

Dear Friends,

There's a whole lotta preparation goin' on. On the one hand, the Lord is clearly preparing His church for a sudden exit and exaltation. On the other, the world is being prepared through its rebellion to God's ways for the 'man who will come in his own name' (John 5:43)- his grand delusion, his desperate attempt to steal this planet from its Creator and rightful Owner – Christ. Born-again, heavenly minded people are preparing as a bride awaiting her bridegroom. Meanwhile, everyone else is rushing headlong into the greatest deception ever presented to mankind and are making their beds in hell. It's not a time for the timid Christian to hide in the back so to speak. En mass, Christians are being coaxed into a world view that does not come from God. Laodiceans rarely recognize their own identity even as the Laodicean 'drift' of the church today has left much of it rudderless amidst the storm of deceit. May our dear Savior give us the discernment and courage to truly follow Him – whether boldly or in brokenness, may your hearts be filled with His love and devotion. John and Darlene



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The goal of HM is to encourage our readers to "Set your minds on things above..." and thereby to be the greater and more effective witness to Christ. Our news items are not meant to scoop anyone or to simply "tickle the ear" but rather to show potentially meaningful prophetic trends. Articles may be shared freely and reproduced but only in their entirety. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. God bless you!

PREPARED FOR HIS APPEARING

Who was he talking too?? Probably not a major theological issue, but for Moses, it was the turning point of his life. Here, on the backside of a place that rivaled the moon for least likely places to vacation, the man picked by God wandered with the flock of his father in law.

Who was he talking to?? Maybe he was just humming one of his songs or thinking to himself but it was the defining moment for David. Here, the man picked by God wandered amid the ashes of his town torched to the ground.

Did he really know who he was talking to?? Perhaps, it was a dream come true, but it was definitely D-day for Joseph. Here, after wandering for years amid the lonely forgottenness of prison and slavery stood the man picked by God before the most powerful king alive.

We can learn a great deal in considering these three men and especially how God deals with those he has called and chosen. First, Moses...

You remember the story from Sunday school no doubt. After 40 years of learning to be a somebody in Pharaoh's household, Moses then spent another 40 years learning to be content as a nobody. It's one thing to live in the desert wilderness with a bunch of smelly sheep and goats. It's quite another to be content there... especially after experiencing the pleasures of the court of a mighty king.

For Moses, it was a long and lowly road of preparation and God knew he was ready by a simple test. It was a bush, an ordinary bush with an extraordinary flame. Now, it was not uncommon to see a bush or scrub-tree burning in this desert wasteland, but this

one was different – remember? It burned with fire but was not consumed. Now, in order to notice such a thing, Moses had to gaze upon it for some time. He probably did a double or triple-take. He may have wondered if it was a mirage.

But the scripture says that it wasn't until Moses said, "*I will go over and see this strange sight-why the bush does not burn up,*" and turned aside, that God called to him -- This really is fascinating – Moses, like most of us in this day could have missed it and probably would have years earlier. When life is full of business that makes us feel important, such things are either unnoticed or unappreciated. But Moses, after forty years of doing what his Egyptian upbringing taught him was abhorrent (that is, shepherding) noticed the supernatural within the natural. He was a big man in a big hurry to do big things back in Egypt. But here, there was no one to impress, no schedule to keep, no daytimers or PDA's. Half his life had been spent in humiliation.

Consequently, God chose a very unique way to come to him – not in a dream, not a vision – a flaming bush. Now, later, He would appear as a flaming mountain, but that was for the host of Israel. For Moses, it was a burning bush – hey, not even a tree. Nothing lofty but rather lowly. Nothing majestic but rather meek. Why?

Because the person God uses to lead or influence others only does so successfully when it is done in meekness and humility – that is, in the character of Christ. Moses was about to be placed in the most challenging leadership position imaginable – to undo 400 years of slavery, to break the bondage of cruel tyranny, to manage the exodus

of two to six million people, to establish the laws that would govern a nation, to replicate the worship of heaven via the tabernacle...on and on it goes. In order to accomplish so much, God needed a man who could do so little. Anyone else would mess it up and just get in the way.

He was ready so God spoke. *“So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’”* Ever notice how God frequently calls out to his children emphatically -- Moses, Moses! (Ex 3:4), Abraham, Abraham (Gen 22:11), Jacob, Jacob (Gen 46:2), Saul, Saul (Acts 9:4)? In each case, there's a big change of direction coming. God didn't bring Moses to the bottom of the world to leave him there, it was simply preparation.

David probably had as many tears running down his face as any of his men. Ziklag, the town where they and their families lived was burning and in ruins. All the women and children were gone, presumed dead or taken into slavery, all their possessions pillaged. Remember, however, that this was not the whole situation -- you see, David had been hunted by thousands of madmen, soldiers and spies, determined to kill him in obedience to their paranoid king, Saul. In Ziklag, David was an outcast from his nation, hunkered down with the enemies of Israel.

The heady days of glory following his slaying of Goliath were long gone. The kingdom of Israel was falling apart under constant attack by the Philistines. Much of the territory once occupied by the children of Jacob was now given up to the surrounding nations. Saul had brought coherence to the nation but also a ruthless tyranny and bondage, and his warfare

was not all that effective. David had expatriated his parents to protect them and had even feigned insanity to survive. The kings of the Philistines had sent him home from the battle with his old nemesis, Saul, fearing treason. Returning to their adopted home of Ziklag, they found it ravaged and destroyed by marauders. Now, the sometimes-noble group of ne'er-do-wells and malcontents that had gathered about him here amid the ashes of their home were about to stone him. Rejected by Israel, rejected by the enemies of Israel, rejected by the rejects of Israel -- David was at the bottom.

Unlike Moses, David had received a great promise from God -- one day, he would be king. But how in the world could that possibly come true given the circumstances he faced -- his complete disgrace? After all, virtually half his life had been spent on the defensive. Was he ready? Again, God's test was painfully simple -- take him to the 'gates of hell' and see. Would David hang on to the promise of God? Like Abraham with knife raised over Isaac, like Jesus in Gethsemane, would he, in the final analysis, esteem his God as trustworthy?

At that defining moment, the scripture says that although he *“was greatly distressed...David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”* (1Sam 30:6) The language is descriptive of him being exceedingly cramped in grief and stress, yet he strengthened himself by considering the Lord. Previously, David had looked to his own trickery, integrity or resourcefulness to save him. Here, stripped of everything, he truly realized his only salvation was his Savior.

Joseph was really spruced up -- shave and a haircut. He probably smelled good too. You didn't come before Pharaoh looking and stinking like you've been in a prison for years. But that's exactly where he'd been. You remember the story, don't you. Like David, Joseph had an early indication of greatness, but unlike David's they were disputed and put down from the beginning. Recall, he twice dreamed of ruling over his family, even over his parents, and that didn't sit well with them -- especially his brothers, ten of whom were older than he and incensed by his swagger.

But before Joseph could be lifted up, he had to be taken down...low down. Far from the family's camp, his brothers tossed him down into a pit to ponder how they should kill him. Then they sold him into slavery, and he was taken down into Egypt. There he served faithfully an officer of Pharaoh's court but was unjustly thrown down into prison. In jail, he served faithfully the other prisoners, and one day he met the butler and baker of the king, put into prison during a purge. Recall how he interpreted their dreams and as he predicted, the baker was hanged while the butler was restored. Ah, but two more years passed; it was probably something like 15 or 16 years since he'd seen home. The butler forgot all about him. Had God?

