

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding



John Hicks

RIGHT NOW we are entering a series of major world crises that are affecting us all. No question about it, now! These serious troubles erupting all over the world are leading rapidly into the final SUPREME CRISIS at the END of this world.

The energy crisis is seriously affecting almost every nation on earth. *The PLAIN TRUTH* has been warning our readers of this for years.

The Middle East war and the crisis following the "cease-fire" was a *most significant* indication of the fast-approaching END of this age! Biblical prophecy shows events from here to the end will center around Jerusalem and the Middle East! It's no "Wolf! Wolf!" cry. People seldom if ever heed a warning, but I want to make the immediate present situation clear to our readers, whether heeded or not.

There's a great deal more to this Middle East crisis than most conceive. It has involved oil. It has involved the threat of a nuclear World War III, triggered by U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. intervention. Few have any idea at all of *how close* we came to the war that could have erased all humanity from this earth. Let me explain that.

For years, the Soviet Union has been seeking its opportunity to move its military forces into the Middle East and the Mediterranean. They have had submarines in the Mediterranean for some time. Only U.S. forces and military (nuclear) bases ringing the Middle East have prevented it. Why do you suppose the Russians have been supplying Egypt and other Arab nations with planes, tanks, and war materials? Not because they love the Arabs. Not because they hate the Israelis. But because they expect to cash in on the investment by taking over the entire Middle East!

This calls to mind an incident in June 1944, shortly before the end of World War II. It was 8:30 one Sunday morning. I was just going on the air in a radio station in Portland, Oregon. The Russian army was on a big offensive, within a couple hours

Personal from



NOW! SERIES OF CRISES SIGNAL AGE-END! WHAT IT ALL MEANS!

or so of taking a strategic point on the eastern front that probably would have forced the final surrender of Germany. The news flash of the war's end was expected over the teletype at the radio station. I asked station personnel to watch the teletype, and if that news flash came while I was on the air, to bring it to me and let me announce it during my program.

But that news flash did not come that morning, nor the next morning, nor for the next several weeks. The Russian forces had halted right where they were. They did not want the war to end until their forces had taken over several other Eastern European countries — since known as the satellite countries. The Russians planted that Russian military boot on all those satellite countries — and they have never removed it. Those who know Russian communism know that where the Kremlin plants the Russian military boot, *it never removes it* — unless, or until a stronger power forces it to move.

The chiefs at the Kremlin saw, in the recent "cease-fire" that was not yet ceasing, an opportunity to put the Russian armies in the Middle East. They quickly proposed that the United States and the U.S.S.R. *jointly* send their armies into the Middle East, to "enforce the cease-

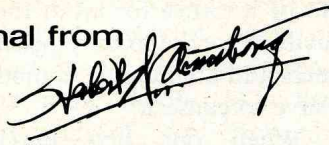
fire." They knew, of course, that the United States would not send U.S. forces there. But inviting the joint force gave the plausible excuse to send their own forces in, anyway. By inviting the *joint* movement with U.S. forces, they reasoned their move would not turn world opinion against them. But, once there, they would simply have annexed the Middle East. The Russian boot would stay planted there.

President Nixon, with all news media and Congress on his back, nevertheless recognized the real significance of this communist military strategy. He wrestled with this extreme crisis until 3 a.m. Then he called an immediate alert of *all* U.S. military forces — army, navy, air force — the total military power of the nation, scattered all over the world — to make them ready on one second's notice to unleash America's nuclear might that could have destroyed every Russian city.

Then, after Moscow knew of the alert, President Nixon announced that the United States rejected the Kremlin suggestion of joint U.S.-Soviet military "enforcement" of the cease-fire, and also that the United States would not allow *any* nuclear power to enter the Mideast area.

The Kremlin got the message. It
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is the only language they understand. For them to carry out their plan would have plunged them instantly into nuclear war with the U.S.A., and with all U.S. forces on instant alert, the U.S. would probably get in the first blow. Russia backed down.

Then, of course, the Russians accused Mr. Nixon of calling the alert for the purpose of attracting public attention away from the accusations being hurled at him in the Watergate syndrome. Some of the American public believed it. But I want our readers to know what really *did* happen.

So, you see, this Middle East war and effort to get a cease-fire critically involved the world's two giant powers and even threatened an immediate outbreak of nuclear war.

Another repercussion was that America's European allies blamed Mr. Nixon for calling the military alert before consulting them. To have done so might have defeated Mr. Nixon's strategy of stopping the Russian move of its military forces into the Middle East.

The NATO crisis threatens relations between the United States and Europe. It could trigger a European crash program to produce a "United States of Europe" — a political-military union of Europe into one great super world power — possibly stronger than either the United States or Russia. As this series of crises erupted over the world, Japan faced a critical national situation occasioned by King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Essentially, he said: "Adopt anti-Israel policy, or no oil." Japan capitulated.

The new North Vietnam offensive against South Vietnam was another fire-brand crisis.

