

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**Las Vegas massacre:
problem, cause—solution**

**Is God answering
America's prayers?**

Avoid chronic disease

Transgendered children?

Lessons from Weinstein



The
political quake
that is shaking
Germany—
and all of
Europe



UNDER FIRE People flee at a country music festival in Las Vegas after a gunman fires on the crowd on October 1. (DAVID BECKER/GETTY IMAGES)

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Las Vegas Massacre: Problem, Cause—and Solution

Investigators are looking for a motive. Here is what they need to understand.

THE MODERN WORLD BROADLY DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF the spiritual. It wants only material explanations.

But you cannot understand what happened in Las Vegas on the night of October 1 that way.

For 10 long, horrifying minutes, Stephen Paddock rained bullets on an open-air crowd of concertgoers from his room on the 32nd floor of a nearby hotel. He killed 58 people and injured 546 more in the deadliest mass shooting in American history. Then he shot himself.



GERALD FLURRY

Investigators are beside themselves trying to figure out why this man would commit such a bloody act.

Pure evil is baffling to people, even when they are looking right at it.

As the media try to make sense of this, they focus on a few basic themes. One is that they all seem to agree how *good* the people were who were targeted, and how *good* the people were who helped them, and how *good* America is for being resilient in the face of such evil. They also want to blame this tragedy on Congress and on poor gun control.

None of these responses will prevent more tragedies like this. In fact, it is all a distraction that prevents us from dealing with the deeper sickness in our country.

Nightmares like this are part of the curses on our lawless society. The Prophet Isaiah wrote, “[T]heir works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths” (Isaiah 59:6-7). Our leaders are helpless to stop such attacks. The harder they try, the more violent society becomes, and the clearer it is that they have no answers. “The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness” (verses 8-9).

Commentators cannot provide any real context or meaning behind events like this. “We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men” (verse 10).

You simply cannot make sense of it without the orientation provided by the Bible.

A lot of people are becoming depressed by what is happening. One doctor suggested on television that the solution is

simply to not watch too much of it. Get your mind off it and move on with your life. Is that really a solution? That might help a little bit for a short time, but *you cannot ignore the bad news for long*. It is filling the world more and more!

We need a much better solution than that.

Ignorance doesn’t solve anything. We must seek *understanding* and *truth*. The truth actually provides genuine hope.

Jesus Christ gave understanding about the real *cause* of tragedies like the Las Vegas massacre. He spoke explicitly about an evil spirit being, “the devil,” who “was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44). He called him “the prince of this world”—acknowledging his widespread malevolent influence (John 14:30). He knew that He Himself would be brutalized and murdered by this “power of darkness” (Luke 22:53).

How much do you know about this dangerous being? The Apostle Paul warned that if we are ignorant of him, he will “get an advantage of us” (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Scripture reveals that Satan is not alone: He rules over *millions* of demons. It also shows that in this end time, he and his demons have been confined to this Earth, which brings terrible *woe* on all of us who live here! (Revelation 12:9, 12).

Think on the blood- and tear-soaked streets of the Las Vegas Strip to get an idea of the fathomless *woe* these diabolical spirits can cause!

None of these responses will prevent more tragedies. In fact, they prevent us from dealing with the deeper sickness in our country.

Sadly, their lethal, hellish influence is growing, and it is going to get even worse! More and more people are inviting demonic presence into their lives. They are saturating their minds in evil entertainment; they are giving in to evil, hateful emotions; they are becoming addicted to prescription drugs in record numbers; they are taking other dangerous mind-altering substances—all of which make it *far easier* for demons to manipulate their thinking! The number of unstable people in this world is growing rapidly.

If you let Satan get to you, you can end up doing some abominable things!

In Las Vegas, authorities are looking for motives. **THIS IS THE MOTIVE:** “for the devil is come down unto you, having GREAT WRATH, because *he knoweth that he hath but a short time!*”



IS GOD ANSWERING AMERICA'S PRAYERS?

In the face of recent disasters, national leaders are calling on people to pray. Will these requests make a difference? **BY GERALD FLURRY**

HURRICANE HARVEY DROPPED a year's worth of rain on the Houston area in just a few days. Texas governor Greg Abbott called it "one of the largest disasters America has ever faced." The National Weather Service said, "THIS EVENT IS UNPRECEDENTED, and all impacts are UNKNOWN AND BEYOND ANYTHING EXPERIENCED" (emphasis mine throughout).

After this devastation, Governor Abbott called a day of prayer. On September 1, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation for a National Day of Prayer. Thousands of people, if not millions, surely responded to these requests.

But then, just days later, Hurricane Irma crushed the Caribbean islands and the East Coast of the United States. IT WAS THE LARGEST-EVER HURRICANE TO STRIKE FROM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

Soon after that, Hurricane Maria obliterated Puerto Rico.

More than 100 people died in these hurricanes, and we sustained hundreds of billions of dollars in damage.

When we see horrific crises like these, we have to honestly ask ourselves an important question: *Is God answering our nation's prayers today?*

If you look in the Bible, you'll see ABSOLUTE promises from God to answer our prayers. And if you look at America's history, you see many examples of answered prayer. This is a historical fact you can prove (sidebar, "God Has Responded to Past National Days of Prayer," page 4).

In this case, though, it seems clear that God *did not* answer those prayers. Why not?

If you closely study your Bible, you will see that prayers alone *are not enough*.

After disasters, people often say and sing, "God bless America." But *is* God blessing America?

A Misquoted Bible Verse

Many in America consider this a religious nation. When crises arise, people often turn to the Bible and to God for solace.

We saw this tendency in the days just before Hurricane Harvey struck. America was reeling from a race-related

confrontation in Charlottesville, Virginia, between white nationalist groups and so-called anti-fascist groups. It exposed the terrible divisions that are growing among the American people. I wrote about this in my article last month, "Charlottesville Violence—The Real Danger Is Invisible" (theTrumpet.com/16251).

In response, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence quoted a Bible verse. It is a verse that he has used in multiple interviews, in several campaign speeches, in at least one campaign advertisement and on other occasions since the election. Other leaders used it after the hurricanes that devastated parts of America.

The verse is 2 Chronicles 7:14. It is the verse on which the vice president swore his oath of office: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, AND PRAY, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Here again we see a focus on *prayer* as a solution to America's problems. But there is a serious problem with how



UNANSWERED PRAYERS
President Trump and supporters pray in the Oval Office on September 1 after the president signed a proclamation for a National Day of Prayer for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Vice President Pence has been quoting this scripture. On *all these occasions*, he intentionally left out “TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS” AND “FORGIVE THEIR SIN”!

The way he says it sounds nice to religious Americans, but he leaves out the most important part—the part that actually shows how to HEAL America’s deadly division!

This one verse alone shows that *prayer alone is not enough*. If you want God to “hear from heaven” when you pray, then there is more to the equation! It also requires that we HUMBLE OURSELVES, *seek God’s face*, and TURN FROM OUR WICKED WAYS.

Mr. Pence clearly does not want to tell Americans that they could be *guilty of sin and wickedness*—and that they must REPENT! Even many Americans who consider themselves Christian would reject such a message, and reject him.

Other religious Americans are making this same misquotation. Religious leaders were present with President Trump in the Oval Office when he signed the day of prayer proclamation.

The pastor who led the prayer also referred to 2 Chronicles 7:14. He did include the phrase “forgive their sin,” but like the vice president, he omitted “turn from their wicked ways.”

Jesus Christ commands us to live by *every word of God* (Matthew 4:4)—not by our own versions of God’s words!

This intentional misquotation of 2 Chronicles 7:14 is doubly destructive and tragic because *the words they are leaving out are the words America needs most!* Americans desperately need to hear these corrective words because repenting and turning to God is the *only* way people in this cursed, dying nation can be saved!

‘Return to Me!’ Says God

The Prophet Amos showed us how to receive answers to and results from our prayers.

There is a lot of evidence that Amos is a prophecy for this *end time*. (Request a free copy of my booklet *The Lion Has Roared* for proof.) And notice *who* it is specifically directed at—you can see it

in Amos 4:5: “you, O ye children of Israel.” Do you know who “Israel” is in prophecy? If you don’t, you won’t know to whom this is addressed. Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves conclusively that the most prominent descendants of ancient Israel, and the nations most directly spoken of in prophecies about “Israel,” are America and Britain. (We will send you a free copy of this book upon request.) When Bible prophecy discusses Israel, it is referring primarily to them. These modern nations have a history with God.

Notice how precise this prophecy, directed at America today, gets: “And also I have witholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered” (Amos 4:7).

Harvey and Irma flooded Houston with over 50 inches of rain, and torrents of water filled cities across America’s southeast. *At the same time*, the West Coast was parched, and fires were scorching millions of acres! It was *exactly* as God prophesied through Amos!

This prophecy does more than tell us that such disasters will occur. It tells us *WHY* they are occurring—and how to prevent them from continuing!

When such calamities strike, God expects us to *seek Him*. This means prayer, but also much more. Read verses 8-11. THESE VERSES FORETELL OF INTENSIFYING CURSES, AND STATE FOUR TIMES: “... YET HAVE YE NOT RETURNED UNTO ME, SAITH THE LORD.” God keeps repeating this crucial point!

Certainly we must pray—but we must also RETURN TO GOD! Returning to God requires real, tangible ACTION.

Warnings From Our Creator

Amos’s prophecy continues: “Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The Lord, The God of hosts, is his name”

(Amos 4:12-13). Note that! God creates the wind that propels hurricanes! He has power over the elements. And also, He knows what human beings are thinking. What a mighty Being!

God is using these natural elements in ways intended to turn us to Him. He doesn't want to see us suffer these calamities. But if we fail to heed, He warns that worse curses will come. The opportunity to respond is closing fast.

This is clear from a prophecy in Amos 8: "Then said the Lord unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more"

(Amos 8:2). This is the time we are in now: THE END IS COME. God "will not again pass by"—this is our *last chance* to heed His warning!

Amos develops this theme in the third chapter of his prophecy: "Hear this word that the Lord hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, *You only have I known of all the families of the earth*: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities" (Amos 3:1-2). Again, the modern-day nations of Israel—chiefly America and Britain, and also the

Jewish state called "Israel"—have a unique history with God. He was once their King! And He holds these nations accountable in a way that He does *not* yet hold Russia or China or Japan or the Arabs in the Middle East or the African nations or anyone else. (Again, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* will explain this to you.) God has a wonderful plan for all those nations as well, which will come into effect at a future time (e.g. 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

But God does not punish without *warning first*. "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be

God Has Responded to Past National Days

AFTER HURRICANE HARVEY DECIMATED HOUSTON AND THE Texas Gulf coast, United States President Donald Trump declared September 3 a day of national prayer. He called on Americans "of all faiths and religious traditions and backgrounds to offer prayers ... for all those harmed by Hurricane Harvey, including people who have lost family members or been injured, those who have lost homes or other property, and our first responders, law enforcement officers, military personnel, and medical professionals leading the response and recovery efforts."

"God is our refuge and strength," President Trump quoted from Psalm 46:1, "a very present help in trouble."

When faced with hardship, Americans have a history of coming together and crying out to God. As early as the 1600s, American communities traditionally kept their own special fast day each spring, just as they kept a day of thanksgiving each fall (*Religion and the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*). National days of prayer in America go back to June 12, 1775, at the start of the American Revolutionary War, when the Continental Congress declared: "Congress ... considering the present critical, alarming and calamitous state ... do earnestly recommend, that Thursday, the 12th of July next, be observed by the inhabitants of all the English colonies on this continent, as a Day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, that we may with united hearts and voices, unfeignedly confess and deplore our many sins and offer up our joint supplications to the all-wise, omnipotent and merciful disposer of all events, humbly beseeching Him to forgive our iniquities."

The fledgling 13 colonies went on to win a miraculous victory in the war for independence against the greatest empire in the world. America was born as a republic of miracles.

President George Washington understood that. In his Inaugural Address on April 30, 1789, he stated, "[I]t would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a government instituted

by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge."

America's second president, John Adams, proclaimed a national day of humiliation, thanksgiving, fasting and prayer in 1798 and 1799. Almost every other president since has issued a proclamation of thanksgiving and/or prayer (*Religion and the Continental Congress*).

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln declared April 30, 1863, as a day of national prayer. On this and other occasions, he openly recognized that God was cursing America for its many sins, including slavery. He called on Americans to repent: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

A few months later, the Union won the Battle of Gettysburg, turning the tide of the war.

During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed May 30, 1918, to be a day of prayer. The German empire had almost broken through the Allied lines. Russia had just quit the war, and German reinforcements were pouring into Western Europe. Paris was in danger of falling. The president wrote: "I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, the 30th day of May, a day already freighted with sacred and stimulating memories, a day of public humiliation, prayer and fasting, and do exhort my fellow citizens of all faiths and creeds to assemble on that day in their several places of worship and there, as well as in

afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?" (Amos 3:6). God is blowing a trumpet of warning. His prophecies of curses on our nations are already coming to pass, and should cause us to fear Him.

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?" (verses 7-8). God is like a roaring lion! His message is fearsome. Will we listen?

Devastation is coming to those who don't heed God's warning. Yet through

the terrible trials and tests prophesied to befall Israel, our people will finally come to know God.

The God Who Blesses

Many people will pray to God. But how many will *obey* Him and allow Him to *rule them*? Very few.

The Prophet Amos even reveals that most of the people in God's own Church—who make up what the Bible refers to as *spiritual* "Israel"—have turned away from Him. You can see this in Amos 2:11-12: "And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young

men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the Lord. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, *Prophecy not.*"

Yes, God has a strong message of *prophecy*—intended to warn and to help His people. But those He instructed to proclaim that message refused to do so! Ninety-five percent of God's own Church has rebelled and now refuses to prophesy! Colossians 2:19 says that these people are "not holding the Head," speaking of Jesus Christ! Christ SHOULD be our *Head*—our Lord

of Prayer

their homes, to pray Almighty God that He may forgive our sins and shortcomings as a people and purify our hearts to see and love the truth, to accept and defend all things that are just and right, and to purpose only those righteous acts and judgments which are in conformity with His will."

The very next day after the day of prayer, the United States Marine Corps began its first major engagement of the war at Belleau Wood. There something miraculous occurred: The Americans won a stunning victory over the Germans, keeping the Allies from losing the war.

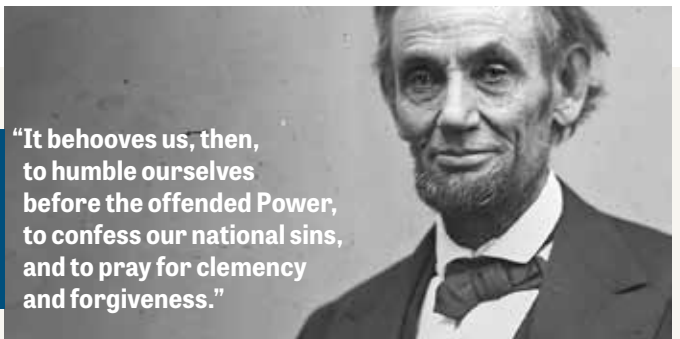
Similar miracles happened for Britain during World War II. A day of prayer was called on May 26, 1940, for Britain as the trapped British Expeditionary Force faced annihilation by the Nazi war machine on the beaches of Dunkirk. King George VI broadcast on national radio, calling on the British people not only to plead for divine help, but also to turn back to God in a spirit of *repentance*. Between May 26 and June 4, a storm grounded the German Air Force, the German Army inexplicably halted, the English Channel calmed, and 340,000 Allied troops were saved.

A joint resolution of Congress in 1952 signed by President Harry Truman permanently established an annual National Day of Prayer. Since 1988, it has been held on the first Thursday in May.

But in the hurricane season of 2017, President Trump had reason to call a special day of prayer on September 3. When that day (a Sunday) came, there was a religious showing across America. The president and his wife attended a church service, as did Texas governor Greg Abbott. Churches all over America held services for the victims, and thousands of Americans came together to pray.