Joseph had inspired dreams. He discerned the messages in others' dreams. Dreams were Joseph's deal. But his life was more like a nightmare. He was humbled, forsaken and forgotten -- God took him from the place of privilege to the pits of prison. Half his life was spent in bondage. Was he ready for God's call? Again, a test.

Pharaoh dreamed a troubling dream and then another. It wasn't bad pizza; they were the kind of visions that make you really distraught. None of the court's wisemen could interpret them. But then,

the butler finally 'came to' and remembered the Hebrew prisoner that had interpreted his own dream. Test time for Joseph. If he was to rule Egypt, he had to have no fear of man and no self-reliance -- characteristics that would not have come naturally to a son of Jacob. But then the last half of his life had been supernaturally humbling.

Cleaned up to emphasize the fact that he was before royalty, God's man was brought to Pharaoh, and he said to Joseph, *“I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it.”* Standing before this menacing monarch, given the opportunity to either shrink in fear or boldly boast his talents, Joseph boldly proclaimed, *“It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”*

Yes, Joseph interpreted the night visions and rendered sage advice, but it wasn't Pharaoh who promoted him to Prime Minister -- it was the Lord. (Psa 75:6,7)

Each of these men traveled the low road of preparation. It's a long road meant only for pilgrims. It leads through sorrow and grief, it weaves through humiliation and brokenness, it traces its way through loneliness and despair. But it has an end. It halts abruptly at the point of departure.

For Moses, one day he was an utterly obscure desert herder of sheep and the next, the man commissioned by God to do the impossible before the 'whole world.' For David, one day he was a gutter-scraper -- at the very bottom of the social ladder and very shortly after, he becomes king. For Joseph, one day he was a forgotten filthy oreigner

in prison and the next, second only to the most powerful man on earth.

Now, you may never lead the nation. You may have plenty of challenge just balancing the family checkbook! Nevertheless, this all applies to you if you're a sincere believer in Christ. The day is coming in which you will likewise be exalted, raised up from the bottom and set on top. In like manner, it will happen quickly, as a matter of fact, in the blink of an eye. Now, your road has probably been long; you may have had illness, death of loved ones, poverty, abandonment, addiction, abuse. You may have wondered at the trials you've faced – 'Lord, what's going on?!?' Preparation.

Moses, David and Joseph – they each came from wealthy families and were driven by their circumstances into meagerness. They picture Christ who left the paradise of God's presence in heaven to walk among us 'penniless' and abandoned. Like Christ, they were exalted in due course and so will you and I; it's called resurrection or rapture. Either way, we're going up, just like our Savior. This life? It's not just about God working through you to accomplish His will but about God working in you to prepare you for what's waiting in eternity. The end result is what it's all about for the man or woman of God.

Joseph knew that when he said to his brothers, *"I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."* And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, *God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from hence.* David knew that when he said to the Lord, *"As for me, I will behold thy face in*

righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

And God made that clear when He said to Moses, *"I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."* Think about it – the blood, the hail, the frogs, the lice, the plague, the death of the first born, even the parting of the Red Sea – those weren't signs for Moses – those were for Pharaoh and the people of Israel. The sign for Moses of God's choice was the end result – "You will worship me here on this mountain."

Joseph said, "Just take me home." David said, "I'll be satisfied when I'm truly like You." And Moses? God said, "You'll worship Me on My mountain." (a picture of heaven) They all spoke of eternity – the end result if you would.

Dear ones, everything God weaves into the fabric of your lives is to prepare you and bring you to a delightful end – not in 'Egypt', not in 'Ziklag'. Your destination is heaven. May your hearts be knit with His along the way, content in the desert if that's where He's got you, at peace in the prison, if that's where He's got you, encouraged amidst the ashes if that's where He's got you.

One way or another, He's preparing you for His appearing. Through seasons of joy and times of sorrow, through blessings and under burdens, set your desire upon the Lord and know that without fail, you will make it. God has great things for you to do in heaven, huge things! But, the end result is His responsibility, and when you're there, along with Moses, David, Joseph (and even me), you'll agree, it was worth it all!

World News

...with potential for prophetic importance

Middle East

Mubarak Carries Dire US Warning to Assad

Debkafile 11/11/03

On Monday, November 10, Israeli defense minister Shaul Mofaz said that as long as Syria provides bases for Palestinian terrorists for attacks in Israel, his government reserves the right of self-defense. He is reported to have said this to US defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld during their two-hour discussion in Washington which also ranged over the upgrading of bilateral intelligence exchanges and the Iranian threat to the region.

Last month, Syria made its position clear when spokesmen in Damascus warned Israel of a second warfront opening up on the Golan Heights by means of "Syrian citizens mounting attacks on Israeli settlements."

DEBKAFfile's Washington sources evaluate Mofaz's warning as the opening shot of a campaign to persuade Vice President Richard Cheney and presidential security adviser Condoleezza Rice, whom he is scheduled to meet in the course of his Washington trip, that the Bush administration needs to take a tougher line with Syrian president Hafez Assad, whether or not Damascus sponsors Palestinian terrorism.

Our sources stress that this round of Israeli and Syrian rhetoric is aimed more at influencing the debate dividing the Bush administration on how to handle Damascus than winding up border tensions – although sudden eruptions of violence cannot be ruled out.

On November 3, Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak paid a short visit to Damascus for an urgent conversation

The Bible indicates that the generation which witnesses the rebirth of the nation of Israel will also witness all the events leading up to Christ's 2nd coming. It says that in the last days Jerusalem will be a "cup of trembling" – the focus of attention of the whole world. It predicts a massive war with Russia leading an alliance of nations including Iran, Iraq, Libya, and many others against Israel. It is thought by many Bible scholars that this war will either immediately precede or be immediately subsequent to the rapture of the Church as mentioned in 1 Cor 15, 1 Thes 5 and several other scriptures. Isaiah 17:1, 14 tells us of the coming utter destruction of Damascus.

In addition, there is the prediction of a revival of a major world power arising out of the former Roman Empire (the EU) and exerting a strong influence over Israel and in particular, Jerusalem. (Dan. 2) The leader of this coalition, a charismatic man, will be the ultimate false Messiah and lead the world to oppose Christ's return. He will insist upon a one world religion with ultimately himself as god. Punishment for not following this religion will be, as with Islam, death. And no man will be allowed to buy or sell without his "mark" in his hand or forehead. He will also confirm a significant covenant (i.e. treaty) with many (the UN?).

In addition, Daniel the prophet predicted man's knowledge would dramatically increase in this time.

Without a doubt, we are living in exciting and sobering times.

As we consider these things in light of God's eternal Word, we can take heart that all is moving toward His conclusion. Just a few scriptures to review:

Middle East -- Zech 12:2,3, Ez 37

Church – 2Tim3:1-5, 1Tim4:1,2

Knowledge growth – Dan 12:4

Final Generation – Mk 13:28-30

Russia – Ez 38, 39

One World Religion -- Revelation 13

with Bashar Assad. With him was his senior adviser, Osama el-Baz.

DEBKA-Net-Weekly's intelligence and Middle Eastern sources reveal that Mubarak carried a message of unprecedented harshness from Washington. Nothing like it had been conveyed to any regional leader since Saddam Hussein was put on notice of the fate awaiting him if the Americans invaded Iraq. Bashar was warned that his actions in Iraq and Palestine may expose Syria to the peril of becoming the "Cambodia" of the Iraq War – a reference to the secret 1973 air blitz the Nixon administration loosed against Cambodia and Laos.

