

# THE PHILADELPHIA **Trumpet**

**Germany and the last  
Holy Roman Empire**

**Should Britain just  
'Keep calm and carry on'?**

**A world without manhood**

**Unraveling the KKK—  
with friendship**

**12 prophecies to watch**



# **THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON**

(It's not a bomb.  
It's an idea.)

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“The [European] Community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it don't know by what heritage they live.”

**TROUBLING HISTORY** Artist's rendering of the Siege of Acre, one of the first battles in the Third Crusade (HERITAGE IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES)

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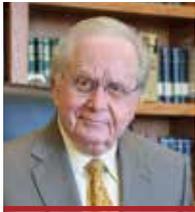
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# Germany and the Last Holy Roman Empire

**This church-state combine has caused more destruction than any kingdom in history. Why is it a *mystery* to this world?**

**I**N THE LATE 1970S, GERMANY WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF America's very best friends. Yet in recent years, many Germans' view toward the United States has become quite negative. A 2014 Pew Research poll shows that 47 percent of Germans have an unfavorable view of America. It looks like their antagonism has been growing even worse since Donald Trump was elected America's president. Germany is now one of the world's 10 biggest critics of the U.S.



**GERALD FLURRY**

Few people recognize this, but a prophecy in the Bible actually describes the relationship between the U.S. and Germany in our day. It says Germany is America's preeminent "lover." That "lover" relationship began to develop after World War II, in which America defeated the Nazis and then spent billions of dollars to rebuild Germany and to bring it back into the civilized world.

But is trusting Germany a good idea? Germany started World Wars I and II. Your Bible says it will also start World War III. That war will be so destructive that it will bring about the Second Coming—Jesus Christ will have to return to Earth in order to stop mankind from ANNIHILATING ITSELF with weapons of mass destruction!

Since the dawn of the Holy Roman Empire in A.D. 554, Germany has been a curse on this world in many ways. Most of the time, Germany has led this bloody church-state combine. This gruesome war machine *will* become a GREAT ENEMY of America, Britain and the Jewish state in the Middle East—one final time.

## Charlemagne's Legacy

Some German and European leaders are lionizing the history of the Holy Roman Empire. There is strong evidence that some are actually preparing for one final resurrection of that empire!

The late European parliamentarian Otto von Habsburg said, "The [European] Community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it don't know by what heritage they live." This means that our historians, politicians and the media are asleep and dangerously deceived about this empire.

Mr. Habsburg was a descendant of the Habsburg dynasty that ruled the Holy Roman Empire for 400 years. He was one of many leaders who have recognized the symbolic power of that empire. Referring to the crown that resides in a museum in Vienna, Austria, he said, "We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally; THIS IS THE

CROWN OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH EMBODIES THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE."

You are going to see that crown take on more than just symbolic meaning. That empire is *prophesied* to rise again! It is ready to burst on the world scene shortly—perhaps even in 2017! And the head of that empire will be a *king* with a *crown*! He will rule over all of Europe *in the tradition of Charlemagne*.

What is the tradition of Charlemagne? The Frankish King Charlemagne waded through rivers of blood to convert Europeans to Catholicism. If they didn't convert, they *died*! You can read more about this history in our free booklet *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy* (request a copy, or read it online at [theTrumpet.com/go/hre](http://theTrumpet.com/go/hre)).

Charlemagne was the second head of the Holy Roman Empire; Adolf Hitler was the sixth. Hitler also ruled in the spirit of Charlemagne, his HERO. Charlemagne's kingdom was the First Reich; Hitler's was the Third Reich. Yet, today, GERMANS ARE PROUD OF CHARLEMAGNE'S LEGACY!

The 2002 edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* offers this disturbing statement about Charlemagne's forced conversion of the Saxons: "But the violent methods by which this missionary task was carried out had been unknown to the earlier Middle Ages, and the sanguinary [or *bloody*] punishment meted out to those who broke canon law or continued to engage in pagan practices called forth criticism in Charles's own circle ...." EVEN CHARLEMAGNE'S CLOSEST ADVISERS WERE ALARMED BY HIS BLOODY PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO BROKE HIS CANON LAW OR ENGAGED IN PAGAN PRACTICES! Those engaged in "pagan practices" were people who refused to practice his Catholic religion, which is filled with *pagan practices*, according to the Bible.

DESPITE THE BARBARIC NATURE OF ITS HISTORY, EUROPE STILL WANTS TO RESURRECT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE! SO BEWARE OF WHAT THIS EMPIRE IS ABOUT TO INFLICT ON THIS WORLD!

In his 1995 book *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, British economist Bernard Connolly wrote about an agreement signed in September 1978 between then French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and then German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The signing ceremony was held in Aachen, Germany, "principal seat and burial place of Charlemagne," Connolly wrote. "The symbolism was heavily underlined in both France and Germany; the two leaders paid a special visit to the throne of Charlemagne and a special service was held in the cathedral; at the end of the summit, Giscard remarked that: 'Perhaps when we discussed monetary problems, THE SPIRIT OF CHARLEMAGNE BROODED OVER US'" (emphasis mine).

Mr. Connolly also called the European Union a “cloak for German ambitions”! Insiders don’t want people to know the REAL MOTIVE behind the EU.

Historian Paul Johnson wrote in *A History of Christianity*, “We are right to regard the total Christianity of the Carolingian Age as one of the great formative phases of human history.” The Holy Roman Empire has left a permanent mark on history. We can expect the final resurgence of this kingdom to do more of the same.

### Hitler’s Memoirs

The spirit of Charlemagne is alarmingly alive in Germany today.

Did you know that Hitler’s book *Mein Kampf* has become a bestseller? In his manifesto, he explained his anti-Semitic philosophy, his political views and his vision for Germany’s future, including annexing neighboring countries. It outlines the ideology that inspired him to try to EXTERMINATE the Jewish people—a goal that he nearly accomplished in Europe! During the World War II era, 12.4 million copies of the book were published. The German government even gave copies to newlyweds as a wedding gift.

In 1945, after Hitler was defeated, the Allies gave control of the main Nazi publishing house to Bavaria, along with the rights to the book. “For 70 years, it refused to allow the inflammatory tract to be republished out of respect for victims of the Nazis and to prevent incitement of hatred,” reported Agence France-Presse (January 3). Recently, however, a publisher was given rights to reprint the book. It first planned to print only 4,000 copies, but because of high demand, the book is now on its sixth print run. *Mein Kampf* is flying off the shelves. Since its release in January of last year, 85,000 copies have sold!

This is a SIGN of horrible things to come. Germany and the Holy Roman Empire are rising on the world scene. This is what the success of *Mein Kampf* is all about.

Why are people not more concerned?

Germany and the Holy Roman Empire are a GREAT MYSTERY to this world. People don’t understand the truth about this conglomerate. There have been six resurrections of this empire so far, with a seventh one upon us. Why don’t people know more about an empire that has been one of the biggest world powers in history, especially for the last several hundred years?

### Two Women

Do you know what the number one target of the Holy Roman Empire has been over the centuries? The truth of history is depicted in a spectacular way in biblical prophecy.

The book of Revelation describes the Holy Roman Empire as a union of church and state by using a powerful symbol: a woman riding a beast.

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns” (Revelation 17:3). Many prophecies use a woman as a symbol of a church. This woman is a “great whore” (verse 1)—a large false church that has unholy political dealings with governments all over the world.

And there is no better description of the terrible and destructive political-military machine that the Holy Roman Empire

has been throughout history than a mighty *beast*. This empire has SEVEN HEADS—seven distinct periods of dominance over a span of 1,500 years. You can follow these seven heads throughout history! There is tremendous destructive power here, and the church has been guiding it and riding it. We explain all this in *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.

“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns” (verse 7). This woman is a MYSTERY. God reveals the depths of her evils!

This beast power will “ascend out of the bottomless pit,” or come out of hiding, shocking everyone (verse 8). This time, the Holy Roman Empire will be more lethal than it has ever been before!

Now, notice this detail in John’s prophetic description: “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration” (verse 6). This woman has been getting drunk on the blood of God’s people throughout the centuries! I strongly urge you to learn about this vital subject by requesting a free copy of my book *The True History of God’s True Church—And Its 2,000-Year War With the Great False Church*.

This book explains the REAL SPIRITUAL POWER behind this false church and this UNHOLY empire: Satan the devil. He hates God’s people and comes after them most of all.

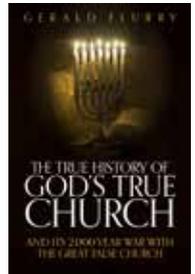
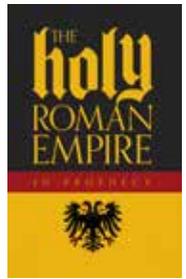
Contrast the woman in Revelation 17 with the one depicted in Revelation 12. “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars” (Revelation 12:1). This woman—also a symbol of a church—is brilliant and beautiful!

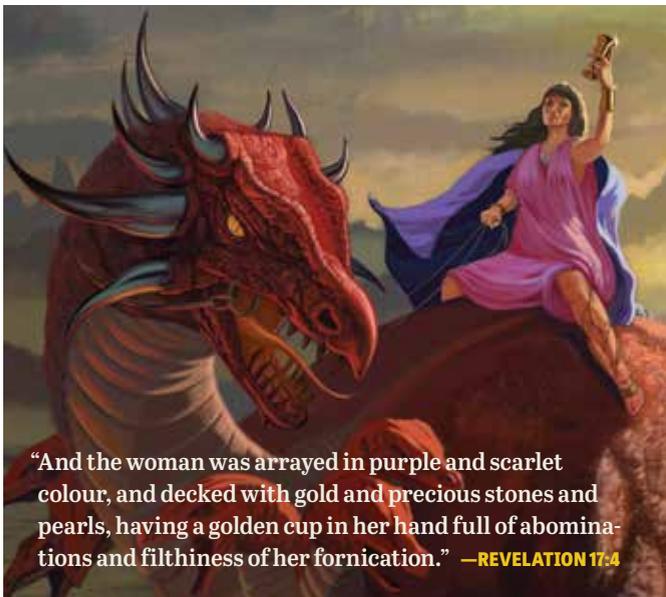
This is the true Church of God. Her crown of 12 stars is symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel. She is clothed with the sun. The sun produces more energy in just one second than the entire human species has consumed in its history! This shows the power of God behind His little Church, a remnant of loyal saints.

But see what happens to this woman: “And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads” (verses 2-3).

The devil is depicted as a dragon. In this prophecy, the symbol is actually expressed in terms of the Holy Roman Empire, which Satan inspires, controls and uses as his instrument! There are those SEVEN HEADS—seven periods of that empire’s dominance—and Satan has ruled every one of them!

Here you see the Holy Roman Empire’s attack on God’s true Church in more detail: “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days” (verse 6). The “days” spoken of here are actually years in prophetic fulfillment. (You can see this “day for a year” principle of prophecy in scriptures like Ezekiel 4:6). God’s Church was forced to flee from the bloodthirsty Holy Roman Empire for 1,260 years!





This prophecy has a specific end-time counterpart. Put Revelation 17 together with other prophecies, and it is clear there is *one last terrifying martyrdom* coming. This Satan-inspired church-state combine is rising again, and as it has done so many times in the past, it is going to come after God’s people.

Those who are faithful to Him, God promises to protect in a place of safety. “And to the woman [the church of faithful saints] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent” (Revelation 12:14). This period of 3½ years is elsewhere described as 42 months (Revelation 11:2; 13:5)—or 1,260 *days*, not years.

But sadly, in this very end time, *many* of God’s people have rebelled against Him—and they will end up being *slaughtered!* (Revelation 12:17; 13:7).

### The Good News

Why would God record all these details in prophecy? It is because He wants to **WARN US** about what is coming—so we can take action to repent and turn to Him for protection! He wants people to *avoid* these indescribable nightmares. God *always warns* before He allows such suffering!

The window of opportunity is closing—but there is still time to heed God’s warning and repent!

The beast in Revelation 17 is the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, and it has “10 horns.” What are these horns? “And the ten horns which thou sawest are **TEN KINGS**, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Revelation 17:12-13).

Watch Europe! This last “head” of the Holy Roman Empire is going to have 10 **KINGS** banding together, with one as the supreme head. Even today, Europe is looking for a strong leader who can resolve the challenges of European unity and move the project forward. You can be sure that this most powerful king will be from *Germany*. As has been the case so many times in history, *Germany* will preside over and control the whole empire.

There are over 100 prophecies that back up what you have read in this article! And world events are rapidly aligning to bring them to fulfillment!

As fearsome as this empire will be, though, the good news is that its evil reign of terror will last only a short time! As it rampages through its conquests, it will run straight into a **POWER FAR GREATER THAN ITSELF!**

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is **LORD OF LORDS, AND KING OF KINGS**: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (verse 14). Jesus Christ Himself will return and **CRUSH** this destructive, perverted kingdom! Already He has an awesome, unstoppable plan in motion to replace it with His own rule on Earth! And we are *very close* to seeing His plan realized.

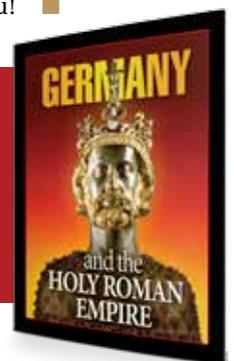
Making this prophecy even more inspiring is what it says about God’s saints—those who are “called, and chosen, and faithful” today. Christ will be “**LORD OF LORDS, and King OF KINGS.**” Who are those other “lords” and “kings” over whom Christ will rule? Revelation 1:6 says to God’s people that Christ “**HATH MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS** unto God and his Father”!

These and many other Bible passages show that when Christ establishes His Kingdom on Earth, He will have a dedicated group of kings and priests serving under Him—not *human* kings and priests, but individuals who have been transformed into spirit, like God! Together, these God beings will help Christ crush the Holy Roman Empire and all other world powers, and bring **PEACE, JOY and HAPPINESS** to the Earth forever!

If you dedicate yourself to God’s work today, this is the tremendous reward that God promises you! ■

### Ten kings in prophecy

Why is the *Trumpet* concerned with Germany and the new Holy Roman Empire? The Bible explains. Order your free copy of ***Germany and the Holy Roman Empire.***



BACK TO NORMAL  
Pedestrians cross the  
Westminster Bridge  
two days after the  
terrorist attack.

# THE DEADLY 'KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON' MENTALITY

**K**EEP CALM AND CARRY ON. IT'S A cute maxim, as British as tea and crumpets. And it captures an admirable characteristic of the English, their indomitable spirit and capacity to remain resolute in the face of adversity.

But it can also be a colossal handicap.

This trait was on display in London on March 22, when an Islamic terrorist in a rental car mowed down more than 40 people on Westminster Bridge, smashed into the fence that protects Britain's Houses of Parliament, and fatally stabbed a policeman. Within minutes of the attack, the main message radiating from every corner of Britain was: "Keep calm and carry on."

That evening, Prime Minister Theresa May encouraged the nation to behave as normal. "Tomorrow morning, Parliament will meet as *normal*. We will come together as *normal*. And Londoners, and others from around the world who have come here to visit this great city, will get up and go about their day as *normal*" (emphasis added throughout).

The following tweets, pulled from thousands, encapsulate the general response on Twitter: "As ever, the best reaction ... is calmness, not hysteria. We're British, that's what we do ...." "Don't start finger pointing and blaming, don't turn on anyone. Keep calm. That's how it gets beaten ...."

**Instead of changing the behavior that caused the crisis, we return as quickly as possible to behaving exactly the same way.**

BY BRAD MACDONALD

The morning after the attack, signs with motivational messages popped up in Underground stations across London. One read, "All terrorists are politely reminded that this is London and **WHAT-EVER YOU DO TO US WE WILL DRINK TEA AND JOLLY WELL CARRY ON**" (March 22).

Simon Jenkins, the popular and influential *Guardian* columnist, counseled Britain not to "overreact." Jenkins compared the Islamist terrorist threat to that of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the 1970s and '80s. "[F]or the most part, British freedoms were not infringed, life went on and the threat eventually passed," he wrote. "LET US HOPE THE SAME APPLIES TODAY."

The reaction to the March 22 attack was an example of how modern Britain and America deal with crisis. When catastrophe strikes, our immediate priority is to calmly return to normal life as quickly as possible and to hope the threat passes. It feels rational and mature. And we believe such a response is a mark of our sophistication.

Truth is, this contemporary interpretation of "keep calm and carry on" is destructive. This mentality has put these nations on the road to national suicide.

## Carry on Sleeping

"Keep calm and carry on" was coined in July 1939 by Britain's Ministry for Information, and it embodies the spirit of wartime England. It was one of three slogans created to boost the morale of the British people during the Second World War.

Though "keep calm and carry on" was never officially used, the other two phrases were printed on posters and plastered all over the nation. These two reveal the *motive* behind the campaign and the broader mindset that was starting to take hold on Britain in July 1939. One read, "Your courage, your cheerfulness, your resolution, WILL BRING US VICTORY." The other stated, "Freedom is in peril, DEFEND IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT." Notice. These slogans convey a sense of crisis; they were clearly designed to STIR THE BRITISH PEOPLE TO ACTION.

Britain in the summer of 1939 was finally beginning to accept that it faced an existential crisis. The enemy had been clearly identified, and there was consensus on the magnitude of the danger. Britain's leaders were finally recognizing that Adolf Hitler wanted war and had started to prepare the nation.

There was a fighting mentality behind “keep calm and carry on.” It meant, keep calm and carry on *fighting*. Keep calm and *defend freedom with all your might*. These slogans consoled and motivated a nation that recognized it was experiencing a crisis, a nation that was prepared to act. These slogans *engaged* the public in the fight against Nazi tyranny.

Today, “keep calm and carry on” is deployed to **DISENGAGE** the British public from reality. Today, “keep calm and carry on” stems from **APATHY** and **COMPLACENCY**. It is used to dissuade people from contemplating the truth, from asking tough questions, and from putting in place *meaningful* solutions. The phrase that once meant *keep calm and carry on FIGHTING* now means *keep calm and carry on SLEEPING*.