But instead of a miracle, America got another disaster.

On September 6, Hurricane Irma plowed through the Caribbean, desolating Barbuda and other Caribbean islands and striking Florida. Then Hurricane Maria smashed Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Harvey, Irma and Maria cost more than 100 American lives and somewhere between \$100 and \$300 billion in damage, in addition to the lives lost and destruction wrought on other Caribbean islands.



"It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

GOD DID NOT ANSWER THOSE PRAYERS TO BLESS AMERICA. HE CAUSED OR ALLOWED MORE HURRICANES.

If you compare President Trump's proclamation to other national proclamations of prayer, there is one *stark* difference. It boils down to one word: *repentance*.

In each of the cases where God dramatically responded to days of prayer and miraculously intervened, American leaders had not only called on their citizens to pray and beseech God to intervene, but to *fast* and to *repent of sin*.

President Trump's predecessors would have said the record-setting destruction was the consequence of *national sin*; President Trump only mentioned "the consequences of this terrible storm."

President Trump's proclamation made no mention of repentance from sin, no acknowledgment that Hurricane Harvey was a punishment from God, no exhortation for Americans to turn from their wicked ways. The president had stated in his inaugural address that America is a "righteous people and a righteous public."

Even after disaster struck and other disasters were looming, even when declaring a national day of prayer, the president declined to tell Americans to repent of their sins.

In a crisis, people *do* begin to talk about seeking God. But even as they suffer, they do not want to admit that they have sinned and must change their beliefs and their actions.

While God might not respond to America's national day of prayer, He will respond to individual, heartfelt prayers of repentance. He may have already responded to personal prayers from some who suffered these recent tragedies, if they are willing to turn from sin and obey Him. **TYREL SCHLOTE**

and Master! If you lose your head, you are in grave danger!

When he was writing about God, the Prophet Amos used the word “Adonai” 25 times—more than the other 11 minor prophets combined. This word means “Headship,” “the Head,” or “the God who blesses,” according to the *Companion Bible*. Amos discussed a lot of negative prophecies, but he kept reminding himself of the great God behind the punishments—the God who sometimes sends trials and tests to humble us and to move us to get to know Him. When you understand their purpose, even

day dark with night: that *calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth*: The Lord is his name” (verse 8). This is exactly what we saw in these recent hurricanes: God brought trillions of gallons of water out of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean and poured it on American cities! He would much rather use water to grow our crops and give us prosperity, but we must listen to Him. He has to get our attention if He is going to give us eternal life and rule over the entire universe.

“For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins ...” (verse 12).

An Unbreakable Promise

Study the *context* of the verse that America’s vice president and others have misquoted. God gave that promise as He accepted the temple that King Solomon had dedicated to Him. God said, “If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

These leaders not only leave out parts of verse 14, they totally omit verse 13, which says that God will actually *cause destruction* to come on the land! They also leave out verses 19-22, where God says that if Israel turns away from God, He will bring “all this evil upon them” and even “pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them,” sending them into exile.

Vice President Pence and other American Christian leaders, writers and everyday people apply this passage (at least the positive parts) to the United States. Many others—including many American Christians—disagree: They say this passage *only* applied to Israel, a long-gone ancient kingdom. But that is not true. God preserved this passage for 3,000 years because these verses—*every word* of these verses—continue to apply to the *modern descendants of ancient Israel!*

The book of Chronicles is not just a leftover record of what God told an ancient king. It is primarily for our time! And it is primarily for three end-time nations of Israel: America, Britain and the Jewish state. America and Britain received the birthright promises of unmatched national abundance. The Jewish state called Israel received the scepter promise of a royal dynasty that God promised would endure until the return of Jesus Christ. (This is all explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.) The promise in Chronicles—and the *warning*—is for our day!

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, the wonderful, loving God tells us *exactly* how to avoid national suffering, division and destruction. He makes an *unbreakable*

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A Second Civil War

America desperately needs healing. Serious people are sincerely considering the possibility that America could erupt in a second civil war!

Radio host and author Dennis Prager wrote an article on Townhall.com called “America’s Second Civil War.” A CNN news anchor accused President Trump of “clearly trying to ignite a civil war in this country.” Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who is also a historian, said in a Fox News interview, “I think we should take the threat of civil war very seriously.” “What you’re seeing with Antifa, what you’re seeing on college campuses, what you’re seeing, to some extent, in the bureaucracy, is a *real division of the country*,” Gingrich said. “As a historian, my view is pretty straightforward: One side or the other wins.”

In an article called “There Will Be No Winners in the Second Civil War,” Newsmax.com concluded: “[M]any people see war not only as imminent, but as virtually inevitable. If that’s the case, we’d better get busy digging ourselves bunkers ... and *graves*” (August 25).

How serious is this issue? The first civil war cost almost as many American lives as all other American wars combined! But another eruption of violence between Americans would be far worse. If the country plunges into infighting, many foreign nations will be ready to pounce. America is the wealthiest nation in history: If it continues to destroy itself, nations like China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and others will destroy whatever the civil war doesn’t as they vie for the loot. The American superpower will become history, and a *third world war*, with multiple nuclear powers, will follow.

The *Trumpet* and, before us, Herbert W. Armstrong have warned of World War III for over 80 years! This war is prophesied in your Bible. America’s division is hastening the fulfillment of what God forecast thousands of years ago.

GERALD FLURRY

God’s difficult prophecies are inspiring and uplifting! God is a God of love. He only sends chastening to inspire us to return to Him.

“Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel. ... For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, *SEEK YE ME, AND YE SHALL LIVE*” (Amos 5:1, 4; see also verse 6). God delivers bad news, but if we respond the right way, we will live forever!

“Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the

This is why God punishes us with hurricanes! We could pray and not even get close to God if we are not obeying Him. When we are involved in transgressions and sins, then God will not listen to or answer our prayers (Proverbs 28:9; Isaiah 1:10-15; 59:1-2). We must *REPENT* and *RETURN* to God to reap tremendous blessings.

“Seek good, and not evil, *THAT YE MAY LIVE*: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken” (Amos 5:14). Clearly, God wants you to *LIVE!* He wants *every human* to live an abundant life (John 10:10).

Repentance Toward God

BY GERALD FLURRY

Below is an excerpt from Gerald Flurry's free booklet Repentance Toward God. This booklet presents the biblical definition and biblical examples of repentance and shows you how to draw close to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

CONVERSION IS A LIFELONG PROCESS. TO BECOME converted is to have God's thoughts—rather than carnal thoughts and emotions and desires. We must think like God! That is very difficult to accomplish, and a deep subject to think on. We must constantly *grow* in our conversion. Baptism is only the starting point.

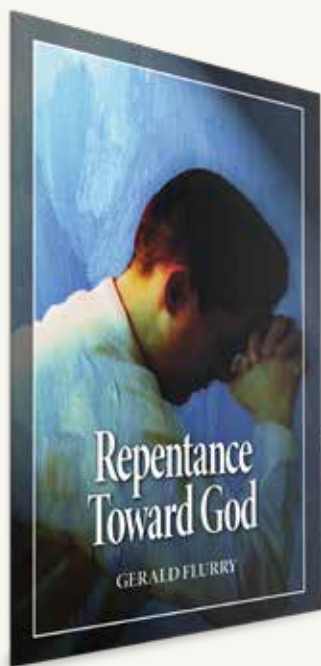
Here is how the Apostle Paul described it: "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). Many people know why we must have faith toward Jesus Christ: We must believe on and accept *His* sacrifice in order to be reconciled to God and to receive the Holy Spirit. But how deeply do you understand repentance toward God?

The Goodness of God

"And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that *the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*" (Romans 2:3-4). Obviously, repentance is of the Holy Spirit. But here it says *the goodness of God* leads us to it.

Do you realize how good God is? How good He is to you? How much He has given you? When we evaluate ourselves and compare ourselves with the goodness of God, we see how evil we are. Compare your goodness with God's, and then you begin to see why we really need to repent toward *God* and not toward man.

How good is God? Just think about Christ's crucifixion. Notice Genesis 22. After Abraham proved he was willing to sacrifice his son for God, the God who later became Jesus Christ said this: "*By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven ...*" (verses 16-17). God swore *by Himself* in making this promise to Abraham. In other words, He was telling Abraham, *I'm going to give my life for you, or I'm going to die trying. Because you have done this deed, my death will pay for your sins and I'm going to bring you into my Family. I swear this by my own life.*



Yes, when Christ came to this Earth, His life was at stake. He could, indeed, sin. Christ's life was the greatest risk in the history of man. But He took it because He wanted people like Abraham in His Family—people who would go out and sacrifice their own *son* if necessary, knowing that God would resurrect him to fulfill a promise (Hebrews 11:17-19). Abraham had that kind of faith and trust in God, and God returned that love many times over. *All people who can repent like you, Abraham—I will give my life for them. I know that if I don't make it, nobody else will. But I'm going to do this so we can build the Family of God.* That is the cost it took for us to receive God's Holy Spirit.

If Christ had failed, God the Father would have been sitting in solitary confinement for the rest of eternity! That's the kind of sacrifice these Gods made for us. We can forget that in our callous, carnal thinking. But God the Father and Christ did it—and they did it for *you*. They want you to be aware of that. Not out of their vanity, but so that you will recognize that *repentance must be toward God!* We must understand repentance if we are to enter the God Family.

Meditate deeply upon God's goodness! It is contrary to *everything* we see in this miserable, evil world. His mind is in perfect accord with His law in every detail.

Godly vs. Worldly Sorrow

Here is a description of the repentance all of Israel will one day experience. "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and *they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn*" (Zechariah 12:10).

We must strive for this kind of repentance today. We are all Christ killers! We have killed the firstborn Son of our beloved Father! And if we are thinking the way God does, we will experience the same intensity of emotion over what we have done as we would over losing a firstborn son!

This is getting at the heart of the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. "For godly sorrow worketh *repentance to salvation* not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh *death*" (2 Corinthians 7:10). The reason godly sorrow is "not to be repented of" is because it causes you to overcome your sin! Someone with worldly sorrow may feel bad for a while, but he will never overcome his problems. With godly sorrow, it may not be immediate, but you are not content until you overcome that problem. You get into contact with God and take the problem to Him, and you strive with all your being to become like God in that area. That is when you begin to make real progress. ■

For a free copy of *Repentance Toward God*, visit theTrumpet.com/go/rtg or write to the address on the back cover.



ENCOURAGING GENDER FLUIDITY IS CHILD ABUSE

Now psychologists say 2-year-olds know they are transgender. They are pushing these children toward a lifetime of misery.

BY DENNIS LEAP

SEVERAL NEW WORDS HAVE ENTERED our English language that have powerfully changed American and Western family structures, legal systems, military, politics and social norms: *cisgender*, *gender-fluid*, *nonbinary* (gendered), *pansexual*, *trans* and *transgender*. A cisgender is an individual who identifies with his or her birth sex. A nonbinary or pansexual is one who has not made up his mind yet—he does not identify as either male or female. A trans, or transgender, has changed or is in

process of changing his birth sex, often with the help of medical intervention.

Transgenderism made big headlines when Olympic gold medalist Bruce Jenner changed to Caitlyn Marie Jenner and North Carolina had a legal furor over whether transgender schoolchildren could use bathrooms matching their new identities.

Now the transgender movement continues to march into new territory. What's the new turf? The physical and mental health of *very young children*.

The University of California–San Francisco director of mental health now claims that 2-year-olds can know they are transgender. According to Dr. Diane Ehrensaft, a 2-year-old boy can know he should have been born a girl, and a girl can know, at 2, that she should have been born a boy.

“We expect a 2-year-old to know ‘I am boy. I am girl,’” she explained. “So why can’t that also apply to transgender children?”

Child Psychology Gone Mad

Dr. Ehrensaft has a history of advocating for children to determine themselves whether they are transgender. She supports the Rainbow Day Camp in northern California—where transgender youths *as young as 4* may attend. According to her, the camp has experienced a “sea change, maybe we can even call it a tsunami, in the number of little kids showing up with their families.”

What if a boy wants to wear dresses? “I would say, get him the dresses,” Ehrensaft says. “Have your child free to choose. Maybe, they’ll stop wearing dresses. Maybe, they grow up to be gay” (CNSNews.com, August 14).

Ehrensaft suggests parents listen carefully to their children’s “use of [pronouns] regarding gender,” that they look for frustration concerning his or her own genitals, and take it seriously when a boy wants to wear a dress or a girl wants to play with trucks. This last suggestion is called, in professional terms, “gender expansion play.”

CNSNews.com offered advice for parents from another gender expert, Johanna Olson-Kennedy, from the Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles. She recommends “that parents go away for a weekend with your child in order to learn more about his or her gender preference.” Would you take them to the beach, the zoo or an amusement park? No. “Do a weekend as a different gender, and see what you learn ... letting them use a different pronoun or wear a dress or other clothing of their choice.”

I ask: What has happened to human minds that could think or advocate such things?

I am a father of four daughters and grandfather of nine grandchildren. Not

one of my daughters ever questioned her birth sex. None of the grandchildren (five girls, four boys) has proclaimed, “I should have been a boy,” or, “I should have been a girl.”

What 2-year-old, just learning to talk, doesn’t at times mix up her pronouns? How can a 2-year-old girl playing with her brother’s cars or trucks represent gender confusion? It takes an adult mind to see this innocence as some form of transgenderism.

Let’s be truly honest, adults. Playing at cross-dressing with a child is the best way to introduce confusion into a child’s mind concerning sexual identity.

The New Normal

Michelle Cretella, M.D., pediatrician and president of the American College of Pediatricians, has a different view of the transgender ideology. She views it as an infection disrupting American politics and our legal systems.

“[T]ransgender ideology is not just infecting our laws. It is intruding into the lives of the most innocent among us—children—and with the apparent growing support of the professional medical community,” she wrote for the Daily Signal. “I have witnessed an upending of the medical consensus on the nature of gender identity. What doctors once treated as a mental illness, the medical community now largely affirms and even promotes as *normal*” (July 3; emphasis added throughout).

The diagnosis for children distressed by their biological sex used to be called “gender identity *disorder*.” In 2013, the term was changed to “gender *dysphoria*.” *Disorder* means “a state of confusion,” whereas *dysphoria* means “a state of unease.” This change was accomplished by the often-unseen hand of the transgender movement.

In 2014, there were only 24 pediatric “gender clinics” along the East Coast and in California to help children distressed by their biological sex. By 2015, there were 40 across the nation. “With 215 pediatric residency programs now training future pediatricians in a transition-affirming protocol and treating gender-dysphoric children accordingly, gender clinics are bound to proliferate,” said Cretella.

Here is the problem with the expansion in the number of clinics.

Children who “consistently and persistently insist” that they are not their birth sex are considered *innately transgender*. (“The fact that in normal life and in psychiatry, anyone who ‘consistently and persistently insists’ on anything else contrary to physical reality is considered either confused or delusional is conveniently ignored,” writes Cretella.) Then trained medical professionals recommend parents adhere to a transition-affirming protocol: They are to act as if the child *is* the gender he or she desires. When the child is 11 or 12, parents should place him or her on puberty blockers. If by age 16, the child still believes he or she is trapped in the wrong body, the child should be placed on cross-sex hormones; girls may receive a double mastectomy. “[G]enital reassignment surgeries are not recommended before age 18, though some surgeons have recently argued against this restriction,” continued Cretella.

None of this sounds normal to me.

Large-scale Child Abuse

Dr. Cretella confirmed Ehrensaft’s view that the number of children claiming to be transgender is increasing dramatically. The United Kingdom alone has seen a 2,000 percent surge in referrals since 2009. “The transgender movement has gained legs in the medical community and in our culture by offering a deeply flawed narrative,” she wrote (*ibid*). She believes the transgender movement has opened the door to large-scale child abuse. You can read the details debunking the transgender movement’s flawed claims in her full article.