When the Syrian president made no reply, Mubarak cautioned him not to expect Egypt or anyone else in the Arab world to come to his aid, any more than a savior rushed to help Saddam Hussein or the Palestinians. Assad remarked that many of the guerrillas and terrorists entering Iraq came from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, but Mubarak pointed out that at least half still come in from Syria.

The Egyptian leader then criticized Assad for the free rein he grants Hizballah, allowing the Lebanese extremists to publish their newspapers in Syria and their clerics to teach in Syrian religious schools. He also rebuked the Syrian ruler for letting opposition factions of his own regime run off with national policy.

Syria Completes Chemical Warhead Weapons

MENL 11/12/03

Syria has completed chemical warheads for its arsenal of Scud-based missiles.

U.S. officials said Syria, with help from North Korea, has succeeded in designing and installing CW warheads for the Scud B, Scud C and Scud D missiles. This provides Syria with warheads that can reach distances from 250 to nearly 700 kilometers.

The chemical agent deployed in the CW warheads is sarin, regarded as the most toxic of material. Syria has also been developing more toxic agents such as VX.

'Since the 1970s, Syria has pursued what is now one of the most advanced Arab state chemical weapons capabilities,' Undersecretary of State John Bolton said on Oct. 30. 'It has a



Al Aqsa protests Hussein capture

stockpile of the nerve agent sarin that can be delivered by aircraft or ballistic missiles, and has engaged in the research and development of more toxic and persistent nerve agents such as VX.'

Mossad head: Nuclear Iran is worst-ever threat to Israel

Ha'aretz 11/18/03

Mossad intelligence service chief Meir Dagan said Monday that the specter of nuclear weaponry in Iran was the greatest threat that Israel has faced since its founding in 1948, Israel Radio reported. Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee for the first time since assuming his post, Dagan said that Iran was close to

the "point of no return" in developing nuclear arms.

An International Atomic Energy Agency report charged that Iran covered up past nuclear programs, including enriching uranium and processing small amounts of plutonium, essential elements of nuclear weapons.

Despite recent Iranian promises to cooperate with the IAEA, the Mossad believes Iran is determined to produce nuclear weapons to emulate North Korea and boost its status in the international community, Knesset spokesman Giora Pordes quoted Dagan as saying.

Dagan also briefed the lawmakers on the twin suicide attacks on Istanbul synagogues that killed 23 people on Saturday, telling them that contrary to news reports, Israel had no specific intelligence warnings before the attacks.

Dagan also cited as threats to Israel Tehran's support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah, as well as the missiles that militants have deployed in southern Lebanon.

He said that one and a quarter million residents of northern Israel were in range of the missiles.

PM's office: Israel to accept only U.S. involvement in road map

Ha'aretz 11/20/03

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office issued a statement Thursday saying that Israel would accept only United States involvement in implementing the road map.

The statement came the day after the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted to formally adopt the road map as a means of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A senior Israeli official on Sharon's plane said late Wednesday a "softened" version of the resolution was the one passed.

"The judgment regarding implementation of the deal will be in the hands of the

United States," the statement said. "Israel will not accept any other involvement in implementation of the deal."

Sharon's office said Thursday that it is committed to the road map, but has 14 reservations. These include a demand that the Palestinians first dismantle militant groups and that the



Iraqi man celebrates news of Saddam's end

United States monitor the deal. It also said implementation would be through "negotiations and agreements between Israel and the Palestinians."

U.S. deploys 20,000 troops near Syrian border

World Tribune 11/20/03

The United States has deployed 20,000 troops along the Syrian border after Syria failed to stop militants from crossing into Iraq.

As late as October, U.S. officials said hundreds of Islamic insurgents were crossing into Iraq from Syria. They said Syrian authorities had failed to respond to U.S. appeals to stop the flow of insurgents.

U.S. military officials said the U.S. troop presence was bolstered beginning in September and has resulted in a significant drop in infiltration from Syria. The U.S. troops

are based in the Iraqi province of Anbar, Middle East Newsline reported.

Israel to Push 'Road Map' Peace Plan VOA 11/24/03

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has appointed a team of top cabinet ministers to re-start peace talks with the Palestinians. At the same time he said he is considering taking unilateral steps to try to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Mr. Sharon met with the four senior ministers he has chosen to conduct negotiations with the Palestinians. The group includes Foreign Affairs Minister Silvan Shalom and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz.

Mr. Sharon and the ministers agreed that future talks with the Palestinians will be based on the international Roadmap to Peace plan, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state by 2005.

The ministers also discussed possible action the government might take before Mr. Sharon's first meeting with his Palestinian counterpart, Ahmed Qureia, which could take place later this week. Mr. Sharon told the full cabinet he would soon unveil a set of unilateral steps that would require the approval of his ministers.

The plan reportedly includes the evacuation of some Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Under the proposal, Israel would re-settle the residents of these communities in the Negev area in the south of the country

Israel Urged to Destroy Nuclear Arms Reuters 11/18/03

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, wants Israel to dismantle its nuclear weapons arsenal and believes all Middle East nations would benefit from ridding the region of nuclear weapons.

Israel has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has never officially admitted to having nuclear weapons. Non-proliferation analysts

estimate that Israel has up to 200 such weapons.

Asked about a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom last week, Dr ElBaradei hinted that Israel should sign the treaty - the global pact designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

"We obviously discussed . . . efforts to try to move forward towards application of safeguards (on) all nuclear activities in the Middle East, including in Israel," he said on Wednesday.

The United Nations General Assembly and IAEA General Conference have adopted 13 resolutions since 1987 appealing to Israel to sign the treaty. All have been ignored.

"In my view, every country in the Middle East, including Israel, will benefit from establishing a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East as part and parcel of a comprehensive peace in the region," Dr ElBaradei said.

Iran is the only other Middle Eastern country suspected of developing nuclear weapons.

U.S. Presses Israel to Establish Palestinian State in 2004 MENL 12/15/03

The United States has pressed Israel to facilitate the establishment of a Palestinian state in 2004.

Israeli and U.S. diplomatic sources said the Bush administration has discussed with Israel measures to ensure an interim Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by mid-2004. The sources said the measures being proposed include a Palestinian ceasefire in the war against Israel and a military withdrawal from areas captured in the 1967 war.

'The United States wants a measure of stability over the next year in the Middle East that would allow for the success of efforts in Iraq,' a diplomatic source said. 'This would mean unilateral Israeli measures over the next few months.'

The discussions to renew efforts to establish a Palestinian state began in November amid the formation of a new government by Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei. The U.S. meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his aides focused on creating conditions for an interim Palestinian state without PA fulfillment of U.S. demands to dismantle insurgency groups.

Bailin's Geneva Stepping Stone to Top of Israeli Politics Debkafile 12/2/03

The glitzy ceremony in a Geneva auditorium on December 1 did very little to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace - it was more a Palestinian hate Israel platform - but a great deal to place Yossi Bailin, the Israeli co-author of the unofficial peace accords, on the road to realizing his political ambitions at home.

The day before the Geneva ceremonies, he joined his new partners in launching a new left-wing party, using the Geneva Accords as the cornerstone of its platform and the lead-in to his own coronation as party leader. But even before that takes place, he is looking ahead to a much broader power base, the formation of a leftwing-cum-centrist bloc, carved out of the splinters he expects to chip off from other groupings. This ambition shone through the closing moments of the Geneva peace fest. Palestinian and Israeli initiators of the Geneva Accord were invited to stand on the platform together with Bailin and his Palestinian partner Yasser Abd Rabbo.