In the United States, we have had "Watergate." Almost the entire news media have done everything in their power to put President Rich-

ard Nixon out of the Presidency. They have tried him, *without a scrap of actual proof*, but with every possible question and inference of guilt. They have influenced many millions. They have featured with great emphasis every possible *question* as to doubts and every *opinion* as to alleged presidential guilt, while minimizing back on page 17 or 33 every item in the President's favor.

The same thing happened to President Abraham Lincoln. It was after his assassination that he came to be acknowledged as one of America's greatest presidents.

I cannot, here, express any opinion one way or the other as to Mr. Nixon's innocence or guilt — further than to say, it is *supposed* to be American custom, in common decency, to consider a man innocent until proven guilty. And maybe, yes, just *MAYBE*, history will record the picture somewhat like it did in the case of President Lincoln.

Today, as I write in Tokyo, I had a 25-minute personal audience with His Imperial Majesty Emperor Hirohito of Japan. One of the last things he said to me was, next time I see President Nixon, would I kindly give the President the Emperor's warmest personal regards — this in connection with words of appreciation expressed by both of us for the friendly and close relations between our two peoples and their governments.

Still further in this series of world crises, as I write, the Japanese economy has suddenly gone into a serious crisis within the past weeks. They are saying here, "The Japanese miracle is over!"

On this present trip I flew into Bangladesh, just fresh out of its war some two years. I had personal meetings with both the president and the prime minister. The president said, "Mr. Armstrong, I know of your experience, your meetings with many government heads, the wisdom that comes with age and experience. I want to ask your counsel and advice. We need any help you can give us." This was not the

first time government heads have appealed to me for counsel and help.

President Chowdhury asked if I had had the opportunity to see much of his country. I had only had time for about an hour's drive by car around Dacca, the capital, and its outskirts.

"I would like to know what is your appraisal of what you have seen of Bangladesh," he said.

I hesitated. He said, "Don't hesitate. I want your honest opinion."

"Well," I said reluctantly, "after driving around far enough to know I had seen enough that was representative of the country, I simply had to utter an involuntary prayer, in shocked dismay, 'Oh Eternal God, *Thy Kingdom come!* and deliver this miserable country from its wretchedness!' I'm sorry — I have to be frank — but your country has impressed me as being the most impoverished of any I've seen, and I've seen indescribable impoverishment."

When he asked my help and counsel, I told him I would give the problem much thought and any suggestions or help I could.

I had noticed, I said, that despite the wretched economic plight that was so evident, I had seen in general an optimistic and hopeful expression on people's faces. I felt every effort should be made to give the people encouragement and hope — but of course the immediate need is food, and then shelter and basic needs of life. He said they knew they had oil and natural gas, and they are working on both — but need financing. It is just possible I may have business contacts that could put them in touch with financing for development of oil production.

Earlier I had conferred with the prime minister and executive leader Sheik Mujibur Rahman, the "strong man" of the country. He told me what had happened before and during the war in 1971.

From March 15, 1971, through December of that year, three million people were killed, six million homes were destroyed, and more than one-and-a-half million farm

families were left without tools or animals to work their farms. The transportation and communication systems of the country were totally destroyed, roads were damaged, bridges were knocked out, and inland waterways were blocked. Ten million refugees fled to India, many starving, many dying of cholera. Hardly a family was unaffected.

He told me how that within hours before the Pakistani army surrendered, their units had systematically killed thousands of the better educated so sorely needed now by the government and the people. In a nation with only 20% literacy, the loss of those thousands of educated was a sore tragedy.

Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman, a big man — rough, practical and competent, a natural leader — also described the basic and dire needs of Bangladesh. First, of course, is FOOD! A dire need is education, especially with so many thousands of the educated minority killed at war's end.

With such extreme poverty, following so devastating a war, thousands starving, Bangladesh also is a country of *natural* disadvantages — very crowded, 1,100 people to the square mile, a swampy terrain prone to floods and cyclones, famine an ever-present danger. Their problems are *beyond human ability to solve*.

For a country in such an unbelievably pitiful plight, perhaps it is a good thing the world *is* fast approaching the SUPREME CRISIS of this age of human civilization — and that God's Kingdom will soon come.

But Why? What's the Cause?

Stop and think! Why should we find such conditions among humans? Even the illiterate, unable to read or write, have human minds. Their minds, too — had the people been born of a heredity influenced by proper education, and had they been able to develop their minds — might have been as capable as those who solved the problems of space travel.

WHY illiteracy? *Why* human poverty? *Why* do we have a world with

half of its millions living in ignorance, extreme poverty, wretchedness, filth and squalor?

Human minds are capable of producing the computer — of going to the moon and back. Yet we can't solve our problems here on earth.

Why?

I had to ask WHY!

