

# NEWS WATCH FOR *the* CHURCH OF GOD

News in the world and church — to give warning and help for God's people — by Ron Weinland

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## YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD SUCH A STORY!

This issue of *News Watch* contains one of the most startling stories of this new year. There is no more sobering story that anyone could write, read, or tell others concerning the Church of God. It is so astounding that some will undoubtedly have a hard time believing it is even true. The story needs to be repeated over and over, so brethren everywhere may hear it!

When I first heard this story, it moved me deeply. Although moved by the story, my initial reaction and understanding were sadly lacking. I feel this is a mistake we have all too often made as God's people.

Once we have received the impregnation of God's Spirit in our lives, we may begin to view ourselves in a way that is unrealistic. Although we have received a portion of the life of God dwelling in us that begins to transform our minds, we are primarily physical in our makeup and thinking. We gravitate naturally to that which is physical.

The Gospel of John is an interesting study when we consider our natural tendencies. Early in the book John relates the story about Nicodemus failing to grasp the spiritual truths Christ was revealing. Jesus was telling him why he could not understand. Nicodemus lacked what those in the Church have been given. He could not help responding in a purely physical way.

The same is true of the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus spoke of living water that He could give her. She responded by desiring water that could forever satisfy her physical thirst, so she would no longer need to return to draw water from that well.

In another account, many disciples of Jesus Christ ceased to follow Him after He told them they would need to eat of His flesh and drink of His blood. To a Jewish person of that day, such

teaching was against scripture, since their mind was only capable of seeing the physical.

Just before His death, Jesus was talking with the twelve and explained to them that since they had seen Him, they had also seen the Father. They could only understand the physical. They wanted to see the Father to be satisfied that such a thing was true. But Jesus' teaching was spiritual.

It is obvious why the individuals in these examples could only think physically. They lacked the Spirit of God that was necessary to give them spiritual understanding. However, for us within the Church, a common mistake is to believe that once we have been baptized and had hands laid upon us we naturally think spiritually. That is not true! It is a *battle* for us to think spiritually. We have to fight against the physical and cry out to God for help to see and think spiritually. After 25 years as a great servant of God, the apostle Paul was still crying out to God and confessing his shortcomings as he waged the battle against his human nature. He said, "*O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*" (Romans 8:24, KJV). The following chapter of Romans shows that he knew he needed to continually seek God's help to remain spiritually alert and to think and function on a spiritual plane.

### STUCK IN THE PHYSICAL

Perhaps one of the greatest signs that reveals the depth of weakness pervading the Church today is that many ministers and members alike are stuck in the physical. Our problems are one of the spirit, yet few come to grips with that reality.

This truth is magnified in various ways. Perhaps one of the most basic is the reason many brethren give for why they left the Worldwide Church of

God. Some say it was because of a Trinitarian doctrine, a change in the Sabbath and holy days, or a matter of government. All three reasons are spiritually shallow. Yes, the first two are obvious reasons for leaving a corporate organization and holding true to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. The third reason, concerning a question about government, is even more lacking in spiritual understanding. Rather than taking time and space in this issue to explain the flaws in this concept, it would be better to direct you to our article titled "[Spiritual Idolatry](#)."

Perhaps it would be good to reread that article or request it if you have not already done so. It shows how there were underlying spiritual problems that led to the changes regarding the Sabbath and holy days as well as the move toward a Trinitarian doctrine. These changes were not the product of a sudden jump from one way of thinking to another, but were the result of a gradual spiritual weakening and the sins that followed as a natural consequence. This process began to take a strong hold on the Church as far back as the early 1970s.

A common complaint and growing concern among brethren today is that they are not being fed spiritually. We may not always fully grasp the reasons why we feel spiritually malnourished, but we do know something is wrong. Someone who is lacking physical nourishment knows that he is hungry. Sadly, however, not everyone who is lacking spiritually is strong enough to know he is not being fed spiritually.