For the first time in Israel's 50 years as a state, therefore, an aspiring Israeli politician has embarked on a militant course to alienate Israel from its powerful, close historic partnership with the United States and replace it with European backing for himself as their Israeli spokesman and for his political aspirations. This is what the Geneva Accord and Bailin's close ties with Palestinian leaders are all about.

European Union

Core Franco-German Union considered

EU Observer 11/13/03

Paris and Berlin are considering plans to create a core union, which would keep the two countries strong in an enlarged European Union.

This 'Union of France and Germany' would mean the two countries would merge their foreign and defence policies and co-operate on education and economy.

Although the idea has been mooted for many years, the initiative of a Franco-German union has been urged recently in private conversations by Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the French Prime Minister, and Dominique de Villepin, the French Foreign Minister, the French daily, Le Monde, reported yesterday.

Earlier this month, Mr de Villepin said that a Franco-German union was "the only historic gamble that we cannot possibly lose".

For his part, Mr Raffarin asked what else there is for France if enlargement fails.

The two allies could also become a single touch negotiator in the final round of discussions on the proposed EU Constitution.

Prodi manifesto creates political turmoil

EU Observer 11/13/03

BRUSSELS - Commission President Romano Prodi has received mixed reactions from politicians over his 25 page manifesto, which, as he himself said, outlines his "vision on Europe".

Named "Europe: the dream, the choices", and so far only available in Italian, the document outlines Mr Prodi's ideas on the challenges that Europe is facing, such as globalisation, technological innovation, growth and its ageing population.

However, what has caused so much controversy in the past two days were the last two pages in his document, in

which - inspired by his old Olive Tree centre-left coalition - he urges parties and movements of the same vision in Italy to unite under one common list for the European Parliament elections.

EU says Israel is at "top of the list" for relations upgrade

Jerusalem Post 11/18/03

Commissioner for EU Enlargement, Gunther Verheugen told Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom Tuesday that Israel is at the top of the EU's list for relations upgrading.

Next month, a professional EU delegation will arrive in Israel for negotiations that will include

upgrading trade relations and recognition of Israeli quality control standards.

Visiting Brussels Tuesday, Shalom called for the immediate formation of a joint European - Israeli commission that will combat anti-Semitism and "all other threats to our values."

Other candidate countries for relations upgrading include Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The EU presently counts 15 member states, with 10 more scheduled to join next year - most from Eastern and Central Europe.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the acting President of the European Union, has - in the past - suggested Israel be admitted to the European Union.

Israel's Ambassador to the EU, Oded Eran explains the move within the context of EU enlargement. "Enlargement makes Russia our neighbor. What we gain," said Eran, "is

the ability to improve trade and relations with NGO's and other organizations. This enables infiltrating new markets with Israeli goods."

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry expects Commissioner Verheugen to visit Israel in 2004, and the ministry has created a special task-force to coordinate between the government offices and prepare for the EU delegation's visit.



France's Chirac and Germany's Schroeder argue at EU constitution summit.

EU ponders security link with Middle East

EU Observer 12/5/03

BRUSSELS - Foreign ministries are this evening (5 December) examining plans which could see the EU launch a major security initiative with Middle Eastern countries.

The EUobserver has learned that proposals are being considered to

set up a security dialogue between the EU and countries to the "South and East of Jordan", perhaps including Iran.

Although part of a working paper called "The Strength of EU relations with the Arab world", diplomats say the term Arab may be dropped in order to ramp up the Union's policy of constructive engagement with the Islamic Republic.

"The question of Iran is part of the thinking that is going on" said one diplomat who described the options being discussed as wide-ranging.

A less ambitious option could be to expand the dialogue within the context of the EU's meetings with the Gulf Cooperation Council, according to another source.

Rocket science

"In Europe and elsewhere people have in the past proposed and implemented regional security dialogues as a way of building confidence, reducing underlying political tensions,

creating transparency on military manoeuvres, doctrines and what have you" explained the Centre for European Reform's Steven Everts, who also backs including Iran in the initiative.

"With Saddam Hussein gone and everyone groping around for a constructive policy on Iran, now is a good time to take this forward", he said.

"The point of this idea is to signal to the Iranians that we take their security interests seriously, but that for them going nuclear is not the answer - therefore it is incumbent upon us to provide a broader set of policies"

"Some of the Iranian views on why they need nuclear weapons are paranoia and ideology, but some are built, in my view, on a justified feeling of being vulnerable".

The move may also mark the start of a more robust EU foreign policy.

"EU relationships with third countries tend to be very economics focused, it needs a good security political spin in my view for this to work".

EU Reaches Agreement with Syria for Closer Ties

Reuters 12/10/03

BRUSSELS - The European Commission said on Wednesday it had successfully concluded negotiations with Syria on an association agreement to boost trade relations and promote both political and economic reform in the Middle Eastern state.

"We will now have to consult with member states with a view to initialing the agreement as soon as possible, hopefully before the end of this year," Diego De Ojeda, a spokesman for the European Union executive, told a news briefing.

"It is a very important step toward the overall goal of creating a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area by 2010."

The United States has maintained Syria on its blacklist of alleged state sponsors of terrorism and accused it of developing weapons of mass destruction.

United States

US Senate overwhelmingly votes for sanctions on Syria

AP 11/12/03

The Senate agreed to broad new economic and trade sanctions on Syria Tuesday, citing Syria's long history of sheltering terrorists and its more recent failure to muzzle forces hostile to U.S. actions in Iraq.

The Senate measure, passed 89-4, mirrors legislation the House of Representatives passed last month by 398-4. The only difference, an amendment offered by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dick Lugar, with input from the Bush administration, gives the president greater authority to waive sanctions for national security reasons.

The White House, which in principle opposes moves by Congress to restrict diplomatic options in dealing with problematic relations, has gone from opposing the Syria bill to accepting it as inevitable.

"We cannot have relationships with Syria and close our eyes to the truth, and the truth is that they are in fact supporting terrorism in ways that are very very clear," said Sen. Barbara Boxer.

A group of U.S. lawmakers traveling in the Middle East met Tuesday with Syrian President Bashar Assad and told him the sanctions were an expression of the frustration of Americans with countries that don't cooperate in the war on terrorism, said the delegation leader, Rep. Jim Kolbe.

Assad told the lawmakers that Syria is doing more to secure its border with Iraq and "does promise to continue to work with us on that," Kolbe said.

The United States has long complained that Syria gives sanctuary to leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, two Palestinian groups designated as terrorist organizations by the State Department.

The bill states that Syria must end its support for terrorism, terminate its 13-year military occupation of Lebanon, stop efforts to obtain or produce weapons of mass destruction and long-range ballistic missiles and stop terrorists and weapons from entering Iraq.

If it fails to meet those conditions, the president must ban sales of dual-use items - items that

could have military applications. He must also impose at least two out of a list of six possible sanctions: including an export ban, prohibition of U.S. businesses operating in Syria, restrictions on Syrian diplomats in the United States, limits on Syrian airline flights in the United States, a reduction of diplomatic contacts or a freeze on Syrian assets.

US Forces Capture Saddam Hussein in Iraq

CNN 12/14/03

U.S. forces have captured Saddam Hussein in a late night raid in his hometown, according to the head of the Coalition Provisional Authority.