And forty-seven years ago, I learned why! Forty-seven years ago I experienced the shock of my life. I was literally *stunned* to learn what science has been unable to reveal, what no religion teaches, what governments do not understand, the CAUSE of all this trouble in the world, the SOLUTION, the WAY that would bring us world PEACE, universal prosperity, happiness and joy.

I was literally dumbfounded to learn — and believe it or not, in the Bible — what neither the Christian religion or any other teaches: the CAUSE of all this vast mountain of human woe — and also the CAUSE that *would* and *should* produce actual utopia! I was incredulous to learn that ALL nations — ALL religions — are *deceived!* The plain truth is made clear and plain in that misunderstood, maligned and misinterpreted book! And I did not discover some new interpretation. I found it needs NO interpretation. It interprets itself. It is the inspired, revealed word of our Maker and our Creator. And I learned he says plainly what he means, and he means what he says! I didn't find some new religion — I merely found plain truth!

I found plainly revealed the MISSING DIMENSION in knowledge.

Our Maker revealed to our first parents this basic knowledge — but they did not believe him! He revealed not only *what* we humans *are*, but *why* — for what *purpose* we were put here on earth, and *how* to achieve it. He revealed the WAY to peace, happiness, abundance. But our first parents disbelieved, disobeyed, went *the other way*. And humanity has been going that wrong way ever since.

It's axiomatic. For every effect, there has to be a CAUSE. There has

to be a CAUSE for all of the world's evils. If we are to have peace, happiness and abundance, something will have to cause it.

When our first parents disbelieved and rejected that knowledge, our Creator caused it to be written in his inspired Word to us — the Holy Bible. There he *reveals* what man *cannot* discover by himself — *cannot* know, except by revelation from God. And just as our first parents disbelieved and disobeyed, so has all humanity — their children — disbelieved, rejected and gone the other way.

What God revealed to Adam and Eve and plainly reveals for those willing to see and believe is the way that will CAUSE every GOOD result.

Actually, what it amounts to is this: There are only the *two* basic ways of life. I simplify it by calling one the way of "GIVE," the other the way of "GET." Our Maker is a God of love — and "love" is always outgoing. Toward other humans, it is outgoing concern for others equal to self-concern. It is the God-centered way. Since God is the source of all good, it means contact with, belief in, dependence on, and obedience to him from whom all blessings must flow. It means love, first toward God, and second to fellow men. Toward men it means cooperation, giving, serving, helping, sharing.

Man has not lived that way! Man has caused evils.

Man has lived the "GET" way, the way of SELF-centeredness, of concern only for self and what is allied with self. It is the way of competition and strife. It is the way of lust, greed, vanity, jealousy, envy, hatred.

This WRONG WAY has CAUSED every wail of human woe. It has caused all our problems and evils.

What's Ahead, Now!

Sir Winston Churchill said before the American Congress, "There is a PURPOSE being worked out here below." That PURPOSE involves a seven-thousand-year duration. God has allotted the first six thousand years to allow man to believe and

obey or disbelieve and disobey — that is, to go the way of “GIVE” or the way of “GET.” He has decreed that man must choose. Man has chosen the way of “get.” Now the six thousand years are just about up.

And man’s self-centered way of life is now bringing crises of many kinds which are accelerating all over the world. The prophecies of God’s revealed Word to man show this. They show that we are right now coming to the SUPREME CRISIS at the close of this age — a time of world trouble “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 [the evils cut short], there should no flesh be saved [alive]: but for the elect’s sake [those few who do believe and obey] those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22).

This 24th chapter of Matthew records how Jesus’ disciples asked, “What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world” — that is, this age? The only sign he

gave by which we should KNOW when this 6,000-year age would end is in verse 14: “And 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 come.”

And now, for the first time in 18½ centuries, that gospel of the Kingdom of God *is* being proclaimed to all the world by this very work of God. Recently I, personally, have been privileged to proclaim it to leaders at the top of many nations around the world.

That message announces that God will, now, soon intervene in world affairs and bring an *enforced* world peace and 1,000 years of happiness and abundance worldwide.

And God “shall send Jesus Christ... whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things” (Acts 3:20). Christ will soon return, in the supreme power and glory of the great God, and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of



A CLOSE-UP of Prince Mikasa and Herbert W. Armstrong.

his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever (Revelation 11:15). Men and armies will resist. They will fight back. But by supernatural power men will be forced to have peace, happiness, abundance! □

PRINCE MIKASA, brother of the Emperor of Japan, offers a toast to Herbert W. Armstrong at banquet in Mr. Armstrong’s honor in Tokyo, September 26. Fifty-eight distinguished guests, including members of the Cabinet, the Diet (Japan’s Congress or Parliament), presidents of the two largest universities, and their wives, attended. Mr. Armstrong proclaimed to this distinguished gathering the good news (gospel) of the Kingdom of God. From left to right, Ambassador Mekasha of Ethiopia, Princess Mikasa, Mr. Stanley R. Rader, Mr. Armstrong, Prince Mikasa, Mrs. Mekasha.