Its appeal makes it all the more deadly. It conjures images of wartime Britain. It makes the English who use it feel proud, brave and patriotic. Meanwhile, in their effort to keep calm and carry on, they ignore reality. They don’t take serious *action* to address the fundamental causes of the crises.

Khalid Masood, the terrorist who left London strewn with bodies on March 22, was born and bred in England. He was radicalized in English prisons, and he had connections to the Islamic State. His attack on London ought to have initiated some searching questions. What conditions had made his radicalization possible? How many others are there like him? Why didn’t Masood’s “moderate” friends and acquaintances inform the authorities about him? What does the radicalization of Masood and those like him reveal about multiculturalism in Britain?

When you look honestly at these questions, practical solutions begin to emerge. For example, how hard would it be for Britain to actively purge radical Islam from its prisons? Could the government do more to encourage moderate Muslims to join the fight against radical Islam and terrorism? All sorts of meaningful actions could be initiated.

Terrorism isn’t solved by keeping calm and carrying on. It is solved by asking tough questions, by recognizing where our system is failing, and by changing the way we think and behave. It is solved by taking **ACTION**.

But this is not happening today. On March 22, even with London locked down, Britain exuded remarkable calmness and composure. Though there was a sense of alarm on the streets surrounding Parliament, *that was the extent of it*. In some respects, the calmness was admirable. But it exposed profound passivity and apathy. One would have expected an attack of this magnitude and the publicity to arouse greater indignation, to provoke much more reflection and self-evaluation.

Londoners could have searched for



**Terrorism isn’t solved by keeping calm and carrying on. It is solved by asking tough questions, by recognizing where our system is failing, and by changing the way we think and behave. It is solved by taking action.**

answers. Why did this happen? Where have we failed? What are we doing wrong? How do we prevent this? They could have demanded meaningful action from the government. A purge of Britain’s correctional facilities, greater

scrutiny of Britain’s Muslim communities, more aggressive steps to get dangerous individuals out of the country (and to prevent them entering). Londoners could have initiated a national conversation about multiculturalism and the state of British culture and society in general.

Instead, the nation opted to “keep calm and carry on.”

### **Learning From History**

Reflect on the mood in Britain *before* the summer of 1939. The prevailing mindset in the nation for virtually the entire decade was much like today: Keep calm and carry on.

During the 1930s, multiple crises erupted, each revealing Germany’s motives and ambitions. Evidence abounded proving Hitler’s deep hatred for the Jews, his desire for *lebensraum*, and his determination for conflict and conquest. The Nuremberg Laws, passed in 1935, endorsed the persecution of Jews. In March 1935, 22,000 Nazi soldiers marched into the Rhineland. In August 1936, Germany introduced conscription. German factories were churning out warplanes, tanks and weapons throughout most of the 1930s. In November 1937, Germany signed a military pact with fascist Italy. Also in 1937, the Luftwaffe bombed Spain. In March 1938, Germany invaded Austria; in October, it marched into Sudetenland.

Such actions got the attention of British leaders and initiated some urgent discussions. In the end, however, the general response was to keep calm, carry on as normal, and simply hope for the best.

Sound familiar?

On March 7, 1936, a few hours after his troops took the Rhineland, Hitler addressed the Reichstag. In his message he promised no further acts of aggression. “Germany will never break the peace,” he promised. The West naively took Hitler at his words. Winston Churchill listened to the speech and said that Hitler’s message was “comfort for everyone on both sides of the Atlantic who WISHED TO BE HUMBUGGED.”

This, sadly, is the state of Britain (and America) today: **THESE NATIONS WISH TO BE HUMBUGGED!** In Britain, neither the leaders nor the public have the will to discuss the truth about Islamist

terrorism, and certainly not to take serious actions to confront radical Islam. The U.S. has the same willful blindness. Both of these nations experience one crisis after another, one terrorist attack after another, one political failure after another, one social disaster after another, one financial crisis after another. Yet rather than using each crisis as an opportunity to reflect, to ask some searching questions and then to take meaningful actions that will prevent the crisis from happening again, these nations choose to keep calm and carry on.

Instead of CHANGING THE BEHAVIOR that caused the crisis, they determinedly return as quickly as possible to behaving exactly the same way!

When Hitler invaded the Rhineland, France's foreign minister tried to persuade British Prime Minister Stanley

great as it is now," Churchill wrote in the *Daily Mail* in 1932. "The habit of saying SMOOTH THINGS and UTTERING PIOUS PLATITUDES AND SENTIMENTS to gain applause, without relation to the underlying facts, is more pronounced now than it has ever been in my experience."

That gap is even greater today. Think about some of the remarks following the March 22 attack. The sign in the London Underground station telling terrorists, "whatever you do to us we will drink tea and jolly well carry on." The tweet telling Britons, "Keep calm. That's how it gets beaten." Such poetic remarks may sound rational and virtuous. But truly, when was the last time an evil force was "beaten" by a victim who remained calm and carried on with normal life? Defeating a determined enemy ALWAYS requires action. Perhaps not military action, but certainly changes

has failed. That Britain, if it is ever to truly solve this issue, will have to take meaningful actions on a large scale.

Instead, Britain's leaders and its media pundits responded with smooth words and pious platitudes. Encouraging the nation to not overreact, to remain non-judgmental and to carry on as normal made people feel righteous and rational. Invoking the "keep calm and carry on" maxim makes everyone feel brave and tough, like their forefathers in World War II.

Yet does such a response do ANYTHING to prevent another Islamist attack?

### Silent Dogs

The Prophet Isaiah also compares Britain's and America's leaders in the end time to lazy, slothful watchdogs. "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber" (Isaiah 56:10). What an apt description of the leadership and mainstream media in Britain and America. (For proof that the term *Israel* in these prophecies refers to these modern nations, read our free e-book *Britain's 4,000-Year-Old History* at [theTrumpet.com/go/BritishIdentity](http://theTrumpet.com/go/BritishIdentity).)

"People are just not alert to what's happening in this world, and that includes the media," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said in his Dec. 22, 2002, *Key of David* television program. "God calls most of the watchmen just dumb dogs. They won't bark! They won't TELL you what's really happening, either because they don't know—and even if they DO know they won't really tell you the blatant, scary truth about all this."

Why are they silent? Verses 11-12 explain: "The shepherds also have no understanding: they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all. 'Come,' they say, 'let us get wine, let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and TOMORROW WILL BE LIKE THIS DAY, GREAT BEYOND MEASURE'" (Revised Standard Version). The leaders and media are more concerned about selfish interest than about the peace and safety of their nation.

Ponder that final statement: "Tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond



**"The habit of saying smooth things and uttering pious platitudes and sentiments to gain applause, without relation to the underlying facts, is more pronounced now than it has ever been in my experience."**

—WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

Baldwin to support a potential French decision to dispatch police to the demilitarized zone to oppose the Germans. The Nazis had not yet secured their position and intelligence indicated it was still possible to oust them. Baldwin told the French, "You may be right, but if there is even one chance in a hundred that war would follow from your police action, I have not the right to commit England." In the end, France and Britain did *nothing*.

To Britain in 1936, "peace was 'worth taking almost any risk,'" William Manchester wrote in *The Last Lion*. That was the spirit of England in the 1930s, to keep calm and carry on ignoring anything uncomfortable. Instead of acting, they merely *hoped* Germany's acts of aggression would pass. Britain's silence and apathy only empowered Hitler and made the inevitable conflict much worse!

"I cannot recall at any time when the gap between the kind of words which statesmen used and what was actually happening in many countries was so

in thinking, changes in behavior, changes in government policy.

Britain and America today are making the same mistakes they made in the 1930s. They prefer pious platitudes and smooth things over the cold, hard truth. The Prophet Isaiah discussed this destructive tendency. He prophesied that these modern nations would be "rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, *See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits ...*" (Isaiah 30:9-11).

Instead of encouraging her people to carry on as normal, Prime Minister May ought to have been bolder, like her World War II counterpart, Winston Churchill. Braving the accusations "war monger" and Islamophobe, the prime minister should have stated the obvious—radical Islam has burrowed deep into Britain. That it is a threat to the nation, to its institutions, culture and communities. That multiculturalism



# How Europe Is 'Winning' Against the Far Right

If you can't beat them ... **BY RICHARD PALMER**

**T**HIS IS A YEAR OF ELECTIONS FOR Europe. France, Germany and possibly Italy will each hold their most important election in generations. In each of these major countries, the post-World War II political system is crumbling. The unthinkable is now possible: France could elect a far-right president, Italy could quit the eurozone, and the European rock of stability, Germany, could convulse.

Across the world, observers are watching anxiously.

But one country has already held its 2017 election, and its results give us a powerful message about what to expect.

## Europeans Want a Strongman

The Dutch election on March 15 exposed a major shift in European politics. Ahead of the election, many polls showed that Geert Wilders and his Party for Freedom (PVV) would win. "I hate Islam" is among one of Mr. Wilders's more controversial statements. He also wants the Koran outlawed. When he only came second, the Western media were euphoric. Bloomberg: "Dutch Liberals Defeat Wilders's Party in Blow to Populist Surge." *Daily Mail*: "Far-Right Dutch M.P. Geert Wilders FAILS to Make Inroads in General Election." *The Telegraph*: "Netherlands Rejects Far Right."

Welcome to 2017 Europe, where it is a "major defeat" for a far-right party to

place *second* in a national election.

A generation ago, it would have been unthinkable for someone like Geert Wilders to do so well.

Wilders's influence extends far beyond those who actually voted for him. As James Traub wrote for *Foreign Policy*, "In the weeks leading up to the vote, the Dutch have been preoccupied, almost obsessed, with issues of immigration, integration and national identity. Overschie is a largely white enclave in a city that, like most major urban centers in the Netherlands, consists about equally of immigrants and native Dutch, and everyone I spoke to in the Boulevard [a pub where the regulars are all older white men] agreed with some part of Wilders's nativist agenda. ...

"He has so thoroughly reshaped Dutch political culture that voters who share his views, but find him *ultra vires*, can now vote for any number of parties that have taken a hard-line on immigrants and on Islam, including the VVD itself. This is Europe's politics in 2017; the center holds, but only by giving ground to the nationalist right" (March 13).

Dutch center-right leader Mark Rutte and his People's Party for Freedom and Democracy "won" the elections. But the intriguing question is: *How* did he manage to claw ahead of Wilders in the polls?

During the campaign, Rutte deliberately echoed Wilders. Immigrants must "act normal or leave," he wrote.

He told antisocial Turkish youths, in crass terms, to go back to Turkey. "Everybody knows immediately this is Wilders's style. ... It's almost a dialect word, a little bit archaic," said Henk te Velde, a professor at Leiden University who studies political language, referring to the phrase Rutte used.

Then, just a few days ahead of the election, Turkey gave Rutte a gift. Turkey is scheduled to hold a constitutional referendum on April 16 on shifting more powers to the presidency. A significant number of Turkish citizens live in the Netherlands and are eligible to vote in the referendum. So Turkish ministers scheduled rallies in the Netherlands to whip up support.

The Dutch government was not keen on Turks holding rallies so close to general elections—elections in which Islam had grown to play such a key role. It tried negotiating with Turkey. During the talks, Turkey threatened to impose sanctions on the Netherlands if the latter attempted to restrict the rallies.

This prompted Rutte to get tough. If Turkey was going to make threats, then no Turkish ministers would be allowed in the country, he said. The Turkish foreign minister's airplane was denied permission to land in the Netherlands.

That didn't stop Turkey. Turkey's family affairs minister traveled to Germany, along with a couple of decoy ministers, to try and sneak across the border into the Netherlands. But Dutch police spotted the real minister nonetheless, and she was escorted back to Germany.

As a result of this diplomatic incident, the Dutch rallied around their leader, not because he was accommodating or sophisticated, but because he was tough. According to one poll, 86 percent of the Dutch said they supported Rutte's actions. Many say that the incident occurring the weekend before the election is what boosted Rutte's popularity enough to beat Wilders. Spiegel Online wrote, "Rutte's election win had a Turkish father: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan."

This is the path to popularity in Europe now. Stand firm for your country. Stand up to Islam. Sound like your far-right opponent.



# The World's Most

It is over a thousand times more destructive than the biggest bomb ever detonated. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

**T**HE MOST POWERFUL thermonuclear device ever detonated was called the Tsar Bomba. When it was tested over Severny Island on Oct. 30, 1961, this Soviet RDS-220 hydrogen bomb exploded with a force 3,800 times greater than the blast that leveled Hiroshima, Japan.

If the Tsar Bomba had been dropped on the center of New York City, half of Brooklyn would have been incinerated in a 7-mile-wide fireball. Every residential building in the Greater New York City area would have been flattened by the high-pressure airburst emanating from this fireball. People 50 miles away in Trenton, New Jersey, would have suffered third-degree burns from a radiation wave engulfing an area larger than the state of Connecticut.

Over 7 million people would have perished, and millions more would have suffered debilitating injuries.

Yet there is a greater threat to humanity than the Soviet RDS-220.

Thermonuclear weapons don't make themselves. They don't detonate themselves. They don't use themselves as leverage to threaten their enemies. It's human beings who do that. Therefore,

the ideologies that influence and control human minds are far more powerful than any thermonuclear device.

Since moral laws are the social force that restrains humans from committing atrocities, an ideology that misassesses concepts of right and wrong is a greater threat than any physical weapon of mass destruction. And an ideology that proposes that there is no such thing as right and wrong is the greatest threat of all.

That is why Herbert W. Armstrong, the editor in chief of the *Trumpet's* predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, wrote in 1928 that EVOLUTION is the "MOST POWERFUL MODERN WEAPON."

In a world full of horrifying weapons and dangerous ideologies, the claim that evolution is the most dangerous weapon of them all may seem like an exaggeration. Yet a historical examination of the past 150 years reveals that the application of the evolutionary theory to the realm of human morality is wreaking more destruction upon Western civilization than the airbursts of 1,000 hydrogen bombs!

## What If There Is No God?

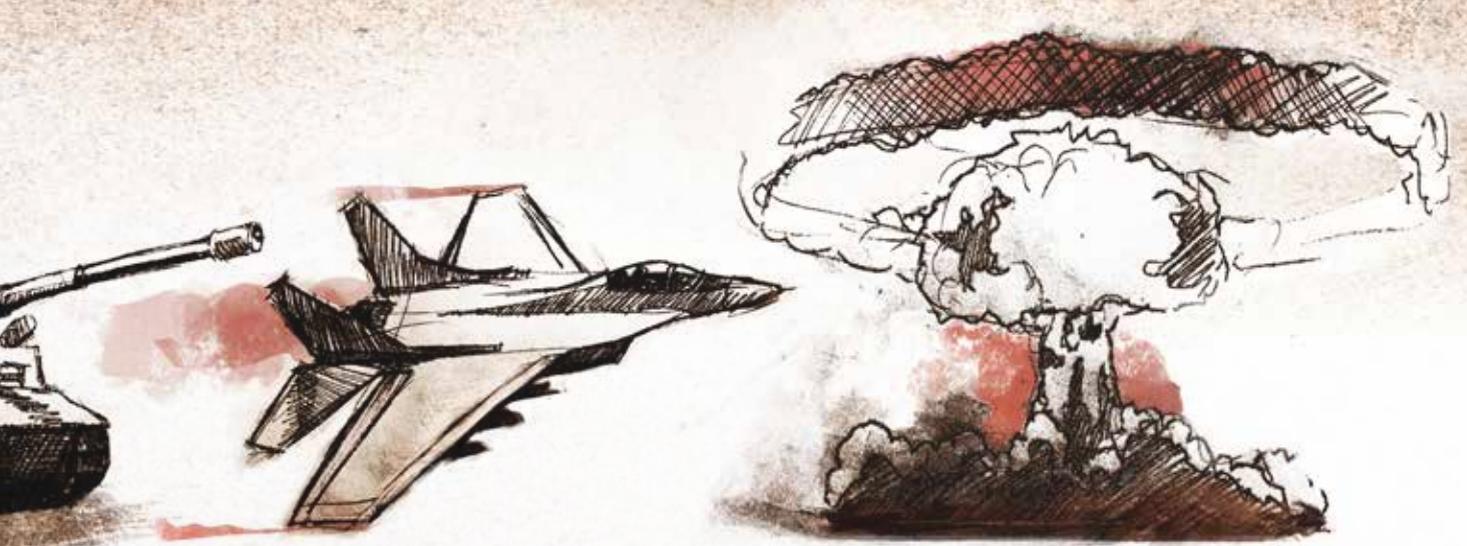
The idea of a creation that came into being without a creator has been taught since the days of the Epicurean philosophers of ancient Greece. But this notion did not take deep root in the Western world for thousands of years. Then Charles Darwin sparked an academic

revolution in 1859 with his book *On the Origin of Species*.

The book, along with its sequel, *The Descent of Man*, argued that all organic life descended from one primordial organism. By providing a scientific hypothesis that God does not exist, Darwin revolutionized the world in ways even he probably did not expect.

American writer, critic and naturalist Joseph Wood Krutch published his book *The Modern Temper* in 1929. Krutch, who believed the evolutionary hypothesis, proceeded to its logical—and chilling—conclusion:

"Formerly [man] had believed in even his darkest moments that the universe was rational if he could only grasp its rationality, but gradually he comes to suspect that rationality is an attribute of himself alone and that there is no reason to suppose that his own life has any more meaning than the life of the humblest insect that crawls from one annihilation to another," he wrote. "Nature, in her blind thirst for life, has filled every possible cranny of the rotting Earth with some sort of fantastic creature, and among them man is but one—perhaps the most miserable of all, because he is the only one in whom the instinct of life falters long enough to enable it to ask the question 'Why?' As long as life is held to have been created, creating may be held to imply a purpose, but merely to have come into being is, in



# Powerful Weapon

all likelihood, merely to go out of it also.”

In short, if humanity is only a distant cousin of insects, as Darwin proposed, then the 7 million people who would die in a thermonuclear strike on New York City are no different from the 7 million ants dying of boric acid poisoning in a routine pest control procedure today down the street from your house.

