the American consumer if the dollar were no longer the world’s reserve currency?

Since the end of World War II, the dollar has been the dominant world currency. For most living Americans this is the world into which they were

born. This is all they have known. Americans enjoy one of the world’s highest living standards due to the stability and wealth created by America’s dominant economic role.

Yet the United States is now the world’s largest debtor nation (\$10.6 trillion). China owns more of that debt than any other nation. It is concerned the treasury bills and bonds it holds will become worthless if the dollar is devalued or the financial crisis does not turn around. They are playing a very dangerous geopolitical game with their calls for a new reserve currency.

Here is what would happen in the United States if we woke up one morning to find the dollar was no longer the number one world currency.

1. Everything Americans import would cost more—everything. We would have to buy the new currency in order to trade in world markets. Last year’s \$4-per-gallon gasoline would quickly look like a bargain.

2. The credit market would collapse. Investors would flee toxic assets, further locking up the economy.

3. The U.S. Federal Reserve would print more money to combat the credit squeeze and the likely result would be hyperinflation, meaning higher prices for available goods. Remember the stories of Weimar Germany where it took a wheelbarrow full of money to buy a loaf of bread? Not pretty.

4. American power and influence in the world would seriously decline. Little understood today is the role of the economy in shaping and controlling world events. The dollar's place in the world adds incalculable weight to American influence. With the dollar diminished, that influence would evaporate. Russia and China are waiting for their turn to assume that power, but they would be sure to receive competition from the European Union.

5. Big losers from the fall of the dollar would include Japan and Latin America. Because they hold much of America's debt, China and the Persian Gulf states would see huge losses. Israel and Egypt would also suffer because of massive amounts of American aid they would lose. What this would mean to the Middle East calculus is unknown, but Egypt could be destabilized as a result.

6. World politics would be altered. The vacuum of power created would

be contested. The EU, which would stand to gain from the fall of the dollar, would be among the chief contenders. China would no doubt make a play as well, but a number of factors would hinder its bid. Stability would rise out of the potential period of chaos when another power would become the global economy's main engine. America's time in the sun would be over.

7. American lifestyles would change radically. The end of cheap oil, low interest rates and deficit spending would mean a lower quality of life and higher taxes. What this would mean to the social fabric of the nation is unknown. But our way of life would dramatically change.

This last point speaks to the character of the American people. Do they have the same qualities that helped a prior generation survive the upheaval of a Great Depression and World War II?

### America losing the pride of her power?

Those pushing to create a different world are no doubt working hard to bring about the demise of the dollar and thus America's role in the world. In this publication we often speak of America losing "the pride of [its] power" (Leviticus 26:19).

Military might is what we think of first in this regard; however, nothing would so radically change America's leading role in the world as the dollar losing its reserve status.

For one, America's crippling foreign debt would get worse with decreased ability to finance the burden. In time the country would be at the mercy of those holding its obligations, with little room to maneuver. Economic slavery would be on the horizon.

However, it's unlikely this is going to happen in the near term. China and several Arab states hold too many dollar-denominated instruments to see this change. They would lose too much. Right now the United States is too big, too rich and too powerful to fail. There is too much at stake on the global scene.

That does not mean things couldn't change—and change quickly—but the proper circumstances have to be in place.

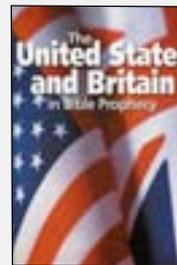
It will not happen until the God of heaven wants it to happen. God has blessed America with its wealth, power and resulting prestige. He will move to change that when it fits His timing for His great plan for all the nations.

Until then we have days to live and lives to touch. We have character to develop and mistakes to correct. We have days to love those close to us and, above all, time to discover God and His attention to the details of eternity, history and your life. Make the most of the time. ❖

### Recommended Reading

The United States, Britain, Australia, Canada and other English-speaking peoples have played a major role in modern world history. What does the Bible say about the role they will play in the future? Request

a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.



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# Four Biblical Keys to Understanding World Events

*Important world events are happening all around us. Do you understand the keys to properly analyze world events?*

by Mario Seiglie

**T**he word *tectonic* is defined as “having a strong and widespread impact.”

Most geopolitical experts would agree we have witnessed three tectonic shifts in world politics in the last three decades:

- Ayatollah Khomeini’s 1979 revolution in Iran that spawned the spread of radical Islam to the far corners of the world.

- The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that freed Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics in the northern Middle East.

- The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks against the United States that led to the war on terror, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## **Are we seeing a fourth shift before our eyes?**

Now we are witnessing a possible fourth tectonic shift—the worldwide financial crisis that has been described by many economists as the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

How great is this latest shift? *Half* of the world’s wealth in the financial markets disappeared in 2008—some *\$50 trillion*. “This crisis is the first truly universal one in the history of humanity,” stated former International Monetary Fund chief Michel Camdessus. “No country escapes from it. It has not yet bottomed out” (“Global Financial Assets Lost 50 Trillion Last Year,” Bloomberg News Service, March 9, 2009).