A growing number of brethren are describing the ministry as becoming stuck in time. By this they mean that these ministers are failing to grow spiritually and are stuck in the physical. Sermons lack spiritual inspiration. Anyone can rely on past

Ambassador College learning, commentaries, old literature, or other books and give sermons on relationships, the Sabbath, marriage, etc., but not be spiritually inspired nor give such messages with spiritual understanding. This growing spiritual weakness within the Church is why so many brethren are becoming easier prey to an ever-increasing number of ministers who are leading brethren down false roads and devouring what spiritual life is remaining!

Another factor that is having a great negative impact upon the Church is the tendency of members and ministers to view prophecy in a purely physical sense. As a result, people are becoming spiritually stagnant, not discerning the signs of the times in which we live. The inability to see where we are as a Church, to understand why we are scattered, to be moved with a great sense of urgency, and to have a clear vision of what lies ahead are natural consequences of not seeing prophecy in a spiritual light.

People are focusing far too much on physical Israel, rather than the Israel of God, spiritual Israel, the Church! Many have become so accustomed to viewing prophecy in physical terms that they fail to see the spiritual duality.

There are numerous other examples of such physical thinking. Second Thessalonians speaks of a man of sin who sits in the temple of God. Our understanding of these verses is going to vary considerably depending on whether we are thinking physically or spiritually. There is a vast difference between a physical temple and a spiritual one, as well as who could have influence over each.

People read warnings about false prophets and false ministers at the end of this age and look outwardly to a physical world where there is an obvious abundance of false religion. But how many understand these warnings to be for the Church at the end of this age?

Some speak of the love of many in this world that is waxing cold. Yet the

verse being quoted is about the love (*agape*) of God. It does not refer to the world, but to the Church. The world is incapable of expressing this kind of love. The source is God and true godly love comes through exercising God's Spirit in our lives.

These are only a few examples of being stuck in the physical. We have taken time to consider these examples because they have a great bearing on the story we are about to relate. When I first heard this story, I failed to see it spiritually. When I did, the impact was magnified many times over. Yet even if only seen physically, there could hardly be a more startling story.

### THE STORY TOLD!

As we begin, there are two things you should consider. First, please ask God for help in understanding this story on a spiritual plane and not just the physical. Second, please consider the source of this story, because then you can have greater trust in its credibility. The one who told this story was God and He declares that you have never heard such a story nor will you ever hear such a story again.

As we begin, please understand that there are prophecies explicitly for physical Israel and Judah, as there are prophecies explicitly for the Church. But there are also a number of prophecies that are dual in nature, having both an earlier spiritual fulfillment and a later physical fulfillment.

*"Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation"* (Joel 1:2-4, NKJ). God is making the point that there has never been this kind of thing happen in all earth's history, nor will anything of its magnitude happen again. The Living Bible says it more directly: *"Listen, you aged men of Israel! Everyone, listen! In all your lifetime, yes, in all*

*your history, have you ever heard of such a thing as I am going to tell you?"*

Most understand the book of Joel to be about a time referred to as the day of the Lord, because it focuses on a final judgment of God just before He establishes His Kingdom over all nations. We are not going to go through the entire book of Joel. The portions we will read are about the times of the greatest devastation that will ever come upon the earth, times of unspeakable horror and destruction. What most fail to understand is the duality, the spiritual fulfillment of this book upon the Church.

There has never been a time of such devastation, horror, and destruction as we see taking place today! But many brethren are in such deep sleep and delusion that they respond with scoffing and ridicule -- all the more reason for this time of final judgment that is quickly falling upon the Church.

Most people even read Matthew's account of this time as being strictly physical, so they fail to grasp that most of what Jesus Christ was saying was directed to the Church. *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of this world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened"* (Matthew 24:21-22, NKJ). Yes, there is a physical fulfillment when God will intervene to stop humanity from annihilating itself. But for the sake of His plan and purpose concerning the elect, God is also going to intervene to save a remnant of His people. They will be brought through the greatest times of trouble to ever come upon so many who have been given the opportunity to be in the first resurrection.