Even Darwin himself realized the radical implications his theory would have on ethics and morality, even though he avoided commenting on them in *On the Origin of Species*.

But the father of evolution addressed the subject in his later book, *The Descent of Man*, in 1871. Darwin admitted that “the moral faculties of man” are not inherent. Rather, he proposed that morality is an ever changing byproduct of evolution. “In order that primeval men, or the ape-like progenitors of men, should have become social,” he wrote, “they must have acquired that same instinctive feeling which impel other animals to live in a body.”

Those who follow the Christian ideology believe that morality is God’s definition of right and wrong. Those who follow the evolutionary ideology believe that morality is actually an invention of the human mind. Therefore, logically, the human mind can alter the definition of right and wrong at will, because the human mind is the authority that made up right and wrong in the first place.

## Everything Is Relative

Many politicians and educators still pay lip service to the Bible and Christianity; even some popular atheists say that some Bible teachings are useful social constructs. But the glowing reactor core of modern culture is evolution. Six in 10 U.S. adults believe humans evolved over time. Roughly the same ratio believes that knowledge of what is right or wrong is a matter of personal experience.

In the early modern period, America’s founders voiced the nation’s broad political consensus in the Declaration

“The political philosophy of the 18th century was formulated before the announcement and acceptance of the theory of evolutionary development,” wrote U.S. educator Frank Goodnow in 1916. “The natural-rights doctrine presupposed almost that society was static or stationary rather than dynamic or progressive in character.”

In his essay “The American Conception of Liberty,” Goodnow described how America’s founders believed “rights” were “eternal and immutable” because they came from humanity’s Creator.

An ideology that proposes that there is no such thing as right and wrong is the **GREATEST THREAT OF ALL.**

of Independence: “all men are created equal, that they are *endowed by their Creator* with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” (emphasis added). About 100 years later, following the publication of *On the Origin of Species*, the political consensus began to change as people increasingly accepted the premise that concepts like morality and human rights were themselves byproducts of evolution.

He disagreed with this assessment, however, saying the “rights” outlined in the Declaration of Independence did not come from a creator, but from human beings, who invented them based on the “social and economic conditions of the time.” He argued therefore that “rights” can and should be “amended” as society changes, in a similar way to how Darwin said organisms change based on the environment around them.

What was right in the past may not be

right today. Morality laws are even less permanent than scientific laws. *Right and wrong evolve.*

This is a well-developed, widely believed ideology that now dominates education, politics, philosophy and entertainment in the West. People call this concept Moral Darwinism or Moral Relativism. It began to take deep root in the American educational system as the Progressive Era began in the 1890s. The ideology comes straight from the pages of Darwin's *The Descent of Man*, yet even most Christian denominations in the Western world have now accepted, wittingly or unwittingly, the notion that THERE IS NO GLOBAL, ABSOLUTE MORAL

truth." And America then elected him to the presidency, twice.

Once you realize the logical conclusion of evolution—that truth, morality, right and wrong are just made up by human minds—you will be shocked at how widespread this radical thinking is. Without realizing it, you have even absorbed some of it yourself.

### 'Man's Mind Is Man's Fate'

In a world where God is a myth and there is no absolute morality, the most powerful force in the universe is the human mind. Thus, instead of trying to limit the power of the government in order to protect your and my individual

doing so would ease poverty and create a more equitable world? Would you be willing to kill a *countless* number of people who were preventing paradise?

In Stalinist Russia, over 20 million people were executed, starved or worked to death in the evolutionary struggle between social classes. In atheistic China, the state slaughtered 40 million people and actually encouraged teenagers to literally eat school principals suspected of counterrevolutionary sympathies. Some 3 million North Koreans have been murdered in a state-sanctioned attempt to purge society of the concept that "inalienable rights" exist.

These millions of grisly murders starkly violate God's moral law. *But they did not violate the man-made morality of the societies that perpetrated them.*

Darwin wrote in *The Descent of Man*, "If ... men were reared under precisely the same conditions as hive-bees, there can hardly be a doubt that our unmarried females would, like the worker-bees, think it a sacred duty to kill their brothers, and mothers would strive to kill their fertile daughters; and no one would think of interfering."

If you believe in an ideology of "moral absolutism"—if you believe truth, by definition, doesn't change—if you believe that right is always right and wrong is always wrong, no matter the time, place or society—then you have faced the most revolutionary question in history—"God or man?"—and, whether you realize it or not, made your choice. Natural law and absolute truth exist only in a universe created by a Creator.

If humans are only the most sophisticated of the apes, and they only come into existence to go back out of it, then the RULE OF LAW must give way to the LAW OF THE JUNGLE. The strong rule the weak. Only the fittest survive.

### Consequences of Lawlessness

After 150 years of indoctrination in evolutionary theory, almost every sector of Western society has accepted the premise that there is no absolute truth. People protest and riot in the streets over whether or not the concept of gender is a biological reality, whether or not a mother has the right to kill her child, and whether or not the unemployed have a right to use the government to

## Until humanity accepts God's inexorable spiritual law as static, stationary, eternal and unchanging, WE STAND IN GREAT DANGER.

LAW THAT APPLIES TO ALL PEOPLE, FOR ALL TIME, AND IN ALL PLACES.

Because society at large accepted the premise that everything is relative, including morality, evolutionists like Alfred Kinsey and Wilhelm Reich were able to propagate the idea that perversions like fornication, adultery, homosexuality and pedophilia are not inherently evil, but are natural results of the evolutionary process and are only "wrong" because people arbitrarily say they are wrong. After all, if there is no God, marriage is not a divinely sanctioned union between a man and a woman; it is a social construct that humanity invented in order to give children their best chance at survival. If society wants to dispense with that institution, it's not fundamentally right or wrong to do so because marriage is not right or wrong because *there is no such thing as right and wrong.*

It isn't only radicals on the fringe of society who believe there is no such thing as absolute morality, absolute right and wrong, absolute truth. This ideology of moral relativism is *everywhere.*

In fact, former U.S. President Barack Obama wrote in *The Audacity of Hope* that there is no such thing as "absolute

rights that are *endowed by our Creator*, atheists often try to get control of governments and to expand their power to the point that they can use them to end war, poverty and suffering.

This is the logic that led to the totalitarianism of Communist Russia.

Famous Soviet defector Whittaker Chambers wrote in his 1952 memoir, *Witness*, that Josef Stalin's Gulag Archipelago was the inevitable result of Russia's embrace of Darwinist-inspired atheism. "Hence the Communist Party is quite justified in calling itself the most revolutionary party in history," he wrote. "It has posed in practical form the most revolutionary question in history: 'God or Man?' It has taken the logical next step which 300 years of rationalism hesitated to take, and said what millions of modern minds think but do not dare or care to say: 'If man's mind is the decisive force in the world, what need is there for God?' Henceforth, man's mind is man's fate."

In other words, if you believe there is no God, and that mankind's fate is in mankind's hands, what price would you be willing to pay to establish your version of "utopia" on Earth? Would you be willing to kill someone if you believed

forcibly extract wealth from others.

The fact of the matter in all human controversies is this: If humanity evolved from primordial ooze, no one can say what is “right” or “wrong” because *there is no such thing*. There is only the strong and the weak.

“Both our practical morality and our emotional lives are adjusted to a world that no longer exists,” wrote Joseph Krutch shortly after he accepted evolution. “In so far as we adhere to a code of conduct, we do so largely because certain habits still persist, not because we can give any logical reason for preferring them ....”

Abortion, assisted suicide, sexual promiscuity, drug use and numerous other practices that were once condemned are now socially acceptable. We live in a different social universe than we did a century ago, a universe where the laws of morality are turned upside down. The whole world is in the midst of a moral crisis.

Nearly 40 years after Herbert Armstrong warned about the danger of evolution, he further elaborated on the moral crisis precipitated by Moral Darwinism. “The world crisis had already started prior to World War I,” he wrote on Nov. 24, 1967. “Only most of the peoples of the world were not yet aware of it. But men like Karl Marx and Nikolai Lenin knew. This world crisis resulted from the impact of science and technology—and the injection of godless ‘German rationalism’ into education. World wars are the military expression of that crisis. Worldwide depressions are the economic expression. The so-called ‘New Morality’ is the moral expression—plummeting morals into the cesspool. Universal desperation is the spiritual expression. This has spawned the beatniks and the hippies—the riots—the marches—the ‘civil disobedience’—the breakdown of law and order” (*Plain Truth* subscriber letter).

The “German rationalism” Mr. Armstrong referred to was the “rationalism” Whittaker

Chambers referenced. It is the atheist-inspired philosophy that proposed that “human reason” is the only source and only judge of all kinds of knowledge. In other words, if there is no God, whatever seems reasonable to you is right.

This is the line of thinking that leads to family breakdown, welfare addiction, drug addiction, gang membership, racial problems, looting, rioting and anarchy. The moral law revealed in the Holy Bible says that such behavior naturally leads to a condition where *cities are “laid waste, without an inhabitant”* (Jeremiah 4:7; also Jeremiah 2:15; Ezekiel 6:6).

The blast radius of a Soviet RDS-220 hydrogen bomb is 45 miles, but the destruction unleashed by moral lawlessness, the logical conclusion of the evolutionary theory, has become entrenched in most of modern civilization. This makes moral relativism over a thousand times more destructive than the Tsar Bomba!

“When Satan destroys belief in creation—when the devil succeeds in convincing men that this Earth was not created by an all-powerful creating God, but that it came ... ‘by continuous progressive change, by NATURAL causes, according to fixed laws, brought about only through RESIDENT forces’—then has Satan destroyed the PROOF of God,” Mr. Armstrong explained in 1928. This is why “EVOLUTION IS THE DEVIL’S MOST POWERFUL WEAPON.”

Until humanity accepts God’s inexorable spiritual law as static, stationary, eternal and unchanging, we stand in great danger. Unless the Creator, whose existence evolutionists so adamantly deny, intervenes to save this world’s sick society, the moral relativism and evolutionary progressivism radiating throughout society will poison all humanity, leading to the extinction of all life on Earth (Matthew 24:22).

Thankfully, the Bible records a definitive promise that God will intervene to save human beings from ourselves as soon as we prove this lesson. ■

► **KEEP CALM** FROM PAGE 6

measure.” This is the Prophet Isaiah prophesying—roughly 2,500 years ago—that Britain and America would in the end time have a deadly **KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON MENTALITY!**

Of all the questions that needed to be raised and discussed following the March 22 attack, one is especially important: **WHERE WAS GOD?** God witnessed the attack. In fact, He knew what Khalid Mahood was thinking the instant this evil entered his mind. Yet God allowed him to do it. Why? Why has He removed His protection from Britain? How can His protection be restored?

What about you? Will you avoid this “keep calm and carry on as normal” mindset as you watch world events? The Apostle Peter wrote, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). *Vigilant* means “to take heed lest through remission and indolence [or laziness] some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one.”

When crisis strikes, either individually or collectively, the natural tendency is to quickly move on, to “keep calm and carry on.” But this can be a fatal mistake. We must learn to stop, analyze the events, recognize the mistakes, meditate on the lessons, and then change the behavior that caused the crisis. The worst thing we can do is quickly return to the behavior that caused the crisis in the first place. Yet, that’s what Britain and America do today. And so do many individuals.

What happened in London was terrible. Your heart goes out to the victims. But it was only a hint of the terror attacks radical Islam *wants* to commit. And it was *nothing* compared to the suffering Bible prophecy says is coming upon America and Britain. The way to prevent this from happening again, to prevent a larger terror attack from happening, is to ask: *Why did this happen? How did this happen? What do we need to change so this does not happen again?*

You won’t find our leaders asking these questions. But that doesn’t mean you can’t ask—and answer—these vital questions. “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (1 Peter 4:7). ■



## Is it rational to believe in God?

Educational institutions have indoctrinated society to think belief in God is illogical. But what is the truth? To learn the answer to this all-important question, request Herbert W. Armstrong’s free booklet **Does God Exist?**

# What Does It Mean

This generation has discarded the basic idea of manhood that has dominated civilization for thousands of years. What are the results?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

**W**HAT IS manhood? In a society of same-sex “marriages” and transgender bathrooms, the answer to this question has never been more confusing. This generation has challenged, castigated and changed virtually everything that has defined manhood throughout human history.

## Consider Some Facts

In 1960, about two thirds of American men at age 30 had finished school, left their parents’ home, become financially independent, gotten married, and had a child. By 2000, that number was cut in half. In 1970, 80 percent of 25-to-29-year-old American men were married. Now that number has also been cut in half. In 1950, one in 20 men of prime working age was not working. Today, it’s about 1 in 6.

Today, about 60 percent of 18-to-24-year-old males live with their parents. Among 25-to-34-year-olds, it’s still



about 20 percent—almost double the rate among women the same age.

In secondary education, boys are outnumbered by girls in student government, honor societies, debating clubs and school newspapers. They are outperformed on tests of artistic and musical ability. The typical boy is a year and a half behind girls in reading

and writing skills. Boys are more likely to be held back or suspended from school. More boys drop out. More boys are on Ritalin, and more get involved in crime, alcohol and illegal drugs.

Women are pursuing higher education in far greater numbers than men. Every year 170,000 more women than

# ean to Be a MAN?

men earn bachelor's degrees. They expect higher earnings and better professional advancement than young men do. And although the average man earns 10 percent more, the average 20-something woman earns more than the average 20-something man.

Women are even avoiding serious relationships so as not to derail their career goals. When they decide they want to marry, they are finding fewer men who have developed their minds, bodies and skills. Their choice is to either "marry down" or not to marry at all.

More single women than single men are buying their own homes. More and more are having children on their own. Many think marriage would be nice, but they find it unnecessary. They can take care of themselves, after all, and don't need another dependent, another mouth to feed.

These developments are a reversal of the relationship between males and females that has existed for virtually all of human history.

Feminists may celebrate, but more and more people are recognizing that this trend comes with some steep costs that we are only starting to see.

## A Relic

For millennia, men have been providers: providers of defense, security, shelter, food and the means for other heavy necessities of life for women, who themselves provided the finer necessities of the relationship. As pioneering, farming and other occupations gave way to wage-earning jobs, men did the smithing, ranching, mining, felling, milling, building, clerking and other work outside the home—the work of providers. This integral role in life propelled males through their childhoods, their educations, their careers and their lives.

Now, this model is mocked. Two-income families are the norm, with neither husband nor wife fulfilling their historic role. Feminists encourage

women to stand on their own, shunning dependency on men and becoming laborers, wage-earners, managers, executives and even soldiers.

Women have proved to be spectacularly capable, and men have gotten the clear message, *You are no longer needed.*

It's a proven, demonstrable after-effect: In areas where they compete, women's success tends to discourage men. You can attribute this to chauvinism, sexist indoctrination or whatever you would like, but it is real, and it is powerful. Once men see women providing for themselves, they lose interest in doing so. This effect is apparent throughout the workforce. As women enter a profession, men lose interest in it. Thus, men are abandoning more and more jobs, and women are rushing in even faster to fill the void. Women's options for employment keep expanding as men surrender them.

The upshot of all this is "the emergence of an American matriarchy, where the *younger men especially are unmoored*, AND CLOSER THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN HISTORY TO BEING OBSOLETE—at least by most traditional measures of social utility. And the women are left picking up the pieces" (Hanna Rosin, *The End of Men*; emphasis added).

*Unmoored. Obsolete.* These are painfully accurate terms for far too many of today's aimless, indifferent men. This is the void that now exists where the sense of duty to provide used to be.

This is what happens when you cut society from its moorings. But there is more.

## Retreat

Lacking any apparent responsibility, men have devoted themselves to their own pleasure. It is a self-perpetuating

cycle: A man with less motivation to provide devotes more time to senseless pursuits, which renders him *even less* capable of fulfilling his role. And the instant he turns away from his masculine responsibilities, a black hole of vice and wastage sucks him in.

Video game addiction is about four times more common among boys than girls. The average American boy spends 13 hours a week absorbed in video games, compared to five hours for the

average girl. Half of college students admit that video games preempt their studies "some" or "a lot." By the time the average American youth reaches drinking age, he will have devoted 10,000 hours to gaming—enough time to have earned two bachelor's degrees.

Those 10,000 hours are spent viewing and interacting with either superfluous characters or with outright sexualized, violent or ghoulish worlds. Millions of young

people are immersing themselves in realistic games that encourage them to become killers, sadists, mutilators and monsters that use every conceivable weapon for murder, torture, dismemberment, decapitation, impalement, ethnic cleansing and rape.

When they turn away from the video games, millions of boys and men turn to pornography. Explicit sexual media are now mainstream, pervasive, socially accepted, devilishly easy to get, and intensely addictive. The demand is monstrous: For every two feature films made in America, the country produces 45 full-length commercial pornography films. The average high school boy watches *two hours of pornography a week*. Researchers conducting a study in July 2011 on pornography and prostitution had so much difficulty finding nonusers that they had to *loosen their*



**60%**

of 18-to-24-year-old males still live with their parents.

definition in order to muster 100 men for a control group.

These perverted images and warped concepts filling men's minds have devastating effects on men's relationships and mental health. Video games and pornography tend to become a substitute for normal face-to-face interactions, which makes users more isolated, socially awkward, and susceptible to depression. They have also been shown to suppress the willingness to take risks and to navigate the intricacies of real-world relationships, education and employment.

These influences are CRUSHING MANHOOD. One specific proof: Academics have uncovered a correlation between pornography viewing and an increase in a man's willingness to move back in with his parents. Risk-averse men who cannot handle life's complexities are deeply disadvantaged if not crippled in ever being able to support a family and assume other responsibilities of manhood.

### When Dad's Not Around

Feminists applaud the breakdown of long-held traditions in male-female relations. But look what has taken their place: academically and financially thriving women with no one to marry, juvenile men huddling in caves of self-indulgence, and children who think this is normal and then grow up and break down their relationships even further. Is this what feminists want?