No one knows how much longer it will last or, due to unprecedented global government deficit spending, how much *long-term* damage will be done to the world’s economies. We could be observing the end of the free market system as we know it and the beginning of another that will have

far more government involvement, control and regulation in many nations—including the United States. At least, that is the current trend.

## **Can we make sense of it all?**

Wouldn’t it be great to know certain tried-and-true biblical guidelines to properly analyze so many bewildering world events? Wouldn’t you like to make sense of it all, to know where such trends are headed?

In Luke 21:29-36 Jesus Christ said, “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near... *Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass...*” (emphasis added throughout).

He was referring to future end-time events and warning us to be on the lookout for what is happening around us so we will not be lulled into complacency or deceived by leaders with smooth words or deceitful signs.

So how can we properly analyze world events? Here are four biblical keys:

### **1. Human nature has not changed for thousands of years.**

The Bible is quite realistic when analyzing the human heart—meaning a person’s inner motivations. It says in Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is *more deceitful* than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (New American Standard Bible).

Yes, the Bible says human nature is egocentric, deceitful and sick at its core, although few will admit to it. And nations are simply a collection of individuals guided primarily by self-interest.

*Some seismic shifts in world politics have occurred in the past decades, and important events are occurring now. Jesus Christ tells us that we need to be alert to such things and spiritually on guard as the time of His return draws close.*



*Michel Camdessus (right), former managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), speaks next to Haruhiko Kuroda, president of Asian Development Bank (ADB), during a south Asia forum on the impact of global economic and financial crisis at the ADB headquarters in Manila March 9, 2009.*

In his classic book *Politics Among Nations*, the late professor Hans Morgenthau put it this way: “Human nature, in which the laws of politics have their roots, *has not changed* since the classic philosophies of China, India, and Greece endeavored to discover these laws” (1992, p. 4).

Why is human nature the way it is?

We have to go back to our original parents in the Garden of Eden. There they made a fateful decision for mankind when they chose to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil instead of the tree of life (Genesis 3:11-19). From that time, humanity has lived in a fallen world—one ruled largely by man’s own greedy, selfish reasoning rather

than by God’s spiritual laws.

In fact, Romans 8:7 tells us, “And so people become enemies of God when they are controlled by their human nature; for they do not obey God’s law, and in fact they *cannot* obey it” (Good News Translation).

Despite all the “rose-colored glasses” views of humanity, the reality is that self-interest still rules supreme. We see this in the social, governmental, religious and financial world.

This principle is also strengthened by another factor that guides much of human

nature—Satan’s invisible influence. We read in Ephesians 2:1-2, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, *the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.*”

Yes, the reality of world politics is that it is swayed by this powerful but perverse spirit being.

Satan even boasted to Jesus Christ about his influence on the earth’s governments: “Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him *all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.* And the devil said to Him, ‘*All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to*

*me, and I give it to whomever I wish*’” (Luke 4:5-6).

We often hear from political leaders that everything they do is motivated by the best of intentions for the welfare of everyone. We likewise often hear that human nature is intrinsically good. But good intentions and good feelings aren’t enough. Look at the world around us. The global financial system, supposedly guided by the smartest among us, has ended up—mainly due to so much greed and corruption—in a severe economic crash.

Regarding world politics, do you remember what World War I was called? It was called “the war to end all wars.” Yet nearly a century later, terrible wars still rage and have become far more deadly. Regardless of the best of intentions, the self-interest of human nature—its greed, deceitfulness, selfishness and self-deception—remains constant.

None of this is new. More than two centuries ago George Washington wrote: “A small knowledge of human nature will convince us, that, with far the greatest part of mankind, *interest* is the governing principle... Motives of public virtue may for a time, or in particular instances, actuate men to the observance of a conduct purely disinterested; but they are not of themselves sufficient to produce a persevering conformity...”

“It is vain to exclaim against the depravity of human nature on this account; the fact is so, the experience of every age and nation has proved it and we must in a great measure, change the constitution of man, before we can make it otherwise. No institution, not built on the presumptive truth of these maxims can succeed” (*The Writings of George Washington*, Vol. 10, p. 363).

The moral is this: When watching global political events, we should remember that human nature has not changed and is essentially based on self-interest.

So don’t be fooled by claims of nations or political leaders basing

their policies on altruistic notions or the welfare of others. Acceptance of such assurances has often led to catastrophic results—such as Britain’s Neville Chamberlain’s appeasement of Adolf Hitler that, among other factors, eventually led to World War II.

A more modern example was U.S. President Jimmy Carter’s naïve view of the Soviets that contributed to their invasion of Afghanistan. After he told the American people they had to dispel “an inordinate fear of communism,” the Soviet leaders listened and felt they now had a freer hand to bully their neighbors.

Two years later, in 1979, they invaded Afghanistan with the intention of making it part of the Soviet empire. After his initial shock, Carter exclaimed about the Soviet premier, Leonid Brezhnev, “I can’t believe he lied to me.” Yet if he had considered the Soviet ideology and self-interest, he would have been more careful.

This takes us to the second key, which follows naturally from the first.

**2. Each nation seeks its own self-interest and exercises power to that end.**

Jesus Christ spoke bluntly about the reality of politics and national leaders. “You know that in this world kings are tyrants,” He told His disciples, “and officials lord it over the people beneath them” (Matthew 20:25, New Living Translation).