'Ladies and gentleman, we got him,' L. Paul Bremer announced Sunday. The announcement was greeted with cheers from the audience.

Lt. General Ricardo Sanchez showed video of Saddam, who had graying hair and a long beard, undergoing a medical examination after his capture.

Several Iraqi journalists stood up and shouted 'Death to Saddam' after the video was shown.

Sanchez said the former leader was not injured and has been 'talkative and cooperative,' after 4th Infantry Division and special operations forces nabbed him at a 'rural farmhouse.'



'Today is a great day for the Iraqi people and the coalition,' Sanchez said. Not a single shot was fired in 'Operation Red Dawn,' carried out based on intelligence gathered over several

months, Sanchez said.

In Baghdad, hundreds of Iraqis flooded the streets, firing guns into the air, singing, dancing and throwing candy into the air -- celebrating the apparent capture of the man who had ruled their lives with

terror and repression for more than three decades..."

NYC district denies birth of Jesus?

Nativity scene barred as not 'historically accurate representation of an event'

WND 11/12/03

In a dispute over display of holiday symbols, New York City schools are allowing Jewish menorahs and Islamic crescents but barring Christian nativity scenes, alleging the depiction of the birth of Christ does not represent a historical event.

In pleadings with a federal court in defense of the ban, New York City lawyers asserted the "suggestion that a crèche is a historically accurate representation of an event with secular significance is wholly disingenuous."

The Jewish and Islamic symbols are allowed, the district says, because they have a secular dimension, but the Christian symbols are "purely religious."

Robert J. Muise, who will challenge the school policy at a federal court hearing tomorrow in Brooklyn, told WorldNetDaily he believes most Americans don't see it that way.

"The birth of Jesus is a historical event which serves as the basis for celebration of Christmas," Muise stated. "It's of importance for both Christians and non-Christians."

Muise's Michigan-based Thomas More Law Center filed a motion to temporarily restrain the city from enforcing its ban on nativity scenes. The center asserts New York's policy "promotes the Jewish and Islamic faiths while conveying the impermissible message of disapproval of Christianity in violation of the U.S. Constitution."

The Michigan group says one public-school principal issued a memo encouraging teachers to bring to school "religious symbols" that represent the Islamic and Jewish religions, but made no mention of Christianity.

Jewish menorahs adorned the halls of the school as part of the authorized displays, the More Center said, but students were not allowed to make and similarly display nativity scenes

Jesus Slogan Okay With Federal Judge

CNSNews 11/20/03

A Christian church in Fort Lauderdale may proceed with a holiday display claiming that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," but it took a court battle for the church to get its message out.

In response to a lawsuit filed by a civil liberties group, a federal judge in Miami ordered Broward County to let the Calvary Chapel sponsor a Christmas display featuring a cross and the message noting Jesus' central role in Christmas.

The church is among dozens of businesses and organizations willing to pay up to \$15,000 to take part in Broward County's annual "Holiday Fantasy of Lights." The two-mile light festival takes place at a public park in Coconut Creek, Fla., and it draws thousands of people during the holidays.

Earlier this year, Broward County rejected Calvary Chapel's design proposal because of its religious message - "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." That's when Calvary Chapel turned to the Rutherford Institute for help.

Rutherford attorneys filed a federal lawsuit defending the church's constitutional right to participate in a community event.

Attorneys pointed out that Broward County officials have routinely permitted displays expressing a secular viewpoint about Christmas and Chanukah, while systematically excluding displays expressing a religious viewpoint about the holidays.

"Many Americans would agree with Calvary Chapel that Jesus is the reason for the season, and the First Amendment protects their right to publicly proclaim that belief," said John W. Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, in a press release.

"This ruling clearly sends a message that the First Amendment protects religious speech just as it protects secular speech. Government may not, in the name of political correctness, single out the views of religious persons for discriminatory treatment," Whitehead said.

Al Qaeda: Countdown for "biggest operation yet inside America".

Debkafile 11/24/03

Monday, November 24, Al Qaeda marked Eid al Fitr, the festival closing the Muslim festival of Ramadan, with a dramatic warning. DEBKAFIle's counter-terror sources reports that a message published over al Qaeda's electronic channels and websites declared that the countdown has begun for the biggest operation ever carried out in the United States. "The big blow will fall very shortly. It will consist of a series of surprise attacks that will cut America off from communication with its armies in Muslim countries." The reference is clearly to US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The largest number, around 115,000 soldiers, is present in Iraq.

Muslims living in the United States are urged to "take advantage of the short time left" to escape the country and harm's way.

Science/Technology

Why Israeli Security Chose RFID and Biometrics

RFIDNews 12/8/03

The Israeli military is to install a secure identification system, based on biometric and contactless (RFID) smart card technology at a critical Gaza checkpoint in January 2004, to speed up passage while limiting friction between Palestinian workers and soldiers.

The Basel System, being installed at the Erez checkpoint, was developed by the Israeli firm, On Track Innovations (OTI). It makes

use of two biometric sensors to read the facial dimensions and hand geometry of Palestinian workers crossing through the checkpoint.

The checkpoint, at the northern end of the Gaza Strip, is the main crossing into Israel for

Palestinian workers. Before violence erupted in September 2000, tens of thousands of workers crossed every day. But since then Israel has restricted entrance due to concerns about terrorists getting into the country disguised as workers. The current method of access control involves lengthy interrogations, and many legitimate workers are complaining about the long delays to which they are subjected. Currently there are 10,000 Palestinian workers who cross regularly into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

OTI's system was designed to increase security while speeding up the check at the same time. "The Basel System will significantly improve security, speed, and the relationship between Palestinian workers and the soldiers," said Ohad Bashan, OTI's

director of global marketing. "The Palestinians crossing will not need to be interrogated."

Each worker will now carry a contactless smart card that will be scanned and matched against their biometric profile. OTI's device takes between four and nine seconds to check each worker. According to Bashan, the dual biometric system is quicker than other systems that check handprints and retinas to identify people.

Bio-chip Implant Arrives for Cashless Transactions

WND 11/23/03

At a global security conference held today in Paris, an American company announced a new syringe-injectable microchip implant for humans, designed to be used as a fraud-proof payment method for cash and credit-card transactions.

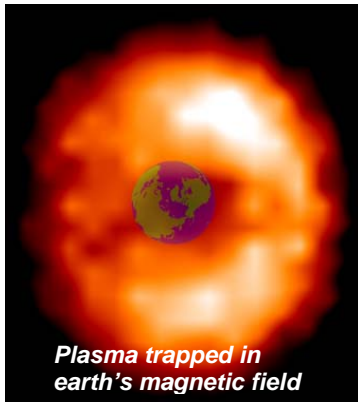
The chip implant is being presented as an advance over credit cards and smart cards,

which, absent biometrics and appropriate safeguard technologies, are subject to theft, resulting in identity fraud.

Identity fraud costs the banking and financial industry some \$48 billion a year, and consumers \$5 billion, according to 2002 Federal Trade Commission estimates.

In his speech today at the ID World 2003 conference in Paris, France, Scott R. Silverman, CEO of Applied Digital Solutions, called the chip a 'loss-proof solution' and said that the chip's 'unique under-the-skin format' could be used for a variety of identification applications in the security and financial worlds.

The company will have to compete, though, with organizations using just a fingerprint scan for similar applications...