The loss of breadwinning men in favor of perpetual adolescents has produced a swarm of other problems that result when men disengage from family and from society. Yes, women are succeeding financially and professionally—but families are fragmenting, and society is morally and spiritually disintegrating.

The role of fathers has shrunk dramatically. More and more children are growing up without fathers at all. And the science is in: Fatherlessness causes severe problems. Nearly half of children who live with their single mother live in poverty. Children who have limited interaction with fathers have higher rates of behavioral problems; these show up as early as age

1. Children without a positive father relationship are more negative about school and their teachers. Fatherless boys are far more likely to commit crime, take illegal drugs, smoke cigarettes and abuse alcohol. Males with an absentee father are nearly three times likelier to carry a gun and engage in drug deals than those who have a father at home. Fatherless girls are much more likely to fornicate; teenage pregnancy for girls who grow up without a father is four times higher than among those with a father in the home.

And fatherless girls who marry are far likelier to file for divorce as adults.

Anyone who looks at these real-world results and applauds them is insane. Anyone assessing them honestly sees that this revolution has been a disaster. The loss of strong manliness is a *plague* on our society.

Believe it or not, this exact calamity was *prophesied* in your Bible thousands of years ago.

### Where Are the Real Men?

Isaiah 3 is primarily about the end time, which other passages prove is the era we are living in right now. It specifically focuses on "Jerusalem" and "Judah," biblical language for the modern descendants of ancient Israel, including America and Britain. Look around! Isaiah described exactly what we see before our eyes: nations where strong male leadership has virtually DISAPPEARED.

Notice: "For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah ... The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator" (Isaiah 3:1-3). On the whole, mighty, heroic, discerning, farsighted, wise, honest, skilled, articulate, spiritual male leadership is gone.

This prophecy reveals the true, *but hidden*, CAUSE: God has *removed*

strong men as a *curse* on our nations—BECAUSE OF OUR SINS.

When strong men are not here to lead, others fill the void: "As for my people, *children* are their oppressors, and *women* rule over them. O my people,

they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (verse 12). Some say more work needs to be done to secure women's rights. God says women and children *already* lead society!

The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* shows that verse 12 can

also refer to men who act *like children* and who rule *like women*. Do you see any leaders today who are immature, effeminate and worse?

### Reaping What We Have Sown

The problems associated with the disappearance of strong male leadership are everywhere in America and other English-speaking nations.

Modern education is increasingly sacrificing intellectual excellence on the altar of anti-masculine liberal ideology. Students are embracing ridiculous utopianist notions that absolve them of personal accountability. Like spoiled children, they blame their personal failings on a supposedly unfair and unjust world rather than growing up and taking responsibility for themselves.

The loss of masculine wisdom, righteousness, honor and virility has hollowed out the strength of the world's most powerful militaries and economies. America's military is plagued by lack of willpower. Political correctness has become the priority over effectiveness and victories. Sex integration has gone so far that women are now purposefully sent into combat situations. Many strong warriors and military leaders have left the forces in disgust at the changing policies.

Our governments are plagued with immaturity and selfishness. Vicious divisions prevail, and politicians increasingly express heedless criticism, blind bias, unabashed arrogance, and naked hatred for their opponents. Politicians approach their responsibilities like spiteful children. In America, the

Teenage pregnancy is **4 TIMES** more prevalent in girls growing up without a father.

**170,000** more women than men graduate with bachelors' degrees every year.

political atmosphere has become so hostile and the government is so paralyzed by division that it is killing the government's ability to manage crises—our leadership is incapable of acting wisely and decisively on important security, defense, foreign-policy, economic and social concerns. Meanwhile, law and order are giving way to social breakdown, racial hatred and criminal activity.

This weakness domestically is undercutting America's global leadership role. Like Great Britain before it, the power that has been used to benefit the world for decades is being squandered through poor decision-making and leadership. Tyrants are filling the void. America's weakness is enabling the rise of Iran and radical Islam, a belligerent Russia, an ascendant China, and other dangerous and unpredictable powers. The instability seizing today's world can be directly traced back to America's retreat—which is a result of the disappearance of godly men.

Disappearing masculinity, which many view as a minor cultural or societal issue, has *real-world consequences* for you, your family, your finances, your health, your future and even your very security!

Decades of godless living are taking their toll. We are reaping what we have sown.

### The Path to True Manhood

Feminists say they want equality for women. But how many of them actually want weak men? No woman applauds a man for being addicted to video games or pornography. What is honorable and worthy of admiration is the man with self-mastery, who refrains from being entrapped by such sins. We yearn for the man with self-control, with temperance, with strong moral character.

A strong man is a blessing to his wife and children. He provides more than money—he provides security, attentive

engagement, successful leadership, firm guidance, emotional stability and real love.

Society, often without realizing it, cries out for masculinity of substance: strong character, untarnished fidelity, exemplary behavior, empathetic yet decisive leadership. Deep down, we yearn for men with spines.

Society still appreciates such men, yet it teaches and pressures males to do the opposite. To grow into a real man, you must be strong enough to follow a different path.

Where is that path? How do you walk it? What is true masculinity? By now it should be clear that you aren't going to find the answer on cable television, in the news media, bookstores, legislatures or universities. To know what manhood really should be, you need to look into the Holy Bible and consult the *Creator* of manhood.

Learn *God's* definition of manhood. Learn what your God-given duties are in your home, with your family, in your job, toward your neighbors and toward society. Understand what masculinity truly is—a definition that does not change from day to day, from year to year, or even from generation to generation.

You are living in a society that has launched a *revolution* and successfully overthrown biblical manhood. Most men have joined in or allowed themselves to be silently led along. You now have a choice: Will you be different? Will you live your life as a man according to the pressures of society—or according to the clear commands of God?

Seeing the full picture of the masculine duty God has vested in you is awesome and inspiring. It can also be intimidating, even overwhelming. But take heart. Maturing as a godly man is a lifelong endeavor, and it is never too early or too late to start. *Every* man struggles. *Every* man can grow in biblical manhood. You have everything to

gain from studying this subject.

Your job AS A MAN is perhaps the most challenging job God gives you! The Bible shows that you hold an *office*: the office of a son, the office of a brother, the office of a husband, the office of a father, the office of a *man*.

Any man who wants to live up to *God's* definition of manhood has real work to do. He must devote his energies to swimming upstream against society. He must make it his unwavering aim to grow—against pressure—in those qualities that will arm him for the rigors of true manhood. He must eschew the pastimes that weaken men. He must avoid the addictions that eat away at men's minds, blacken their consciences, and destroy their confidence. He must stoke the flames of ambition in his life. He must aim high, and equip himself to become an able leader of a strong, capable woman, and a builder of family and society.

This is what God wants. This is how we were created. This is literally what we were born to do, men: Grow up, achieve, mature and embrace the role that our masculine minds and bodies were designed for.

This is the elusive solution—hiding in plain sight if your Bible is open—to our manless society. It's not about getting back to the traditions of yesteryear. It's about EMBRACING HOW WE WERE CREATED. Discover it, live it, and you will be embarking on a life full of growth, challenge, fulfillment and happiness built on knowing what it really means to be a man. ■



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This article is adapted from the preface of an e-book called **Biblical Manhood**. Download your free copy at [theTrumpet.com/go/manhood](http://theTrumpet.com/go/manhood).

# Unraveling the KKK— With Friendship



Normally when a person is hated,  
he hates right back. Not Daryl Davis.

WINNING FRIENDS  
Reformed white  
supremacist Scott  
Shephard (left) and  
Daryl Davis meet with  
filmmaker Matthew  
Ornstein.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

**W**HEN DARYL DAVIS WAS A CUB Scout in 1968, his troop was marching from Lexington, Massachusetts, to Concord to commemorate the Ride of Paul Revere. As they approached a certain cluster of spectators, 10-year-old Davis suddenly felt the sting of a rock striking his arm. Then another. And then several more.

“I was being pelted,” Mr. Davis writes in his book, *Klan-destine Relationships*. “I turned, and to my surprise, saw they came from some of the spectators, even children, along the parade route.”

Young Daryl was oblivious to the fact that he was the only black Cub Scout in the parade, and he initially thought those spectators must have had a problem with the Scouts. But when his Cub master ran over to shield him from the stones, Daryl suddenly realized that he was the only Scout being targeted.

His parents explained to him later that the people attacking him were racists, whose only problem with him was that he was black. “It was very hard, at the age of 10, to understand why some people who didn’t even know me would inflict pain upon me for no other reasons than the color of my skin,” he wrote.

## A Burning Question

That experience planted a question in Davis’s mind that he was determined to answer: *How can a person hate another person who they don’t even know?*

During his teenage years, Daryl suffered a few other racially motivated affronts. Each one intensified his desire to comprehend what fueled the blind hatred. He read every book he could get his hands on about the Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist group with a long history of using physical assault, terrorism and murder against black people and other minorities.

Daryl also read all he could about the racism of Nazis during World War II, about American neo-Nazi groups, and about black-supremacist groups.

As the years went by, he learned an immense amount, but he realized that to fully answer to question, he would need to have firsthand discussions with white supremacists.

## A Risky Rendezvous

Mr. Davis knew these would be dangerous meetings for a black man to take part in, but he was determined to forge ahead.

It was the early 1990s. He was living in Maryland, and decided to try to speak with a member of one of the state’s KKK

chapters, the Invincible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Not one to aim low, Davis set up a meeting with the Grand Dragon, the highest-ranking Klansman in the state. The Grand Dragon in Maryland was a man named Roger Kelly.

While arranging the meeting, Davis decided not to tell Kelly that he was black; he thought divulging that little detail could dissuade the Grand Dragon from meeting with him.

Davis arrived in the designated hotel room before Kelly. In his book, Davis describes the attire of the Grand Dragon’s bodyguard: “A young man dressed in military camouflage fatigues with the Ku Klux Klan insignia, a white cross in a red circle with a red blood drop in the center, on one side of his chest, and the initials ‘KKK’ on the other side, entered the room. This was the Grand Knight-hawk, body guard to the Grand Dragon.”

The Grand Knighthawk also carried a loaded 9-millimeter pistol on his belt. When he saw that Davis was a black man, the Knighthawk froze in his steps. “Upon seeing me, he stopped short, causing the Grand Dragon, following behind him, to almost bump into his back,” Davis writes. “I noticed the apprehension in their faces as their eyes quickly scanned the room and darted back to me.”

They feared that they had walked into an ambush. Davis sought to quickly reassure them, so he rose from his seat with his right hand extended toward Kelly. “I’m Daryl Davis, come on in,” he said.

The tension was surreal.

Davis stood there with his open palm outstretched. Davis was smiling warmly and sincerely. But he understood the vastness of the distance he was attempting to reach his arm across. Finally, the Grand Dragon extended his hand toward Davis and shook his hand. “Roger Kelly,” he said.

Throughout most of the two-hour interview, the atmosphere remained palpably tense. The Grand Knighthawk remained on high alert, vigilant for anything that could endanger his leader. “Every time I reached into my bag to pull out a blank cassette or other item I needed,” the Knighthawk “brought his hand to rest on his gun,” Davis writes.

But Daryl Davis and Roger Kelly kept talking. They talked not just about racial issues, but also about the

deterioration of family values in America, the difficulties of raising children in the modern climate, and the dangers of recreational drug use. They found that they agreed on the causes of many problems plaguing American society.

A short time after the interview, Kelly was elected Imperial Wizard of the Invincible Empire Knights of the KKK. He was no longer just head of the Maryland chapter, but of the whole country.

### Accidental Friendship

Over the next few months, Davis and Kelly met for several more interviews.

Davis was extraordinarily patient and meek, but also persistent and authentic. He would occasionally explain to Kelly how his racist viewpoints were flawed. Davis initially feared that these corrections would anger or embarrass Kelly, and destroy the rapport they had established. Instead these interjections seemed to make Kelly think.

The conversations went on.

Soon the two began to sometimes visit each other's homes. Davis's book describes one of his visits to the Imperial Wizard's home: "He gave me a glass of ginger ale, and we sat down around the table, talking about everything. I had thought we would talk for an hour or two. However, I got there shortly after 10 in the morning, and it was now almost 7 in the evening when I got up to leave."

They lost track of time the way people often do when they're enjoying each other's company.

On several occasions, Kelly invited Davis to KKK rallies. At one such event, Kelly was in the middle of delivering a speech when he pointed to Davis and called him his friend. Davis was shocked, but he realized it was true. Over the years—mostly because of Davis's patience, persistence and authenticity—the two men had unexpectedly and accidentally become friends.

One evening, the man who had been Kelly's Grand Knight hawk died. This man had been a very close friend to Kelly, and the death was difficult for him. Kelly said he would have liked for Davis to accompany him to the funeral, but out of respect for the bodyguard's parents, who would have been uncomfortable with his presence, they decided Davis shouldn't go. Kelly

then said something that astounded Davis: "If I should die before you, Daryl," he said, "I would like you to be at my funeral, and I'll put that in my will."

A few months later, after Roger Kelly and his wife had had a baby girl, an even bigger bombshell was dropped: The Kellys asked Mr. Davis to be their daughter's godfather. The next day, Davis viewed the request as a major milestone that brought a Bible passage to mind: "[I]t was a life-affirming move which, I hope and believe, heralds a future in which 'they shall beat their swords into plowshares ... neither shall they learn war anymore,'" he writes.

What happened next made even that "life-affirming" milestone event seem comparatively minor.

### Renouncing the Robe

On July 9, 1999, Roger Kelly, the Imperial Wizard of the Invincible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan, gave up his robe. He quit the Ku Klux Klan.



"You get a little older, you get a little wiser," Kelly said in an interview at the time with the *Herald-Mail* newspaper.

This was never Davis's goal. He was only trying to understand racial hatred. He didn't realize he would be able to change the mind of a hate-filled racist. "That was pretty surprising to me because I had never expected someone who was that entrenched, who had that much hatred in him, to quit," Davis said in an interview with WSRE Pensacola.

Kelly's resignation was major news in the Klan. It sent reverberations throughout the group, especially in Maryland. It started a chain reaction that caused

several leaders to quit, and then the rest of the faction dissolved. "When he gave up the Klan, the KKK in Maryland fell apart," Davis said. "That doesn't mean there are no more racists here. [But] as a result of this leader becoming my friend, the Klan in Maryland fell apart."

After Kelly's resignation, Davis decided to see if he could have the same impact on other defiant racists. He had remarkable success. During the 30 years that he has been reaching out to white supremacists, Davis has helped to persuade around 200 Klansmen to give up their robes. Since the KKK has an estimated 6,000 members nationwide, this number represents more than 3 percent of the racist group's total membership.

Just by reaching his hand out to them, as he did toward Roger Kelly during their first meeting, Daryl Davis has had a stunning and measurable impact on American race relations. By being patient, friendly and authentic, he has accomplished an astonishing feat.

Mr. Davis's example is unusual, but it is not entirely unique. In 2015, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry called attention to a similar situation. That year, a psychopathic, white supremacist in Charleston, South Carolina, opened fire on the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, killing nine black people. The victims' relatives shocked America by saying that instead of hating the racist murderer, they *forgave* him. They said they were in deep pain, but that they were praying for the killer.

"This example should have been held up for the whole nation to follow," Mr. Flurry wrote. "This is a lesson and an example for all of us in a *way of life* that can really solve our problems!" (July 3, 2015).

This example is one that Daryl Davis is also setting in a deeply powerful way. And he says that, with patience, meekness and love, any of us can help to solve race problems. "We all can do it," he said. "And we all need to do it because this world and our country is getting smaller and smaller, and the more we learn to communicate with diversity, the better we'll be able to navigate in our own society." ■

To understand more about the approach America needs to heal its race-related wounds, read Gerald Flurry's article "[How to Solve America's Race Problems](https://www.thetrumpet.com/go/12944)" at [theTrumpet.com/go/12944](https://www.thetrumpet.com/go/12944).

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## EUROPE

1

**BRITAIN WILL BREAK FROM EUROPE** Britain's 44-year membership in Europe's economic bloc will end, and the European bloc will ultimately attack it. This break is currently occurring.  
[theTrumpet.com/13988](http://theTrumpet.com/13988)

2

**A GERMAN STRONGMAN WILL DOMINATE EUROPE** Ten European leaders will empower a dictator of German descent.  
[theTrumpet.com/12522](http://theTrumpet.com/12522)

3

**EUROPE WILL BECOME A 10-NATION SUPERPOWER** The Continent will unite into a resurrected Holy Roman Empire dominated by the Vatican.  
[theTrumpet.com/13072](http://theTrumpet.com/13072)

## ASIA



4

**A RUSSIAN STRONGMAN WILL DOMINATE ASIA**

A Russian dictator will lead an Asian military alliance. [theTrumpet.com/11979](http://theTrumpet.com/11979)

5

**RUSSIA WILL ALLY WITH CHINA** A Russian and Chinese military alliance mustering 200 million troops will ultimately oppose a German-led European superstate. [theTrumpet.com/5560](http://theTrumpet.com/5560)

6

**CHINA WILL JOIN AN ANTI-AMERICAN TRADE BLOC** Major Asian powers and the German-led European Union will form a brief economic alliance to oppose America, Britain and other English-speaking nations. [theTrumpet.com/13880](http://theTrumpet.com/13880)

7

**HALF OF JERUSALEM WILL FALL**

Arabs will violently take over the eastern part of Jerusalem. [theTrumpet.com/14527](http://theTrumpet.com/14527)

8

**IRAN WILL ALLY WITH EGYPT**

Egypt will end its long-standing autonomy and opposition to Iran and will ally with it. [theTrumpet.com/8599](http://theTrumpet.com/8599)

9

**IRAN WILL LEAD AN ISLAMIST POWER BLOC**

Iran will dominate the Middle East through its power over radical Islamic terror. [theTrumpet.com/12459](http://theTrumpet.com/12459)

11

**LOSS OF SEA GATES** The United States and Britain will lose control of the world's maritime shipping lanes, straits, canals, channels and ports. [theTrumpet.com/10308](http://theTrumpet.com/10308)

10

**VIOLENCE WILL ERUPT WITHIN U.S. CITIES**

The moral breakdown of American society will culminate in large-scale looting, rioting, violence and murder in America's most densely populated areas. [theTrumpet.com/12629](http://theTrumpet.com/12629)

12

**U.S. ECONOMY WILL COLLAPSE**

The American monetary system will crash, draining its superpower status and leaving it vulnerable. [theTrumpet.com/5563](http://theTrumpet.com/5563)

# MIDDLE EAST

# ANGLO-AMERICA





# Iran's Strategy to Sabotage World Trade

After taking Yemen's capital two years ago, the Islamic Republic is now shifting its focus from land to sea. **BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL**

**T**HE FOOTAGE WAS SHAKY, GRAINY and out of focus, but the moment it captured was unmistakable. Across the water in the distance is a massive warship. The amateur videographer does his best to keep the vessel in the frame as small waves lap the edge of his skiff. For a minute, he chats in Arabic with another onlooker. Then, in anticipation, they fall silent.