The exercise of power may sometimes be subtle rather than overt—but it is still primarily based on self-interest and control.

“Power may comprise anything that establishes and maintains the control of man over man,” wrote Professor Morgenthau. “Thus power covers all social relationships which serve that end, from physical violence to the most subtle psychological ties by which one mind controls the other... For if we look at all nations, our own included, as political entities pursuing their respective interests defined in terms of power, we are able to do justice to all of them... we are then capa-



Reuters/Pascal Lauener

*President Jimmy Carter and Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) treaty June 18, 1979, in Vienna. Only six months after this signing, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.*

ble of pursuing policies that respect the interests of other nations, while protecting and promoting those of our own” (*Politics Among Nations*, pp. 9-11).

Sadly, few nations are able to exercise their power without abusing it. So don’t be surprised when you see the misuse of power by the mighty. It has been going on for millennia.

Almost 3,000 years ago King Solomon noted, “Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter—on the side of their oppressors *there is power*, but they have *no comforter*” (Ecclesiastes 4:1).

Yet this “oppression” will usually be cloaked under lofty ideals. “All nations are tempted,” added Professor Morgenthau, “and few have been able to resist the temptation for long—to clothe their own particular aspirations and actions in the moral purposes of the universe” (p. 11).

As Proverbs 21:2 tells us, “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.” Yes, it is part of human nature to disguise with good intentions and high moral goals what it often wants for selfish reasons.

So we should be very skeptical when leaders take drastic actions that have long-term consequences under the guise of having others’ “best interests at heart.” It’s always good to have a healthy skepticism and look for what are their best interests under the circumstances to judge what is being done.

This leads us, then, to the third key for understanding world events.

**3. Each nation expresses its own interest through its national character.**

Nations generally have certain character traits that do not change over time. What is embedded in the national character of a people will continue through the centuries.

The Chinese have not essentially changed their way or culture of doing

things and neither have the British, Americans, French, Germans, Russians, Africans, Hispanics or Arabs.

The famous English poet and philosopher Samuel Coleridge wrote in describing this national character: “There is an invisible spirit that breathes through a whole people, and is participated by all, though not by all alike; a spirit which gives a color and character both to their virtues and vices, so that the same action, such I mean as are expressed by the same words, are yet *not the same* in a Spaniard as they would be in a Frenchman” (*Essays on His Own Times*, 1850, Vol. 2, pp. 668-669).

The Bible expresses the national character of a people by comparing it to the attributes of different animals. In Genesis 49, for example, several of the tribes of Israel are compared to diverse animals. In Daniel 7:4-7, the Bible compares the Babylonian Empire to a lion, the Persian Empire to a bear, the Greek Empire to a many-headed leopard and the Roman Empire to a mighty beast. In Revelation 13 and 17, we also see nations in the end time depicted with the attributes of wild beasts.

Perhaps not so coincidentally, today’s most powerful nations are also traditionally compared to animals: the United States to an eagle; Russia to a bear; China to a dragon;

and the European Union, as some of its coins depict, to a woman (Europa) riding a bull.

Consequently, it is important when analyzing world events to take into account the national character of a people.

Again, Professor Morgenthau showed great insight when he stated: “National character *cannot fail to influence national power*; for those who act for the nation in peace and war, formulate, execute, and support its policies, elect and are elected, mold public opinion, produce and consume—they all bear to a greater or lesser degree the imprint of those intellectual and moral qualities which make up the *national character*.”

“The ‘elementary force and persistence’ of the Russians, the individual initiative and inventiveness of the Americans, the undogmatic common sense of the British, the discipline and thoroughness of the Germans are some of the qualities which will manifest themselves, *for better or worse*, in all the individual and collective activities in which the members of a nation may engage” (p. 133).

In regards to Europe, which has a key role in Bible prophecy, it’s well worth remembering what journalist Luigi Barzini wrote about national character in 1983: “The future [of Europe] is in the laps of the gods. It will probably be decided, once again, by Germany’s decisions. And Germany is, as it always was, a mutable, Proteus-like, unpredictable country, particularly dangerous when it is unhappy” (*The Europeans*, 1983, p. 267).

The moral: Nations have a type of behavior all their own—so don’t forget to take it into account.

This brings us to the fourth key. **4. Each nation seeks a balance of power to offset dominance by others.**

The *balance of power* is a key element to understand how nations act. Alliances are frequently formed to offset other power centers.

As historian J. Allen Smith explains: “The fact that *no country alone* is sufficiently strong to feel

secure against any possible combination of opposing states makes necessary the formation of *alliances* and *counter-alliances* through which each state seeks to ensure the needed support in case its safety is menaced from without” (*The Growth and Decadence of Constitutional Government*, 1930, p. 241).

We see this formation of end-time alliances in the description of the feet of the image that depicts the last of the world empires described in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 2:41-44 says: “Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a *divided* kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it [strong nations or peoples], even as you saw iron mixed with clay [weak nations or peoples]. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed” (New International version).