“These professionals are using the myth that people are born transgender to justify engaging in massive, uncontrolled and unconsented experimentation on children who have a psychological condition that would otherwise resolve after puberty in the vast majority of cases,” warns Cretella. “Today’s institutions that promote transition affirmation are pushing children to impersonate the opposite sex, sending many of them down the path of puberty blockers, sterilization, the removal of healthy body parts, and untold psychological damage” (*ibid*).

A little child’s life is precious. It is natural for parents to be protective. One of the biggest scare tactics transgender supporters throw at parents is that they must allow gender transformation in order to prevent suicide. This is a huge lie. In Sweden, one of the world’s most LGBT-affirming countries, the suicide rate for adults who undergo sex reassignment is 20 times greater than that of the general population.

“These harms constitute nothing less than institutionalized child abuse. Sound ethics demand an immediate end to the use of pubertal suppression, cross-sex hormones, and sex reassignment surgeries in children and adolescents, as well as an end to promoting gender ideology via school curricula and legislative policies,” Cretella states (*ibid*). This is a laudable desire. Sadly, it is unlikely that Dr. Cretella and her peers will appear on our nightly news or in our national newspapers. They have great difficulty finding amplification for their message.

Destruction of Biblical Family

This trend is part of a highly organized plan to destroy biblical family, commonly known as traditional family. It has been happening for decades. Dr. Ehrensaft admits her part in the movement in a book she coauthored, *My Son Wears Heels*. “A long time ago, I grew up to be a feminist of the 1960s. Looking back on that time, we all thought we were kicking up some dust, and we were happy for it,” she writes. “We had no idea we had started a landslide, earthshaking tremors that would set in motion, with our allies in the LGBTQI movement, a new era in which homosexuality would be deleted as a mental disorder in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (1973), gay marriage would be legalized in the United States (2015), and reparative therapy to try to fix the gender identity for minors [seeking to change someone’s homosexual orientation] would be banned in several states in the United States and a province in Canada. ... When even Target stores dispense with gender categories in their toy departments (which they announced in the summer of 2015), we are definitely in a whole new world.”

Long forgotten is the fact that a supreme, all-powerful Creator God

The Election That **SHOOK** **GERMANY**



Voters handed the political establishment a beating. The nation may not have a government for months. When it comes, it will be divided and weak. Germany's recent election portends greater crisis to come.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

GERMANY'S FEDERAL elections on September 24 were supposed to be boring. The *Wall Street Journal* said on September 10, "A bland and predictable campaign should be admired in the midst of a chaotic Continent." On September 11, the *EU Observer* said, "Finally an election in Europe that isn't racking our nerves." *Bloomberg Businessweek* asked, "How, in 2017, can Europe's biggest economy have a normal, even boring, election while crusading populists have upended the political order elsewhere?"

Two weeks later, Germany experienced an election that was anything but boring.

Angela Merkel was reelected, as expected. But instead of stabilizing

Germany, the election only brought more instability and uncertainty. Europe's most powerful nation is now on the verge of a full-blown political crisis, one that could have major social and economic implications.

Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian sister-party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), won just 33 percent of the vote, *their worst result since 1949*. The Social Democrats (SPD), led by Martin Schulz, garnered roughly 20 percent of the vote, also its worst result since World War II.

The big winners were the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), which gained a shocking 13 percent of the vote to become Germany's third-biggest party, and the far-left Free Democratic Party (FDP) with roughly 11 percent of the vote.

Merkel is now stuck trying to form the first four-party coalition

in Germany's history. The process is expected to take months; Germany may not form a government until well into next year. If Merkel fails to form a coalition, she may even have to step down. Even if she can successfully navigate negotiations, the end result will be a weak and unwieldy government.

September's federal election revealed a divided, frustrated and unstable Germany. Both of the biggest parties ignored the issues that mattered most to the people.

Many called this election result a political *earthquake*, and Germany certainly *has* been shaken. Earthquakes strike without warning, though—and this political quake was at least two years in the making.

The election revealed that Germany's real crisis lies much deeper than most people know. It gave us a glimpse into

the much more significant crisis rumbling beneath the surface.

Germany's Conflicted Soul

The *Trumpet* has warned for years that Germany is experiencing a quiet crisis. Fundamentally, this crisis isn't political or economic, but psychological. It is unfolding in the minds and hearts of the people. A growing number of Germans feel an inner struggle between who they *aspire* to be and who they *are*. It's a struggle between how they *want* to feel—about Islam, about the migrants, about Germany's traditional culture and heritage—and how they *actually* feel.

Postwar Germany prides itself on being multicultural, tolerant and liberal. Germany is widely considered the standard for moral, political and social sophistication and enlightenment. Twenty-first-century Germany abhors war, defends the environment and human rights, and values international cooperation and collaboration. This is the type of person (and nation) many Germans aspire to be.

But there's a problem. The influx of more than a million Muslim migrants, together with Russia's dramatic resurgence and Europe's rolling financial problems, is arousing other feelings and aspirations. And these emotions don't square with the desire to be tolerant and multicultural. Being tolerant feels good, until hundreds of thousands of foreigners enter your nation and expect you to foot the bill. Being multicultural is wonderful, until Muslims waving Islamic State flags settle in your village and begin eyeing your teenage daughter. Being anti-war feels righteous, until Russian tanks start rolling westward.

Harsh realities are forcing more and more Germans to reconsider their post-war values in light of more basic urges. Tolerance is being replaced by prejudice, multiculturalism by patriotism, community spirit by a greater drive for self-preservation and self-advancement.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this story is that Germany's "elite" thinkers and leaders, the nation's mainstream journalists and politicians, including Angela Merkel, do not publicly recognize Germany's conflicted soul. They do not appear to be

thinking seriously about its disturbing ramifications.

THIS IS TRULY ALARMING: The transformation now occurring in the soul of the German people will culminate in the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire!

Rise of the Far Right

Even after the election, few are facing this crisis. Though many labeled it a political earthquake, few have studied the fault lines that caused it. Angela Merkel actually said she would have done nothing differently, and that the AfD's election success would not influence her refugee policy.

Meanwhile, back in reality, the political success of the AfD and the far-left FDP powerfully proves that the public is increasingly dissatisfied and fearful.

The AfD's dramatic rise is sobering.

“Voters are disoriented, full of uncertainties. I have never before seen so much anger and hatred.” —STEPHAN GRÜNEWALD, Rheingold Institute

The party was only founded in April 2013. Less than six months later, it won 4.7 percent of the vote in the federal election. By spring 2017, it had representation in 13 of the 16 German state parliaments.

This September, the AfD became Germany's THIRD-LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY. It will have roughly 90 seats in the Bundestag, marking the first time in 60 years that a party further right than the CDU/CSU will have parliamentary representation. This is astounding considering the AfD did not tone down its rhetoric in order to win more votes. It remained *staunchly* anti-migrant, anti-Islam and anti-EU.

The CDU and the CSU, or simply “the Union,” suffered a nearly 9 percent drop in votes from 2013. In Bavaria, the CSU's home state, it was a 10 percent drop.

The AfD was there to pick up the frustrated voters. However, polls indicate that a massive number of AfD voters—roughly 70 percent according to some surveys—voted merely to protest the other parties, not out of any great loyalty to the AfD. Nico Siegel, head of the Infra-test dimap polling agency, described

the AfD as “a vacuum cleaner for those unsatisfied with the other parties.”

If the CDU/CSU Union wants those voters back, it will have to move much more to the right, especially on immigration. Polls show that a growing number of Germans want the migrant flow stopped or seriously curbed. A Bertelsmann Foundation survey found that 54 percent believe the country cannot handle more migrants—the first time a majority expressed this opinion (just two years ago, only 40 percent felt this way). The study concluded: “Many feel that the MAXIMUM LIMIT has been reached” (emphasis added throughout).

Meanwhile, Merkel refuses to put a cap on the number of migrants entering the country.

A study published in August by the R+V Info Center revealed that Islamist terrorism is now the *top fear* of Ger-

mans. Analyst Brigitte Roemstedt said fear of a terrorist attack is now “AT ONE OF THE HIGHEST LEVELS THAT HAS EVER BEEN MEASURED.”

Yet despite this, Angela Merkel and Martin Schulz barely discussed Islamist terrorism ahead of the election. A Rheingold Institute study just before the vote quoted chief psychologist Stephan Grünewald, who said, “On a fundamental level, the voters are totally disappointed in this election campaign.” The German people “feel like the things that are important to them aren't being discussed, AND THAT MANY ARE BEING GLOSSED OVER. ... In the in-depth interviews, all people wanted to talk about was the refugee crisis, refugee crisis, refugee crisis. Despite being so elegantly left out of the campaign, IT IS STILL A SORE SPOT THAT HASN'T BEEN TREATED BY POLITICIANS.”

“VOTERS ARE DISORIENTED, FULL OF UNCERTAINTIES,” warned Grünewald. “They describe Germany either as an ailing, rundown country or as a secure island of affluence in a sea of risk. It's all very fragile and leads to emotional

outbursts. I HAVE NEVER BEFORE SEEN SO MUCH ANGER AND HATRED AMONG TEST SUBJECTS.”

Merkel managed to squeak out a win, but little has meaningfully changed in Germany since the election. Germany’s mainstream leaders, including Chancellor Merkel, still have not seriously addressed the issues disturbing a large number of Germans. There is a lot to admire about Angela Merkel, but when it comes to the refugee issue, she is *dangerously* out of touch with the public. The consequences of such thinking are alarming. These issues will only grow more serious, as will the public’s sense of abandonment and anger. Already people are *more* anxious, *more* uncertain and *more* irritated. A MAJOR POLITICAL CRISIS IS IMMINENT!

and it has a rich history with some of Europe’s most powerful empires and most dangerous regimes. “Bavaria has often been a center for new political experiments in Germany,” explained think tank Stratfor. “In times of deep social upheaval, this involved embracing extreme positions” (Oct. 18, 2015).

Bavaria, and specifically the city of Munich, was a breeding ground of National Socialism. The young Adolf Hitler was raised in Bavaria, and Munich was where he made his first attempt to seize power in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923. Munich “had a special place in the Nazi pantheon, and in 1935 Hitler declared it ‘the capital of the Nazi movement’” (ibid).

It is likely that Germany’s next leader will come from Bavaria. The primary

views on key issues, especially the refugees. The CSU is positioned to be that party—to capitalize on any Merkel misstep, or perhaps a forced retirement or political collapse.

The man to watch inside the CSU is Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg. He is a native Bavarian and a disciple of German strongman Franz Josef Strauss. Before he moved to America in 2011, he was defense minister, the nation’s most popular politician, and the man many expected to become a future chancellor. Guttenberg has an aristocratic pedigree, movie-star looks and a charismatic personality. He communicates with force and vigor, but is also a pragmatic, deep thinker. He understands Germany and Europe. When you listen to his speeches, you can see that he understands the conflict gnawing at the German soul.

Prior to the election, for the first time since a plagiarism scandal forced him from office more than six years ago, Guttenberg was in Germany, campaigning for the CDU/CSU. Even now there are rumors that, following the election, he will move back to Berlin to take up a cabinet post within the new government.

A New Germany Is Imminent

If you think Germany is strong now, just wait. Slowly but steadily, this identity crisis is causing Germans to accept that meekness, tolerance and passivity are ill advised and dangerous in an increasingly unstable and violent world. *At a grassroots level*, Germany is developing a new postwar identity.

The *Trumpet* and its predecessor the *Plain Truth* have been prophesying about the emergence of a strong, active, powerful Germany since 1944. We’ve based this forecast on many Bible prophecies. In Isaiah 10:5, for example, God says, “O Assyrian [a name in biblical prophecy for modern-day Germany], the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.” This is a prophecy about God deploying Germany as a rod of correction to inflict horrifying violence and pain on the modern-day nations of Israel.

Germany is also a protagonist in the end-time prophecy of Ezekiel 23. This prophecy says that Britain, America



To learn more about **KARL-THEODOR ZU GUTTENBERG** and why the *Trumpet* believes he could be significant, watch our video “Who Is Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg” (theTrumpet.com/15739) or read Chapter 2 in *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent* by Gerald Flurry (theTrumpet.com/go/germanleader).

Craving a Strongman

In November 2015, the *Trumpet* wrote, “Time will tell, but Merkel’s embrace of the migrants could be her undoing.” In the two years since, Merkel has remained, but Germany’s soul has only grown more tormented. The urges of self-preservation and nationalism have intensified. The people want a leader and political party willing and able to lead Germany (and even Europe) through this tumultuous period.

The region to watch closely is Bavaria. Situated in southeastern Germany, bordering Austria and the Czech Republic, Bavaria is the soul of the nation. It is conservative and staunchly Catholic,

political party there is the CSU, one of Germany’s largest. Together with the CDU, it has composed the most influential alliance in modern German politics.

The refugee crisis has introduced tension and instability into this alliance. The CSU staunchly opposes Merkel’s views on the issue. Bavaria is on the front lines of the crisis; it has watched refugees pour into its cities and villages.

The CSU is more in tune with the German people on this issue than Merkel and the CDU. The majority of the public, though they disagree with Merkel, do not want to join Die Linke or Alternative für Deutschland. They want a *mainstream* party with the same

and the Jewish state in the Middle East will align themselves with Germany, which will be the dominant world leader. Verses 9-12 read: "Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted. ... She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men."

Again, this prophecy shows that Germany will be an impressive political and military power, a mighty, imperialistic nation that subjugates large swathes of civilization!

Hosea 5 has another, similar end-time prophecy about the nations of Israel, mainly Ephraim (Britain). But notice, God says that "[w]hen Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound" (verse 13). This foretells Britain looking to Germany for support. Why? Apparently Germany at this time is the world's leading nation!

There are similar prophecies in Habakkuk 1, Daniel 7, 8 and 11, and Revelation 13 and 17, for example. These speak of the emergence in the end time of a German-led, Catholic-inspired European superstate. As hard as it is right now to imagine the EU as an imperialistic superpower, this is exactly what the Bible prophesies!

And at the core of this European empire is an extremely powerful, extremely assertive, extremely aggressive German nation!

This Germany is forming even now. The inner struggle within many Germans will only intensify after this recent election. More of Merkel means more of the same. Now that the election is over, what is left to motivate her to make the changes the people seek? And unless some dramatic changes are made, Germany will only grow less stable and the people more anxious, more frustrated, and much more angry!

Eventually, the tension and anger will explode, initiating a course of events that will bring about the rise of a new, more powerful, more assertive, more terrifying Germany!



Europeans need a leader: They are about to get a fierce king. BY RICHARD PALMER

YOU CAN DIVIDE MOST OF Europe into three sections: places that are on fire, places that are charred, and places that are starting to smoke.

Greece is a largely burned-out country. Eight years after being walloped by a serious economic crisis, its economy produces only three quarters of what it once did. One in five Greeks is still unemployed. The country is dependent on bailouts from the rest of the world. Its economy is effectively under German control.

The Ukraine crisis continues to smolder, with nearly 100 civilians killed between the start of the year and mid-August: The total death toll now exceeds 10,000. With Russia holding its largest-ever post-Cold War drills just north of Ukraine in Belarus, all Eastern Europe is nervous.

Meanwhile Spain, right at the core of Europe, is grappling with its largest crisis since it became a democracy in 1978. The autonomous region of Catalonia voted to secede from Spain on October 1. The central government in Madrid declared the referendum illegal and tried to stop it by force. Police fired rubber bullets at unarmed civilians, violating Catalan law. The crisis has continued to escalate, and Madrid is now locking up political leaders and threatening to

revoke the region's autonomy.

In Austrian elections on October 15, the center-right Austrian People's Party shifted so far to the right that it won a third of the vote. Now, its leader, Foreign Affairs Minister Sebastian Kurz, is in line to become the next leader of Austria. He is set to form a coalition with the Freedom Party of Austria, a far-right party founded by ex-Nazis, which won a quarter of the vote. Last year, the Freedom Party of Austria came within a whisker of taking the presidency. This is only the latest in a series of elections that have seen fringe

parties win big in Germany, France and the Netherlands—and that's just since March. Meanwhile migrants continue to pour into Europe. Italy alone has absorbed 100,000 migrants so far this year and is struggling to cope.