The company's various 'VeriChips' are RFID chips, which contain a unique identification number and can carry other personal data about the implantee. When radio-frequency energy passes from a scanner, it energizes the chip, which is passive (not independently powered), and which then emits a radio-frequency signal transmitting the chip's information to the reader, which in turn links with a database

World AIDS Deaths, Infections at New Highs

Reuters 11/26/03

LONDON - Deaths and new cases of HIV/AIDS reached unprecedented highs in 2003 and are set to rise still further as the epidemic keeps a stranglehold on sub-Saharan Africa and advances across Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

New global estimates released Tuesday based on improved data show about 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, including an estimated 2.5 million children under 15 years old. About five million people were infected in 2003 and more than three million died.

"The AIDS epidemic continues to expand -- we haven't reached the limit yet," said Dr Peter Piot, head of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

"More people have become infected this year than ever before and more people have died from AIDS than ever before," he told Reuters. "It is the first cause of death in Africa and the fourth cause of death worldwide."

BURDEN OF EPIDEMIC

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the worst affected region with about 3.2 million new infections and 2.3 million deaths in 2003. Southern Africa is home to about 30 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS, yet the region has less than two percent of the global population.

In Botswana and Swaziland the infection rate of HIV/AIDS among adults is 40 percent. One in five pregnant women in some African countries is infected with the virus, which is more easily transmitted from men to women than the other way around.

"In two short decades HIV/AIDS has tragically become the premier disease of mass destruction," Dr Jack Chow, of the World Health Organization (WHO) told a news conference.

"The death odometer from HIV/AIDS is now at 8,000 a day and accelerating."

Piot said the epidemic, fueled by intravenous drug use and unsafe sex, is spreading in India, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Estonia and Latvia. And he predicted that it could be years before the back of the epidemic is broken in terms of new infections.

"The burden of the HIV epidemic will become bigger and bigger over time because it takes on average seven to 10 years after infection before you fall ill and, if there is no treatment, before you die," he said.

"In other words, even if by some miracle all transmission of HIV stopped, people would still become ill. We are only at the beginning of the impact of AIDS, certainly in Africa."

Earth's Magnetic Field Weakens 10%

AP 12/14/03

The strength of the Earth's magnetic field has decreased 10% over the past 150 years, raising the remote possibility that it may collapse and later reverse, flipping the planet's poles for the 1st time in nearly a million years, scientists said Thursday. At that rate of decline, the field could vanish altogether in 1,500 to 2,000 years, said Jeremy Bloxham of Harvard University. Hundreds of years could pass before a flip-flopped field returned to where it was. But scientists at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union cautioned that scenario is an unlikely one.

Religion

China Sends Bible Owners to Labor Camp

WND 11/26/03

Owners of Bibles are the target of a crackdown on 'illegal religious organizations' by police in southern China's Guangxi province.

Up to 40 policemen descended on the homes of Christians in villages in Xilin county in the middle of the night, ransacking them in search of Bibles and other religious materials, according to written testimony supplied to *Agence France-Presse*.

Three Bible owners were taken away April 27, but their families did not know they had been sentenced and taken to a labor camp until Sept. 26. Finally, on Oct. 21, the relatives were allowed to visit...

The Chinese government considers all Protestant churches outside the official government-controlled Three-Self Patriotic Movement to be subversive. The official churches are restricted, to varying degrees around the country, in their doctrine and practice. The vast majority of Protestants are in 'underground' churches. Catholics also are restricted to a government-controlled church, which does not recognize the authority of the pope

Unbelieving 'born-again's'

Research continues to reveal a steady theological collapse among professing Christians in America

World Magazine 12/6/03

SECULARISTS, LIBERALS, AND MUSLIMS DO NOT need to fear conservative Christians, says Dave Shiflett in *The Wall Street Journal*. Christians, he says, are not all that interested in converting the heathen. They don't really believe that there is such a thing as the heathen, tending to believe instead that every religion is equally valid.

"Even the most feared of Christians—the dread 'born-again's' who have cost

the high priests at People for the American Way so much sleep—often embrace the modern orthodoxies of tolerance and inclusion over the traditional teachings of their faith."

He cites poll data from Christian researcher George Barna that 26 percent of born-again believe all religions are essentially the same and that 50 percent believe that a life of good works will enable a person to get to heaven.

He goes on, though, to cite data that cast doubt on whether some of these born-again Christians will be there. More than one in three (35 percent) born-again Christians do not believe that Jesus rose physically from the dead.

Over half of born-again Christians (52 percent), according to Mr. Barna's data, do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a living entity. In Acts 19, the Apostle Paul came across a group of people who said that they were Christians, but they had never heard of the Holy Spirit. They had to be reevangelized and rebaptized.

Slightly more born-again Christians believe in the devil than believe in the Holy Spirit, though 45 percent do not believe that Satan exists. Ten percent believe in reincarnation. Twenty-nine percent believe it is possible to communicate with the dead.

As for moral issues, one out of three born-again Christians (33 percent), according to Mr. Barna's numbers, accept same-sex unions. More than one out of three (39 percent) believe it is morally acceptable for couples to live together before marriage. And, significantly, born-again Christians are more likely than non-Christians to have experienced divorce (27 percent vs. 24 percent).

PREPARATION FOR DELUSION from "GLOBAL PEACE AND THE RISE OF ANTICHRIST by DAVE HUNT

That the world in the last days will irrevocably turn its back upon truth and righteousness and opt for a false peace, and thus reap God's judgment and its destruction, is one of the clearest teachings in the Bible. Yet at the same time it is one of the most puzzling revelations of the stubborn perverseness of the human heart. Men and woman everywhere long for peace, but the path that must be followed to reach it is repugnant to human pride. Mankind is like a terminally ill patient who desires the cure the doctor offers, yet finds the prescribed medicine ("*repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*" - Acts 20:21) too distasteful to swallow - and take a sugar-coated but deadly pill instead.

... it may still seem unbelievable that Antichrist could so thoroughly deceive mankind. Once again it will help to turn to a man whose rise to power continues to intrigue and mystify historians. Adolf Hitler emerged suddenly out of obscurity and rose to a power unequaled in modern times. He deceived not only Germany but nearly the entire world for a surprising length of time. There is no rational explanation.

Film footage of the public appearances of Hitler with their pageantry - solemn marchers carrying huge banners displaying the swastika, and fanatically repeated "Sieg Heils" from hundreds of thousands of throats - reveal an unmistakable but mysterious *religious* element. Demoniac? Without doubt. Hitler evoked a spontaneous mass hysteria that bordered on *worship*. William Shirer, author of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, who went to Germany in 1934 to report on what was taking place, wrote in his diary at the time:

"...today, as far as the vast majority of his fellow-countrymen are concerned, he (Hitler) has reached a pinnacle never before achieved by a German ruler. He has become - even before his death - a myth, a legend, almost a god ..."

There was a twisted genius in Hitler that accomplished some great things. Between 1933 and 1937, while the rest of the world was still wallowing deep in the Depression, Germany's unemployment dropped from 6 million to less than one million. National output doubled. The Volkswagen went into production and the world's first highway system, Germany's famous autobahn, was begun. So much good camouflaged the evil. Simone Veil, who spent time in Auschwitz, where most of her family died, confessed: "*We had great difficulty believing that people were actually being killed. Nobody imagined that there could be a plan for extermination.*"

After a honeymoon of peace, love and brotherhood, the terror of Antichrist's rule will make Hitler's rule seem benevolent. Those who refuse to worship him and submit to the new world order will be summarily executed - and the whole earth will know and approve. After all, mankind will have just experienced the incredible disappearance of millions of people. Fear of being snatched from earth will keep everyone in line - for awhile.