*The Expositor’s Bible Commentary* says about Daniel 2:43, “The text clearly implies that this final phase will be marked by some sort of *federation* rather than by a powerful single realm.”

The moral of this fourth point is: When analyzing world news, it’s important to take into account the alliances made by the different nations—noting that they have their self-interest at heart.

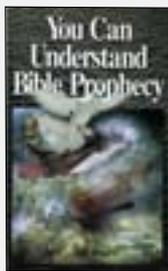
### Coming changes in human nature

So does this leave us with a pessimistic view of world events? Not at all! It is rather a *realistic* perspective of the present global situation but an *optimistic* outlook in the long run.

We do know we will see a coming time of great distress due to nations acting like predators against other nations (Matthew 24:7, 21). But the

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Web site at  
[www.wnponline.org](http://www.wnponline.org)

good news is, these four key points based on man's present human nature will finally be changed for the good after Jesus Christ's return!

What are some of the key changes He will bring?

**Human nature will finally be changed and Satan will be put away.**

George Washington, quoted above, mentioned self-interest would be the main motivator of the politics among nations because "we must in a great measure, *change the constitution of man, before we can make it otherwise.*"

The Bible promises just such a change in "the constitution of man"—his fundamental make-up—beginning at Christ's coming: "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people*" (Jeremiah 31:33).

Also, at that time, Satan the devil will be put away and no longer sway nations to follow selfish and violent ends (Revelation 12:9; 20:1-3).

**Nations will not seek self-interest, but the interest of others.**

Once the nations are converted and receive God's Spirit, they will no longer view themselves as rivals, but as colleagues. They will *all* seek to obey God and end war.

We read of this profound change in national attitudes in Isaiah 2:2-4: "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 *all nations shall flow to it*. Many people 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,... 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.*"

**National character will not be used to oppose, but to build up.** Having changed their human nature, nations will instead use their talents to cooperate and build each other up.



H. Armstrong Roberts

Let Us Beat Swords Into Plowshares  
*statue stands in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York City as a reminder of the elusive goal of world peace.*

We read in Isaiah 19:23-24: "In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptians 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.'"

**There will be no more need for balance of power; there will be only one power over all the earth.** All nations will learn God's ways and keep God's holy feasts together in harmony and peace. Jesus Christ will be the head of government over the entire world, and there will be no competing powers.

We read in Zechariah 14:9, 16: "And the LORD *shall be King over all the earth...* And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem *shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*" In learning to worship the true God in the way He commands in His Word, the Bible, all nations will finally learn the way to true peace and cooperation with one another.

**Be alert and on guard**

Some tectonic shifts in world politics have occurred in the past decades, and important events are occurring now. Jesus Christ tells us that we need to be alert to such things and spiritually on guard as the time of His return draws close (Mark 13:33-37). Consider these four keys to avoid going off track or being deceived by carnal political or religious leaders. Power politics is a reality, and it's vital to keep our eyes open and our perspectives firmly grounded in biblical truth.

As Christ admonished us, let's intelligently watch what happens around us and always be in an attitude of praying, "Your Kingdom come"!

**Recommended reading**

Can we understand where our world is headed—and why? Does Bible prophecy give us any indications? Are there specific trends we should expect and look for? To help our readers discover the answers, we've prepared the eye-opening booklet *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy*. Request or download your free copy today! ❖

# Financial Scandals Highlight Spiritual Void

*Daily revelations of financial impropriety by members of Parliament dominated the British news headlines during the month of May. Respect for politicians and for Parliament itself is at an all-time low. A change of government is expected at the next election. But that won't change the root cause.*

by Melvin Rhodes

**I**n May, we took a family vacation to England, spending most of our time with four of my brothers and their families.

I am always struck on such visits by the contrast between their lives and ours. Whereas religious belief has played a major role in our lives, the four of them have no interest in the subject at all. Not one of them has a Bible in his home. If asked, they would consider the book of no relevance to us today.

One of my brothers observed the reason for my religious beliefs was that I'm older and was educated in a different age. I was at school in England in the 1950s and early '60s, whereas my four younger brothers were educated in the late '60s and '70s. In his mind, religious belief died in the 1960s.

It is true that in the 1950s the old standards still prevailed. Each school day began with a Bible reading and prayers. On Fridays we ended the day similarly, as if we all needed fortifying for the temptations the coming weekend might offer! We were taught the Ten Commandments and basic biblical principles common to all churches. In short, there was a certain familiarity with the Bible.

We were also taught some patriotic values. Our sports teams were named after famous British heroes. Scott, Drake, Nelson and Livingstone were the four "houses" in my school. As we marched single file into our assembly hall for morning prayers, we passed an impressive portrait of the new queen in coronation regalia. A map of the world was still largely colored red, denoting the various colonies and dominions of what was still the British Empire and Commonwealth.

By the middle of the 1960s all this was to change. The death of Sir Winston Churchill in January 1965 seemed to close the curtain on a glorious era. Replacing it were new values that were not really values at all. Materialistic values, money, promiscuity and a good time became the new gods as

the nation rejected the old values, many of which were based on the Bible.

