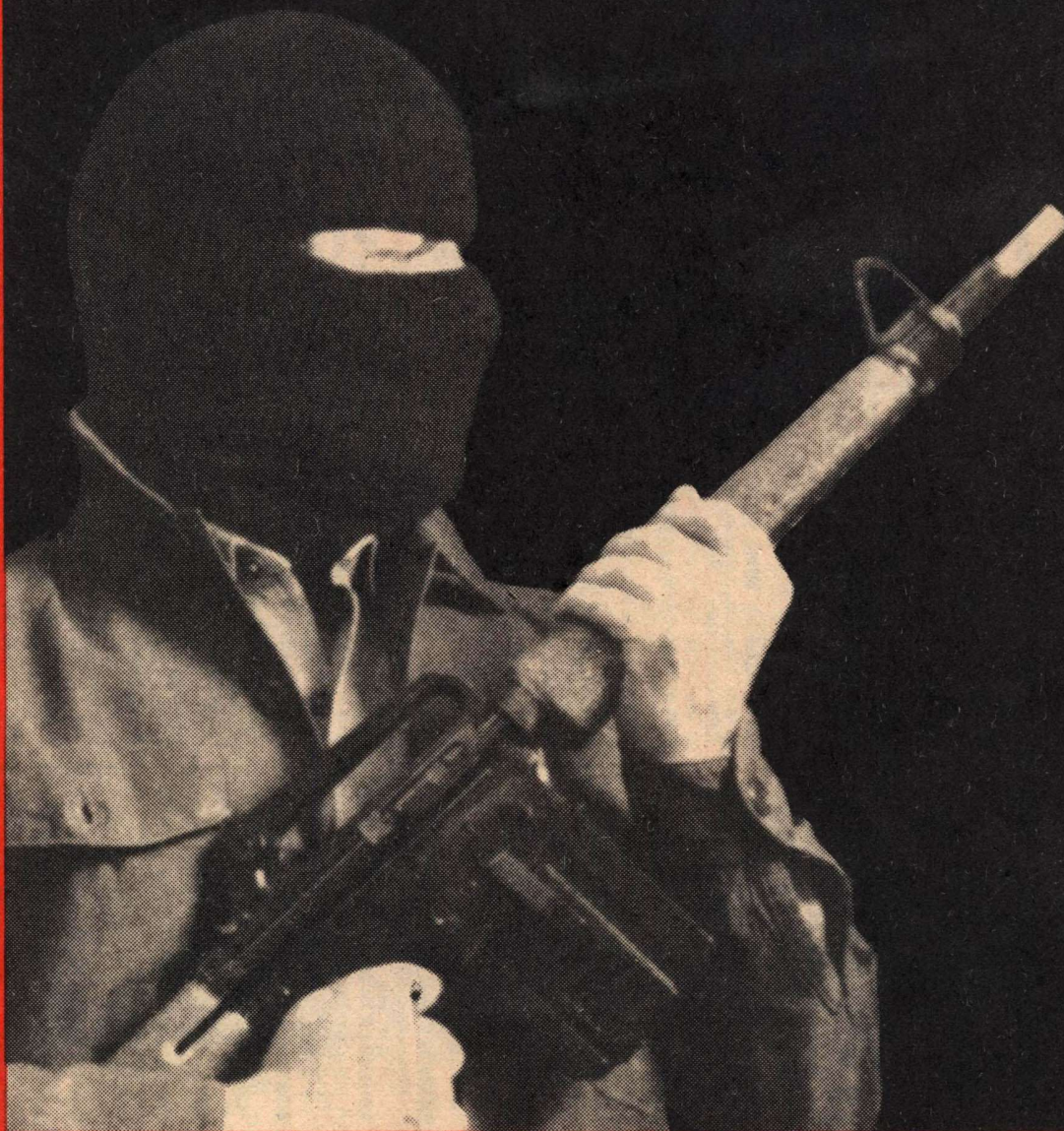


THANKSGIVING DAY - WHAT SHOULD IT MEAN TO YOU?
THE VATICAN CALLS FOR EUROPEAN UNITY

THE TERRORIST EPIDEMIC



It's time, once again, to check up on the STATE OF THE WORLD AT THIS MINUTE — as compared to 10, 25, and 50 years ago — as to what is prophesied as SURE to come in the very near future — and as to the STATE OF AND PLANS FOR GOD'S WORK.

Just where are we, now, in the panorama of biblical PROPHECY? Look, first, at what has happened in the past 10, 20, and 30 years. Look how freedom of speech and freedom of action are changing the whole tempo of life.

The new "freedoms" in speech were getting started 30 years ago. In the movie "Gone with the Wind" audiences were shocked when Rhett Butler said to Scarlett O'Hara, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn!"