Yes, if brethren can only be awakened they will find themselves facing a time of great tribulation that has already come upon the Church. We have already witnessed the destruction of well over two thirds of the Church! The last third is on its way to total

destruction, just as the account in Matthew warns!

*"What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; what the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; and what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten"* (Joel 1:4, NKJ). We are coming to a period on this earth when humanity is going to suffer mightily for lack of food. There will be massive destruction of crops. But the spiritual parallel is already occurring within the Church. When brethren escape the famine that has engulfed the Worldwide Church of God, they continue to be malnourished by corporations that are desperately trying to rebuild what God has brought down in WCG. The lessons have not yet been learned. Spiritual idolatry has no place in God's Church. Because of stubborn, pride-filled insistence on recreating the past and working to fulfill what God has already accomplished, corporations are lying to brethren by painting false pictures of "peace, peace" and whitewashing their blunders along the way. When brethren become intoxicated by such lies and willingly support that kind of oppression, they become spiritually malnourished, growing weaker and weaker, sinking deeper in sleep. Their vision becomes stuck in the physical.

Please go back and read the August issue of *News Watch*, titled "Famine! What Famine?" It should be deeply sobering to understand that the Church is much worse off today than it was only a few months ago.

You might also consider reading last month's issue titled "The Death of Outrage" which exposes the lie of the "peace, peace" mentality in the larger corporations. Sadly, when brethren awake to reality and see the false direction of the larger corporations, their escape may only be short-lived. So many of these brethren move from one field of famine to another. Once they obey God and flee spiritual idolatry, they are engulfed by devouring locusts. There is no lack of false ministers among the scattered

Church who consume, devour, and strip brethren of any spiritual strength they still possess.

God pleads with His people: *"Wake up and weep, you drunkards, for all the grapes are ruined and all your wine is gone! A vast army of locusts covers the land. It is a terrible army too numerous to count, with teeth as sharp as those of lions! They have ruined my vines and stripped the bark from the fig trees, leaving trunks and branches white and bare. Weep with sorrow, as a virgin weeps whose fiancé is dead"* (Joel 1:5-8, TLB).

If we view such verses only in terms of their physical fulfillment we will miss the warnings of a loving Father for His people. If our eyes remain closed to the realities of what is still happening in the Church, then greater calamity will befall us. Now is the time to listen to God and escape!

#### A TIME FOR HONESTY

Brethren, please listen to God! As we have said so many times in *News Watch*, these are not the times of peace, safety, and growth for the Church. Anyone who teaches that is teaching a damnable lie! When will brethren wake up and quit denying the obvious? God is revealing to His Church a message that we must all come to understand concerning the times in which we live. Let's read it again: *"And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; and he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe"* (Ezekiel 2:9-10, KJV). Or as the Living Bible states it: *"He unrolled it, and I saw that it was full of warnings, and sorrows, and pronouncements of doom."* Even now, the Church is worse off than most are willing to even begin to contemplate!

The words of Isaiah describe us all too well: *"The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have*

*not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment"* (Isaiah 1:5-6, NKJ).

This is a time for honesty. Time is rapidly running out! No organization is experiencing great growth. No organization will! To date, has this proven to be true or not? Let's be true before God. Do you feel more secure in a large group? Are you desperately clinging to the things that most closely resemble our past? Do large numbers of ministers or well-known personalities make you feel safer and a little more at peace? Before this is all over, you will not have such things.

It would be wise to consider what you believe and where you truly stand with God. Perhaps you feel that you already know. Don't be too sure. If you have not been honest with yourself about the present condition of the Church, then you had better stop and reconsider where you really stand. Just look at this past year for the Church.

The United Church of God, *IA* has lost several thousand people since they began. Several congregations, including most of Big Sandy, and other scattered brethren have left this past year alone. Although they finally relocated their home office to Cincinnati, the congregations there have proven embarrassing to their new home as brethren have continued to leave and ministers continue to bicker.

In addition, this past year a sizable group left and started a new organization under David Hulme, although he and Steve Andrews should have been dismissed from UCGIA a year and a half earlier. They shifted funds amounting to more than \$4.5 million from a pre-approved budget (ratified by the Conference of Elders) to be used as they saw fit, all in the name of doing God's work.