## The latest scandals

Perhaps all this explains the latest scandals that have dominated the headlines in the United Kingdom during the last few weeks. People have been shocked to discover that many of their members of Parliament (MPs) are corrupt, having abused their expense money for personal gain.

Frankly, I was shocked that the public was shocked to find their politicians are motivated by self-gain! For the first time in over three centuries, the Speaker of the House of Commons was forced to resign. Many MPs have also announced that they will leave office at the end of the current session, which has less than a year to go.

One MP tried to focus the blame on former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who revived Britain's economy after more than three decades of decline. She claimed that Lady Thatcher brought in a culture of greed.

This comment was motivated by an anti-business bias, the suggestion being that it's only people in business who are greedy. At least businessmen invest their own capital at their own risk to make money. If they are successful, they contribute to the national prosperity and create jobs. Politicians, on the other hand, are not taking personal risks. They are simply taking, as the national revelations have shown!

Another MP defensively stated: "At least, we are not as corrupt as other countries!"

This may be true. But Britain at one time had a reputation for being generally corruption-free. Clearly, this is not the case today. The consequence of the newspaper revelations is that people have lost all confidence in their members of Parliament and in the institution itself. Papers variously

*Britain at one time had a reputation for being generally corruption-free. Clearly, this is not the case today.*

described the House of Commons as the “House of Ill Repute” and the “House of Horrors.”

### Importance of the Ten Commandments

London’s *Mail on Sunday* carried the front-page headline: “The Queen ‘Is Deeply Troubled’” (May 17, 2009), with a follow-up article offering more detail five days later. More than once, I heard people say that the 83-year-old monarch is the last person left with any values. I’m sure that isn’t the case. There are many people in Britain who are appalled at the state the country is in but feel powerless to do anything about it.

There are also many people who place the blame for the country’s predicament on the decline in religious values. Even one of my brothers made this observation, lamenting that schoolchildren are no longer taught the Ten Commandments. One of the commandments is, “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15). Stealing is taking something that doesn’t belong to you, including money that rightly belongs to the taxpayers who earned it!

Interestingly, when speaking to Ephraim, whose modern descendants include the British people, God said: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). When the Ten Commandments are not taught to children, they grow up without biblical values. The children of the ’60s now dominate the British Parliament, ruling with the secular and antibiblical values that blossomed in that decade.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote of a similar time in ancient Judah. “The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores” (Isaiah 1:5-6). Further down in the chapter these words were written: “Your princes [rulers] are rebellious, and companions of thieves; everyone loves bribes, and follows after [financial] rewards” (verse 23).

The people of Judah failed to heed God’s warning sent through His prophets. The result was that Judah came under foreign control.

Ironically, that’s another issue widely talked about in the United Kingdom at this time. European elections are scheduled for June 4, when voters have the opportunity to select representatives to the European Parliament of the European Union. The elections are likely to result in increased support for UKIP (the United Kingdom Independence Party), a party that is anti-European. There is a general feeling that Britain has



*British Conservative MP Andrew Mackay resigned as senior political aide to opposition leader David Cameron after a review of his expenses revealed an “unacceptable situation”.*

ceded too much power to the institutions of the EU and is losing its sovereignty. Increasing disillusionment with the establishment parties over abuse of expenses will likely increase UKIP’s support further.

### Talk of national bankruptcy

Finances would have been a big issue without the financial scandals. Britain has been hit hard by the current recession, with a significant drop in home values and in peoples’ net worth. The country also suffers from rising unemployment. Now there is talk of national bankruptcy.

The major news item on the front page of the European edition of the *Financial Times* on May 22 was

“Warning to Britain Over High Debt Level.” The article said, “Britain yesterday became the first large economy to be warned in the financial crisis that it might lose its top-notch credit rating, in a move that raised fears of possible downgrades for other big industrialised nations...”

“S&P [Standard and Poor] based its warning on a forecast that UK net government debt risked approaching 100 per cent of national income and staying at that level... A loss of the top credit rating could raise the cost to Britain of financing its national debt, putting further strain on the country’s public finances and adding to pressure on Gordon Brown’s administration to bring public borrowing down faster than it has planned.

“The International Monetary Fund this week urged the UK to reduce its public deficit more rapidly once the economy was recovering from recession.”

In a warning to other Western nations, including the United States, the *Financial Times* pointed out that “S&P’s move sets a precedent for other big economies with triple-A ratings whose debt burdens are also approaching 100 percent of national income. The UK debt burden is forecast over coming years to be similar to that of the US, France and Germany, all of which may now be vulnerable to an S&P downgrade.”

It’s not surprising that the United Kingdom’s finances are in bad shape when there is so much dishonesty at the top of British society. This also applies to the United States where recent executive branch nominations were withdrawn once public disclosures of financial impropriety affected the reputations of the various candidates. When those selected to lead the government can’t handle their own finances with fiscal integrity, then it’s hardly surprising that the national finances are in such a mess.