The most fascinating aspect of Hitler's deception was the heavy "Christian" element that was involved - an element that will be absolutely essential under Antichrist. Most of the church in Germany went happily along with the new order. Hitler promised "liberty for all religious denominations," much like the promises now being made in Eastern

Europe. In his March 23, 1933, speech, when he took over as dictator, Hitler praised the Christian faith and promised to respect liberty of conscience. A few excerpts from his wartime speeches reveal an incredible pretense of being on God's side:

1940: *"We pray our Lord that He would continue to bless us in our battle for freedom..."*

1941: *"We believe we shall earn the blessing of the Supreme Leader...the Lord God has given His approval to our battle. He will be with us in ...the future."*

1942: *"And we will pray the Lord God for that, the salvation of the nation ..."*

1943: *"We will continue to give our whole strength to our nation this year. Only then can we ... pray to our Lord God, that He will help us as He always has ..."*

Thousands of German pastors joined the newly organized "German Christians' Faith Movement," which supported the Nazi doctrines and promoted a "Reich Church" that would unite all Protestants under the state. A minority of pastors, led by Martin Niemoeller (who had originally welcomed Hitler to power), realized at last that Hitler's "Positive Christianity" was in fact anti-Christian, and so opposed the Nazification of the church.

The "Reich Church," formed under leaders picked by Hitler, was formally recognized by the Reichstag on July 14, 1933. On November 13 a massive rally was held in the Berlin Sportpalast by the "German Christians' Faith Movement." Leaders of the rally proposed abandonment of the Old Testament and revision of the New Testament to fit National Socialism. Resolutions called for "One People, One Reich, One Faith," an oath of allegiance to Hitler to be signed by all pastors, and the exclusion of Jewish

Christians by all churches. The Gestapo's reign of terror against followers of Christ began with the arrest of 700 pastors in the fall of 1935.

Always the justification under Hitler as under Constantine, was ecumenical "unity." We are hearing the same appealing slogan today - nor can the tide of ecumenism be stemmed. Those who oppose it are accused of being narrow-minded bigots.

All the time that he was deliberately moving to destroy Christianity and replace it with his neopagan occultism, Hitler continued to pretend that he was the champion of *real* Christianity. The following excerpt from a speech by Hans Kerrl, Nazi Minister of Church Affairs, reveals how blatant the lie can become while still being eagerly embraced by "Christians":

"The Party stands (for) ... Positive Christianity, and Positive Christianity is National Socialism ... National Socialism is the doing of God's will ... God's will reveals itself in German blood ... That Christianity consists in faith in Christ as Son of God makes me laugh ...

True Christianity is represented by the Party, and the German people are now called by the Party and especially by the Fuehrer to a real Christianity ...

The Fuehrer is the herald of a New Revelation."

We are reminded by the homage afforded to cult leaders that the world remains vulnerable to delusion. The Dalai Lama, for example, is highly honored worldwide by political and religious leaders and greatly admired by the masses. Yet his public claims are similar to those which will be made by the Antichrist; That he is the *reincarnation* of the original Dalai Lama and that he is literally "God." He

proposes to bring global peace through a heavily demonic Yoga visualization technique into which he is initiating tens of thousands of persons around the world. For this he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989! This forerunner of the Antichrist continues to be feted by the Roman Catholic Church, which previously gave Hitler its blessing.

With all genuine Christians removed from earth and the Holy Spirit no longer convicting consciences, mass deception will be a thousand times easier for the Antichrist than for Hitler. Almost any "positive" belief will be acceptable that supports the delusion of infinite human potential, builds up self-esteem and self-worth, and concerns itself with social justice through humanistic efforts. It is already a crime punishable under the Genocide Treaty, which was recently signed by the United States, to suggest that any religion is wrong. To be ecumenical and "positive" is required by international law. It is but a small step to Antichrist's harsh rule.

Today's "Positive Christianity" - which, like Hitler's dresses occultism in Christian language - has virtually taken over in America ... Those who promote Positive Thinking, Possibility Thinking, and Positive Confession are among the most influential radio/television preachers and church leaders in America. Any correction is rejected as "negative ." As for "new revelations," the Charismatic movement is spawning "prophets" whose pronouncements are being blindly followed by growing numbers of Christians even though the "prophecies" often contradict the Bible. Like the world, the church too is being set up for a great delusion.

Even for many evangelicals, "faith" no longer requires God as its object, but is touted as a "positive" power of the mind that creates what we firmly and sincerely *believe*. Thus what we "pray " for will come to pass, not if God wills it, but if we

can only *believe it will happen*. *"Your unconscious mind ... (has a) power that turns wishes into realities when the wishes are strong enough,"* promises a "Christian" leader whose writings are read each month by 16 million persons. His protégé, one of the most popular promoters of this occultic delusion that "faith" is a force wielded by our minds, explains this seductive gospel enthusiastically:

"What is the magic ingredient that can insure success and eliminate failure from our lives? It is FAITH! Possibility Thinking is just another word for faith."

"You don't know the power you have within you!... You make the world into anything you choose. Yes, you can make your world into whatever you want it to be." – Robert Schuller

Enticed by such false teaching, Christians begin to view prayer as a religious technique for getting their own way. They set their sights upon what they want, then try to have "faith" to make it happen. Seminars in *How To Write Your Own Ticket With God* (Kenneth Hagin) by thinking certain thoughts, speaking certain words, or visualizing goals are eagerly attended by thousands.

Today's false gospel is spawning "Christians" who have been attracted to a "Christ" who has the attributes of Antichrist. This widely-presented false "Christ" no longer calls sinners to repentance before a holy God but excuses ungodly behavior as a psychological problem resulting from traumas suffered in childhood. Instead of requiring his disciples to "deny self and take up the cross," he teaches them to love and accept themselves and to recognize their inherent "self-worth." Nor does this "Christ" promise the "meek" that they will inherit the earth, but offers "self-

assertion" training. Instead of blessing those that "mourn," he warns against "low self-esteem" and promotes a new "positive self-image." And rather than promising heaven to the "poor in spirit," this false "Christ" offers to the financially poor the enticing gospel of a hundredfold return for gifts to certain ministries.

Furthermore, the dynamic, motivating hope of Christ's imminent return is being denied by many who claim to belong to the Lord. That Christ will come back to earth visibly and in person is a view that is increasingly rejected in favor of some kind of "spiritual" second coming. Popular author M. Scott Peck, though a New Ager, professes to be a Christian and is so accepted even by evangelicals. He speaks for a growing sector of the church:

"When I think of the enormity of the changes required (for global peace) ... it sometimes seems that a virtual Second Coming is required. I am not talking about a bodily second coming. In fact, I am profoundly pessimistic about a church that would sit around passively waiting for its messiah to appear in the flesh.

Rather, I am talking about the resurrection of Christ's spirit, which would occur in the church if Christians took him seriously."

Here we have one of the most persuasive New Age lies that was ever inspired by Satan. Many Charismatic leaders are now promoting the idea that the second coming is not the return of our Lord personally in His resurrected individual body to earth, but the attainment by His *spiritual body*, the church, to a higher spiritual state evidenced by great signs and wonders. ...