Then it happens, just as planned.

A massive fireball erupts from the stern of the warship, sending out an instantaneous shock wave that rocks the camera. A second later the fiery explosion turns black as smoke billows skyward. The Arabic voiceover returns, this time with much more fervor: "God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel! Curse the Jews! Victory for Islam!"

This was the scene in the southern Red Sea in late January when Iranian-backed Houthi militiamen successfully rammed an unmanned, explosive-laden boat into the side of a

Saudi frigate, killing two sailors and announcing to the world that the militia's arsenal now includes naval drones.

A few months earlier on October 1, the weapon was different, but the chants were the same. However, instead of a naval drone causing the carnage, it was a C-802 antiship missile, made by the Chinese, reverse engineered by the Iranians, and fired by the Houthis. This time, it was a United Arab Emirates-operated HSV-2 Swift advanced transport vessel that was destroyed.

A week after that, the most powerful navy in the world was the target. On October 9, the Houthis picked a fight with the USS *Mason*—far out of its weight class, but they had no fear. The militia launched two land-based cruise missiles at the *Mason*, an American destroyer stationed just north of the sea's critical southern choke point, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The *Mason* was forced into defensive measures including the firing of three of its own missiles to intercept

the Houthis' missiles. The attack was foiled, but the Houthis were undeterred, and within the same week launched two more missile attacks against the *Mason*.

In March, the United States Office of Naval Intelligence warned that the Houthi militia had upped the ante by deploying naval mines in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The U.S. Navy said it would remove the mines, but it didn't happen fast enough. On March 10, a Yemen Coast Guard vessel hit a mine and exploded, killing two sailors and injuring eight others.

Naval mines, drone attack boats, cruise missiles: These are the latest weapons used in Iran's quest to control the southern Red Sea passageway.

## Prepping for War

Ever since the Houthis took over Yemen's capital Sanaa in late 2014, the *Trumpet* has emphasized that this was actually a victory for Iran. In the April 2015 issue, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "The Houthis' takeover of Yemen was not just a grassroots revolution. It was a part of a deliberate and calculated Iranian strategy to conquer the Red Sea."

These latest actions by the Houthi militia prove that Iran is making progress in controlling this waterway. Along with the uptick in its actions against naval targets through its Houthi proxy, Iran is directly exerting power over the southern Red Sea.

In late February, the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy conducted a large-scale exercise in the northern Indian Ocean. Operation Velayat 95 included operations in an area of nearly 800,000 square miles, from the Strait of Hormuz leading into the Persian Gulf, around the Arabian Peninsula to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait leading into the Red Sea. This is an annual war drill for the Iranian Navy. However, the drill this year was different from the one last year in one notable way: This was the first time the exercises extended to the Bab el-Mandeb.

Geopolitical Futures wrote that the inclusion of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait "offers a window into Iranian strategy," explaining that "Iran's recent naval exercises indicate that Iran could be preparing to take advantage of a distracted United States should conflict in the South China Sea or elsewhere

take place. If the U.S. does not have the resources necessary to prevent Iran from projecting power in the region, Iran wants to be sufficiently prepared to take advantage of the situation. Therefore, we can conclude that IRAN CONSIDERS THE BAB EL-MANDEB IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO INCREASE ITS CAPABILITIES TO PROJECT FORCE in that region. ...

“Iran is adding the Bab el-Mandeb to the theaters in which the country feels it must be capable of operating. There are no precise details on what Iran has deployed, but in this case, the specifics of the deployment are less important than observing that IRAN NOW CONSIDERS THE BAB EL-MANDEB PART OF ITS IMMEDIATE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT” (February 28; emphasis added).

Iranian ambition in the Bab el-Mandeb is natural considering one of its leaders claimed dominance over the waterways following the 2011 Houthi uprising. “We in the axis of resistance are the new sultans of the Mediterranean and the Gulf,” said Mohammed Sadeq al-Hosseini, adviser to former Iranian President Mohammed Khatami. “We in Tehran, Damascus, [Hezbollah’s] southern suburb of Beirut, Baghdad and Sanaa will shape the region. We are the new sultans of the Red Sea as well.”

Moving forward into 2017, Iran is simply implementing the strategy it hinted at years earlier.

The types of weaponry that Iran chose to test in early 2017 also reveal its naval strategy. On the second day of the Velayat 95 exercises, Iran successfully test-fired its Dehlaviyeh antiship missile for the first time. This land-based, laser-guided missile system created by Iranian technicians jeopardizes shipping traffic navigating the narrow sea passages of the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

In early March, Iran launched two Fateh-110 short-range ballistic missiles. The last time this model was used, the Fateh (Persian for “Conqueror”) starred in a propaganda film in which it blew up a simulated U.S. Navy aircraft carrier.

According to Fox News sources, the new Fateh-110 has been updated with “active seeker” technology that allows it to better detect ships at sea. The missiles are road-mobile and can be used against land-based targets. But the improvements to the weapon, as well

as the way in which it was tested, show the Iranians’ primary purpose for the missile: to destroy ships.

But Iran is not done yet. In a March 22 report, Reuters sources indicated that Iran’s long-standing support for the Houthis has increased in recent months, and that it has provided special assistance through its Quds Force. According to Reuters, “A senior Iranian official said Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani, commander of the Quds Force—the external arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)—met top IRGC officials in Tehran last month to look at ways to ‘empower’ the Houthis.

“At this meeting, they agreed to increase the amount of help, through training, arms and financial support,” the official said.”

### Iran’s Strategy in Yemen

Gerald Flurry wrote in 2015 that the “Houthi takeover in Yemen proves that Iran is implementing a bold strategy to control the vital sea lane from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea” (op cit). This was at a time when most commentators were focusing on the

shipping in the waters off the Yemeni coast and the effectiveness of an arms embargo against the Houthis. If not the sign of a new weapon, the attack could suggest a shift in the group’s tactics that may equally threaten ships in the Red Sea” (Oct. 5, 2016).

Iran is completely aware of the strategic significance of this gate. On Jan. 17, 2015, the Iranian state-sponsored Tasnim News Agency published an article that boldly proclaimed: “Today, all the arteries of oil transport—from Bab el-Mandeb Strait to Suez Canal and the Strait of Hormuz—are under Iranian control, by means of Syria, Yemen and Bahrain, and within range of Iranian missiles” (Middle East Media Research Institute translation).

Two months later, on March 2, the IRGC weekly, *Sobh-e Sadeq*, wrote, “... Yemen has a highly sensitive geopolitical status, stemming in part from its location in the Gulf of Aden and the Bab el-Mandeb. [Yemen’s] location links East with West. These days, Europe imports 3.5 million barrels of oil through these straits, and if the crisis in Yemen worsens and Bab el-Mandeb is closed, it would create a dangerous situation.”

Iran is fully aware that controlling this gate will give it virtual control of the trade through these seas.

Over 300,000 tons of shipping, including 3.8 million barrels of oil, pass between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean every day. Each ship must sail through the southern passage of the Red Sea: the Bab el-Mandeb. Measuring just 18 miles across, this channel is the closest point between the two landmasses of central Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. The northeastern edge of the strait is in Yemeni territory.

The strategic importance of controlling this strait is equal to controlling the crucial Suez Canal, since every ship that sails between Asia and Europe through the Red Sea must go through both of these passages. If sailing from the Persian Gulf this route is 43 percent shorter than sailing around the continent of Africa, which makes it the most affordable route and saves shipping companies millions of dollars.

For this reason, roughly 20,000 ships pass through the Suez Canal and Bab

#### WHY IS THE BAB EL-MANDEB SEA GATE SO IMPORTANT?

##### NUMBERS

20,000 SHIPS PER YEAR  
15 PERCENT OF GLOBAL MARITIME TRADE  
10 PERCENT OF GLOBAL SEABORNE OIL

##### SHORTCUT

THE PERSIAN GULF ROUTE IS 43 PERCENT SHORTER THAN SAILING AROUND AFRICA.

##### BOTTOM LINE

CONTROLLING BAB EL-MANDEB IS EQUAL TO CONTROLLING THE SUEZ CANAL.

Houthi rebellion as an attempt to take over land and destabilize Iran’s rival, Saudi Arabia, which is Yemen’s northern neighbor. But Mr. Flurry foresaw that Iran’s interest in the Houthi uprising was aimed at a vital strategic goal: domination of the southern Red Sea passage.

After the October 1 Houthi missile attack on the U.A.E. vessel, Stratfor wrote that the attack “indicate[s] that the group has acquired new capabilities, raising questions about the security of

# Will America's Asian

After the U.S.'s unsuccessful pivot to counter China, many of America's allies feel forced to reorient themselves alongside Beijing. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

**I**T WAS SLIGHTLY OVERCAST IN CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, WHEN United States President Barack Obama entered Parliament. As he made his way through the chamber, hands extended toward him from all directions, eager to shake the president's hand. After a warm introduction from Australia's prime minister, Mr. Obama walked to the lectern. In some ways, the prepared remarks waiting for him there were like those of any other speech. In other ways, they were an absolutely tectonic shift.

This was the speech in which Obama announced his administration's "pivot to Asia." The speech, given Nov. 17, 2011, signaled that the Bush-era focus on the Middle East and Europe was over. The shift meant nothing less than taking the resources, political power, financial leverage, military projection and economic mass of a continent-wide superpower, and diverting the bulk of it to interaction with Asian powers.

With the pivot, President Obama aimed to revive U.S. influence in the vital Asia-Pacific region. And by boosting cooperation with America's Asian allies and partners, the shift sought to contain and engage China. The plan included the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a free trade deal that would link the U.S. with several Asia-Pacific countries, and reduce China's leverage over participating nations.

In terms of diplomatic shuttling, wire transfers, cable traffic, consulate staffings, bills of lading, naval planning, troop deployments, merchant tonnage, port construction, and customs volume, there could hardly have been a greater long-term structural transformation than what the "pivot to Asia" aimed for.

Slowly, yet inexorably, we were all about to feel the Earth move under our feet.

Except it was a failure. Within a few months, it was clear that the talk of the pivot was not translating into much action. The plan was not just failing to curb Chinese aggression—it was provoking more of it. And as China bullied U.S. partners in the area, the Obama administration took little action to counter it. As the years went by, it appeared to many of America's Asian partners that Washington was appeasing Beijing.

In late 2016, when it became clear that the transition in U.S. leadership would mark the death knell of the TPP, it felt to many of America's partner nations like the final straw. They began to panic. Unsure about the direction and commitment of America, and unable to ignore Beijing's growing power and intensifying resolve to use its power, these nations that have been aligned with the U.S. for decades are now changing course, pivoting to China.

## THE PHILIPPINES

**F**or decades, the Philippines has been one of America's most loyal allies. Since 1951, a bilateral agreement for mutual defense has bound the two nations, making the Philippines one of just two American treaty allies in Southeast Asia. The alliance has been of immense benefit to the Philippines, as evidenced by the hundreds of millions of dollars America has given Manila over the years for military aid, development assistance, humanitarian assistance and storm relief. The alliance has also made the Philippines a pillar of U.S. foreign policy in the region.

But last June, a new Philippine president came to power in Manila who seems to have little affection for America: Rodrigo Duterte. After seeing the Obama administration's failure to counter China's bullying of the Philippines in the South China Sea, Duterte wasted no time in reaching out to China once he entered office.

After members of the Obama administration had criticized human rights violations in Duterte's domestic anti-drug campaign, he insulted President Obama personally, and said the U.S. military should prepare to get out of the Philippines.

Duterte then told his government that back when Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula was annexed by Russia, America "wasn't able to do anything." In light of this, and referencing Manila's defense treaty with the U.S., he asked his officials: "Do you really think we need it?"

While visiting Beijing, Duterte ramped up the rhetoric to a new extreme, announcing his country's "separation" from the U.S. and realignment with China. "America has lost now. I've realigned myself [with China's] ideological flow," he said. "And maybe I will also go to Russia to talk to Putin and tell him that there are three of us against the world: China, Philippines and Russia. It's the only way."

Later, under pressure from the top brass in the Philippines military, Duterte softened some of his anti-U.S. statements, saying he only wanted a more independent foreign policy so he could build a closer relationship with China. But despite the partial backtracking in words, Duterte's actions have made clear that he is willing to sacrifice the Washington-Manila relationship in order to strengthen bonds with China.

Duterte also canceled some joint Philippine-U.S. patrols monitoring Chinese vessels near Philippine territorial waters. He canceled some joint exercises with the American military, announced that he would start buying weapons from China, and signed an assortment of deals with Beijing worth tens of billions of dollars.

Meanwhile, Duterte placed a distinguished feather in the cap of Chinese President Xi Jinping by declining to acknowledge a victory the Philippines had won against China in an international court at The Hague. China asserts sovereignty over 80 percent of the vast South China Sea, parts of which are also claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Since 2012, Chinese island-building and vessel movement in this disputed region have pushed

# Allies Pivot to CHINA?

into Philippine territory, posing a major challenge to the rules-based global order, and leading to the high-profile 2016 court case. The court ruled that the maritime territories lawfully belong not to China, but to the Philippines. Duterte's decision to basically ignore the ruling equated to the deepest kowtowing the Philippines can render toward the Chinese. The decision, alongside China's massive military buildup there, also means Beijing could soon declare an Air Defense Identification Zone over the South China Sea.

In a particularly strange act of obsequiousness, Duterte also told Chinese officials that he would be happy to share any oil that the Philippines finds in the disputed region with Beijing.

These moves demonstrate that even if Mr. Duterte is unable to accomplish an immediate and total "separation" from the U.S., he is eager to drastically reduce Manila's reliance on America. They show that he is determined to align with China.

After America's transition from President Obama to Donald Trump, there was hope that Duterte would reverse direction back toward America. After all, Mr. Trump has not criticized the human rights violations of Mr. Duterte's drug war as Mr. Obama had so infuriated him by doing. But there is no indication of an improvement in the U.S.-Philippines relationship. In fact, 10 days into Mr. Trump's presidency, Duterte asked the U.S. to no longer store weapons in Philippine facilities under the existing defense pact, saying he does not want the Philippines to become entangled in any fighting that erupts between China and the U.S.

A willing treaty ally would not speak of such potential fighting as something it is detached from, and intends to remain uninvolved with.

In February 2017, Duterte refused to assign an ambassador to the United States. "No ambassador will go there," he said. "I don't feel like sending one."

These are not the words or actions of a willing treaty ally.

Days after Mr. Duterte's alarming statements about seeking "separation" from America, the leader of another staunch American partner nation expressed the same sentiments.



**For decades, the Philippines has been one of America's most loyal allies, and a pillar of U.S. foreign policy in Asia. Now the leadership is telling America that those days are over.**

## MALAYSIA

On the eve of a historic visit to Beijing in November, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said he would work to "elevate the relationship between" China and Malaysia. He praised the way Beijing has "created benefits not just for the people of [China and Malaysia] but also for regional stability and harmony."

The assertion is not grounded in reality. It was apparently designed to flatter the Chinese leadership, a government that Najib justifiably fears, especially as he sees the U.S. retreating from Asia.

In Beijing the next day, Najib signed a deal to buy Chinese naval patrol vessels. This marked a milestone development: Malaysia's first ever major defense deal with China.

Najib then warned "former colonial powers" (read America and Britain) against "lectur[ing] countries they once exploited on how to conduct their own internal affairs today." Malaysians have long held a favorable view of and a thriving diplomatic relationship with the United States, so the sudden shift alarmed American leadership.

Richard Heydarian, a specialist in Asian geopolitical affairs, said the realignments of the Philippines and Malaysia are alarming because they happened so abruptly: "This is a dramatic turn of events, since not only are the Philippines and Malaysia considered as staunch strategic partners of the West, but they have also been caught in bitter territorial disputes with China, which has rapidly expanded its footprint across the South China Sea" (Al Jazeera, Nov. 8, 2016).

These countries should be angry at China for its bullying, Heydarian says. But they apparently have calculated that it is now too late for that. It is time to instead give the bully their lunch money.

Heydarian also said that more defections to China may follow: "Put together, Najib's and Duterte's back-to-back visits to Beijing have provoked panic in some Western capitals, with observers causally warning about a wave of defections among traditional Western partners now pivoting to China."

This feared "wave of defections" gathered major momentum in late December when officials in another American-friendly Asian nation made a landmark announcement.



**Malaysians have long had a favorable view of and a thriving diplomatic relationship with the United States. Somewhat suddenly, the nation is instead looking to China.**

## THAILAND

In 1954, the U.S. and Thailand signed the Manila Pact of the former Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. This pact and two later agreements welded Washington and Bangkok together as official treaty allies. For decades, the alliance was unshakable.

But in 2014, Thailand's Royal Armed Forces launched a coup d'état that overthrew the country's government and established a junta to rule in its place. The military officers who took power repealed parts of the constitution, dissolved parliament, declared martial law and set a nationwide curfew. They outlawed political gatherings, arrested numerous anti-coup activists, and took control over Thai media.

Washington froze security and defense aid to Thailand and said relations can return to normal only after human rights violations end and democracy is restored.