Isaiah’s words echo down to this day: “The whole head is sick.” The problem is a spiritual one, which will not be rectified without a national repentance and a turning back to God and solid biblical values. ❖

# The Acts of Moses, Elijah and the Two Witnesses

*Your Bible reveals there will be two witnesses in the end time who will turn the world upside down, testifying for Christ against sin and sinners. Some of the miracles they will perform will parallel those of Moses and Elijah. There's an enlightening lesson in these similarities.*

by Jerold Aust

*The two end-time witnesses will have the power to provide plagues, drought and fire as testimonies and judgments against all sinners who would try to destroy them and mankind. These will help open the eyes and ears of the spiritually blind and deaf.*

**T**he two witnesses in Revelation 11:3 are enigmatic to many. Some view them as a return of Moses and Elijah, while others see them as the Church or martyrs of the Church, or even a return of Peter and Paul or Enoch and Elijah. Some think they are simply two prophets, two groups or two principles (*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 1981, Vol. 12, p. 504).

God describes these two witnesses as representative of two olive trees and two lamps or lampstands that stand before the God of the earth (Revelation 11:3-4).

Each of God's symbols of them is significant and communicates to the reader characteristics of God and His two representatives. Christ sent His disciples out two by two. Witnessing is giving testimony. Olive trees refer to God's Spirit and, by extension, God's truth (compare John 4:23-24). Lamps give light to a dark world. Putting together all of these symbols in the context of Revelation 11, God's two witnesses give testimony of how God's Spirit gives light to and illuminates humanity in a darkened world (Matthew 5:14-16; Hebrews 6:4-5; John 1:4-9; Isaiah 9:2).

These two witnesses are closely connected to the two olive trees and the two lampstands of Zechariah's vision. There, God indicates a primary allusion to Joshua and Zerubbabel, who are also said to serve the Lord of all the earth (Zechariah 4:1-6, 10-14). They are, in some ways, types of the two witnesses.

The two witnesses of Revelation 11 warn Babylon the great one last time, as human instruments of God have always done through the ages.

## **It's all about Babylon**

The book of Revelation, in general, addresses the progression of and, in particular, the consummation of mankind's failings brought on by the corruptive influ-

ences of Babylon the great. That's a great overall key to Revelation, if one stands back from the various seals, trumpets and plagues and observes its underlying theme and purpose. Revelation shows two great polar opposites: mankind's self-destructive way of life and God's constructive way of life. Knowing this great key helps one to better understand the catastrophes prophesied in this unique book.

Remarkably, in the book of Revelation there is a guarantee that God will stop humanity from destroying itself, through Christ Jesus' intervention and sovereignty (Revelation 11:18; 19:11-21).

As God's representatives, the two witnesses will conduct themselves, at least in part, in the ways of Moses and Elijah.

## **Moses and the two witnesses**

Moses is sometimes described as a law-giver. He was called by God to deliver His laws to Israel (Malachi 4:4).

God also used Moses as Israel's physical leader, a type of deliverer and a representative of God (Exodus 4:16). God used him to confront the king of Egypt and demand that Pharaoh let His people go. When Pharaoh refused, God performed miraculous deeds through Moses. The 10 plagues are now legendary acts that God conducted to make His point of freeing His people from sin and sinners: "Let my people go" (Exodus 5:1).

In the New Testament, Jesus was transfigured and appeared in vision along with both Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:1-5). Here God made the point to show that Jesus was much greater than Moses and Elijah: "Hear Him!" (verse 5).

The prophet Malachi addressed both Moses' and Elijah's service. "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,

with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD” (Malachi 4:4-5).

The two witnesses of Revelation 11 perform miraculous acts similar to those Moses did, especially by bringing plagues on those who would not heed God’s demands. “And they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire” (Revelation 11:6; compare this with Moses in Exodus 7:17-21). God is consistent.

### **Elijah and the two witnesses**

Elijah is often considered the most important prophet of the Old Testament, and with good reason (Malachi 4:5). He was a no-nonsense, direct-to-the-point prophet who simply laid it all on the line. His antagonists could not kill him (2 Kings 2:11).

Elijah prayed and God shut up the heavens for 3 1/2 years (1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17). God also devoured with fire those who commanded Elijah to appear before King Ahaziah (2 Kings 1:10).

The two witnesses of Revelation 11 replicate Elijah’s miracles against those who refuse God’s will. They will also have the power to stop any rainfall for 3 1/2 years (Revelation 11:3, 5-6). Whenever they are threatened, fire will proceed from their mouths to devour their enemies, a symbol of God’s judgment (Hebrews 12:29).

### **Two witnesses act as did Moses and Elijah**

For 3 1/2 years God will warn all mankind, especially the warring nations and their tyrannical leaders, of their evil ways through His representatives, the two witnesses. God loves all human beings because He created them to one day have the opportunity to repent, be converted and become children of God (2 Peter 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:18). Yet He will judge the recalcitrant with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:27). Sometimes this is the only way mankind will be receptive enough to listen to and learn from God (Malachi 3:5-6).

The book of Revelation reveals how God will both warn and punish Babylon (Revelation 17), the False Prophet and the Beast (Revelation 19). The False Prophet and the Beast will set themselves to kill the two witnesses, which they will do at the end of the two witnesses’ testimony (Revelation 11:7). After 3 1/2 days they will be resurrected to life (Revelation 11:11-12).