To rise to the full stature of one's innate perfection seems far more

ennobling than to repent of one's rebellion before a holy God. And this thesis fits perfectly with the Antichrist's probable claim that he is the reincarnation of the Christ's spirit that was in Jesus - a "higher state of consciousness" into which he promises to lead the world.

The Roman Catholic Church, by its dogmas, also denies the rapture. The best that most Catholics hope for after death is to awaken in purgatory, a place where they must suffer for their sins for an indeterminate length of time, depending upon how many indulgences they have earned and how many rosaries and Masses and alms and good deeds others perform for them after their death. Thus the teaching that "the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17) must be ignored or reinterpreted. After all, some good Catholics may have to spend several thousands years in purgatory, others only a few days or weeks. The Church has no clear guidelines to say how long anyone will be in there. Therefore all Christians could not be resurrected at once and, together with the living believers, taken to heaven simultaneously, as the Bible teaches.

Moreover, the Pope has apparently received a most interesting "revelation" from Our Lady of Fatima: that a great disaster is coming which will transform human thinking and catapult him into a position where he will play a key role in bringing order out of chaos. It sounds very much like the mass disappearance of millions in the rapture. Malachi Martin, "former Jesuit and professor at the Vatican's Pontifical Biblical Institute," writes:

"John Paul is waiting. God must first intervene, before John Paul's major

ministry to all men can start ..."

"He is waiting ... for an event that will fission human history, splitting the immediate past from the oncoming future ... "John Paul's waiting and watching time will then be over. His ministry as the Servant of the Grand Design will then begin ... when the fissioning event occurs ..."

As we have seen, the rapture of the church will be a "fissioning event" indeed! Unity and peace will not come as "Our Lady of Fatima" has revealed, but that will not matter. The disappearance of multiplied millions will create the opportunity which both the Antichrist and the Pope await. Neither will realize that Christ has taken His bride home to heaven, but they will know that their time has come.

The great delusion will be furthered by the spurious "Holy Spirit" which is so evidently operating within the Charismatic movement - a movement that includes an estimated 10 million American Roman Catholics. One of the first "prophecies" that was spoken at the inception of the Catholic Charismatic movement, which began in the mid-1960's promoted the delusion that "what Mary promised at Fatima is really going to take place."

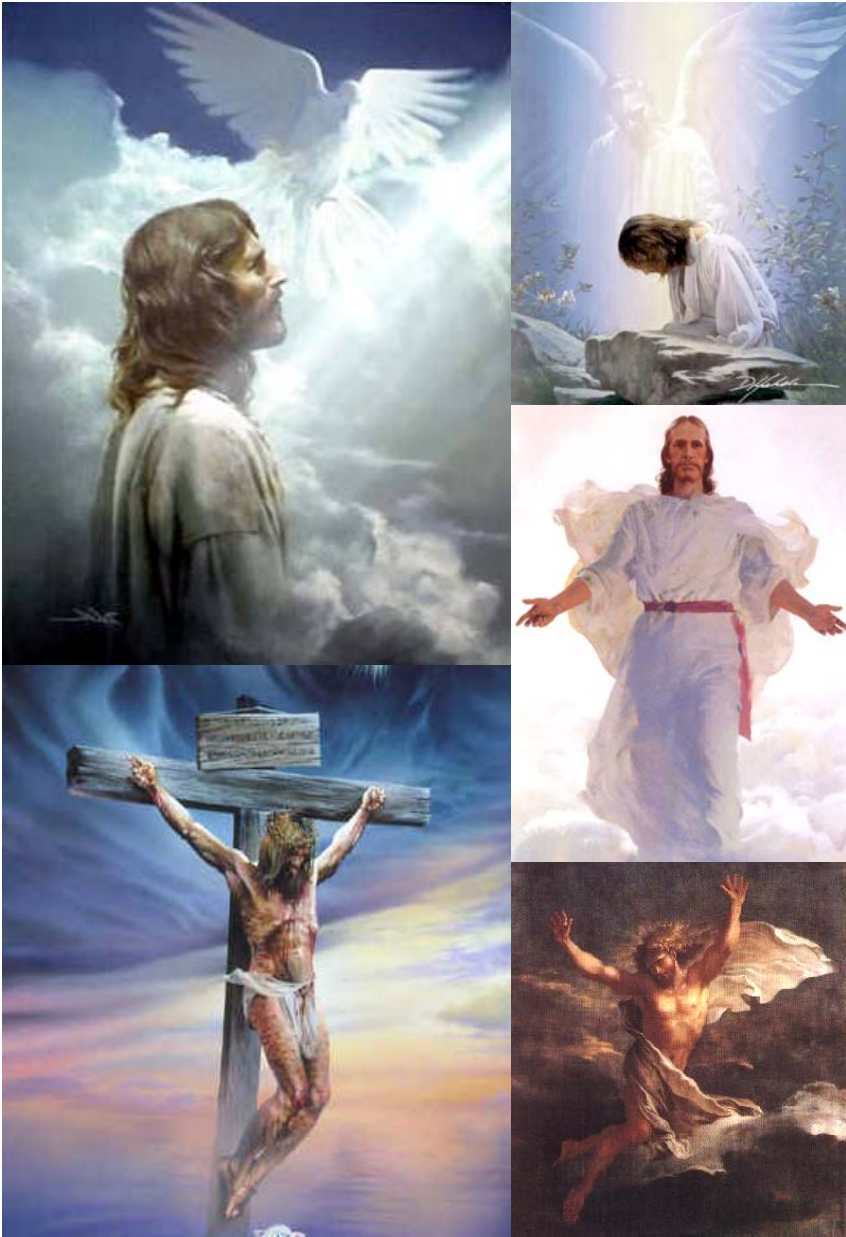
....Contact with demonic spirits is accelerating, making both the world and the church of our day far more vulnerable to satanic deception than was the case in Hitler's time. Involvement in the occult, Yoga, and other practices from Eastern mysticism and New Age philosophies is even greater today than in Hitler's Germany of the 1930's. The United Nations has a Meditation Room containing Babylonian occult symbolism, where followers of all religions, who visit by the hundreds of thousands each year, may awaken the "god within." The Pentagon has its own Meditation Club, which seeks to prevent war by creating a "psychic peace shield" around the earth

with positive thoughts. The Soviets have a similar program. Dabbling in the occult in order to "develop human potential" has gained a large following among political leaders.

... Through his pursuit of the occult and New Age medicine, Prince Charles, the next King of England and thus the next head of the Church of England, has concluded that all religions are basically the same. He considered himself to be psychic and believes in guidance from the spirit realm. The Queen (also involved in spiritism) and the Prince both believe that he, Charles, "is the Chosen One - placed in line for the throne through a divine, preordained plan."

Prince Charles is representative of many other prominent world figures who are also involved in the occult and anticipate the coming of a humanistic one-world religion. Scientists, too, are supporting the belief in psychic forces. *Foundations of Physics* recently published an article by Princeton researcher Roger Nelson to the effect that scientific experiments demonstrate that the human mind can influence computers at a distance. The increasing openness to paranormal events and alleged psychic forces is an important preparation for the coming Antichrist, who will manifest such powers to a degree never before known.

... What these seducing spirits would teach in the last days, Paul warned, would be "doctrine of devils." Both the world and the church are being deceived for the epitome of diabolical delusion, which is yet to come. It is not difficult to see the day when untold millions of such spirit guides will identify the Antichrist as the Christ and will be believed. What a setup!



And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3