Given its economic, migration and political crises, what Europe needs is *leadership*. What it has instead is the European Commission. That bureaucratic administration has repeatedly proved incapable of providing decisive direction.

Europe's super-bureaucracy is being overwhelmed by crises, and it is being rejected by citizens who are voting for nationalistic parties. In times like this, Europe's most powerful and prosperous nation is expected to step up. That would be Germany, the bloc's widely acknowledged *de facto* leader.

Except Germany is now incapacitated. Its domestic leadership was critically injured in its September 24 federal election. This political paralysis, coming at a time when Germany's leadership is needed more than ever, will trigger some major changes in Europe.

Headless Governments

Belgium set a new world record on Oct. 11, 2011. On that day, the nation finally formed a government after 589 days of coalition negotiations—the longest-ever delay for a modern developed nation. The Netherlands set a similar

record in October, spending 209 days in coalition negotiations—the longest period in its history.

This is the future Germany appears to be heading for. Few expect the nation to have a government in place by the end of the year. In fact, it took almost a month of fractious talks before the political parties even agreed on the new *seating arrangement* in parliament.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has a history of wiping out her coalition partners. She forces them to compromise with what they promised their supporters, which causes them to lose votes in subsequent elections. So other parties have little incentive to join a coalition with her Christian Democratic Union (CDU)—and if they do, they have little incentive to compromise. Her previous coalition partners, the Social Democrats, fared so badly in the September elections that they have already ruled out joining a coalition this time around.

The Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party went from zero seats in parliament to roughly 90, which would be valuable to a governing coalition. However, the party includes some radical far-right elements, and the other major parties have said they will not work with the AfD. They also ruled out working with the far-left Left Party.

This leaves just one viable possibility for accumulating enough seats in parliament to form a ruling coalition—and it's a complicated one. Merkel's CDU and its sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), will have to join with the pro-immigration and environmentalist Green Party, as well as the pro-business Free Democratic Party (FDP).

Germany has never had a coalition with so many different parties. Worse, these parties contradict each other in important ways.

Immigration is the big subject of the moment. After losing votes to the AfD and facing state elections next year, the CSU has shifted to the right and supports capping immigration and denying recent refugees the option of inviting family members to join them.

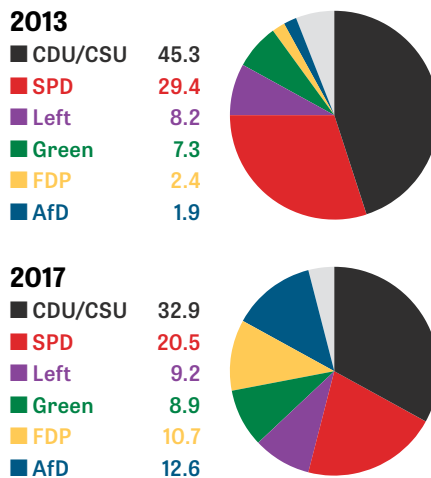
The Greens are one of the most leftist parties. They oppose capping immigration and support recent refugees bringing family members into Germany.

In fact, the Greens promised during the election campaign to *not* enter any government that places a cap on migrants or doesn't allow family members to immigrate. Most Green Party supporters want it to stay out of any coalition, so the Greens have little incentive to compromise with the CDU, let alone with the FDP.

And migration is far from being the only sticking point. The Green Party and the FDP fiercely opposed each other during the campaign. The Greens campaigned to destroy the internal combustion engine; the FDP promised to save it. The Greens want the German government to do more to help the rest of the eurozone financially; the FDP wants it to do much less.

SEISMIC SHIFT Election results

Percentages of votes for Germany's political parties



Somehow Chancellor Merkel must bring all these parties together.

Merkel is trying to produce a series of carefully crafted compromises. For example, she agreed with the CSU to implement a pseudo-cap on migration that allows in a maximum of 200,000 new refugees. Yet once this limit is reached, additional refugees will not be turned away at the border. And the cap can be lifted in case of an emergency. And nobody will call it a “migrant cap” so as not to upset the Greens.

But even with this cap—that's-not-a-cap, the Greens are upset. Party co-chair Simone Peter said the policy is “far” from what they expected.

Ms. Merkel may be able to cobble

together a coalition with such compromises, but these compromises will merely put off the points of contention. What happens when Germans repeatedly see two members of their ruling coalition advocating two directly opposing policies? What happens when the 200,000 cap is reached, and the Greens and CSU cannot agree on how to proceed?

Germany is set for months of coalition negotiations followed by an unstable and uncertain coalition. Meanwhile, Europe continues to burn.

What Next for Europe?

When Belgium and the Netherlands squabbled over government posts, Europe could get by with little inconvenience. But Germany is not Belgium or the Netherlands. It is the only power that can address Europe's crises. While it remains leaderless, the crises will grow. And so will the pressure on Germany.

Europe's acute need for real leadership is about to become more obvious than ever.

The worse this leadership vacuum gets, the more Germans will demand that it be filled with someone who can stop the chaos in German politics and in Europe. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has often warned that weak German leadership will open the door for a strong leader to rise in European politics. In a 2009 *Key of David* program, he said this leader could “perhaps take advantage of a weak coalition.”

That's certainly the situation in Germany right now. But why would he make such a statement? Because Bible prophecy foretells a strong leader rising in Europe—and even *how* that strong leader will emerge.

Daniel chapters 8 and 11 are full of prophecy God gave around 500 years before Jesus Christ's first coming. Some of these prophecies are now history. A great “king of Grecia” attacked Persia long ago—this was Alexander the Great, in 323 B.C.—just as Daniel 8:20-21 foretold. But much of these chapters is for “the time of the end” (Daniel 8:17; 11:40).

Daniel 8:23-24 describe the rise of “a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences.”

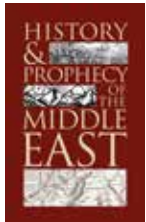


Where will he rule? Verse 25 says this king will be defeated after he stands up “against the Prince of princes.” Daniel 11:40-45 make similar prophecies about a ruler of a power called “the king of the north.” Put the two together, and it’s clear that the king of Daniel 8:23-24 and the leader of the king of the north in Daniel 11:40-45 are the same individual.

This man cannot arise in Britain and America—these are the modern descendants of Israel (for proof of this, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong). Daniel 11:44 describes this king attacking nations to the north and east of Jerusalem, referring to Russia and China, so this fierce king is not from those Asian nations.

That leaves Europe as one of the few major powers remaining.

Daniel 11 shows that this king of the north is a modern successor to the Roman Empire, which further confirms that this leader arises in Europe. (For more information about the Daniel 11 prophecy, request our free booklet *History and Prophecy of the Middle East*.)



Further confirming this, Isaiah 10:5-19 give a similar prophecy, clearly describing the same leader. This passage adds that this leader shall be “the king of Assyria.” Assyria refers to the ancestors of modern Germany. (For proof, request our reprint article “[The Remarkable Identity of the German People](#).”)

The prophecy in Isaiah 10 partially refers to Assyria’s ancient attack on Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah. Yet much of this chapter was not fulfilled in that time period. This prophecy will remain partially unfulfilled until the time of this future king.

This leader, then, will arise in Germany and lead this coming European power. What will he be like? In our free booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent* Mr. Flurry writes: “This soon-coming ruler

could literally be called a *king*. 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. Even if he doesn’t have that title, he is going to *lead like a king*. This vision in Daniel shows that the European empire is about to become a lot more authoritative.”

Modern Europe is democratic: So how could such an autocratic leader arise? The implication is that European democracy must be in crisis.

Daniel 11:21-31 tell us how. Most Bible commentaries correctly say this passage refers to Antiochus Epiphanes around 175 to 163 B.C. These scriptures describe exactly what this man did. Verse 31 states that he would “pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.” Antiochus did exactly this: He attacked and slaughtered the Jews and attacked the Jewish religion. He attempted to stamp out Jewish worship at the temple and he set up a pagan statute to Jupiter Olympius in front of the altar.

Jesus Christ clearly refers to this verse in Matthew 24:15: “the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet.” But He talks about it as something that will happen *in the future!*

If this was fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes 200 years earlier, why did Christ tell His disciples to watch for this event? Why have His words been preserved for 2,000 years?

As in Isaiah 10, this prophecy had an ancient fulfillment—but it will also have a modern one. It refers both to Antiochus Epiphanes *and* to a future arrival of a modern-day Antiochus. As the rest of Matthew 24 makes clear, this modern-day Antiochus attacks Jerusalem, just like the king described in Daniel 8 and 11 and Isaiah 10. This Antiochus and this king are the same man.

This is a fearsome leader more deadly and more destructive than any before!

Finally, note what Daniel 11 says about *how* this man will come to power. Verse 21 states that the people “shall not give” this Antiochus “the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.” The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says that “the nation shall not, by a public act, confer the kingdom on him, but he shall obtain it by artifice, ‘flattering.’” *Barnes Notes on the Old and New Testaments* states that “in other words, it should not be conferred on him by any law or act of the nation, or in any regular succession or claim.”

“This man doesn’t come to power the *honorable* way—by being voted into office,” Mr. Flurry wrote in November 2002. “He takes it dishonorably! He will work behind the scenes and come to power by *flatteries*—not votes!”

Complex coalition negotiations or an ineffective coalition government provide the perfect opportunity for these prophecies to be fulfilled. If Germany remains politically paralyzed while troubles multiply at home and Europe burns, it is easy to foresee Germans clamoring for a strong leader. This is where Germany’s political paralysis and Europe’s crises are leading.

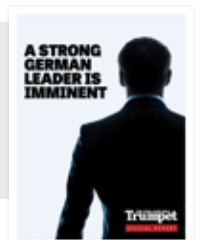
But all these prophecies also have another detail in common. This strongman wreaks his destruction just before Jesus Christ returns to Earth. Christ said, “[W]hen ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors” (Matthew 24:33).

Just as sure as the Bible’s prophecies were fulfilled by violent Antiochus Epiphanes, they will be fulfilled by a modern-day fierce leader in Germany. And just as sure as this leader’s reign will begin soon, so too will the subsequent reign of Jesus Christ!

Conditions are ready for this man to arrive in Germany—which means we are drawing near to Jesus Christ’s return and the time when all war and conflict are stopped for good. ■

GERMANY WANTS A STRONGMAN.

The euro. The economy. Political gridlock. Migration. Terror. War. With each new crisis, the German people crave a strong leader more and more. Bible prophecy says they will get one. To learn more, request Gerald Flurry’s booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*.





A Religious Revival in Europe?

Feeling threatened by Muslims, Europeans are seeking cultural cohesion in their Christian heritage. Bible prophecy foretold the trend. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

CAPERNAUM CHURCH IN downtown Hamburg, Germany, is under new management and is much busier than it used to be. The main hall accommodates 500 worshippers. Under the building's previous owners, the Evangelical Church, only about 20 people showed up each week. But for its new owners, the hall is not big enough.

Why the dramatic change? Because it is now the Al-Nour Islamic Center.

The change is symbolic of the trend sweeping Europe. In London, since 2001, 500 churches have become private homes, and more than 400 mosques have opened. In 2016, seven French churches were demolished, 26 put up for sale, and many more converted into offices, apartments, gymnasiums, etc. Meanwhile, since 2003 nearly 1,000 French mosques have been built.

So it seems odd to talk about a Christian revival in Europe. Churches are dying. Religion is playing a smaller role than ever in people's everyday lives.

But in *politics*, religion is making a major comeback.

Politicians are talking about their nation's religious heritage more than ever. They are using it to differentiate themselves from Muslims. They talk

about its importance to their culture. Although Europeans aren't going to church or letting religion tell them how to live their lives, they are looking to religion to tell them *who* they are.

Eastern Europe

As early as 2014, the Catholic magazine *First Things* noticed this trend emerging in Central and Eastern Europe: "In Hungary, Croatia, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, a pro-family, pro-life revolution and a rediscovery of Christian roots is occurring.

"Unnoticed in the shadow of a secularized West, religion's public role has been growing in the East since the collapse of communism" (Jan. 17, 2014).

This process has sped up dramatically as Europe's migrant crisis has worsened. Since 2013, around 2.5 million migrants have applied for asylum in the European Union. The EU does not track the religion of asylum seekers, but the vast majority are from Muslim-dominated countries. According to Pew Forum in 2010, about 19 million Muslims lived in the EU. So the EU has had roughly a 10 percent jump in its Muslim population due to the refugee crisis alone.

As thousands of Muslims have arrived every year, bringing their religion with them and setting up numerous mosques, European leaders have

shifted their rhetoric away from strict secularism and have begun to emphasize how *Christian* their nations are.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán was one of the earliest to take this route. In May 2015, he said flatly, "I think we have a right to decide that we do not want a large number of Muslim people in our country."

"Let us not forget, however, that those arriving have been raised in another religion and represent a radically different culture," he wrote in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. "Most of them are not Christians, but Muslims. This is an important question, because Europe and European identity is rooted in Christianity" (Sept. 3, 2015).

Orbán has since been joined by many others. Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico said in May 2016, "I do not want to see a Muslim community in Slovakia. ... We do not want to change the tradi-

tions of this country, which are built on the Christian tradition." The president of the Czech Republic warned in January 2016 that integrating Muslims into Europe "is practically impossible." Earlier this year, Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Błaszczak said that the presence of the largely Muslim refugee population is a "ticking bomb."

The rhetoric is popular. Polls in Poland and Bulgaria show that three quarters of respondents want their countries to stop accepting Muslim migrants.

Catholic leaders also support this stance. Although Pope Francis has been one of the most prominent leaders encouraging Europe to take in *more* migrants, senior bishops in the East are singing from a different hymn sheet. The former leader of the Czech Republic's bishops' conference, Archbishop Jan Graubner, has said his country should take only "Christian refugees." At a February meeting of Catholic leaders from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the current Czech president of the bishops' conference, Cardinal Dominik Duka, said, "The whole history of humanity shows how uncontrolled migration causes violence and conflict, as well as economic and cultural collapse."

"The larger the Muslim community, the likelier the violence—in such a situation, it's legitimate to ask about the

religion these people profess, and how beneficial it is to our society,” said Archbishop Stanislav Zvolenský, the leader of the Slovak bishops’ conference. “We shouldn’t forget *that Christianity and Islam are, despite all efforts at dialogue, in permanent conflict*.” Once one side gains the upper hand, there’s always conflict” (emphasis added throughout).

The West

In the West, bishops who will speak so bluntly are scarce, but they still exist. The most high-profile is Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, who is considered a possible successor to the current pope.

“Will there now be a third attempt at an Islamic conquest of Europe?” Schönborn asked in September 2016. “Many Muslims think so and long for it and say: Europe is at an end.”

Luc Ravel was made archbishop of Strasbourg, France, by Pope Francis in February. In July, Ravel told a French newspaper, “Muslim believers know very well that their birth rate is such that today, they call it ... the Great Replacement. They tell you in a very calm, very positive way that, ‘one day all this, it will be ours.’”

This trend extends even to political leaders in Western Europe.

Western Europe is traditionally the most secular place on Earth. In late 2015, a Gallup International poll found that Western Europe and Oceania were the *only* regions in the world where around half of the population was either atheist or nonreligious. But even here, political religion is making a comeback.

In France the very religious François Fillon was nominated to lead Les Républicains—France’s main conservative party. “Help, Jesus Has Returned!” was the headline in the *Libération* newspaper (Nov. 24, 2016).

Robert Zaretsky at *Foreign Policy* wrote, “[L]egions of Frenchmen and women who have not kept their faith will nonetheless turn out in droves for a politician who has. ... [I]n a country where barely five citizens in 100 attend church, the weight of Catholicism is still evident” (Dec. 1, 2016). He termed these voters “France’s zombie Catholics.”

As it turned out, Fillon crashed and burned, brought down in a financial

scandal. So Marine Le Pen and her far-right National Front party attempted to raise the standard of Christendom.