There are undeniable similarities between the two witnesses and Moses and Elijah:

“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.’ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire” (Revelation 11:3-6).

### **God’s punishment of sinners is timeless**

God’s testimonies and judgments against sinners never change. This is a significant lesson and loving instruction from God.

When God delivered a captive Israel from Egypt through Moses, God used Moses to demand that Pharaoh release Israel. With each demand came a consequence. Ultimately, God leveled Egypt with 10 great plagues in order to convince Pharaoh to let His people go.

God used the great and dedicated prophet Elijah to warn Israel to mend its sinning ways against God. When the king did not comply, Elijah was given the power to prophesy that Israel would have no rain (1 Kings 17:1). When Elijah was challenged by the king’s demand that he come down from a hill to answer to his army, Elijah responded that if he were indeed a man of God, then let fire come down and devour the

squad of 50 men. After the first two squads were burned up, the third officer was much more respectful (2 Kings 1:12-14).

God is indeed patient. He waits for Babylon’s “golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication” (Revelation 17:4) to fill all the way to the top. Then He steps in, for if He didn’t, humankind would destroy itself (Matthew 24:22). Christ will “destroy those who [attempt to] destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18).

### **Plagues, drought and fire get attention**

The two end-time witnesses will have the power to provide plagues, drought and fire as testimonies and judgments against all sinners who would try to destroy them and mankind. These will help open the eyes and ears of the spiritually blind and deaf.

The acts of the two witnesses are as the acts of Moses and Elijah. They show that God remains the same when acting against sin and sinners, to show Himself strong and loving in reconciling mankind to God. Christ is our Savior, not our destroyer; destroying people is what Satan does.

God will not allow humanity to self-destruct; He will save and deliver us, giving all human beings their one opportunity to know God and live His way of peace and prosperity (Hebrews 8:10-12; Isaiah 11:1-10). ❖

## **Recommended Reading**

The book of Revelation remains mysterious to most people today but offers great insight into the events leading up to one of the world’s most momentous events—the return of Christ! For more information, request a free copy of *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*.



Contact any of our offices listed on page 15, or request or download it from our Web site at [www.wnponline.org](http://www.wnponline.org)

“LIFE” (Continued from page 16)

ing scientifically proven intelligence as the embryo begins to take on the features of his or her parents.

Ahead of President Obama’s address, there were incidents of civil disobedience protesting the president’s invitation. Among those arrested was a lady named Norma McCorvey. You may simply know her as “Roe,” as in the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion as a federal guarantee.

What an amazing turnaround for this lady to now be at odds with this landmark decision! One often cannot go back and change the past, but it is always possible to move forward and touch the future.

### How important is life to you?

But the question is not where the Notre Dame student body stands or, for that matter, where the president or even Norma McCorvey stands. Allow me to get personal. The big question is, Where do *you* stand when it comes to matters of life and death for a little one? Have you given it much thought? How you answer the matter will speak volumes as to whether you believe your life on earth is an accident or is by design.

Did you realize that the Creator of the universe shares in His holy Word when life begins, what your existence is all about and the family relationship He desires with you?

The philosopher René Descartes proclaimed, “I think, therefore I am.” But what preceded all those thoughts bumping around in your head?

The Bible describes you as a creation patterned after no less than the Maker Himself. Genesis 1:26-

27 states, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Can we come to appreciate that we are not simply the new and improved product of two prehistoric lovesick amoebas bumping into one another in a slimy pond given a jolt of life by some photosynthetic happening? That explanation may work for you, but it doesn’t for me.

### A peek within the womb

God continues throughout the Bible to describe His involvement with humans from our very earliest stages. He literally gives us a peek within the womb! The patri-



*What’s being discussed is more than simply a trite political issue; it’s a life that is being shaped from its earliest embryonic inception, developing scientifically proven intelligence as the embryo begins to take on the features of his or her parents.*

arch Job illustrates how God, the Master Designer, “made me in the womb” (Job 31:15). Likewise, God reminded the prophet Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you” (Jeremiah 1:5).

The New Testament records that the one who became John

the Baptist leaped for joy in the womb in response to his mother, Elizabeth, meeting Mary the mother of Christ (Luke 1:36, 41-44). Does this sound like simply clinical fetal tissue? Think about it! Aren’t you happy your mother believed in carrying you to full term to allow you to be the incredible vehicle of life that God intended?

Today, as you read this article, you may be looking for answers—not just information. You may be wondering what to do with that little one tucked inside of you. Perhaps you didn’t plan to be pregnant, but suddenly you’ve found out that you are.

There may be all sorts of seemingly “fair and open-minded” reasons coming your way from your mate, family and friends appealing to momentary convenience rather than realities that literally touch on eternity. Words like: “Not now, perhaps another time.” “You aren’t seriously thinking about having this baby, are you?” “C’mon, I’ll pay for it.”

If you are not rooted in a value system based on the sanctity of life, I can appreciate how you might consider aborting a child. But wait a minute!

Let me say this. Children are never easy, and it won’t be convenient. Yes, it will take incredible life-altering sacrifice in some cases.