But China makes no such demands. In stark contrast to America's sermonizing about human rights abuses and democracy suppression, China is utterly unconcerned about such issues. In December 2016, a group of Thai officials traveled to Beijing and were won over to China. They announced that Thailand would develop a major joint military production facility with China.

It didn't end there. In early January, Thailand said it was buying a sizable quantity of VT-4 tanks from China, and consulting with China on Thailand's joint investments in tanks and other heavy weaponry. Even before the December visit, the air forces of China and Thailand held their first ever joint exercises. Now Thailand has selected China for a multibillion-dollar contract to build its first submarines. Bangkok and Beijing have also taken milestone steps to collaborate on military training, personnel exchanges and antiterrorism cooperation.

It is possible that U.S.-Thai relations will warm again after Thailand has elections that the junta has promised will take place in 2018. But by that time, Beijing's tightening grip may leave little room for the U.S. to wriggle back into Thailand.



**For decades, the U.S.-Thai alliance was unshakable. But since a coup d'état overthrew the country's government and established a junta to rule in its place, everything is changing.**

## VIETNAM

As recently as 2014, it seemed that Vietnam's fear of Chinese aggression was intense enough to keep it firmly in the U.S.'s corner. That summer, China's state-owned oil company illegally positioned an oil rig in the waters of Vietnam's exclusive economic zone.

The move sparked tensions culminating in Vietnamese and Chinese fishing vessels ramming each other. The U.S. pounced on the opportunity to strongly condemn China and to back Vietnam's pro-Western government by funding an upgrade of parts of the nation's military.

The *Diplomat* said the spike in tensions meant China-Vietnam relations had "passed the point of no return."

But in January 2016, the situation began to drastically change. Vietnam held its 12th National Congress, which saw the pro-Western leadership replaced by a pro-China faction headed by Nguyen Phu Trong. As the new head of Vietnam's politburo, Trong wasted no time tilting the country toward China and away from Washington.

Vietnam's reorientation was on full display in January when Trong visited Beijing for four days. President Xi staged a state-level welcoming ceremony for him. The trip resulted in a joint communiqué stressing both nations' commitment to bolstering their strategic cooperation. The *Diplomat* admitted that time had proved its earlier "point of no return" statement wrong and said Trong's visit "underscored a major shift in Sino-Vietnamese bilateral relations" (January 25).

The trip showed that Vietnam "seems to anticipate certain obstacles to its partnership with Washington under President Trump," the *Diplomat* said, "particularly now that he has withdrawn the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)."

*Forbes'* Asia analyst Ralph Jennings said the leadership transition in America is not likely to improve U.S.-Vietnam relations, but only to further strain them. "Compared to the still new U.S. administration, China feels comfortably predictable," he wrote. "It's got unwavering one-party rule like Vietnam" (February 20).



**The country's pro-Western government was recently replaced by the China-friendly Communist Party of Vietnam. The new leadership is tilting the nation away from Washington and toward Beijing.**

### Three Trends in One

There is evidence of the same trend happening, to varying degrees, in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

At first glance, this may appear to be driven by the smaller Asian nations' increasing fondness for China. This may factor into the calculus of Duterte and some others to a small degree. But these course changes are happening mostly because

Asian nations are acutely aware of America's decline and China's rise. Their desire for self-preservation prompts them to realign accordingly.

In a strategy report released in December, Ross Babbage, senior fellow at U.S. think tank Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, explained: "In effect, Beijing is

pressuring regional countries into an arrangement that mirrors the contract struck with its own people: economic benefits in exchange for political compliance, with a big stick lurking in the background threatening retaliation for aberrant behavior. ... Significant damage is being done to U.S. and allied credibility. In the absence of major changes in allied policy, much of Southeast Asia will likely shift into Beijing's orbit."

These nations see China's big stick hovering in the background, and also see that the U.S. can no longer be relied upon to protect them from it. So they are making a calculated realignment: *If you can't beat them, join them.*

It is possible that Mr. Trump could prioritize recovering U.S. leadership in the region. He could attempt major changes to demonstrate U.S. military superiority to discourage further Chinese adventurism and to win back the confidence of America's allies. But the damage has been done. Such an attempt would accomplish little.

This development highlights three prophetically significant trends: The decline of American power, the coming together of the "kings of the east," and the rise of China's might.

Herbert W. Armstrong forecast the deterioration of America's power decades ago. Just after America's failed invasion of Cuba in 1961, Mr. Armstrong pinned the blame not on the U.S. military, or even on the Kennedy administration, but on the American people: "Unless or until the United States as a whole repents and returns to what has become a hollow slogan on its dollars: 'In God we trust,' the United States of America has won its last war! ... [T]he God America has deserted gave it its most humiliating defeat! What does the Cuban debacle mean? It means, Mr. and Mrs. United States, that the handwriting is on your wall!" (*Plain Truth*, October 1961).

Mr. Armstrong knew that America's power was crumbling and that the nation was headed for collapse. He made these statements with confidence because they were based on biblical prophecy. The Bible includes a startlingly specific and recognizable forecast for the descendants of Israel, which include America. God said that if the nation rejected His law, "I will break the pride of your power" (Leviticus 26:19).

In the decades since Mr. Armstrong penned those words, the people of America have calcified their rejection of God's law. They have only intensified their disdain for it. In the time since, America has inserted itself into dozens of military altercations. And each of the halfhearted campaigns has drained a little bit more of the country's pride in its power.

On Oct. 1, 2012, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said America's flat-footed reaction to the Benghazi massacre the month before meant that the Leviticus 26:19 prophecy *had then been fully fulfilled*. He said: "It's no longer God saying, 'I will break the pride of your power.' It's now God *has broken* it! I've never seen America in such a low as this!"

Most Americans may not accept that the United States' will to use its power is broken, but America's Asian partners can see it clearly. As a result, these Asian states are rallying around China. This too was prophesied to happen.

Revelation 9:16 speaks of an Eastern army comprised of a jaw-dropping 200 million soldiers. Revelation 16:12 calls this huge force the "kings of the east," with the plural *kings* signaling that this will be a multinational force, a bloc of multiple

Asian nations. Ezekiel 38 provides many more details about this Asian military bloc, including the fact that it will be led by Russia, with China in a number two position.

The Asian nations rallying behind China today are laying the foundation for the "kings of the east" prophecy to be fulfilled. They are the "kings of the east" coalescing into the Asian bloc.

The third trend being fulfilled is what the Bible calls "the times of the Gentiles." Jesus Christ Himself used this term (Luke 21:24). The context shows that these "times" will occur after a shift in global power takes place, pushing power away from America and Britain and toward two main power blocs: one led by Germany, and the other led by Russia and China. For this prophesied time to occur, there has to be a shift of

## **Most Americans may not accept that the United States' will to use its power is broken, but America's Asian partners can see it clearly. As a result, these Asian states are rallying around China.**

power to China. This is what we are seeing as Asian nations pull away from America, and tilt suddenly toward China.

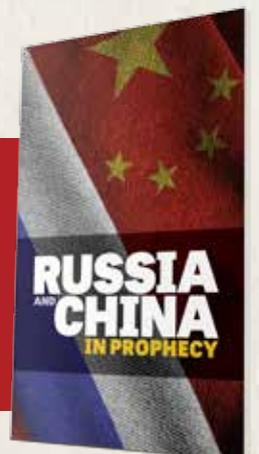
Bible prophecies show that these trends will lead to a time of unparalleled global conflict and suffering (Matthew 24:21). Knowing about that impending war and suffering makes it sobering to watch the decline of America, and the rise of a bloc bent on destroying the global order. But it is vital to know that these sobering trends are closely connected to the most hope-filled and radiant future imaginable. The Bible makes clear that just after all the devastation occurs, the most awesome and wonderful event in the history of the universe will come to pass: the return of Jesus Christ.

The trends underway in Asia right now show that Jesus Christ will very soon return to usher in an age of peace and prosperity for the peoples of China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, the U.S. and all countries! Of this future time of global peace, Isaiah 2:4 says: "[N]ation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Knowing how near that bright future is can give us the proper perspective and fill us with hope and optimism. ■

### **Is a clash between the U.S. and China inevitable?**

Bible prophecy holds the answer. Request **Russia and China in Prophecy** to get tomorrow's headlines today.



# Where to Turn for Advice

Do you have someone to trust for the right answer every time? You sure do!

The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

**L**IFE CAN BE CONFUSING. WHEN YOU COME UP against a problem and look for help, you can hear one piece of advice from one friend, different advice from a different friend, opposite advice from a colleague, and conflicting advice from your spouse. How can you tell the right answer from the wrong one? Or should you just “do what feels right”?

Imagine knowing the right answer, every time. Imagine having someone right beside you throughout your life who always gives you the best advice.

What a relief that would be!

Where can you turn for dependable advice EVERY TIME? To the same source that the *Trumpet* turns: the Bible!

The Bible may seem deeply mysterious, impossibly huge, terribly complicated or excessively difficult to read. But believe it or not, it has the answers to the everyday difficulties you face. Get to know it, and it will be your most reliable, lifelong counselor, because it contains the counsel of the Source of all wisdom: the living God. And He will advise you, through the pages of His inspired Word.

## Do You Really Need Advice?

**1.** Does man really need guidance from God? Can he reason out for himself how to properly lead his own life? Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23.

Most people disagree with these verses. They believe that they ultimately have the answers. But our world is a disaster not because we intentionally choose the worst courses of action, but because we choose what we think is the best course—and we are wrong! And we make these disasters even worse because we don’t admit that we are incapable of correctly discerning right from wrong. The sooner you acknowledge that you don’t have the answers, the better off you will be. Only after you admit you do not know better will you be willing to listen to advice.

**2.** Why can’t human beings look to themselves for the answers? Jeremiah 17:9. The “heart” this verse speaks of is the human mind without God—a state the Bible refers to as “carnal.” What’s wrong with allowing yourself to be governed by your carnal mind? Romans 8:6-8.

This is hard to admit, because we like to think we’re pretty good. But it is reality!

**3.** Why did God give us His Word? 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Notice the words *reproof* and *correction*. Most people do not like to be corrected, even though

correction shows them the *right* course. Do you? Will you let God’s Word show you how to change your life? After you read a scripture or a passage, ask yourself, how do I need to change my life to follow what God is telling me?

**4.** Is there an attitude God wants in us as we seek Him through Bible study? 1 Peter 5:5; Isaiah 66:2.

We cannot seek God with a “take me as I am” attitude and expect results. We must be humble, knowing that we do not have the answers. Then we will tremble at His word, respecting what God says enough to act upon it and to turn away from our mistakes (see also Isaiah 57:15). When you are humble, God can actually dwell with you, coming to your side as your Adviser.

**5.** What did the psalmist do when he needed help, understanding and guidance? Who was his source? Psalm 119:9-11, 17-18, 140-144. How zealously did he seek God? Verse 10.

To truly understand the Bible, you must pray first for understanding. Throughout the Psalms, you will see the wonderful relationship between the authors and God. In your studies, the Psalms can help you see how to develop the same deep relationship with your Creator. If you feel like you do not know how to pray, do not be afraid to kneel down and openly, honestly, humbly talk to God. This is just the type of prayer God will hear!

**6.** What are the rewards of seeking God’s understanding through His Word? Proverbs 3:13-18.

Seek God’s advice, and you will receive these blessings! In fact, this is the only way to receive these rewards. Bible study is the chief way to do that. This is the way to achieve success, peace, happiness and abundance. If you lack the motivation to study, ask God to give you the desire for it! Read Luke 11:9-10.

**7.** How important does God consider Bible study? Deuteronomy 8:3; 11:18-21.

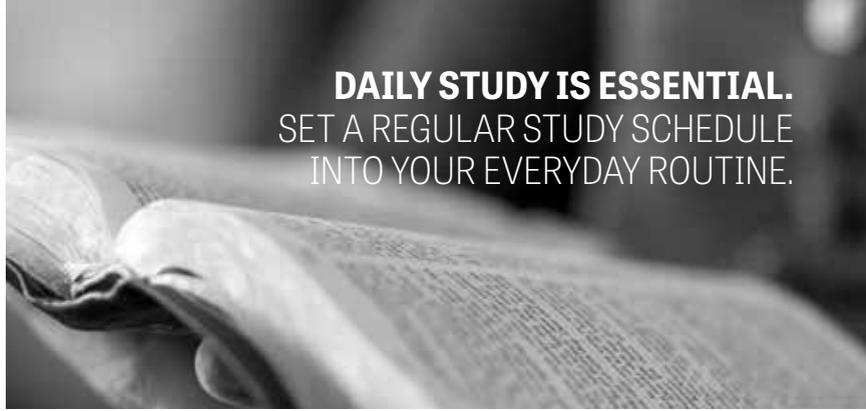
God compares Bible study to nothing less than the food we eat every day for physical survival. It may be hard to perceive this “spiritual hunger,” but spiritual starvation is just as real as—and far more common than—physical starvation!

## Practical Advice on Seeking Advice

How do you begin to find the practical wisdom contained within this massive book?

**1) Study consistently, study frequently.** For the Bible to become an effective counselor in your life, you have to get to know it well. Daily study is

## DAILY STUDY IS ESSENTIAL. SET A REGULAR STUDY SCHEDULE INTO YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE.



essential. Set a regular study schedule into your everyday routine. Study when you are alert, when it can be an activity you will truly anticipate.

**2) Try different types of studies.** When you face a specific problem, do a special study on the subject to get the rock-solid advice you are looking for. A couple of basic Bible tools can help.

The simplest tool is a **CONCORDANCE**. This allows you to look up any word and see all the places where that word appears in the Bible. *Strong's Concordance* shows you what the original Hebrew or Greek words are, and can help you more deeply understand the meaning of the words that have been translated into English. With a **TOPICAL BIBLE**, you can search for the subject you need advice on and find many relevant scriptures grouped under that subject. Another great reference tool is a **CROSS-REFERENCING BIBLE** like *Thompson's Chain Reference Bible*, which references a topical index beside each Bible verse pointing you to other passages that can give you additional instruction.

A **BIBLE DICTIONARY** or **BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA** can define difficult Bible words or give you helpful background information so you can understand the historical context of books in the Bible. Commentaries can have good information and insight, but they also have conflicting and erroneous interpretations as well.

Two other effective Bible studies are: 1) studying the life of a person in the Bible, whether good or bad; and 2) studying a specific book, such as Proverbs.

The translation you read is also important. We recommend the King James Version and, as supplements, the Revised Standard Version and the Moffatt translation. A translation can contain many errors; for instance, the New International Version has mistranslations in many cases and even leaves a few scriptures completely out. Some "translations" of the Bible aren't even translations, but are paraphrases of other translations.

**3) Develop a system to mark your Bible.** Choose a color code for highlighting scriptures. For instance, you might mark promises in green, personal correction in yellow, and doctrine in orange. Colored pencils work well. You can also find good, indelible fine-point ink pens that will allow you to write notes in your margin to remind you of details and instruction that apply to the noted verses.

**4) Meditate and review.** After learning lessons, it does not take long to forget them. How can you

make God's Word come alive and really penetrate your heart and consciousness? Meditate. (See Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2; 77:12.) For God's advice to sink in, you have to think often and think deeply about what you study.

### Am I Reading This Right?

Although we understand that the Bible is God's Word, it seems there are as many different interpretations of the Bible as there are religions and churches. The Bible itself is often written in what you could call a code. How can you know if you're reading it correctly and getting the right advice?

**1.** Should we rely on our own or any other man's interpretation of the Bible? Proverbs 3:5; 2 Peter 1:20.

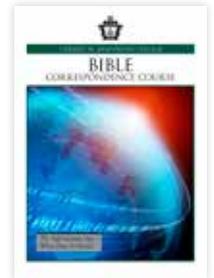
Let the Bible interpret itself! Herbert W. Armstrong often compared the Bible to a jigsaw puzzle, with all the scriptures on a given subject scattered "here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10). Avoid taking scriptures out of context, or using only one scripture to prove a point. Read numerous scriptures on a given subject to see the complete picture of what a specific verse or passage means.

**2.** Amid all the confusion, how can we get God's interpretation, and not that of the many men who claim to understand the Bible? 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

Study to prove God's Word. Look into history and see if God has brought His prophecies to pass. Look into world events today and see whether God's predictions have come true.

Never approach Bible study with an attitude of disproving God. Only if you test and prove God's Word by obeying it will you receive the incredible blessings of Bible study. God promises blessings for heeding His commands and taking correction. Obey and put those promises to the test. See if God keeps His promises. (Read Malachi 3:10 as an example.)

Then, once you prove something good, **HOLD FAST TO IT!** Never let it go! Build your life around the foundational truths you learn in your Bible study. Learn what your Creator advises you to do. Begin your study of the Bible today! ■



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 100,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

You can read previous articles in this series online at [theTrumpet.com/go/iq](http://theTrumpet.com/go/iq).

## Europe approves military HQ

ON PATROL  
A Bundeswehr soldier mans an outpost in Mali.

**E**uropean Union leaders approved the creation of a military headquarters on March 6. The Military Planning and Conduct Capability will allow the EU to run joint military operations abroad, the first such joint command in EU history. Deutsche Welle called it “a military headquarters—in everything but name” (March 7).

Under the current plan, the headquarters will be limited to managing training missions—including those currently underway in Mali, Somalia and the Central African Republic.

But EU leaders have said this is only the beginning. EU foreign-policy chief Frederica Mogherini said, “We are progressing steadily toward strengthened defense cooperation, and we will continue to do more.”

“It’s a first step,” said Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders, adding, “A European army, maybe later.” *EU Observer* said some regard this headquarters as “the nucleus of a future European army” (March 6).

The EU already plans to review the headquarters next year, when it may extend its authorization to include

commanding combat missions.

Following Britain’s vote to leave the Union last summer, the EU officially launched its European Border and Coast Guard Agency in October, a new fund for European defense research in November, and now has established its own military command center.

Each of these steps is almost laughably small: a border and coast guard with only 1,500 personnel, a defense research fund of only \$27 million, a military command that cannot conduct combat missions. The tiny size of these initiatives made it possible

for EU nations to agree to them. But these fundamental principles have been established, and it will be much easier to expand the border and coast guard, the research budget and the command center’s authorization than it was to create them in the first place.