Le Pen’s religion is “a secularized Christianity as culture,” Rogers Brubaker, a sociologist at the University of California–Los Angeles, told *Atlantic* magazine. “It’s a matter of belonging rather than believing,” he said. Brubaker described it as a Christianity that says, “We are Christians, precisely because *they* are Muslims. Otherwise, we are not Christian in any substantive sense” (May 6).

That is an excellent summary of the trend occurring across all Europe. Christianity is not motivating people to attend religious services or to obey religious rules, but it is being used to drive people to vote for religious-sounding leaders.

Germany’s September 24 election saw the same Christian revival. One mainstream political party that has helped form the foundation of German politics since World War II—the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)—was founded by those seeking to cement Germany’s Christian character. How-

Christianity is not motivating people to attend religious services or to obey religious rules, but it is being used to drive people to vote for religious-sounding leaders.

ever, despite its having “Christian” in its name, it has grown progressively more secular. It seems many voters in September’s election punished the CDU by migrating to the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party, which achieved great success.

Foreign Policy wrote about the “party’s goal to become the true guardian of Germany’s—and Europe’s—Christian identity” (September 11). A group of Catholic and Protestant theologians formed the organization “Christen in der AfD” to urge support for the party. They warned that if Germany loses its Christian identity, it will “endanger nothing less than the foundations of our system of state and of our civilization.”

The AfD, though, is a perfect example of this “belonging rather than believing” Christianity. Its election slogans, such as “Burkas? We’re into bikinis,” are

hardly paragons of chastity and virtue. Two of its top leaders are lesbians. But it is *identity* that matters. Even the lesbian leaders have made no big push for homosexual “marriage” or any other kinds of homosexual rights. In the culture wars, they are on the side of the Christian right, and the Christian right is happy to accept them.

The AfD’s stunning election success—coming from nowhere to become the third-largest party in Germany’s parliament—shows the appetite in Germany for this kind of religion in politics.

But the AfD isn’t the only group embracing this Christian heritage. Angela Merkel’s sister party, the Christian Social Union, has kept much closer to its Christian heritage. The party has good relations with Viktor Orbán. It even invited him to Bavaria, despite great opposition from the German federal government.

The CSU’s star speaker in the recent election, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, brought a “Christian” message. At the Gillamoos festival, he told a packed crowd, “When we are not ready to

love our culture, then others will start to define our culture,” adding that Germany must protect its “Christian/Jewish Western society” (*Trumpet* translation throughout).

“If you go outside in August with temperatures of 35 to 38 degrees [95 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit] and go through a street in Munich and you see a gentlemen from Abu Dhabi ... and at a respectable distance, one or two women with a niqab behind him, I don’t see much freedom there,” he said. The “suppression of the woman has no room in our culture!”

His statements are milder than the message from the AfD or many in Eastern Europe. But they are stronger than many Western mainstream politicians are willing to make. And they were met with enthusiastic applause.





COMBINED MIGHT

In a Europe hit by the euro crisis, a wave of terrorism and mass immigration, the need for a common army is one thing most European leaders can agree on. Leaders from Germany, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have called for a common military. The rise of a European superpower capable of fielding a powerful military force, independent from the United States, would be one of the biggest geopolitical events of the last century. The combined power of such a military would revolutionize the balance of power around the world.

- 1 Ireland 2 Portugal 3 Spain 4 France 5 Malta 6 Italy 7 Croatia 8 Slovenia 9 Austria 10 Germany 11 Luxembourg 12 Belgium 13 Netherlands 14 Denmark 15 Sweden 16 Finland 17 Estonia 18 Latvia 19 Lithuania 20 Poland 21 Czech Republic 22 Slovakia 23 Hungary 24 Romania 25 Bulgaria 26 Greece 27 Cyprus

COMPARING BULLETS WITH BULLETS

Comparing the military strength of nations is a difficult task. To provide a benchmark, Credit Suisse, a leading financial services company headquartered in Switzerland, assigned weighted values to six key components of military power. By summing up the military might of 27 EU nations, it is possible to estimate how a unified European military would compare to the armies of China, Russia and the United States.

	 PERSONNEL 5% VALUE	 COMBAT TANKS 10% VALUE	 ATTACK HELICOPTERS 15% VALUE	 AIRCRAFT 20% VALUE
UNITED STATES	1,373,650 RANK .90	5,884 RANK .86	947 RANK .95	13,651 RANK .95
EUROPEAN UNION	1,487,617 RANK .91	6,103 RANK .87	268 RANK .87	6,854 RANK .92
RUSSIA	798,527 RANK .81	20,616 RANK .95	490 RANK .90	3,755 RANK .90
CHINA	2,260,000 RANK .95	6,457 RANK .90	206 RANK .86	3,790 RANK .86

POUND FOR POUND

The combined defense-spending budget of the European Union (minus Britain) makes this political alliance the world's second-biggest military spender.

ANNUAL MILITARY SPENDING

UNITED STATES **\$600,233,000,000**
 EUROPEAN UNION **\$198,445,000,000**
 RUSSIA **\$70,345,000,000**
 CHINA **\$131,000,000,000**

NUCLEAR POWER

After Brexit, France will be the only official nuclear-armed state in Europe. Yet the United States has loaned nuclear weapons to Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

TOTAL NUCLEAR WARHEADS

UNITED STATES **6,900**
 EUROPEAN UNION **420**
 RUSSIA **7,000**
 CHINA **260**

THE ULTIMATE COST

“You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about how and how soon they may unite and provide a united European military force so they can defend themselves! And so they will no longer have to give in meekly to Russia! And who will they blame for their humiliation and their necessity now to have a united Europe, with a united government, a common currency, and a common military force as great or greater than either the USSR or the U.S.A.? They will blame the United States! And when they are strong enough to assert themselves, they will first attack Britain for standing firm with the U.S., and then they will return a lot of hydrogen bombs the U.S. has stored now in Europe!”

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
 PLAIN TRUTH, APRIL 1980



AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
 25% VALUE

SUBMARINES
 25% VALUE

TOTAL WEIGHTED VALUE

19 RANK .95

70 RANK .95

.94

8 RANK .74

53 RANK .72

.81

1 RANK .52

63 RANK .86

.80

1 RANK .52

68 RANK .90

.79

LIGHTING THE LATIN FUSE

A spark in one Latin American nation could set off an explosion that engulfs the entire region.

BY ANDREW MILLER

IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS, LATIN America and the Caribbean are often ignored. Yet events in these regions are important, not only for their own sake, but also for how they can affect the rest of the world.

The 20 Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries south of the Rio Grande are home to approximately 626 million people. They account for 7 percent of the world's

gross domestic product, 15 percent of raw material exports, and 20 percent of oil reserves. One fifth of all United States crude oil imports come from Latin America, making this region more important to U.S. energy security than the entire Middle East.

Latin America is also a critical geographic zone for illegal drug production and trafficking. Mexico, the rest of Central America and Venezuela are principal corridors for transporting illegal drugs into the U.S. The criminal activities of U.S. drug consumers and

Latin American drug suppliers are producing tragic statistics: Although Latin America has only 8 percent of the world's population, it has 37 percent of the world's homicides. It also has eight of the world's 10 most violent countries.

Acute poverty, government instability and societal breakdown are churning inside Latin America—crises so potent that they could

MEXICO

ABOUT 12,500 PEOPLE WERE MURDERED in Mexico during the first half of 2017—more than 2,000 victims per month. The International Institute for Strategic Studies says this makes Mexico more violent than the war zones in Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. If this rate of carnage continues, Mexico will suffer its bloodiest year in at least two decades.

The arrest of the notorious drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán in 2014 was a major victory for the Mexican government, yet it also created a power vacuum in Guzmán's Sinaloa Cartel, which had been the world's most powerful drug trafficking organization for 27 years. Now fragments of Sinaloa and other cartels are fighting turf wars, contributing to a 23 percent jump in Mexico's homicide

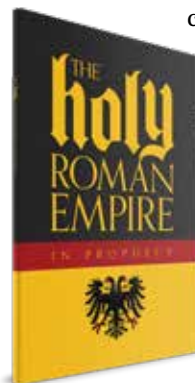
rate from 2015—to 21 murders per 100,000 people in 2017.

An estimated 55 percent of all Mexican homicides (and 7 percent of all U.S. homicides) are related to drug trafficking. The drug cartels reportedly field some 100,000 foot soldiers. The Mexican government is now in its 11th year of war against the cartels, it has deployed its military to support the overmatched police, and the U.S. has provided a steady stream of military equipment. Yet cartels continue to grow more powerful and more violent. Why? Because roughly 10 percent of U.S. residents over age 12 are addicted to illegal drugs. Ultimately, it is America's 24.6 million drug users who are fueling a \$100 billion-per-year industry, causing more than 21,000 overdose deaths and 12,000 drug-related homicides every year.

CENTRAL AMERICA

GANG VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA and Honduras is making life in Central America unbearable and forcing thousands of people to flee.

Since gang violence began escalating in 2013, the murder rate in these small Central American nations has soared. El Salvador became the murder capital of the world in 2015, when 108 out of every 100,000 people in the country were murdered (22 times the homicide rate in the United States). Honduras and Guatemala also have extremely high homicide rates—64 per 100,000 and 31



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cause a meltdown equivalent to the Arab Spring.

The violence that Latin Americans are suffering can also spread. An estimated 500,000 Latin American refugees already cross illegally into the United States each year. The spread of refugees, the power of the cartels, and the insatiable demand in the U.S. for illegal drugs means that the instability of Latin American nations could extend throughout the Western Hemisphere.

As astounding as it may sound, this situation was actually prophesied in your Bible. Jesus Christ forecast that “great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world” will encompass all nations, including those in Latin America (Matthew 24:21).

In the Old Testament, the same God told the ancestors of the Anglo-Americans that they would be blessed for obeying His laws and cursed for disobeying. In Deuteronomy 28:43 and 52, He specified that one curse for disobedience would be that “[t]he sojourner who is among you shall mount above you higher and higher; and you shall come down lower and lower. ... They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all

your land; and they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the Lord your God has given you” (Revised Standard Version).

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in “Where America’s Race Riots Are Leading” (theTrumpet.com/12158) that this reference to America’s “high and fenced walls” falling refers to illegal immigrants streaming into the U.S. (*Trumpet*, November-December 2014).

People across the Western Hemisphere have turned away from God, and violence is escalating. The Bible prophesies that God will allow a final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire to conquer America as punishment for its sins. This empire is termed “holy” because it is guided by a religious entity, the Roman Catholic Church. The

Catholic Church will almost certainly use its influence in Latin America to bind this region to Europe.

Bible prophecy strongly indicates that Europe will edge out U.S. influence from Latin America. As crises intensify, Latin Americans will cry out to Catholic Europe for help, willingly subjecting themselves to the Holy Roman Empire. This empire will then use its Latin allies to lay siege to Canada and the U.S. The Bible says God will allow this destruction in order to fulfill His purpose. He will precisely measure out this punishment in order to bring Americans of all ethnic backgrounds to a point where they will heed Him and embrace a way of life that eliminates drug addiction, organized crime, corrupt government, crushing poverty, and tragic death.



per 100,000 respectively.

After a two-year truce between El Salvador’s two most powerful street gangs crumbled in 2014, the death toll jumped 70 percent from the previous year. As El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras crack down on gang warfare, the violence is intensifying and tens of thousands of people are fleeing every year from forced gang recruitment, violence and the threat of death. An estimated 10 percent of the region’s 30 million residents have already fled. Most travel north seeking sanctuary. In 2015, more than 60,000 unaccompanied child migrants reached the United States’ southern border.

BRAZIL

BRAZIL IS RELATIVELY STABLE compared to the cartel-dominated war zones in Mexico and Central America. But its government is vulnerable for other reasons. One year ago, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff was ousted in a 61-20 impeachment vote. Now the new president, Michel Temer, has been accused of corruption, bid rigging and money laundering using other high-ranking members of the government.

The actions of the Temer administration have already provoked a summer of unrest. In April, protesters set buses on fire, blocked roads and clashed with police during a labor union strike against government austerity measures. In May, thousands of protesters

demand
Temer’s resignation after a leaked conversation showed that he was allegedly involved in a hush-money scandal. A small group of these protesters set fire to an Agriculture Ministry building in the capital. Temer deployed soldiers onto the streets to restore order. In June, demonstrators shut down bus services in Brasília and blocked roads with burning tires in many other cities.

Meanwhile, about 10,000 Venezuelan refugees are streaming into Brazil each month in search of food and medicine, and economic pressures on the nation are intensifying.

power that will align with Latin America,
The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy.

CUBA

CUBA'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION HAS made it a strategically important island since the 1500s. It has served as an important asset to Spain, to the Holy Roman Empire and, more recently, to Communists and terrorists.

Since 1959, Cubans have been held in the grip of the despotic Communist Castro regime, which, allied with the Soviet Union and other enemies of the West, became one of four state sponsors of terrorism and attempted in 1962 to install Soviet supersonic nuclear ballistic missiles just 90 miles from the U.S. mainland.

In 2013, Panamanian authorities seized a ship carrying “undeclared weapons of war” from Cuba to the North Korean dictatorship of Kim Jong-un. Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli said the cargo

included missiles and nonconventional arms. The United Nations reported that there was a “planned strategy to conceal the existence and nature of the cargo.” Despite this incident and Cuba’s ongoing aggressive rhetoric against the United States, the Obama administration removed Cuba from its list of state sponsors of terrorism in May 2015.

Since then, leaked intelligence from Hillary Clinton’s personal e-mail server shows that Hezbollah, a Lebanese terrorist proxy of Iran, has been cooperating with the Cuban government since 2011.

Some U.S. lawmakers are concerned that Cuba is still passing intelligence to Hezbollah and Iran to use against the U.S. “The Castro regime has shown no inclination to end its anti-American activities, including espionage,” Republican Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida

told the *Washington Free Beacon*. “The Castro regime in August and September 2016 deepened ties with Iran through high-level visits, and there are reports that Iran-backed terrorist group Hezbollah has established a base in Cuba” (Oct. 27, 2016).

In May, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Cuba has sent dozens of high-ranking officers and thousands of intelligence agents to Venezuela to monitor Venezuelan Army officers and prevent a military uprising that could overthrow communism and restore democracy.

Much of the current violence in Venezuela is aided and abetted by Cuba’s terrorist-sponsoring regime. Cuba is reemerging as a clear and present danger to peace and stability across the Western Hemisphere.

VENEZUELA

FOLLOWING ELECTIONS THIS PAST summer, Venezuela has been plagued by anti-government protests that have a real chance of plunging the country into civil war. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro held the elections to redraft the country’s constitution. His opponents say he is attempting to create a dictatorship.

Already suffering from a five-year economic crisis brought on by Venezuela’s socialist economic system, men, women and teenagers have protested in the streets. The government has responded

with unusually harsh retribution, and many of Maduro’s political opponents are being arrested and beaten.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 120 people have been killed in clashes between police and protesters. The threat of famine adds to the desperation and the violence. Meanwhile, Venezuela’s average inflation rate over the past 12 months was 460 percent. Reports say that nine in ten households can’t afford proper nutrition.

If elements of the Venezuelan military decide to side with the protesters,

a military coup is a real possibility. To prevent this scenario, Maduro has accepted dozens of Cuban intelligence officials to monitor Venezuelan Army officers. He has also started distributing weapons to civilian militias loyal to the government. United States security analysts, including Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo, have warned that these weapons could easily end up in the hands of terrorist organizations and drug cartels, creating an “incredibly real and serious” danger to the region.

COLOMBIA

VENEZUELA’S SOCIALIST COLLAPSE HAS triggered a migrant crisis on the Colombia-Venezuela border. Colombian government records indicate that at least 153,000 Venezuelans have overstayed their 90-day tourism cards, and many of them must intend to remain in Colombia illegally or continue to Ecuador or Chile.

Many Venezuelans are illegally settling in the border city of Cúcuta to work in construction or housework. The *PanAm Post* reports that many

Venezuelan students and professionals are working as street vendors there, trying to save enough money to migrate to Peru or Chile. Others are turning to smuggling and prostitution. The illegal trade of state-subsidized Venezuelan gasoline into Colombia is a booming business.