Those moneys were to have been set aside as reserves. Yet UCGIA was not outraged. But I believe God was! That money was His—His tithes and offerings. Do you think God's words apply? *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what*

way have we robbed you?' In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8, NKJ).

The Council of Elders failed to act for well over a year; and even then, this matter still was not addressed. Is the Council of Elders just as guilty of robbing God? Is the Conference of Elders, who chose silence, guilty of robbing God of tithes and offerings? This is only one breach of the wall that has been flimsily plastered with untempered mortar. There are many other weak areas in the walls that UCGIA has whitewashed. A strong testimony and witness against the Church is the apathy of thousands of brethren who still choose to support these same leaders who failed to stand as they should have done in the Worldwide Church of God. They have been failing to stand again!

Please don't misunderstand, I do not consider myself above them, nor am I speaking out of resentment. I am speaking out of my own shame and heartache for what I have done in my weaknesses as well. All of us in the ministry failed to stand as we should have in WCG, in some cases going back as far as the early 70s, but we have all had the same choice to repent of that and do what God instructs. I am still repenting, as all of us should be doing.

I believe what God said in Ezekiel 22. I believe I was guilty of not serving God as I should have. I also believe that there was no one truly serving God as he should have, minister and member alike. As a result of not standing as we should, we must all repent and seek God's mercy to correct our mistakes of the past. Only then, by doing now what we should have been doing all along, may we find the grace and mercy of God.

*"Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord had not spoken ['Thus they repair the walls with whitewash'--TLB]. The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy;*

*and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,' says the Lord God"* (Ezekiel 22:28-31, NKJ).

Brethren, if we participate in or support wrong behavior or wrong practices we share the guilt. Is there a person in the Church who is guiltless before God? If we are guilty, have we repented? What fruit or actions reveal that we have repented? It is vital that we answer such questions.

What about the Global Church of God? Have they escaped unscathed? What is the fruit? Growth and greater stability? No, they have suffered the way of UCGIA. Global is now a very small version of its previous size.

The larger group have remained with Dr. Meredith and call themselves the Living Church of God. As with United, such a name sets a pretty high standard. But behind all this is the truth that this did not transpire overnight. It was brewing for well over a year. Politics and wrangling behind the scenes have finally taken their toll. Do brethren feel outraged for being lied to concerning the picture of peace, cooperation and growth that was being painted? Again, such apathy testifies to the spiritual condition of the Church.

All splintering brings more scattering. Not only have two separate organizations emerged, but there are numerous scattered brethren and whole congregations who have decided to have nothing to do with either organization.

People who become upset about such matters being reported are actually getting mad at God, because He is the one chastening us for our unrighteousness. There is a reason we are not being blessed! We are shrinking, not growing. We are being

scattered, not united. Let's be honest with ourselves and with God.

*"The grain offering and the drink offering have been cut off from the house of the Lord; the priests mourn, who minister to the Lord. The field is wasted, the land mourns; for the grain is ruined, the new wine is dried up, the oil fails. Be ashamed, you farmers, wail, you vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley; because the harvest of the field has perished. The vine has dried up, and the fig tree has withered; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree—all the trees of the field are withered; surely joy has withered away from the sons of men"* (Joel 1:9-12, NKJ).

Are God's tithes and offerings being used to do God's work of caring for His Church, His Temple, the Body of Christ? Organizations are cutting back on the care and nurture of the Church. The needy are being turned away. Budgets are being tightened. Such tightening is especially true for those who think they must divert more funds outwardly to warning this world or for calling new people into their organizations.

This is another perfect example of being stuck in the physical. Some know an Ezekiel message must go out to physical Israel, but have overlooked what comes first. God has a warning message that is to first be given to spiritual Israel, the Church of God. Are God's tithes and offerings being used to serve the house of the Lord? Please reread those verses just quoted from Joel.