In 1978, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “The Europeans are far more disturbed about their safety in relying on United States military power to protect them than Americans realize! The United States is *not* loved in Europe. European confidence in U.S. protection against their next-door Communist neighbor has been lessening and lessening.

“Europeans want their own united military power! They know that a political union of Europe would produce a third major world power, as strong as either the U.S. or the USSR—*possibly stronger!*” (*Good News*, Aug. 28, 1978).

Watch Europe’s military initiatives and see whether they remain insignificantly tiny, or whether they expand and allow Europe to grow into a superpower. ■

## China now Germany’s top trading partner

**D**ata released in February reveals that China overtook the United States in 2016 to become Germany’s new top trading partner. The U.S. fell to third place, behind France. Reuters reported, “The development is good news for the German government, which has made it a goal to safeguard global free trade after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose tariffs on imports and his top adviser on trade accused Germany of exploiting a weak euro to boost exports” (February 24).

German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel proposed that

if the new U.S. government engages in protectionism as promised, the European Union should realign its economic policies toward the Asian supercontinent. The head of Germany’s BGA trade association, Anton Börner, echoed Gabriel’s sentiments by stating that, “given the protectionist plans of the new U.S. president, one would expect that the trade ties between Germany and China will be further strengthened.”

President Trump heavily criticized China’s trade and economic manipulation throughout his presidential campaign, often stating that “China is killing us”



on trade. Trump has already canceled the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a trade deal designed to contain China. But now it looks as though the remaining TPP countries could actually continue the partnership and replace the U.S. with China.

Doing business with a powerful Asian trading bloc looks very tantalizing to

the German-led EU. Trade between Europe and Asia already exceeds transatlantic trade. This commerce will only increase as China and other nations continue massive new construction of roads, railways, pipelines and other infrastructure along the Silk Road that ties together the powerful economies of Eurasia. ■

## Is Hamas reinventing itself?

**H**amas is planning to alter its charter. Some observers say the proposed changes renew hope for peace between the Gaza-based Palestinian terrorist group and Israel.

London-based Arabic newspaper *Asharq al-Awsat* reported on the amendments to the 29-year-old document on March 7, about a month before their scheduled release. Three of the more dramatic changes to the charter decree that: 1) Hamas endorses a Palestinian state with 1967 borders; 2) Hamas officially breaks with the Muslim Brotherhood (MB); and 3) Hamas is no longer anti-Semitic.

Previously, Hamas viewed any acceptance of the 1967 boundaries as tacit recognition of the State of Israel. Now, Hamas apparently will accept those boundaries, though still

without officially recognizing Israel. This amendment is likely designed to match the December 2016 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which outlaws all Jews living outside the 1967 borders.



Hamas was founded in 1987 as the Palestinian branch of Egypt's MB. Since Iran took over as Hamas's main sponsor in the early 2000s, however, the group's connection to the Brotherhood has weakened. Hamas insists it will continue resisting Israel, but separating from the MB could still improve its own international reputation.

Hamas also reportedly intends to expunge from its

charter its anti-Semitic tirades claiming that the Jews caused both world wars and other injustices against humanity. *Asharq al-Awsat's* Hamas source said the new charter "strictly defines animosity against occupying forces, and not Jews in an attempt to shake off accusations of anti-Semitism."

These changes may improve Hamas's image, but they don't spring from a sudden change of heart. For one, in February, Hamas appointed a new leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, who is a literal killer. For another, this group has spent three decades recruiting, grooming, funding, arming, glorifying and rewarding the families of terrorists who have murdered Israelis. These changes are designed to gather political and financial support, which may enable Hamas to defeat its Palestinian rival, Fatah, and strengthen its position against Israel until the time comes to turn up the terror again. ■

## Will Iran get nukes from North Korea?

**"I**ran is steadily making progress towards a nuclear weapon and is doing so via North Korea." This was the assessment of two nuclear experts in a paper published by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies on February 28. Dr. Rafael Ofek and Dr. Dany Shoham say Iranian leaders circumvented the nuclear deal implemented on Jan. 16, 2016, by outsourcing work to North Korea.

This nuclear partnership began in the 1990s. The paper says collaboration intensified in 2012 when U.S. President Barack Obama began trying to coax Iran into signing a nuclear compromise. Iranian scientists and technicians were often present at North Korea's nuclear tests between 2013 and 2016. Numerous North Korean delegations also visited Iran's nuclear and ballistic facilities; the last visit coming one month before the nuclear deal was agreed to in June 2015.

The paper says Iran signed a formal agreement with North Korea just two months after the Obama administration secretly offered to open a direct channel of communication with Iran. The Obama administration reportedly permitted planes from North Korea to fly directly to Iran without having to stop for nuclear proliferation inspections.

The paper said the similarities between the two countries' weapons programs belie a great deal of "undisclosed interaction between Tehran and Pyongyang."

Editor in chief Gerald Flurry asked in the April 2016 *Trumpet* issue, "Why were Iranian officials present for North Korea's illegal nuclear weapons tests? Are the Iranians outsourcing their nuclear program, or at least parts of their nuclear bombs?" ■

## Japan's bold show of military force

**A**uthorities in Tokyo said on March 14 that Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force will send its largest warship, the Izumo helicopter carrier, on a three-month tour through the South China Sea. Japan's largest show of military force since World War II, the move marks a major step toward Tokyo's remilitarization.

China claims nearly all of the vast, resource-rich South China Sea, through which passes one third of the world's maritime trade. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also claim portions of the sea. Recent Chinese island-building and vessel movement in the region have posed a major challenge to the rules-based global order.

Japan has no claims to the South China Sea, but is entangled in separate territorial disputes with China over parts of the East China Sea. Tokyo's decision to dispatch the 817-foot Izumo shows that Japan supports the tougher stance the United States is taking toward China under President Donald Trump. It also suggests that Japan may seek to establish its own military presence in the South China Sea.

Since Article 9 in Japan's Constitution bans the country from acquiring offensive weapons, Tokyo labels the \$1.2 billion Izumo as a destroyer, a class of vessel that typically



cannot project offensive power. But this label is misleading. The Center for International Maritime Security says the Izumo has "inherently offensive capability" that runs "counter to the values espoused in Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution." The warship shows how powerful Japan's military could be, and the decision to sail it through the South China Sea represents how boldly Japanese leaders could wield such a force. ■



# Russia assimilating South Ossetian forces

SEPARATIST South Ossetian leader Leonid Tibilov meets with Putin at the Kremlin.

Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed his government on March 14 to finalize a deal to absorb the military forces of another country. The order establishes Russian military command over the military in South Ossetia, a breakaway region of Georgia. The alarming move represents a major development in Putin's quest to reconstruct the Soviet empire.

Officially, South Ossetia is part of Georgia, a nation

formerly part of the Soviet bloc. But in 1992, shortly after the Soviet Union's collapse and after several eruptions of violence, the region declared independence. For over a decade, South Ossetia existed as a semiautonomous region in a state of general peace with the rest of Georgia. But in 2004, the Georgian government launched efforts to regain control of the region, and conflicts between Georgian soldiers and South Ossetian



separatists began to increase. Tension climaxed in 2008, when Georgia waged a resolute ground and air assault. Putin responded by invading Georgia and pushing Georgian soldiers out of South Ossetia and out of Abkhazia, Georgia's other pro-Russian breakaway region.

After the invasion, Putin recognized the independence of both regions and asserted de facto control over them.

Georgia, along with the United States and the European Union, labeled the Russian move an illegal land grab. Georgia continues to insist that both regions are Georgian territory, a view which international law supports. But such claims mean less and less as Russia asserts more real-world control over South Ossetia and Abkhazia. ■

## South Africa proposes forced land redistribution

South African President Jacob Zuma has endorsed the possible confiscation of white-owned lands without compensation, breaking with two decades of post-apartheid precedent.

"We have identified the weaknesses in the land restitution and redistribution program," he said on March 3. "The 'willing buyer, willing seller' principle did not work effectively."

Since the end of apartheid in 1994, the South African government has sought to buy land from willing sellers and redistribute it to black settlers. Now Zuma is proposing a "pre-colonial audit of land ownership, use and occupation patterns." After the audit, he wants the South African Constitution to be amended to allow forced land confiscation without compensation.



Zuma is considering this scheme as popular support for his political party, the African National Congress, is at its lowest level since 1994. Many members have left the party to join the Economic Freedom Fighters, a Marxist party founded in 2013 on a pledge to nationalize banks and redistribute land. Zuma's new populist tone is reportedly an attempt to win back members who have defected to other parties.

When Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's government began to forcibly seize white-owned land without compensation in 2000, some 4,000 white farming families were evicted from their homes. Dozens of farmers were murdered in a move that cost Zimbabwe billions of dollars in lost agricultural production. ■

## Russia attempts assassination in Montenegro

On February 18, the world was reminded of just how deadly Russia's resolve can be. That day, revelations emerged that Moscow had planned to stop Montenegro from joining NATO by assassinating its pro-Western prime minister, Milo Djukanovic.

The assassination was to take place on Oct. 16, 2016, the day Montenegro held parliamentary elections. The conspirators planned to open fire on a crowd at Montenegro's parliament building as election results were announced. In the ensuing mayhem, other plotters would enter the building and assassinate Djukanovic.

The *Telegraph* reported on February 18 that intelligence officials had confirmed who was behind the plot: "Russian intelligence officers with backing from Moscow."

NATO officials confirmed that two Russian intelligence officers had spent months in Montenegro recruiting and arming some 20 Serbian nationalists to carry out the attack. Thanks to a tip from a plotter-turned-informant, Montenegrin authorities foiled the plan just hours before it was to take place.

Had the plan succeeded, authorities believe it would have tipped the Balkan nation into civil war. The chaos would have

given Moscow an opportunity to install a pro-Russia government, wrecking Montenegro's hopes of joining NATO this summer and of joining the European Union in the early 2020s.

Russia denies involvement, but Montenegrin Defense Minister Predrag Bosković said the evidence his ministry has gathered confirms the assessments of NATO and British officials: "There is not any doubt that it was financed and organized from different sources or different parts of Russian intelligence, together with some Montenegrin opposition parties, but also under the strong influence of some radicals from Serbia and Russia." ■



# Ninth Circuit Court attempts coup d'état

'BAN THE LAW' Protesters against Trump's travel ban gather in front of the Ninth Circuit Court.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals committed a dangerous act of judicial overreach on February 9. After the states of Washington and Minnesota sued United States President Donald Trump on January 30 for an executive order temporarily restricting the flow of refugees from seven countries known for exporting terrorists, a district court judge struck down the president's order with a restraining order of his own. The judge barred enforcement of the travel ban anywhere in the U.S. until the Trump administration proves there is an actual threat of terrorists traveling into the country from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Yemen.

According to Charles Kurzman, a University of North Carolina sociology professor, 23 percent of Muslim-Americans involved with extremist plots since the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center have had family backgrounds from at least one of the seven countries subject to the travel ban.

Even if the judge's conclusion were correct, however, his order would still be an act of judicial activism. The courts are constitutionally responsible for ruling whether or not it is legal for a president to temporarily suspend immigration. It is not their responsibility to assume the president's responsibility for deciding whether a particular threat is real.

## U.S. economic freedom hits historic low

The United States is no longer among the world's top 15 freest economies. According to an annual index released by the Heritage Foundation on February 15, the U.S. has fallen from being the sixth-freest economy in the world when Barack Obama took office in 2009 to being the 17th-freest today.

America's economic freedom score for 2017 was 75.1 out of 100—its lowest level since the

Heritage Foundation started ranking economies in 1995. America now ranks behind Chile, Estonia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

The Heritage economic freedom index is calculated based on 12 factors of economic freedom, including property rights, government spending, freedom from corruption, business freedom, trade freedom and investment freedom. The 2017 report lists large budget

"A 1952 federal statute permits the president to suspend the immigration status of any person or group whose entry into the United States might impair public health or safety or national security," wrote Judge Andrew Napolitano for *Reason*. "Trump exercised that authority in accordance with the 1952 law when he signed his January 27 order banning all immigration from the seven named countries" (February 9).

It is undisputed that America's president has the legal authority to temporarily ban certain immigrants from entering the country in the face of a national security threat. In fact, President Trump's six predecessors, including Barack Obama, also used their power to temporarily ban certain groups of immigrants from entering the country. What is really at stake here is who decides which immigrants pose a national security threat. Is it the U.S. president, who receives a daily security briefing and is in charge of enforcing laws? Or is it any federal judge who thinks the president's assessment is flawed?

The recent ruling by the Ninth Circuit is a judicial coup d'état against the executive branch's constitutional authority to conduct foreign policy.

## Drug killings surge in Mexico

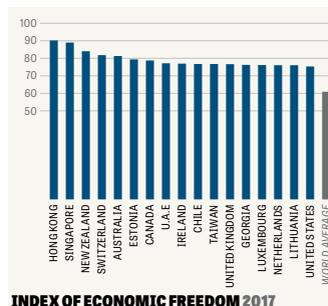
Three police officers were tortured and beheaded in southeastern Mexico in January. Authorities found the decapitated bodies on a roadside in the municipality of Huimanguillo on January 28, a day after the officers had been kidnapped during a routine patrol in the nearby Veracruz municipality. The perpetrators have not been caught, but this was almost certainly a drug cartel attack on Mexican law enforcement.

Between 2007 and 2014, more than 160,000 people were murdered in Mexico, more than the total number of civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. Since the Sinaloa Federation drug cartel started fragmenting into smaller cartels in 2014, the murder rate has grown even worse. Nationwide, January murder rates jumped 34 percent from 1,442 homicides in 2016 to 1,938 homicides in 2017.

It is estimated that 55 percent of all Mexican homicides—and 7 percent of all U.S. homicides—are related to drug trafficking. Over 100,000 foot soldiers work directly for Mexican cartels.

The primary reason these criminal cartels are so successful, however, is that about 10 percent of Americans over the age of 12 are addicted to illicit drugs. This means 24.6 million U.S. drug users are funding a \$100 billion per year industry that directly causes over 21,000 overdose deaths and 12,000 drug-related homicides every year.

U.S. President Donald Trump has pledged to "break the back" of the cartels by building a wall on the Mexican border and declaring a war on crime. But with such a voracious demand, there will always be a steady supply.



deficits, an enormous national debt, a substantial expansion of government bureaucracy and an increased tax burden as contributing to the decline in America's economic freedom.

Other countries are taking note. As German business paper *Handelsblatt* wrote in an article titled “Beating Populists: Lessons From the Dutch Vote”: “Dutch prime minister and Liberals leader Mark Rutte prevailed over right-wing politician Geert Wilders thanks to statesmanship, a clear line against Turkish campaigning and by partially adopting Mr. Wilders’s position on immigrants” (March 17).

The message from the election is clear: If you want to beat them, join them.

It’s a message Germany’s conservative parties will be thinking hard about. The Alternative für Deutschland party is not going to win Germany’s general election in September. But it could siphon off enough votes from the mainstream conservative parties to cause them to lose the election.

Shifting to the right, standing up to Islam, encouraging national pride—these were the paths to electoral success in the Dutch elections. And they are important trends to watch in Germany.

Since its inception in 1990, the *Trumpet* has intently watched for the emergence of a strongman in Germany. “Routinely in German history, when Germans become anxious about world events, they call on a strongman to lead them!” writes *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*. “They have done so throughout history—and they are going to do it again.”

“The weakness being demonstrated by the West is exposing the crying need for stronger leadership. And whether or not people want to believe it, that leadership is going to arise in Germany,” he writes.

“Today, Europeans are looking for another ruler like Charlemagne.”

Mr. Rutte stood up to Turkey and received the support of 86 percent of his countrymen for his handling of the issue, according to a snap poll by Maurice de Hond released days before the election. He is not this coming strongman—he is not that strong and, despite his electoral victory, received only limited support. He got a boost in support due to a single instance of

standing up to Turkey. But that boost shows what Europe’s voters want.

It is making German political leaders think seriously about the need for strongmen to win elections.

### **A Shattered Electoral System**

The Dutch election also demonstrated another important pan-European trend: the breakdown of the political system.

The main left-wing party in the Netherlands, the Dutch Labour Party, collapsed from 38 seats to 9. “[I]n this election, the fight seemed to be between right and righter, with some charming alternatives to the left, and no real place for the center-left,” wrote the European Council on Foreign Relations (March 21).

Now, Dutch politics is dominated by a range of smaller parties. Wilders’s *pvv*, the Christian Democratic Appeal and the Democrats 66 party each won about 20 seats. The Green Left and the Socialist Party each won 14. In 2012, nearly 65 percent of the vote went to the top three parties. This time, they won only 47 percent.

The governing coalition must be made up of at least four separate parties. “This year’s election may give the Netherlands its most fragmented government in history,” wrote the *New York Times*. “Some political analysts believe it could take weeks or months to form a government and that the governing coalition will be fragile. In

Belgium, which has a similar political system as the Netherlands, it famously took nearly a year and a half after inconclusive elections in June 2010 to form a government” (March 15).

Berlin elections last year showed the same trend. After support for Germany’s two mainstream parties fell so low that they could not even muster a majority between them, George Friedman at Geopolitical Futures wrote that “the results of the Berlin election look like someone smashed a plate on the floor—with support for the various parties fragmenting into pieces” (Sept. 20, 2016).

This is dangerous territory, and country after country is venturing into it. The last time we were here was in the 1930s, and it was a vicious cycle. The rise of fringe parties deprived traditional

parties of their usual votes. Traditional coalitions stopped working. Mainstream parties on the right and on the left created complicated coalitions to keep the fringe parties out of power. These coalitions were unstable or ineffective, and more voters decided to leave the mainstream and back the fringe parties.

What we are seeing in 2017 is nothing less than the complete breakdown of the European political system.

The continuation of liberal democracy is not inevitable, and in most of Europe, democratic governments are actually relatively recent. European leaders are already toying with alternative systems (read our article “Democracy Is Dying” at [theTrumpet.com/go/14439](http://theTrumpet.com/go/14439)).