The Colombian government ratified a peace deal in November 2016 to end 52 years of war with South America’s oldest leftist rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of

Colombia (FARC). The peace has been messy, and many now fear that the Venezuelan refugee crisis will open the door for other criminal groups to fill the vacuum left by FARC, using drug trafficking and illegal mining to fund criminal operations.

The crisis unfolding in Venezuela will undoubtedly compound Colombia’s security challenges, potentially leading to a resurgence of drug cartel activity in the nation’s eastern provinces. ■

Research assistance by Jack Wood



How to Avoid Chronic Disease

It's the world's leading cause of death, and it keeps getting deadlier. But you don't need to succumb to it. **BY JORG MARDIAN**

AS THE GLOBAL POPULATION PUSHES TOWARD 8 BILLION, the number of people dying from chronic diseases is rising rapidly. Chronic disease accounts for 63 percent of all deaths. These noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are responsible for snuffing out the prime years of life in 50 percent of those afflicted with them. The World Health Organization (WHO) projects that by 2020, NCD deaths will rise to 78 percent across the world.

This crisis reflects a refusal to address real causes. You can substantially reduce your risk for these modern afflictions by following commonsense advice.

What Is an NCD?

NCDs are noninfectious, nontransmissible medical conditions of long duration and slow progression. The four dominant types are cancers, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. They are said to disproportionately affect older people. But about 15 million NCD-related deaths are now shifting to those between ages 30 and 60, a concerning pattern. These diseases are even affecting children.

Adding urgency to the debate, the United Nations estimates that about 2 billion more people will die from NCDs globally by 2050. Economic costs will also be staggering as the five top diseases will cost the world an astounding \$47 trillion annually, according to the World Economic Forum. In the words of former WHO Director General Margaret Chan, "[T]hese are the diseases that tax health systems to the breaking point. These are the diseases that break the bank" (May 21, 2012).

Major Risk Factors

NCDs are often referred to as "lifestyle" diseases because most of them are preventable. Four of the most important risk factors—unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco and alcohol use—are behaviors that each of us freely decides to engage in or refrain from.

Physical inactivity has been shown to cause substantial increases in risk factors for 30 chronic diseases and conditions. The evidence is overwhelming that insufficient bodily movement causes a rapid deterioration in life quality, as well as total years of life.

Another risk factor is a poor, unbalanced diet of refined carbohydrates, sugar and unhealthy fats, which fails to supply proper bodily nourishment. Abuse of tobacco and alcohol also contributes to lung disease, metabolic disorders and cancer.

Sadly, Western nations are exporting the worst of our eating habits. In 2010, Nestlé began sailing a supermarket barge down the Amazon River to compete with Unilever to reach 800,000 customers in emerging markets. The company has a stunning 10-year target of doing *almost half of its business in the developing world*. KFC is also seeking to expand across Africa, while the leading Coca-Cola bottler and distributor, SABMiller, aims to double fizzy-drink sales in South African townships. Unsurprisingly, what were once mostly Western diseases have become global pandemics.

The political response has been tepid as corporations freely use manipulative, pervasive and sophisticated marketing techniques to influence a "brand deprived" people already suffering from about 80 percent of the world's NCDs.

As long as society continues to use toxins in foods and the environment, these will influence bodily function and boost the number of NCDs. Entire populations are being turned into the "walking wounded."

Modern medicine is fighting a losing battle with chronic diseases. Despite untold billions invested, despite all the research and science and advancements in medicine, seven of the top 10 causes of death are chronic diseases. We may, to a degree, manage cancer at 65, persist with heart disease at 75, and regulate Alzheimer's at 85. It also means people live with deteriorating quality of life wracked with illness, pain and disability.

What is the problem? Available treatments ignore causes and focus on controlling conditions and symptoms. In truth, chronic disease rates remain stubbornly high because a) drugs do not address the cause, b) big business thrives on illness, and c) only a measly percentage of health-care costs are allocated to *preventing* disease.

Follow the Rules

Good health comes from living by the principles of a balanced life: moderation and quality. These are revealed in the Bible and can cause a seismic shift in our thinking. Observing biblical laws of health costs nothing more than effort, yet it brings rich rewards. We all have a choice: continue with the status quo or take up the challenge and invest now in healthier living.

Be wary of anything man-made, whether you apply it topically or consume it. Eat fresh, wholesome food. Fast occasionally. Maintain personal cleanliness and hygiene. Enjoy regular sunshine, exercise and fresh air. Get plenty of sleep. Build a positive mental attitude. Observing these simple, commonsense laws of physical health will be effort well spent, substantially reducing your risk of chronic disease as you forge a strong, healthy body that will last into old age. ■

Jorg Mardian is a certified holistic nutritionist.



Buying Black Gold

A new financial instrument gives oil-exporting nations their long-sought alter

CHINA WILL SOON INTRODUCE A crude oil futures contract denominated in yuan and convertible into gold, the *Nikkei Asian Review* reported on September 1. Analysts say that since China is the world's largest oil importer, the move could deal a major blow to the global influence of the United States dollar.

The contract will allow oil-exporting nations such as Russia, Iran and Venezuela to conduct sales in yuan, instead of in U.S. dollars, and to then change the yuan into gold on both the Hong Kong and Shanghai exchanges. It will also allow these countries, which often fall afoul of American foreign policy, to circumvent sanctions based on the U.S. dollar.

The Chinese government has been developing the gold-backed futures contract for years, and Oilprice.com reports that it is expected to launch this year. It will be China's first commodities futures contract available to foreign entities. Analysts expect many oil-exporting nations and firms to find it appealing.

'Black Liquid to Yellow Metal'

Leaders of oil-exporting nations, such as Russia, Iran and Venezuela, have often expressed the desire to bypass the U.S. dollar. But avoiding the greenback has proved challenging, largely due to the size of America's economy, the dominance of U.S. markets, and the momentum of long-standing global finance practices. As much as these nations would like to close the curtain on the U.S.-dominated economic order, the Chinese yuan and other currencies have not garnered enough international confidence to be viewed as trustworthy alternatives.

But China's new futures contract allays those fears by making the yuan fully convertible into gold.

"It's a transfer of holding their assets in black liquid to yellow metal," said Grant Williams, a finance expert who advises Vulpes Investment Management. "It's a strategic move swapping oil for gold, rather than for U.S. Treasuries, which can be printed out of thin air" (ibid).

Alasdair Macleod of Goldmoney Inc. told the *Nikkei Asian Review* that the gold conversion option is "likely to appeal to oil producers that prefer to avoid using dollars and are not ready to accept that being paid in yuan for oil sales to China is a good idea either" (ibid).

The *Asia Times* said, "The new triad of oil, yuan and gold is actually a win-win-win" for China and the oil-exporting nations. "No problem at all if energy providers prefer to be paid in physical gold instead of yuan. The key message is the U.S. dollar being bypassed" (September 5).

The bypassing of the U.S. dollar would be a win for China and many oil exporters. For the American economy, it could represent a catastrophic loss.

Black Eyes for the Greenback

The dollar has dominated international markets since the end of World War II in 1945. Since 1973, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has priced, quoted, traded and settled oil sales in U.S. dollars, also known as "petrodollars." The widespread conversion of these petrodollars into U.S. Treasuries has been a vital artery for the American economy and has helped finance the nation's vast deficit expenditures. The Chinese contract could dry up the

flow through that artery, withering or possibly even severing it.

"In addition to reducing a major source of funding for the U.S. government's enormous deficit spending, the introduction of a gold-backed yuan oil futures contract is an important step toward removing the dollar as the world's reserve currency," wrote Investment Research Dynamics. "More significantly, it reintroduces gold into the global monetary system" (September 3).

After such a reintroduction of the precious metal into the world system, the anemia of America's fiat currency would contrast starkly with the ruddy currencies of economies that are healthier and/or backed by something besides consumer confidence. This would rapidly fade the dollar's global reserve currency status.

Bolt From the Blue?

The appeal of the new Chinese futures contract may go beyond the usual suspects on the list of American adversaries.

Back in July, the *Trumpet* called attention to reports saying that China would become the main investor in the forthcoming initial public offering of Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company. Aramco will be worth about \$2 trillion; it will be the highest-valued firm on the globe.

If this sale goes through as planned, Macleod said the Chinese would be in a position to switch the pricing of Saudi oil from dollars to yuan. "[I]f China can tie in Aramco, with Russia, Iran et al., she will have a degree of influence over nearly 40 percent of global production, and will be able to progress her desire to exclude dollars for yuan," Macleod said (*Nikkei Asian Review*, op cit).

Without Greenbacks

native to the petrodollar. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

Such a dramatic and unexpected shift by Riyadh would also erode the very foundations of the U.S.-Saudi Arabia relationship.

Red Flags for the Status Quo

Whether the Saudis sign up for the Chinese futures contract or not, the development is expected to be a game changer for the global oil industry.

Investment Research Dynamics said China's new contract "is a significant step in removing the global reserve currency status of the dollar and resetting the global economic and geopolitical landscape" (op cit).

James Corbett, founder of the *Corbett Report*, called the development "earth-shaking" and said it is "potentially ominous for what it portends for the near future."

Corbett said: "If this really is the shot across the bow, then those kinds of shots can turn into real shots very quickly. ... Over the course of the next year, I think we are going to be seeing some pretty tectonic shifts taking place monetarily, geopolitically and, as a result, potentially militarily. And, well, that could kick off any day presumably" (September 6).

A Golden Age

For five decades, the *Trumpet* and our forerunner magazine the *Plain Truth* have warned that a catastrophic financial crisis centered in the U.S. will send deep reverberations across the planet and help recolor the entire geopolitical landscape.

In 1968, *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong discussed the dire economic conditions that would afflict America in the end time. "If the

dollar is devalued, inflation will almost surely result," he wrote, "and eventual economic collapse for the United States" (co-worker letter, March 26, 1968).

Mr. Armstrong's forecast was based on Bible prophecies, such as those recorded in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, which show that if the people of America rejected God, He would bring the nation to ruin: "Those of you who truly believe the prophecies of your Bible know such economic collapse is prophesied to happen!" Mr. Armstrong continued. "We have shown how God prophesied a virtual trade war will get underway against the United States and Britain—and how our national economics will falter, and then collapse!"

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has also written in his booklet *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* that Asian nations will work in conjunction with European states to block the U.S. and Britain out of world trade. "[W]e believe there may be a brief alliance between the German-led Holy Roman Empire and certain Asian powers (Russia, China, Japan—the kings of the east)," he writes.

This group of Asian and European countries will function as a "dynamic market of nations," he writes, adding that they are "going to besiege America, Britain and the Jewish nation."

In *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*, Mr. Flurry offers more vivid details about this prophesied siege against the English-speaking countries: "The United States and Britain are going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic

trade blocs, Europe and Asia, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce. These nations ... are going to be literally besieged—economically frozen out of world trade!"

This prophecy is based on specific Bible passages in Ezekiel 5 and 27, Isaiah 22 and 23 and Revelation 18, and is thoroughly explained in Mr. Flurry's free books *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* and *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*.

If China's new oil futures contract succeeds in pushing oil-exporting nations away from the dollar and toward the gold-backed yuan option—as numerous experts believe it is certain to do—this development will precipitate the dollar's demise and set the international stage for this prophesied siege to take place.

Bible prophecy makes clear that this will lead immediately into a time of unprecedented destruction and devastation for the U.S., Britain and Israel, and that those flames will then spread to engulf the whole world.

But there is some spectacularly good news connected to this looming crisis.

Mankind will survive. Jesus Christ will interrupt that global conflict and usher in a golden age that will saturate all countries of the world with stability, peace and prosperity. He was born to be King of kings in that future world government (Luke 1:31-33; John 18:36-37; Revelation 19:11-16). And its establishment is now just on the horizon. ■

What happens when the greenback fades away?

Dollar dominance will end soon! To learn how the *Trumpet* can be so certain, read *He Was Right* and prove the accuracy of Bible prophecy.



► **AMERICA'S PRAYERS** FROM PAGE 6

promise: If we turn from our sins, He will heal us! This applied in the ancient past, it applies to the dangerous present, and it applies to the glorious future! God does promise to HEAL OUR LAND. But the people must heed His warning. The *minds of the people* must be healed!

Curses and Captivity

We can learn what is ahead for the modern descendants of Israel by looking at what happened to our ancestors. Solomon and many people in his kingdom did turn away from God to a significant degree, but the Bible indicates Solomon repented. After Solomon died, the sin and wickedness continued, the king-

to national captivity—both historically and presently!

Verse 21 points out that this catastrophic national tragedy for Judah “[fulfilled] the word of the Lord *by the mouth of Jeremiah.*” God had sent a prophet to warn Judah that their sins were leading to captivity. Jeremiah told them how God would heal their land, but they would not listen. Their leaders convinced them that God would save them, but the people did not *turn from their wicked ways*—so God did not *heal their land.*

But notice this: The book of Jeremiah is specifically addressed *to Israel* (Jeremiah 2:4; 3:12; 4:1; 5:15, etc). This is significant, because Jeremiah lived *in Judah*, and actually witnessed Judah’s

Raising the Ruins

The land that God gave to the tribes of Israel was taken away from them because of sin. It was made desolate, and people from other nations conquered it. But God had not forsaken the descendants of Israel forever.

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up” (2 Chronicles 36:22-23).

These are the last two verses of the Old Testament (in its original form), and they are incredibly hopeful verses!

Bible scholars are befuddled by these two concluding verses of Chronicles. They are exactly the same as the first verses of the book of Ezra. So, they rearranged the books, placing Ezra after Chronicles.

Chronicles centers around David’s throne, which Jesus Christ will rule from when He returns to the Earth. Ezra, who wrote the book, is trying to get us to focus on Jerusalem—the future headquarters of the Earth and the universe! (Request my free booklet *The Book of Chronicles* to understand this inspiring truth.) Look to the future! What a perfect transition to the New Testament.

After being freed from slavery, the Jews returned to Jerusalem, constructed the second temple, and built a wall around the city. God healed their land and allowed them to RAISE THE RUINS—a type of God’s Work today and of the healing that will soon spread across the planet and throughout the entire universe! ■



dom split, and the two sides, Israel and Judah, nearly went to war. They both continued to sin against God, although Judah had a few righteous kings who did lead the people to righteousness—and healing and blessings. But the people continued to turn back to sin, and they were cursed. They suffered numerous wars and even went to war against each other at times. Finally, Israel was conquered by the Assyrian Empire, and its sinning people were plucked out of their land. Later, Judah was conquered by the Babylonian Empire, and its sinning people were also plucked out of their land.

“And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia” (2 Chronicles 36:20). National sin leads to national curses, which lead

destruction at the hand of Babylon. Yet his book was not primarily for Judah. It was *for Israel*, and ancient Israel had been destroyed and taken captive in 721 B.C.—several decades before Jeremiah was even born! Jeremiah never delivered his message to ancient Israel because it no longer existed as a nation.

The reason for this is that Jeremiah’s prophecy is for our nations *today*, the *descendants* of ancient Israel: America and Britain! These are warnings that God wants us to “consider”—which means *understand thoroughly*—“in the LATTER DAYS,” the END TIME! (Jeremiah 30:24).

We MUST take these warnings seriously! We *need* God to hear us and to answer our prayers! Continuing in our ways and twisting His Word to fit our preferences is not the way to ask Him to save us!

It’s not just weather. It’s a warning.

The destruction inflicted on America and other nations is not senseless. God is allowing it, and He is using it to try to wake us up! A powerful verse in the book of Amos reveals key understanding about the tumultuous times you live in. To understand why these disasters are occurring and the only solution that will end them, request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet ***The Lion Has Roared.***



CHENGZ YAN/AP/GETTY IMAGES

A Growing Trend

Europe's rediscovery of its Christian identity comes mostly as a reaction to Islam. Muslim migration is changing the nature of Europe's cities, and radical Islam is outright attacking them.