Twenty-five years ago I was emotionally shocked when, in a Broadway play, an actor on stage talked to two other men about "an s.o.b." (he spoke the words) "like you" (pointing to one of the men) "and like you" (pointing to the other man) "and like ME!" (pointing with his thumb to himself) just as the final curtain was rung down. I was stunned to hear such words in a play, for I had taken with me two twenty- or twenty-one-year-old Ambassador College male students who were visiting in New York.

But when things like that no longer shocked audiences, they dished out to the public stronger shocks, until we have come to X-rated movies. Today, in most homes for even the children to see, if parents do not prevent it, the public is fed a diet of increasing violence, murder, sex, and themes undreamed of 30 years ago.

The once taboo subject of sex is freely discussed among teen-agers. My son Garner Ted explained on his television program how an embarrassed father felt it his embarrassing duty to teach his seven-year-old son a few elementary facts about sex. At that point the seven-year-old said briskly, "Oh sure, Dad. What would you like to know?"

But what of the STATE OF THE WORLD today?

We need to realize that biblical pre-history reveals that once the universe-ruling GOVERNMENT OF GOD ruled over this whole earth. There was wonderful, worldwide PEACE, with shouts of JOY! (Job 38:7.) There was a super archangel king on a throne administering the GOVERNMENT OF GOD (Isaiah 14:13) till lawlessness — iniquity and rebellion — was found in him (Ezekiel 28:14-15). Then God renewed the face of the earth (Psalm 104:30) and created man (Genesis 1:2-31).

But when our first parents rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD in the forbidden-fruit incident (Genesis 3:6), God adopted a "hands-off" policy for six thousand years, to be followed by a 1,000-year period when the returning glorified CHRIST will restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, ruling in the KINGDOM OF GOD over all nations. Once again there will be perfect PEACE, HAPPINESS, and JOY (Revelation 11:15, 20:4).

Scientists and world leaders have said, during the past three or four decades, that the only solution to today's world problems and evils is a world-ruling government with supreme power to rule all nations — yet they say it is IMPOSSIBLE! With man it is. But with God it is SURE to come — and soon.

Meanwhile God has allowed man to try to rule himself. And human leaders have set up every kind of government man has been able to devise — oligarchy, monarchy, democracy, communism, etc. None has brought peace, prosperity, happiness.

And now, as we approach the very END of this 6,000-year age, human, man-created governments are being overthrown AT THE RATE OF ONE A MONTH! So what is the STATE OF THE WORLD today?

You may read a headline in your newspaper reporting the overthrow of a government in Africa, Asia, or South America. Probably you do not read past the headline. Perhaps you miss it entirely. Anyway, it's a long way from where you live, and its true significance is not impressed on you.

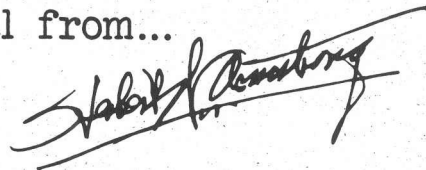
But with me it has been different!

When country after country is overthrown — when a king, president, or prime minister whom I have known and talked with, one after another, is assassinated, taken prisoner, or forced to flee for his life as his government is overthrown, it STRIKES HOME TO ME!

It means we are in the very last days of this world!

Most people do not realize HOW FAST THINGS ARE CHANGING! When I was a boy, there was very little crime, compared to now. Violence was rare. Morals

Personal from...



THE STATE OF THE WORLD

were high by comparison. Families stuck together.

All the world's evils have multiplied since then. And today whole nations are coming apart — being overthrown — at the rate of ONE A MONTH!

I have written before of how, in June of 1973, at a luncheon in New Delhi, India, the ambassador from Ethiopia invited me to visit his country and meet Emperor Haile Selassie. The Afghanistan ambassador invited me to visit his country and have a meeting with King Mohammed Zahir Shah. Before I could arrange to visit Afghanistan, the government was overthrown, and the king fled into exile. Twice I visited Emperor Haile Selassie, but in August 1974, he was taken prisoner in a military coup overthrowing his government, and about a year later he died.

In August 1973 I went to Santiago, Chile, for a meeting with President Allende, and three weeks later he was assassinated by a machine gun in the very room where I had the meeting. I had visited Prime Minister Kittikachorn of Thailand twice in his residence in Bangkok. A riot of 200,000, mostly students, overthrew his government, and he fled to the United States. I knew President Thieu of South Vietnam, but he fled to Europe shortly before the North Vietnamese took over Saigon. I KNEW these men. When their countries were overthrown, you may be sure I realized the significance of it.

One of the most recent government leaders whom I knew was President Rahman of Bangladesh, who was recently assassinated and whose government was overthrown.

But what about the world TODAY?