This too matches the *Trumpet*’s forecast, which is based on biblical prophecy.

In *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*, Mr. Flurry writes, “Daniel 11:21 prophesies that this strong leader will come into power ‘by flatteries’—probably not by votes, but through a coalition government of some kind.”

“The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says ‘the nation shall not, by a public act, confer the kingdom on him, but he shall obtain it by artifice, ‘flattering,’” writes Brad Macdonald in the same booklet. “In other words, *a deceived public, or a group of European leaders, likely invites this man into power.*”

“This soon-coming ruler could literally be called a *king*,” notes Mr. Flurry. “Even if he is not, the Bible gives him that label. When the Bible talks about a king, in most cases it’s saying that this is not a democratic government.”

This breakdown in European politics is setting the stage for a leader to rise through these sorts of “flatteries.”

This prophetic framework does not tell us exactly what will happen in the French, German and possible Italian elections. But it gives a general outline of what to expect in Europe: what trends will be important in these elections and beyond. Political systems will stall. People will become desperate for a strong leader. They will get one. Europe will form a united front. And this king will ultimately go to war with Islam and with powers beyond.

This is exactly the type of leader the *Trumpet* has said to look for in Germany. Keep watching for him. ■

Request your free copy of ***A Strong German Leader Is Imminent.***

# Rekindle Your First Love

**Bible instruction for a lifelong happy marriage**

**M**Y WIFE AND I HAVE ATTENDED A LOT OF WEDDINGS. I AM sure we will attend many more in the future. These are beautiful ceremonies, not just because of the elegance, emotion and joy of the day, but because of what they reflect: nothing less than a *God-level* relationship.

The Creator of human beings created marriage to help prepare us for life in His *divine* Family. That is what makes a God-centered wedding so momentous: If the two remain faithful—to God first, then to each other—it marks the beginning of an exciting journey that leads right into the Kingdom of God.



**STEPHEN FLURRY**

Whenever we attend a wedding, we can't help but reminisce about the days that led up to our own marriage vows more than 20 years ago—and the wonderful years we have enjoyed since.

Like most of the young couples we have congratulated over the years, my wife and I were brought up in wonderful, God-fearing families. Marriage, we had been taught, was a career that one must *prepare* for. This meant using textbooks like Herbert W. Armstrong's *The Missing Dimension in Sex* to understand God's perspective on dating, love, marriage and sex.

A good marriage, we were also taught, doesn't happen by accident. It takes a submissive attitude toward God and hard work to make it happy and fulfilling.

Early on, when the romance is brand new, building the relationship can seem so effortless and smooth-going. For me, it hardly seemed like work at all!

When my soon-to-be wife lived far away from me, our eagerly anticipated weekly, three-hour phone conversations seemed as if they were short, five-minute chats. The handwritten letters and notes we exchanged would go on and on—page after page. And when I received them, I read them again and again.

When she moved to Oklahoma, the phone calls and letters turned into long walks together, stimulating conversations, family socials, game nights, church activities and dancing. The more we dated, the more we talked, the more time we spent together, the more we knew how much we loved each other.

We went through marriage counseling together—studied *The Missing Dimension in Sex* together. During our engagement, we worked together to plan the wedding—create a budget, look for the venue, order the buffet, draw up the guest list, mail invitations, choose the music and arrange the honeymoon.

All that planning—the many *years* of preparing for our marriage career—culminated in the most joyous ceremony

there is: our glorious wedding day! The elegant ceremony only lasted about 15 minutes—but what an exhilarating, emotional experience it was for my wife and me.

We still laugh about the lighter moment we shared amid the formal setting.

For the start of the wedding, just before the bridal party entered the hall, my wife had choreographed a moving three-minute candle-lighting ceremony. It ended with our mothers walking onstage to light two candles.

In the ceremony, after my wife and I made our vows and exchanged rings, we took the two candles, joined their flames together and lit another, larger “unity candle.” After that, we were supposed to blow out the two smaller candles—which we did. Unfortunately, the forceful blast my wife exhaled also managed to extinguish the unity candle.

The flame we meant to keep burning had quickly died out! It was the one hiccup to an otherwise flawless ceremony.

Over the past 20 years, we've had our occasional hiccups. But the flame we lit together during our courtship—and faithfully promised to stoke forever after—is still going strong. It's not always as easy and effortless as it once was. In fact, once the newness wears off, it is easy to let down in some areas.

For example, I don't *always* open the car door for my wife like I used to. But you know what? When I do, it still makes her smile. And that's the thing—all those little things that added up to a lot of love and affection still work, *if I do them*. She still loves a bouquet of fresh flowers, a thoughtful card or an unexpected chat over the phone. When I make omelets on Sabbath morning, it always reminds us of our honeymoon. We still make time for and thoroughly enjoy long conversations. We try to plan getaways from time to time. We schedule lunch dates. We still love to dance. And hold hands. And say *I love you* every day. We kiss every morning before I head off to work—and again when I return home.

You could say we're still dating. It's such an important yet often overlooked key to maintaining a great marriage.

In Revelation 2, God praised the first-century Christians for the way they began their relationship with God. “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy *first love*” (verse 4). They grew weary in well doing. They stopped doing the things that made the relationship flourish early on in their spiritual romance. And so, *they left their first love*.

In verse 5, God offers this simple solution: “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, *and do the first works*.”

Herein lies the key to building a successful family relationship, whether it involves a newly begotten Christian and Jesus Christ or a newly married couple. *Remember all the romantic little things you repeatedly did at the very beginning of your courtship?* Keep doing them, God says.

If you do, the flame of your first love will never go out. ■



**I repair bicycles and maintain a couple of expensive road bikes (“Trade Wars Have Begun,” [theTrumpet.com/go/14643](http://theTrumpet.com/go/14643)). The tires I prefer are Continentals—made in Germany. They are already expensive at approximately \$75 each. A 35 percent tariff would put them out of reach cost-wise. I can’t imagine why anyone would believe an America-first policy on trade would help us. We depend far too much on the rest of the world for supplies.**

**Robert Jones**

President Trump, with a \$20 trillion debt to deal with, will soon have a funding crisis and possible government shutdown (“Who Is the Modern-Day Jeroboam?” [theTrumpet.com/go/14642](http://theTrumpet.com/go/14642)). He already looks like he is weak, as per this analysis, in not dealing with left-liberal control of education.

**T. Lawrence**

### Easy when it’s not you

There’s a video on YouTube where an undercover reporter asks pro-illegal immigrant protesters if they are willing to put up an illegal immigrant in their own home (“Must Cities Enforce the Law?” [theTrumpet.com/go/14647](http://theTrumpet.com/go/14647)). They all replied no. The pro-illegal lobby is so generous with the money of other people and their endangered lives.

**Ken Sack**

I see people reading your *Trumpet* magazine when I go into the doctors’ offices, and I am like, *Wow! This is great!* It is amazing how much the doctors themselves appreciate the magazine—even the ones who aren’t Christian.

**Jeanine McGee** CALIFORNIA

I have so much interest in this! It is so interesting to see all the things that are happening in the world. The way your organization has put it all together is truly amazing and I really appreciate receiving this at no cost!

**Frances Scott** SOUTH CAROLINA

Your magazine the *Trumpet* honestly proves so much. I am just astonished. There were some things I didn’t believe, but when I looked them up they are true. All I can say is thank you very much. It is very eye-opening. I am trying so hard to spread the word but there are so many people that get upset when you do that.

**Shirley Bisson-Nagel** MICHIGAN

I thank God every day for that church out there. I just finished *The King of the South* and now I am reading *The Incredible Human Potential*. You all are a blessing to me. I got the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine from the doctor’s office. I asked him if I could have it and he said yes. I had never heard of you before but I have



spread the word around this area as much as I can, giving people your address and phone number, because I think you people are amazing!

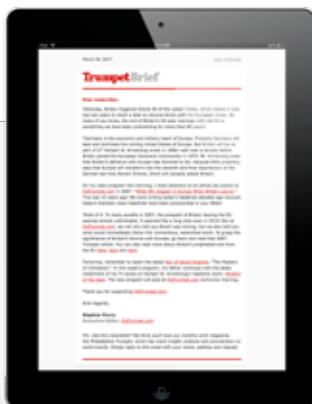
**David Ridings** SOUTH CAROLINA

Thank you for publishing this magazine. It is the best! It is wonderful and priceless—really. It is in depth and informative. I can’t tell you how much I love the magazine and the contents and the people.

**Barbara Biehl** MARYLAND

I had canceled your magazine, but I changed my mind. I don’t agree with everything that you say, but you are saying things about the government and the world we live in and I need to know what’s going on. You are opening the eyes of people. Our country is in bad shape. Thank God we have a magazine like yours that is exposing the corruption in our government.

**Georgeana Thompson** ALABAMA



# Trumpet Brief

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# Dishonorable Conduct

The U.S. military was rocked by a pornography scandal. But the problem extends further than you might think. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

**T**HE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS CALLS *HONOR* THE bedrock of a marine's character. It says this "is the quality that empowers marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior. ... It represents the maturity, dedication, trust, and dependability that commit marines to act responsibly."

News came out in March showing numerous marines demonstrating the opposite of maturity, responsibility and ethical and moral behavior.

Journalist and Marine Corp veteran Thomas Brennan reported at the Center for Investigative Reporting on March 4 that members of a Facebook group called Marines United were distributing photographs of dozens of naked female service members. The group includes marines, Navy corpsmen and British Royal Marines. About 1,200 of the 30,000 members are believed to have been involved in pornography-posting activity, and investigations are still ongoing.

This scandal is not limited to just the Marines United Facebook page, or even to the Marine Corps. Since this scandal became public, investigators have found hundreds of indecent photographs of female service members from every branch of the military posted to another image-sharing message board. Some of these women were stalked and photographed by male comrades. Others shared lewd photos of themselves, intending them to be private, only to be betrayed by whomever posted them publicly on social media.

Many condemn "toxic masculinity" and "macho culture" as the cause of this scandal, but is this moral evil unique to the soldiers' barracks?

The real pornography scandal is *nationwide*. And yes, it does hurt its female victims, its perpetrators, force readiness, homeland security and the very survival of our nation.

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong explained how modern Britain and America descended from ancient Israel. The Bible records Israel's history and specifies that its *national security* depended less on economics, technological superiority and strategy than it did on *ethical and moral behavior*. When the Israelites behaved according to God's laws, including laws on sex, they won incredible military victories. When they turned from His laws, they suffered shocking and devastating defeats (Deuteronomy 11:18-25).

Past generations of Americans understood this general principle. Shortly after the Second Continental Congress established the U.S. Army on June 14, 1775, it proclaimed "a day of solemn fasting and humiliation to implore of Almighty God for forgiveness of the many sins prevailing among all ranks

...." Gen. George Washington and the Continental Congress knew that freedom from Great Britain was impossible without divine intervention. The proclamation urged soldiers to ask forgiveness for the sins of "profane swearing" and "immorality."

Today, as in 1775, America's servicemen are simply a subsection of American society as a whole. And today, unlike 1775, profane swearing, immorality and all forms of pornography prevail among all ranks of American society, from east to west, liberal to conservative, old to young.

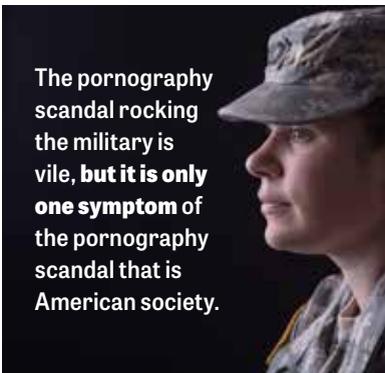
It's not just American servicemen who are addicted to pornography. *America* is addicted to pornography.

An estimated 72 million Americans view online pornography at least monthly; one in five American men self-admits to accessing pornography at work. About 24 million American self-admit to having "Internet sex addiction." The addiction rate among young, male military personnel is believed to be much higher. And the definition of "addiction" would exclude a lot of regular use of what is an inherently toxic influence, however small the dose. Many military chaplains believe online pornography is perhaps the biggest personal problem facing service members today.

Study after study shows a direct link between pornography consumption and the commission of sex crimes. Data from the Department of Defense shows that reported sexual assaults on military members increased from 19,300 in 2010 to 26,000 in 2012. The main cause of sex scandals and crimes in the U.S. military is that all Americans are growing up in a hyper-sexualized society that openly glorifies illicit sex on television, movies, the Internet, books, magazines, posters and billboards, and that distributes *25 times* more pornography movies every year than Hollywood films. This saturation in sex has been proven to cause a physical and psychological rewiring of the brain, desensitizing the viewer to the needs of others, and fueling an abnormal desire for even more depraved perversions.

Many people bristle at the suggestion that "casual" pornography viewing is connected to the military photo-sharing scandal. Many others dismiss it as irrelevant, a minor cultural concern and not a national security problem. America's first commander in chief would tell you that both of these views are dangerously wrong.

The pornography scandal rocking the military is vile, but it is only one symptom of the pornography scandal that is American society. *That* scandal is not only underreported, it is denied or even glorified. Until Americans as a whole start fleeing immorality and teaching their children a wholesome, biblical view of sex, the devastation caused by pornography will continue, outside the Department of Defense and within it. Now would be a good time for a day of fasting and prayer to implore "Almighty God for forgiveness of the many sins prevailing among all ranks" of American citizens. ■



The pornography scandal rocking the military is vile, but it is only one symptom of the pornography scandal that is American society.

el-Mandeb each year—an average of 55 per day. About 15 percent of all global maritime trade and nearly 10 percent of global seaborne oil passes through the gates of the Red Sea.

More specifically, almost all of the trade between Europe and Asia is seaborne and travels through the Bab el-Mandeb sea gate. That amounts to almost \$700 billion worth of trade per year that Iran could conceivably delay, sabotage, or stop dead in the water.

On Oct. 25, 2016, *Foreign Policy* wrote of the Bab el-Mandeb, “If a coastal foe can menace shipping transiting this narrow seaway, it would disrupt the shortest, most convenient sea route connecting Europe with South and East Asia. Doing so would carry significant economic and military repercussions.”

It certainly would, and biblical prophecy indicates that it most definitely will. Geopolitical analysts are watching Iran closely every day and trying to predict where its efforts will lead. But incredibly, there is a source even older than Iran itself that forecasts what it will do in the 21st century! The Bible actually contains specific, detailed foresights of what modern nations will do. Included in these forecasts is 21st-century Iran.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40).

According to this verse, at the time of the end this “king of the south” is going to PUSH at the king of the north. Since 1994, Gerald Flurry has forecast that Iran would grow to become the dominant power in the Middle East, heading up a powerful alliance of radical Islamic nations known as the king of the south. The king of the north in this prophecy is a united Europe led by Germany. While the world is mostly blind to it, some in Europe are waking up to Iran’s plan to capture the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. The Europeans see that this strategy and Iran’s overall strategy of aggressiveness and terror is a definite push. And Europe will eventually push back.

On February 3, in a letter to supporters of the *Trumpet* and other Philadelphia Church of God projects, Mr. Flurry wrote that the aggressive king of the south is about to push the world into an all-out world war. The increasingly violent actions by Iran and its proxies in the Red Sea are one part of that push; a push that will ultimately succumb to a violent and forceful counterstrike by a superior force from the north.

However, while that will be a time of worldwide suffering, it also announces the beginning of the very last world war that will engulf this planet. After Daniel 11:40 are verses that announce that all the armies of this world will finally be put down by the most superior force of all—that of Almighty God (Daniel 12:1-3; Matthew 24:29-31).

Continue to watch for Iran to strengthen its presence inside Yemen, as well as in the waters around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Here lies the very beginning of the prophesied push that leads into a global conflict. ■

# THE KEY OF DAVID

**Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry appears each week on *The Key of David* explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. The program is also available at [keyofdauid.com](http://keyofdauid.com).**



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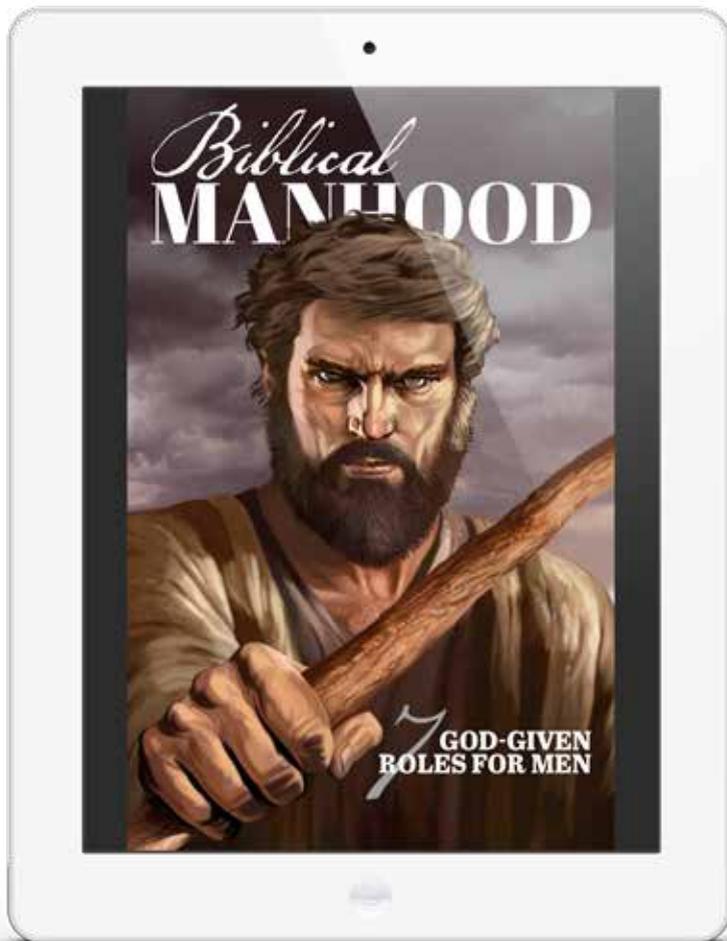
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