Time has proved that the migration and the attacks are not going away. In response, secular Europe is only becoming more Christian.

"We know who we are only when we know who we are not and often only when we know whom we are against," wrote Samuel Huntington in his classic work *The Clash of Civilizations*. "For people seeking identity and reinventing ethnicity, enemies are essential." Many of Europe's enemies have been Muslim. And so the Continent is adopting the language, symbols and identity of Christianity—because that is what most clearly distinguishes it from these enemies.

"Instability and violence in the Middle East has led to Muslim migration to Europe," wrote Geopolitical Futures analyst Jacob Shapiro. "Muslim migration has, in turn, stoked nationalism, sometimes to electoral effect, and has even led to limited European involvement in Muslim wars" (August 23). Terrorism, he pointed out, has been rising in Europe since 2005. Nationalism began rising at almost exactly the same time. The terrorism is already transforming Europe. "The age-old conflict between Europe and the Middle East, Christendom and Islam, is simmering once more" (ibid).

Once again, religion is playing a major role in the fate of Europe!

The *Trumpet* and, before us, the *Plain Truth* have been watching for this development since the 1930s. For decades Herbert W. Armstrong forecast that Europe would unite into a 10-nation superpower. But most of the Continent's history is of one European nation fighting another. What force is strong enough to bind Europe together?

Attacks on Europe from *outside* are one powerful motivating force. Europeans certainly have one common enemy: radical, extremist Islam. But there is one other important factor all European nations share: *their Christian heritage*.

In August 1978, Mr. Armstrong wrote in the Christian-living magazine *Good News*, "Europeans want their own united

military power! ... They have made a real effort toward union in the Common Market. ... But they well know there is but ONE POSSIBILITY of union in Europe—AND THAT IS THROUGH THE VATICAN."

Mr. Armstrong forecast a common currency in Europe. In the November-December 1954 *Plain Truth*, he wrote, "Germany inevitably [will] emerge as the *leader* of a united Europe"—a sentiment many in southern Europe would agree with today. The September 1967 *Plain Truth* declared, "[O]ne thing you can count on. In fact it is so sure you can bank on it: The cry of a political union in Europe will get louder." In April 1952, Mr. Armstrong's *Good News* said, "Russia may give East Germany back to the Germans and will be forced to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria" in order to complete this union.

So much of this has already happened. Mr. Armstrong's forecasts, based on Bible prophecy, have proved accurate. Yet full union has not yet been achieved. Why? Mr. Armstrong wrote, "IN ONLY ONE WAY can this resurrected Holy Roman Empire be brought to fruition—by the 'good offices' of the Vatican, UNITING CHURCH AND STATE ONCE AGAIN,

with the Vatican astride and ruling ..." (*Plain Truth*, January 1979).

The Catholic Church has been the one missing ingredient in European unity. And now that ingredient is being added back into the mix.

The same prophecies that forecast European unity also foretell that a church will have major role in leading this new superpower. Revelation 17 describes a woman that sits "upon many waters." Her power stretches over a vast portion of the Earth. Typically in the Bible, a woman represents a church. The "kings of the earth have committed fornication" with this woman, meaning that she is a major political power.

The religious revival in Europe is paving the way for the return of this woman.

The Bible has a great deal to say about what this European religious power will look like. And so does history. Religious empires, in close alliance with the Vatican, have repeatedly risen in Europe.

Our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy* puts this history and prophecy together. It proves how much of this prophecy has *already* been fulfilled. It shows what is to come in the near future, while at the same time proving what a sure foundation Bible prophecy is. ■

The Vatican's Political Rise

The Catholic Church is playing a major and increasing role in world affairs. A few recent examples illustrate this point.

In 2015, it was because of letters from the pope, delivered in a secret visit to the United States by Cuban Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Ortega, that the U.S. reestablished diplomatic relations with Cuba. The details of that peace deal were hammered out at the Vatican.

In September of this year, Pope Francis made a six-day trip to Colombia. This was no quiet, pastoral visit. It came after the Catholic Church played the leading role in ending a conflict that had killed nearly a quarter of a million people. The church negotiated a deal between Colombia's government and Marxist militant rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Now it is trying to negotiate a similar deal with the National Liberation Army, another Colombian Marxist separatist group. At the beginning of the pope's visit, the leader of one of Colombia's most powerful drug gangs, the Gulf Clan, sent a message to the pope and to the Colombian president offering to surrender.

Many in Colombia do not support the terms of these church-brokered peace compromises. In fact, they voted against them last year on the grounds that the deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia granted the Marxist rebels too much. Right or wrong, it is a powerful example of the Catholic Church shaping the fate of nations.

It may soon repeat its mediating role even more overtly in neighboring Venezuela, which is engulfed in violence. During his trip to Colombia, the pope met with Venezuelan priests. The Catholic Church has long played a role in this conflict. Last October, President Nicolás Maduro met privately with the pope, who has pushed for several efforts at negotiation.

As religion revives in Europe, the Catholic Church will soon play a similar role there.

RICHARD PALMER

RESCUE **A Libyan coast guardswoman watches over illegal immigrants trying to reach Europe.**

Europe's shady migrant deal with Libya

The number of migrants crossing from Libya into Italy dropped dramatically in August, after Italy reached deals with Libyan militia groups.

Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti told the *Guardian* in an interview published on September 7, “The crucial point for me had been to go to Libya to find a solution. In Turkey, with its migrant crisis, there was a strong leader with which to work—perhaps too strong. In Libya, it was the opposite.”

Minniti personally traveled to Libya in July to deal with individual groups that hold power in key cities along the migrant routes and promise cash. While most of this money is handed out to the internationally backed Government of National Accord (GNA), some is flowing directly from the European Union to Italy to the hands of local leaders.

“We discussed a pact,” Minniti said. “It was quite simple: Engage yourself against the trafficking of human beings and we will help you build an alternative economy.”

This means Italy has begun to pay off the very groups responsible for smuggling people through Libya and onto boats in the first place.

This is how Europe has chosen to deal with Libyan migrants and is why so many fewer migrants made it to Italy in August.

While this pay-off scheme seems to be working, it certainly undermines Libya's sovereignty.

Local militias and tribal leaders have been gaining income from smugglers, but now their business model will be

conditional upon the continued flow of European cash—and thus, in a sense, beholden to European wishes. Libyans have already begun to distrust the GNA for compromising its sovereignty by allowing Europeans to travel around paying people off and by inviting Italian warships into Libyan territorial waters without consulting other Libyan leaders.

Libya losing sovereignty to Europe resonates with historic associations and has powerful prophetic implications.

Since 2011, editor in chief Gerald Flurry has pointed to Libya as a flashpoint between radical Islam led by Iran and Catholic Europe. This is based on the prophecy in Daniel 11:40-43, which clearly states that Europe will retaliate against the push from radical Islam by taking over Libya, among other nations.

For more about Europe's long-standing strategy in Libya, please read “Mediterranean Battle Escalating Into World War III!” from our July 2016 issue (theTrumpet.com/13891). ■

Extending Europe's borders to Africa

European leaders devised yet another plan to stem the flow of migrants from Africa during a summit in Paris on August 28.

Officials from France, Germany, Italy and Spain met with leaders from three countries through which most migrants travel: Chad, Niger and Libya. The seven nations agreed to set up pre-asylum hubs in Africa to vet migrants before they attempt to journey to Europe. For those who are granted asylum, the facilities will coordinate migration to Europe. Those who are denied asylum will be redirected back to their home countries.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the summit the most effective and far-reaching

meeting of its kind in months.

German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* wrote that the agreement essentially expands Europe's borders to Africa. Eva Ottavy, of the French charity Cimade, told Agence France-Presse: “We're extending the European border farther and farther away.”

North African transit routes are busy with human trafficking and terrorism that is increasingly crippling Europe. They also are regions where Europe had strong colonial influence before World War II, and strong imperial influence in the times of the Holy Roman Empire.

Intentionally or not, Europe's leaders are extending its borders back to Holy Roman Empire territory. ■

Austrian election shakes Europe

A far-right party won one out of every four votes in Austria's elections on October 15. The Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) was founded by former members of the Nazi SS. The party, which won 26 percent of the vote, will almost certainly be part of Austria's new coalition government.

The main winner, the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) also raised eyebrows. Its new leader, Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, dramatically improved the party's fortunes. Before last May, the party had been losing voters and was the junior coalition partner to Austria's main left-wing party. The party became so desperate that it agreed to grant Kurz unprecedented powers if



he took over leadership. A year and a half later, the 31-year-old is now on his way to becoming the youngest leader of any developed nation.

How did the ÖVP become the most popular party in Austria? Kurz shifted it to the right—so much so that the far-right party complained he was stealing its ideas. The success of the ÖVP and the FPÖ, along with Kurz's pending chancellorship, shows that Europe's shift toward the right continues. ■

FACING HEAT Firefighters douse flames as a house burns in California's Napa region.



Record wildfires torch Western U.S.

Wildfires have scorched more than 8.78 million acres of the United States so far in 2017, according to data collected from the National Interagency Fire Center on October 18. The

destruction has affected nine American states and puts the nation on course for one of its worst wildfire seasons on record.

California suffered its deadliest wildfires in history. At least 31 people were killed and hundreds missing in blazes that burned an area the size of New York City—roughly 190,000

America pours more strength into Afghanistan

United States President Donald Trump announced on August 21 that the U.S. would continue troop deployments to Afghanistan for the foreseeable future. The U.S. plans to add 4,000 more troops to the 12,000 already there in order to combat territorial gains made by the Taliban and al Qaeda.

“We are not nation-building again,” he said. “We are killing terrorists.” President Trump stated that he had now changed his mind from his pre-election position, which opposed continuing America’s presence in Afghanistan.

The Taliban has now consolidated more than 10 percent of the country and is currently contesting about 30 percent more. According to a watchdog

report, the Afghan government now controls less than 60 percent of the country. The Islamic State is also growing more active in Afghanistan.

President Trump stated that “the American people are weary of war without victory.” Leviticus 26:16, 19-20 describe this situation: “I will even appoint over you terror ... I will break the pride of your power ... [a]nd your strength shall be spent in vain.” America has lost 2,500 lives in Afghanistan, \$800 billion and 17 years to the longest war in its history. It has nothing to show, and the end is nowhere in sight. ■



acres. Los Angeles experienced its worst fire ever, and the state’s renowned wine-growing industry was battered.

Some fires burned for months. One in southern Oregon has raged since July, burning 180,000 acres, and Montana is fighting its worst fire season in at least 20 years and possibly in history.

The United States Forest Service has spent around \$2.4 billion fighting fires so far in 2017—the most ever shelled out for fire suppression in one year. And it is running out of money.

The rise in environmental disasters we are seeing was prophesied in your Bible thousands of years ago. Jesus Christ forecast that natural disasters would increase because of rebellion against God (Matthew 24:7-8; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11). ■

New Royal Navy ‘frigate’ is undersized, underpowered

Britain announced plans to build a new frigate on September 7. Yet the new Type 31e frigate will probably be smaller, less powerful and less effective than the warships it is designed to replace. Early designs indicate the vessels will lack some of the traditional capabilities of frigate-class ships, including close-range sonar and anti-submarine weapons.

The Royal Navy wants the first Type 31e completed by 2023, but some analysts say this time line is unrealistic and that the warships will either miss the deadline or resort to inferior designs.

Meanwhile, in 2018, the Royal Navy will retire its current anti-ship missiles. Replacements for those missiles will not arrive until “around 2030.” Until then, Britain’s warships will have no missile capability and will struggle to sink enemy ships. ■



Israel bombs Syrian weapons facility

On September 7, Israeli missiles struck and destroyed a Syrian military site known for its production and development of chemical weapons.

Experts had reported that the site was frequented by Iranian chemical weapons specialists and Hezbollah operatives. A United Nations commission had just released a statement citing extensive evidence that Syrian forces had used chemical weapons 20 times during the Syrian civil war. This included the Sarin gas attack on Khan Sheikhun in April, which killed 83 Syrians.

These are chemical weapons that Syria supposedly destroyed or relinquished in 2014 under Russian supervision.

In August, an independent panel of UN experts submitted a report to the UN Security Council exposing ongoing chemical weapons cooperation between North Korea and Syria and reporting that two North Korean shipments en route to Damascus had been intercepted in the first half of this year.

On Sept. 6, 2007, Israeli jets covertly flew into Syria and destroyed a secret nuclear facility used for the production of plutonium. The reactor had been built with the aid of the North Koreans and the Iranians.

The international community continues to willfully overlook such dangerous collusion, leaving Israel alone to deal with such threats. Bible prophecy makes clear that the Jewish state will be unable to single-handedly manage these threats for much longer. ■

TORPEDOING AN ALLIANCE? North Korea test launches a strategic ballistic missile.

Will North Korea force South Korea to oust the U.S.?

North Korea carried out its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on September 3. The country's five previous nuclear detonations tested weapons that use uranium or plutonium or both. The latest detonation reportedly could have been from a far more powerful thermonuclear hydrogen bomb. Such weapons could potentially be small enough to mount on North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile and yield enough explosive power to destroy a city.

The message the North Korean test sent to America was

clear, Geopolitical Futures wrote: "The United States will either have to accept North Korea as a nuclear power, or it will have to destroy North Korean nuclear facilities while it still can. ... At stake is nothing less than the regional balance of power for decades to come" (September 5).

Most analysts believe South Korea would support a U.S. strike against North Korea. But Geopolitical Futures speculated that it might oppose it: "What if a U.S. attack is predicated on South Korean involvement? What if the U.S. can't attack if Seoul doesn't participate? If

United Nations passes weak sanctions against North Korea

The United Nations Security Council passed a unanimous resolution on September 11 to increase sanctions against North Korea. However, due to Russian and Chinese influence, the measure is much weaker than the United States had hoped.

Donald Trump's administration had proposed a total ban on exporting oil to North Korea, which would have significantly affected the country's economy in an effort to change the status quo. But Russia and China opposed the idea.

The U.S. watered down its proposal and passed Resolution 2375, which merely caps North Korean oil imports at current levels. This resolution is unlikely to make much of an impact on Pyongyang. South Korean lawmaker Lee Soo-hyuck said on September 11 that the cap was "meaningless."

Writing for Quartz, Steve Mollman said: "[T]he resolution basically bans or caps what China and Moscow permitted to be banned or capped."

On September 2, during statements delivered at Armstrong

this is the case, then the U.S. is simply going to have to accept North Korea as a nuclear power."

In such a scenario, Geopolitical Futures said the North Korean regime in Pyongyang could use its nuclear power to pressure South Korea into ending its alliance with the U.S. and ousting the 28,500 troops America has stationed in South Korea. "As far-fetched as it might seem," it wrote, "it is a viable scenario if Pyongyang possesses a nuclear deterrent."

The ramifications of such an ouster would go far beyond the Korean Peninsula. "[I]t is a scenario that would profoundly change the balance of power in East Asia. It would undermine the credibility of U.S. security guarantees, forcing countries such as Japan to reconsider the terms of their alliance" (ibid).

For decades, the *Trumpet* has expected the balance of power in Asia to shift away from the U.S. and toward China and Russia. In our January 2014 issue, we wrote: "The scenario of an America-free Asia will not remain hypothetical for much longer. We can already see tectonic geopolitical shifts that are rapidly turning it into a reality." ■



Auditorium, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry emphasized that the world should be concerned about Russia and China, and that those two nations enable the North Korean regime to behave as dangerously as it does. The United Nations resolution that was approved just a few days later supported his Bible-based analysis. ■



Facing a North Korean threat, Japan accelerates remilitarization

Millions of Japanese citizens awoke early on September 15 to the wail of emergency sirens, warning that a North Korean missile was flying toward them. A text message was sent to residents of Hokkaido saying, "Missile launch!" as loudspeakers warned them to "take cover in a building or underground." It marked the second time in a month that Japan's emergency alert system was activated due to a North Korean weapons test.