In Europe, the troubles in Portugal and Spain may trigger a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire in the form of a UNITED EUROPE. Leaders in Europe have long wanted a political-military UNION in Europe. They just have not known how to bring it about.

In Portugal, communists virtually took over the government, then suffered a temporary setback. But communists never give up or quit. If they stage a comeback, gaining the government in a country that has for centuries been Roman Catholic, Rome may take drastic action to unite all Europe.

In Spain Franco won the war against communism, 1936-39, and he has kept the government rightist. But recently Franco has been under sharp criticism from all over Europe for executing guerrillas who had killed Spanish policemen. Since then he has suffered a heart attack. Conditions are becoming ripe in Spain for a united, religious-dominated European government, with Prince Juan Carlos as king.

Since World War II, the nations of Europe have relied on U.S. military power to offset Soviet power. But they are fast losing all confidence in the United States as a world power.

Right now I feel sure that North Korea is planning an invasion of South Korea. If it comes and the United States does not go immediately to South Korea's aid, the United States will no longer be recognized as a world power! And the present temper of the American Congress seems to totally forbid any U.S. intervention again in Korea!

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letters

Sex VI

Referring to "Sex VI" August 23 issue of *Plain Truth* page 13 — wives, submit . . . I've tried to keep my thoughts quiet over the years but now must protest. Many women are stronger in character and more capable leaders than many men. Because our bodies carry the babies those nine months shouldn't mean that we are inferior, treated differently or subject to submit to our husbands.

I'm supporting my family and my husband is taking good care of our children. We can't buy all the nice things he wants, but he doesn't expect or desire my utter submittal. We love each other as equals, and that's the most beautiful love husband and wife can have. After all, Jesus never mentioned the fact that women should submit because they're women, and he was the last and final word from God Himself. I know this will never be published.

Mrs. Wilma Clark,
Placerville, CA

I've been reading with considerable interest the book, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. I note that it is said, "God is a family." This is a new thought to me. I had never before read or heard that idea.

More and more I am reading how world events are fulfilling Bible prophecies.

I really appreciate *Plain Truth* magazine and thank you very much for sending it to me.

Mr. Leonard P. Elliott,
Houston, TX

I can't help feeling sorry for these people who read the word sex, then pucker up like an old dried up prune. If only they would read the articles, they'd come to find out it's not all "sex, sex, sex." The articles explain how God's purpose of sex is paralleled and marriage is involved.

Love is something you want to fulfill and it's not just the "thrills." It's everything. It's the way your heart stops beating when your loved one's late home from work. It's the loneliness of life when they're away from you too long.

It's the worrying and the patience, the constructive criticism, difference of opinion and laughing when there's really nothing funny — just feeling good, being happy.

Love is the entire relationship rolled up into one. Sex is just a fraction of that love relationship.

It's a fulfillment of being together day after day "till death do us part." Isn't it great the way God planned it all.

Mrs. M. Danny Holm,
Tucson, AZ

When I saw the statue of the "Kiss" in a May issue, I thought, "How beautiful!" wondered how I could get a replica for our bedroom. Where is the original of this sculpture located? I guess beauty is all in the eyes of the beholder. I wonder if the 16-year-old daughter of the one woman who wrote wouldn't think the same as I. It seems to me that some people are missing one of the main points of the series on "Missing Dimension in Sex."

Also especially liked the article on "Who Discovered America."

I also like the editorial type cartoons in *Plain Truth*.

Mrs. A. W.,
Sherrill, IA

Human Potential

The joint theme of *The Missing Dimension in Sex* and "The Incredible Human Potential" is very inspiring to me. Next to your personal letter, it is the first part of every *Plain Truth* I want to read. I honestly approach this reading with the same feeling that I have just prior to lunch or dinner. It is a hard feeling to describe except to say I feel I *must* have this knowledge. I would not be able to endure to the end without it because the pressures to do as Adam and Eve did are so great.

Also, the things you have told us about your personal life in recent issues of *Plain Truth* have been very helpful in reminding me of and helping me to understand the problems you face in your daily life.

Ann Slowe,
Pasadena, TX

Your series of articles in *Plain Truth* on the Human Potential has been most inspiring and uplifting! With all the bad news we have to live with today, one tends to get depressed. But, on the other hand when reading such wonderful articles such as the continuing one on the Human Potential, one's spirit is rekindled! Keep *Plain Truth* coming and the good work going!

Virgil L. Hutson,
Chattanooga, TN

Mr. Armstrong's article, "The Incredible Human Potential," is exactly that — incredible knowledge allowed to us mortals. It is marvelous, and I hope it will come out in a booklet, so we can have it in compact form, and not have to assemble the different *Plain Truths* when we want to remind ourselves of what God has in store for all who repent, overcome, and endure to the end.