Today even with the recent swing in the polls, let’s face it—we

do not live in a child-friendly society. Rather, we live in a frenetic, me-me-me-based society with a remote-control mentality of “been there, done that—so let’s just move on.”

The apostle Paul nearly 2,000 years ago prophesied such a time in 2 Timothy 3:1-4: “But know this,

that in the last days perilous times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

### Wait a minute!

You might be saying, "Wait a minute. I thought this was some kind of prophecy magazine devoted to times, personalities, the rise and fall of kingdoms, and the return of Jesus Christ." Yes, it is. But at the same time prophecy and the truths of the Bible are not simply designed to inform or momentarily inspire, but to literally transform our existence.

The Bible describes a love affair that Jesus had with life and all living. He loved them both young and old. Remember how He chided the disciples who thought He was too busy to be bothered with children (Matthew 19:13-15)? His "handlers" didn't think He had the time, because of His busy schedule. Christ put children first!

And why not? The preincarnate Christ of the Old Testament declared through the writings of David, "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

### God has something to say too

The LORD, the Word described in John 1:1-3, known now to you and me as Jesus Christ, inspired the prophets of old with a "child-friendly" vision of the coming Kingdom of God planted on this earth. The prophet Isaiah speaks of a world in which, "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days...for the child shall die one hundred years old" (Isaiah 65:20).

The essence of this scripture conveys a full and uninterrupted term of life for those made in God's image and likeness being molded toward eternity to be the immortal children in the family of God.

This same prophet speaks of a God-prepared society in the future in which "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

Amazing! Consider the contrast. God's future society is prophesied to create a safe world for little ones to thrive. When you think about it, what God is telling us is that it will be safer for a child to be with a lion than some infants are in their mothers' wombs today.

Zechariah 8:5 offers a prophetic glimpse into the street life of the wonderful world tomorrow under Christ in which the "streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets." How different from today's secularized Western civilization in which societies like Italy, Russia and Germany are experiencing plunging birthrates due to lifestyle choices that don't even replenish their present numbers. The availability and the choice of abortion is a factor in this determination.

But this column is more than simply about graduation speeches, changing poll numbers and prophecies about a future better world. Prophecy is also about you today. It is about how you will receive the words of God and make a difference by living the Kingdom of God experience in today's world. Life becomes much easier when you are consistent with your values. You won't have to constantly be going back to square one and asking, "What will I do?"

So to whom do you listen? Who has your ear? I recommend focusing on one personality and one alone. He is the One who always gives us one invitation. It is simply, "Follow Me" (Matthew 4:19; 9:9; John 21:19).

His words resonate with the admonition of "this is the way, walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21). His words remind us and encourage us. They show why He came into our darkened world and saved us from a self-aborted existence apart from our Heavenly Father.

He summarizes the benefit of following Him in our most important life choices with His wisdom by this simple encouragement: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). ❖



Robin Webber

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by Robin Webber

## That They May Have Life!

**T**his past month two major items collided in one week to once again bring the abortion controversy front and center. President Barack Obama, a pro-choice advocate, spoke at the well-known Catholic University of Notre Dame, while at the same time amazing results from a Gallup poll concerning abortion were released.

What took many by surprise is that such a notable university, sponsored by a church with such strong pro-life beliefs, would welcome a politician who openly promotes his opposing views. Many Catholic officials publicly denounced the event, boycotting the speech or joining in demonstrations leading up to the commencement address.

### What's happening out there?

While protests were occurring on Notre Dame's campus, the respected Gallup organization released a poll showing that, for the first time since 1995, a majority of Americans (51 percent) consider themselves "pro-life" when it comes to the issue of basic human rights for infants in the womb. It is an astonishing statistic considering the daily onslaught of secular humanistic education, media jargon and a pervasive entertainment industry that speaks of the gift of life in terms of "reproductive rights," "a woman's right to choose" and trivializes the unborn by using the pitiful description of "fetal tissue."

The percentages have abruptly swung upward by 6 percent in just a year to give a majority status—though ever so slim—to those who affirm the sanctity of life in the womb. What's happening out

there? It wasn't supposed to be this way in 2009, was it?

Perhaps people are beginning to finally take notice of the grim statistic that 3,700 babies are aborted every day—just in the United States.

That grim statistic multiplies to 1.3 million a year. Let's put it this way. That would be like every resident of San Diego, America's seventh largest city, receiving a death sentence to be carried out within one year. How are we supposed to go on as a mature society as this holocaust of the womb systematically goes on day by day, life by life in quiet, sterile clinics?

### Open-minded or closed-life?

In his address to the Notre Dame graduates, President Obama said, "No matter how we want to fudge it, the fact is at some level, the views of the two camps [pro-life and pro-choice] are irreconcilable," but he implored the graduates "to stop reducing those with differing views to caricature."

He went on to say, "Open hearts. Open minds. Fair-minded words. It's a way of life that has always been the Notre Dame tradition."

Such words sound noble until you recognize that the same people who proclaim their big-mindedness and mature pro-choice worldview are those who were given the privilege to live at birth. The president speaks of "fudging it," but what's being discussed is more than simply a trite political issue; it's a life that is being shaped from its earliest embryonic inception, develop-

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