It is time to wake up and address the reality that is so evident all around us. The gospel is no longer going out to this world in the magnitude it once did. If God wants it to go out in as strong a way as it did under Herbert W. Armstrong, then He will do it. But He isn't, if you truly believe He is in control of His Church.

When the warning message of Ezekiel goes out to Israel, the beginning of her punishment will have already begun. The large organizations will no longer be functioning as they

are today. On the contrary, even now they are nearing their end. What are you going to do when they fold? Sad to say, if you wait time may run out. Do you think God expects you to act before such events occur? How much time do you think you have left to decide? Will an economic crash be the final blow to organizational structures?

*"Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; wail, you who minister before the altar; come, lie all night in sackcloth, you who minister to my God; for the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God"* (Joel 1:13, NKJ).

### REPENT AND FAST

*"Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord. Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as destruction from the Almighty. Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?"* (Joel 1:14-16, NKJ).

How many do you believe will really embrace God's warnings and repent? How many do you think would really believe what is written in this *News Watch*? Probably very few! Just how deep is our apathy and blindness? For those who believe these things to be true, **January 30** has been set aside for the purpose of fasting, prayer, and deep repentance before our God. We must focus on our own need for God's forgiveness and mercy. As we draw closer to God, our prayers for others will become more helpful. Please refer to the "Invitation to Fast" in last month's *News Watch*.

Where is your heart? Is it with an organization or with God's scattered people? Please enter this fast only if you see your need for God's mercy in your personal life and you desire to join with others in repentance for our individual and collective sins. Then such a fast can have true meaning. These are serious times and must be approached soberly and honestly before God.

If you would like help to better prepare for a deeply meaningful fast and you are not on the weekly tape program, you may request a current series of sermons titled "Rebuilding on the Temple of God." These tapes get to the heart and core of our need for such a collective fast for God's people.

We have gone through great devastation in the Church. Not many are left that zealously seek to keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ. But those who remain have not seen the end of their suffering. These are most serious times for God's people. What is coming will be a final separating and sifting of His people. On its heels will be the beginning of the worst times of turmoil and trouble that this earth has ever seen!

*"Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand: a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness . . ."* (Joel 2:1-2, NKJ). This is not a prophecy solely of physical consequences for physical Israel. Do God's people tremble at His warning? Have we hit bottom so that we are finally willing to humble ourselves before God and admit that our downsizing, budget tightening, disputations, and continual scattering are the result of our own sins and failures? Last month we spoke of the distinct possibility that only 10 to 15 percent of the Church continue to keep the commandments of God and remain faithful to the testimony of Jesus Christ. My personal belief and conviction is that such figures are too generous. Even if brethren can only bring themselves to admit that two thirds of the Church has gone by the wayside, shouldn't such a reality cause us to be sobered to the core of our being?

But overall, brethren are not alarmed at such realities. This testifies more fully, as a witness against us, to the depth of our pride and rebellious nature against our God. Yet we seem

to prefer to believe that we are finally getting things together and it won't be long before we really begin seeing great fruit produced. If we do not respond to God in repentance, prayer, and fasting, then we will not have much of a remnant left that might be able to survive. How much more destruction and chastening must we witness before we humble ourselves?

*"The Lord gives voice before His army, for His camp is very great; for strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it? 'Now, therefore,' says the Lord, 'Turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.' So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm"* (Joel 2:11-13, NKJ).

God will continue to execute judgment against us until we humble ourselves and turn to Him. Sadly, too many just do not have the strength left to see our pathetic state and the true spirit that grips the Church, pulling it ever deeper into darkness and captivity. Ironically, brethren tend to see them-selves as spiritually healthy and strong, certainly not in the kind of light this article is describing. If only we will humble ourselves, pour out our hearts to God in repentance, and seek His mercy, then God may well turn away his chastening and begin to pour out His favor upon us.

*"Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him—a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow a trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly"* (Joel 2:14-15, NKJ).