How I do appreciate our being blessed with a leader who is the only truly great one in the world today, because he leads in the truth of God.

Margaret Lay,
Spokane, WA

In reference to "The Incredible Human Potential," if God could not have known in advance what Lucifer would do, couldn't we consider him vulnerable to future attacks? If God does not know the outcome of everything, what value has prophecy? How could a God who knew that angels "could rebel and turn to iniquity" not know that they would rebel? In my opinion you are attempting to make God into man's image and likeness and thus imperfect or shall I say "all imperfect." Romans 8:30, "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified." King James Version. This is written in the past tense. A God who is locked into time cannot be all powerful.

J. T. Garvey,
Chester, PA

Personal from...

Robert Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

In the Middle East we have a temporary agreement Secretary of State Kissinger worked out between Egypt and Israel. At best, it will be temporary. It is under attack by guerrilla leader Yassir Arafat and other Arab nations. Biblical prophecies show that the Middle East around Jerusalem will be the focal point of war and world trouble from now until the END of this age. And that is rapidly growing close.

Violence has been continuing DAILY in Beirut. Violence has continued in Northern Ireland. And that Catholic-Protestant battle reaches into London. Recently in London I went over to Harrod's department store. It was about 3:30 in the afternoon. I found all doors closed, and a group of people accumulating to enter. There had been a bomb scare. Later, when the doors opened, I found the official I wanted to see, white and shaking.

"This is the second bomb scare in this store," he said, "and the last time the bomb exploded and caused a lot of damage."

Yes, one way or another, I personally am made very much aware of the troubled state of this world. And the troublous state of the world is rapidly becoming more and more troubled. At this point, if you realize the true significance of this world trend, you will do well to notice — and heed — some of the numerous biblical prophecies foretelling this very time.

When Christ walked on this earth, His disciples asked Him *when* the end of this present age would come and what sign would signify it. This is really the pivotal point — the center and the crux — of all New Testament prophecy. In answer, first He warned them of false gospels being proclaimed, *in His name*, and deceiving the many — that is, the world as a whole. During the first century, the gospel message Christ proclaimed had been sabotaged, and the world of that time had turned to another gospel (Galatians 1:6-9; II Corinthians 11:4). But, continued Jesus, "... this gospel of the kingdom [of God] shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and THEN shall the end [of this age] come."

The word "gospel" means "GOOD NEWS." Jesus came as a MESSENGER from God (Malachi 3:1), and His *message* was the GOOD NEWS of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD. His MESSAGE was the ANNOUNCEMENT that the KINGDOM OF GOD is coming and will bring us WORLD PEACE at last (Mark 1:1, 14-15).

The kingdom of God is the GOVERNMENT OF GOD — of which Christ was born to be the KING (Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 11:15).

I repeat — world-famous scientists say that the only hope for the world now is a world SUPER GOVERNMENT to rule ALL NATIONS! And that is precisely what Christ announced — that was His message — His gospel.

I began proclaiming that message — announcing the soon-coming kingdom

of God to rule all nations in 1934. THAT GOSPEL had never been proclaimed to the world since the first century A.D. Instead a message about the MESSENGER was proclaimed — but NOT HIS MESSAGE — NOT His GOSPEL (Galatians 1:6-7).

Through *Plain Truth*, by radio and television, and by personal proclamation, THAT gospel is now going TO THE WORLD! That means that the END of this present world is IMMINENT!

Following Jesus' answer to the sign just prior to this end and Christ's return to earth, he foretold the TIME OF TROUBLE this world is now heading into. "For then," He said, just after the worldwide proclamation of the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT, "shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

NEVER have world conditions been as bad as they now are. We are rapidly heading into this "GREAT TRIBULATION."

The prophet Jeremiah foretold it as the time of the great trouble to come on America and the British nations (Jer. 30). The prophet Daniel described it as coming JUST BEFORE Christ's return and the "first resurrection." "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life..." (Daniel 12:1-2).

Great national PUNISHMENT is foretold for the British nations and the United States. WHY? Let the prophet Isaiah answer. Speaking of our people, the Eternal God says:

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Eternal hath spoken. I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity [lawlessness], a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Eternal, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:2-4).

There is the saying, "It is darkest just before dawn."

It is already quite DARK in this world. It is going to get a lot DARKER!

But THEN! THEN will come the glorious KINGDOM OF GOD to rule all the earth — ALL NATIONS — with the rule of the living God and with the basic LAW that is LOVE and full of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Then every man will learn to have outgoing concern for the good and the welfare of others and seek to help, serve, and share, not to take unfair advantage of, beat in every deal, rob, cheat, deceive, and harm. The fact that you read this is evidence that a happy, peaceful WORLD TOMORROW is NEAR! VERY NEAR! □