Do you think many will respond to such a call for the kind of fast God says should be set aside for His people? You know the answer! Again, a witness against us and all the more reason to obey God's instruction. Today, people are weak to judge what God says clearly in His Word. People

tend to respond to a request to fast if they hold the one who has proposed it in high esteem because of his rank or impressive credentials. Others might join in the fast if "their corporation" calls it, but probably would not join in if some other corporation makes the request. How great is our pride?

Take comfort by trusting in God and His words. Stop looking to corporations or men to provide that comfort. Now is the time to repent, while a remnant can still be delivered. Where is your faith? Are you willing to stand alone with God, regardless of what others do? That should be your conviction! Anything less must be repented of quickly.

*"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls" (Joel 2:32, NKJ).*

### CONSECRATE A FAST

You are the only one who can decide if you will set aside each Sabbath for holy use. Likewise, only you can choose to consecrate a fast on January 30. Our God tells us there will be a time at the end of the age when the Church will see great devastation as a result of her sins. He says there has never been such a time within the Church, nor ever will be again. Similarly, the world will see the worst times in human history at the end of this age. But this prophetic fulfillment occurs first within the Church, then in the world. Only you can choose to listen to God and His charge to consecrate a fast in such a time as this. The decision is solely up to you. God is looking for those who are willing to humble themselves and accept their personal responsibilities as a part of the Body of Christ.

Let's read it again: *"Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly" (Joel 2:15, NKJ).* The trumpet is blown as a warning to God's people. Our choice to listen to Him in response to His warnings is our

decision alone. We can join in with other of God's people, on the same day in a sacred assembly, to heed God's loving warnings and humbly beseech His mercy in our lives and in the Church. This has nothing to do with personalities or corporations! It is about the welfare of a small portion of God's Church that is still remaining, left over from great destruction and tribulation!

The choice is yours. If you enter this fast because you want to set the time aside for a holy purpose, then also please consider the need to participate in whatever way you can to blow the trumpet in the Church. Remember your friends or anyone in the Body that you might be able to encourage or admonish concerning these worst of times upon God's Church.

Your actions will testify to your belief of God's own incredible story.

## NEWS WATCH of the WORLD

We live in a time of the lull before the storm. For this world economically and for many in the Church, people want to believe that all is getting better. The hope and belief is that we are nearing the end of the worst of our struggles and brighter days are speeding our way.

For both the Church and the world, this is not true. That is a false faith being built upon greed and pride. The "fall" is still on its way!

We should continue to remain watchful of the true economic condition in this world. Although stock markets are boasting of record highs, the same problems are still with us that brought about the great lows after summers end. Actually they are much worse. But people choose to live in their own false world.

Just because a collapse has not yet happened does not mean it is not on its way. It continues to draw closer.

In last year's first issue of *News Watch* there are some pointed questions that need to be asked once again. *"Have we forgotten our history? Do we know what effect world economies had on the events that led up to WWII?" (NW, 1/98).*

Newsweek Special Issue for this winter featured on its cover a picture of the Tower of Babel rising up above other notable buildings of the world. The top level of the tower was designed in the new euro insignia. The headline across the page read: EUROLAND!

One of the more interesting articles carried the title: "What Strange Beast?" The article began by saying, *"In January, the world will start getting used to a new currency. Whether you love the euro or hate it, know this: nothing so big has ever happened before."*

The same article continues, *"Through all the pageantry of European history - the long progress of empires and kings -- one fact stands out. No single regime has ever united the entire Continent. ...Now a new millennium will mark a sharp break from the pattern of history. Come January 1999, what Charlemagne and his successors failed to achieve violently will be accomplished, in partial measure, peacefully. A single monetary regime will unite 11 European states—including the core nations of Germany and France — more than ever before."*

It would be well to remember the words following at the end of the article. *"Should the rest of the world fear the euro? Ignore it? Welcome it? Everyone knows the worst case: that EMU collapses, and Europe's internecine\* blame grows deadly."* If this world experiences an economic collapse that threatens a uniting Europe, they will give their power to one another and fight to bring their dream to reality. **NW**

\***Internecine** — "full of slaughter or destruction."