The North's increasingly provocative behavior is prompting the Japanese to build up their military. Prime Minister Shinzō Abe said Japan could "never tolerate" North Korea's "dangerous provocative action that threatens world peace."

Japan's current defense plan establishes a 0.8 percent increase in defense spending for each year from 2014 to 2018. But due in large part to North Korea's overt threats, the government now says this amount needs to increase to 2.5 percent in order to develop more powerful, longer-range missiles.

The Japanese public have resisted previous attempts by the government to boost military spending. But now, with alarms literally going off in Japanese cities, and with the United States showing itself to be an unreliable ally, this resistance to remilitarization is weakening. ■

More states consider legalizing assisted suicide

In recent years, a dramatically higher number of state legislatures in the United States have begun debating whether to legalize assisted suicide. Research done by Dr. Jacqueline Abernathy of Tarleton State University says that since 1994, legislators in 25 states have debated a total of 231 assisted suicide bills—almost one fifth of which have been introduced this year alone.

Less than 1 percent of all assisted suicide legislation has been passed into state law, but with the increase in lawmakers debating the issue, fueled in part by its growing popularity in mainstream entertainment, more states may join California, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, Washington State and the District of Columbia, where it is already legal to help people kill themselves. ■

St. Louis riots after officer acquittal

More than 120 people were arrested between September 15 and 17 during three nights of riots in St. Louis, Missouri. The destruction and violence came after former police officer Jason Stockley, who is white, was acquitted of murder in the 2011 shooting of Anthony Lamar Smith, who was black.

In response, protesters gathered outside the Carnahan Courthouse in St. Louis and marched through the downtown. Demonstrators later threw rocks at the home of the mayor, smashed windows in police vehicles, assaulted police officers with bricks and other projectiles, burned the



BREAKING DOWN
Rioters confront police in St. Louis in a scene becoming increasingly frequent.

American flag, and marched through a mall, chanting, “Black lives matter,” “No justice; no profits,” “Shut it down,” and “You can’t stop the revolution.” At night, demonstrations and riots continued, and several hundred demonstrators outside the city jail chanted “Free our people!” in support of those who had been arrested for rioting.

Antifa attacks ‘No to Marxism in America’

Several dozen Antifa agitators and anarchists attacked and injured six people in Berkeley, California, on August 27 on the campus of the University of California. Two of the victims required hospitalization, and one police officer was also injured.

The confrontation occurred after a group scheduled a “No to Marxism in America” rally, which was later canceled due to public safety concerns. A few dozen anti-Marxist protesters came anyway, as did an estimated 4,000 leftists and an estimated 100 Antifa members. Among other things, the leftist group chanted, “No Trump. No KKK. No fascist U.S.A.” and “No Trump. No wall. No U.S.A. at all.”

Antifa members hurled insults, taunts, water bottles and paint at the anti-Marxists and pepper-sprayed a man wearing a Patriot Prayer shirt. Several dozen Antifa agitators and anarchists

clad in black and wearing masks attacked anti-Marxists. In one instance, a group of five people punched and kicked a man lying on the ground. Police arrested 13 people on charges including assault with a deadly weapon.



The attacks came two weeks after Antifa made headlines on August 12 for brawling with neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia. Yet no neo-Nazis were visible in the Berkeley crowd. Those who were attacked by Antifa were part of a rally organized by a group called Patriot Prayer, which says it supports free speech and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. ■

America’s largest festival of debauchery

Tens of thousands of people attended the Burning Man festival between August 27 and September 4. The bacchanalia was marked by depravity and debauchery, including wild raves fueled by hallucinogenic drugs. “Burners” wore outlandish and provocative costumes or went nude, many engaging in sexual promiscuity and perversion. The annual event began 31 years ago when a group of about a dozen friends burned an effigy on a San Francisco beach at the summer solstice. It now attracts 70,000 people, a picture of American moral corruption. ■

The violence echoed race riots that engulfed Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014; Baltimore, Maryland, in 2015; and Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2016, and are happening with increasing frequency. To learn what Bible prophecy says about it, read Gerald Flurry’s article “Where America’s Race Riots Are Leading” at theTrumpet.com/12158. ■

made a man and a woman out of the dust of the earth. The history of this event is recorded simply and beautifully in the first pages of the Bible. “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27). You can read further details of Adam’s creation in Genesis 2:7 and of Eve’s in verses 21-23. Then, on the very day of their creation, God instituted marriage, making these two human beings—a man and a woman—a family!

Sadly, soon after, that man and woman rejected the God who made them and the way of life He had mapped out for them. They thought they could devise something better. Mankind has been cut off from God and lived miserable lives ever since (Genesis 3:22-24).

The same God who created a man and a woman has stated clearly that homosexuality, lesbianism, transgenderism and even cross-dressing are wrong (Leviticus 20:13; Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:26-27). The Apostle Peter warned that those who commit such sins, unless they repent, will face severe punishment (2 Peter 2:6).

Can Diane Ehrensaft offer this world something better than what God offered our first parents? Read carefully what she writes: “As the 21st century rolls on, we are bearing witness to an explosion in the acknowledgment, understanding and celebration of people of all genders and sexualities. Gender used to be bedrock, and now we’ve converted it into moving boulders. Marriage used to be the sole providence of a man and a woman, and I should add as a man and a woman who started out that way. Now we recognize marriage as the loving union between two people of any gender and any sexual identity” (ibid). This psychologist celebrates the destruction of gender as a bedrock of human society; she celebrates that (according to man’s law) marriage is no longer the sole possession of a man and a woman. She celebrates homosexuality and cross-dressing. Do we see that she also celebrates confusing little children?

What Psychologists Don’t Know

“As a clinical psychologist, I am bound by the oath that dictates the actions

of all medical and mental health professionals: Do No Harm. Yet all around me, physicians, psychiatrists and child therapists are doing just that—in clinics and private practice consultation rooms where parents are advised to take away their little boy’s dolls and pink tights or make their little girls grow out their buzz cuts; mothers and fathers are directed to ignore or punish their children’s ‘inappropriate’ gender expressions and pay attention to or reward only the ‘gender-appropriate’ ones; and families are sent home to make sure the gender-nonconforming children are redirected to same-sex friendships and to their same-sex parent as the main or only parent to identify with,” Ehrensaft writes (*Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children*). Let’s be reasonable. Who is actually harming children? It should be easy to answer that question.

Herbert W. Armstrong, the most important theologian of the 20th century, wrote a groundbreaking article titled “What Psychologists Don’t Know About Child Rearing.” He wrote: “The psychologists who reject the revealed Word of God cannot rightly teach you how to rear children. They do not know what the human mind is” (*Plain Truth*, October 1984). All parents must learn that eliminating gender confusion is a matter of proper child rearing.

All proper child rearing begins with understanding how God created the human mind. “Adam, the first created human, was created with a spirit in him,” wrote Mr. Armstrong. “The spirit was not a ‘soul.’ The breathing physical man was the soul (Genesis 2:7). The spirit in him did not impart life to him. His breathing imparted the breath of life to his circulatory system. So says God” (ibid). This is astounding biblical revelation that few understand today. Study Job 32:8 and 1 Corinthians 2:11.

“Adam was created with a *human spirit* by which, of himself, he could acquire

knowledge,” Mr. Armstrong continued. Man has excelled at gaining knowledge of how to deal with material things. Mr. Armstrong explained, however, that man needed two other important kinds of knowledge to have a truly happy, successful life: how to build a relationship with God, and how to have a relationship with others, especially those of his own immediate family.

Adam needed God’s Holy Spirit to gain the other two kinds of knowledge. “The Holy Spirit would have imparted to him knowledge for contact and relationship with God—how to get along with his fellowman—how to treat his mate and rear his children. But Adam rejected the Spirit of God (tree of life) and took to himself the knowledge of good and evil,” explained Mr. Armstrong (ibid). We live in the world that Adam and Eve began—a world in rebellion against its Creator.

So where does this leave us on the subject of transgenderism? Children are born with the same human spirit as an adult. A child can think, reason and make decisions. But at birth, a child’s mind is a blank slate. He must be taught to think and reason properly. He must be taught about gender and the God-ordained purposes behind sex. Boys must be taught how to be men; girls must be taught how to be women. Parents should teach their sons and daughters about the proper use of clothing and living a sexually moral life. Parents should teach their children to live by and obey all of God’s Ten Commandments. This flies in the face of all modern thinking, but it is the only way to solve this world’s growing social problems.

Mr. Armstrong expounded on this teaching on the human spirit and God’s purpose and plans for mankind in his book *The Incredible Human Potential*. We are happy to send you this book free of charge and without follow up. ■

You aren’t alone.

Do you feel pressured to accept wrong ideals? An agenda to destroy family is at work. To learn who is behind it and what is ultimately at stake, request your free copy of *Redefining Family*.



Civilize Your Children

Contrary theories aside, real life shows that babies don't refine themselves.

SOME YEARS AGO I SPENT A DAY AT MY ELDEST daughter's elementary school, and I learned quite a bit—about human nature.

I was participating in a school program that invited students' fathers to be on campus throughout the day, serving as an extra pair of eyes policing the halls, an extra set of hands helping in classrooms.



JOEL HILLIKER

I witnessed some impressive things in some classes. One teacher had her fourth graders breaking down sentences grammatically with jaw-dropping precision. As they recited in perfect unison rules about “semantic gradability” and “inflectional morphology,” I wondered how inexpensive it would be

to hire one of those 9-year-olds to tutor me in grammar.

Other classrooms were different. Teachers were still instructing, but private conversations were bubbling up continuously, and virtually any minor distraction derailed students from the task at hand. Students spoke out whenever thoughts popped into their heads—even rude ones.

I'm no expert in elementary education, but I believe I can distill the difference between the educational and the less-educational classrooms down to a single factor: *the teacher's determination to confront bad behavior.*

Put a bunch of kids together and you are bound to see some bad behavior. It often starts small. But if it isn't confronted, it spreads. A child talks while the teacher is instructing. If nothing happens, the next kid thinks: *Huh! I guess that's OK.* So he talks. Some other kid thinks, *Well if SHE can do that, I'll do THIS.* In no time, the room sounds like Grand Central Station.

Sometimes I think children are hardwired to continue getting louder until someone tells them *enough.*

The truth is, they are getting louder *specifically* to test how long it takes before someone tells them *enough.*

Dr. Albert Siegel once wrote, “When it comes to rearing children, every society is only 20 years away from barbarism. Twenty years is all we have to accomplish the task of civilizing the infants who are born into our midst each year. These savages know nothing of our language, our culture, our religion, our values, our customs of interpersonal relations. ... The barbarian must be tamed if civilization is to survive.”

It's a bit dramatic, but the principle is painfully true. Calling children *savages* reflects reality far better than treating them



like natural-born *saints, sages* and *savants*. The human nature in each one of us is a selfish savage that must be civilized. As children, we have it in spades—unless parents (and teachers) diligently confront it. That's why Proverbs 29:15 says, “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

Where this reality truly hit me was on the playground. I spent three recesses outside with first graders, then second graders, then fifth graders. Each successive mob was worse behaved. The fifth graders, having lived more years without being properly civilized, displayed genuine savagery. Everywhere I turned, it was on parade: name-calling, accusing, cursing, screaming, boasting, pushing, sulking, cheating.

Most of these same kids had just been inside under the authority of effective, qualified teachers who had kept a lid on this ugliness. The level of viciousness displayed on this playground correlated precisely with the lack of government in their lives at that moment.

Take a good student out of the structure of a disciplined classroom and turn him loose with 60 other kids and virtually no supervision, and you have *The Lord of the Flies.*

I have noticed the same dynamic at work in my own home. Every time my family gets overly busy and I in particular begin letting events overtake us, then the savagery emerges. If my wife and I don't pay close attention, it gets louder and uglier until it's too obvious to ignore and we step in with a firm *enough.*

That's not how God intended family to be. Yet this “ignore the barbarians until they drive you mad” form of child training is perhaps the commonest method in the Western world.

Parents, maintain a steady civilizing presence in your children's lives. Provide their minds and energies with activities, instruction, discipline, reading, games, work, chores, crafts, charts, schedules, rewards, punishments, supervision. Kids crave structure. When it isn't there, they act more and more wild until they get it. Structure helps free your child's energies from following his every whim and enables him to focus—and to achieve some amazing things.

Don't get me wrong, family is not boot camp. You don't have to exert enormous effort to steer clear of pandemonium in favor of structured or even lightly supervised play. And they need room to make mistakes. Let them play. Beware of criticizing them for every word or deed that reveals what they are: little people who are not yet civilized.

Teach your children the overall principle: When they do things *decently and in order*—as God does—life is happier, more fun, more rewarding in every way.

As our children grow, the responsibility for structuring their lives and bridling their impulses must gradually shift onto their own shoulders. They need practice at civilizing the savage within. Otherwise, the moment your child is on his own, he will reveal that he is just a bigger version of the savage fifth grader on the playground. If you want to know what that looks like, visit an American university.

The task of civilizing the precious infants born to us is a crucial duty. Twenty years is all we have.

This magazine is so different. My son brings over the newspaper when he visits, and I read that. But it's different when I pick up the *Trumpet*. It analyzes everything so well, and it gives you a better understanding compared to the other news.

Ellen Ballard NEVADA

Just by looking at the cover, you are awakened by alarms of intrigue, or you should be. What a wonderful artist the work has!

Kristopher B. Willsey TEXAS

We have the *Trumpet* in our local library, and I am happy to see that so people can pick it up. You have one of the most informative magazines. I used to be in the Roman Catholic Church, but I left it; that is one of the biggest cults in the world. I really wish the *Trumpet* came out every week like *Time* magazine. You are covering everything so well.

Wanda Rossi FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

I am so, so happy to have found your magazine. I am 82 years old, and when I was a young man I never learned more about religion from anyone other than the good Herbert W. Armstrong. I am happy to see he is still alive in spirit. It means a lot to me.

Carl Salamun CALIFORNIA

I am enjoying the *Trumpet* and getting lots of insights from the many fascinating and inspiring articles, most especially those prophecy-related. I am eagerly looking forward to receiving monthly physical copies of your articles as well. Thank you.

David Welle



I like to read your world events. I would like to know more about how world events combine with the Bible, with some related Islamic events, if it is possible.


Mohammad Qamar Khan KARACHI, PAKISTAN

I really like your *Trumpet*. No other magazine speaks to me so loudly. The knowledge is incredible! You can't have a favorite editor; they all say something so important every time.


Terence Dahle ONTARIO, CANADA

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What the Weinstein Scandal Teaches Us About America

The problem goes way beyond Hollywood. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**



ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN ENTERTAINMENT, Harvey Weinstein, now stands exposed as a serial womanizer and a brazen pervert, a fitting symbol of a corrupt industry. In not-unrelated news, pornographer Hugh Hefner recently died, and was widely eulogized as a cultural revolutionary who valiantly conquered sexual repression.

Few would acknowledge it, but there is a *link* between these episodes and the spate of curses besieging America lately: hurricanes, wildfires, mass shootings, political chaos, social fragmentation and so on. The immorality that gave us Hefner and Weinstein is the direct cause of these effects—far more so than global warming, inadequate gun control, or systemic racism.

Weinstein had been indulging in his gross escapades for decades. He targeted dozens of women. Many acquiesced to his salacious demands, and many more caved in to his threats to keep quiet, fearing harm to their careers.

Now everyone is piling on Harvey Weinstein. Suddenly, everyone is appalled. Politicians who accepted millions of his dollars are acting disgusted and shocked. But Weinstein's behavior was no secret. People in Hollywood say that everyone knew. Employees helped him get alone with vulnerable woman after vulnerable woman. Untold numbers—including his political connections—looked the other way. His sins were condoned and nurtured within the fetid incubator that is America's entertainment industry. He thrived within a vast system of complicity.

Pretending like Weinstein's perversion is some sort of anomaly in Hollywood is as phony as a Styrofoam movie prop. He was abetted by a casting-couch culture that has pervaded this industry from its earliest days.

Scripture condemns not only the adulterer, but also the one who keeps company with him (Psalm 50:18).

Nobody can be genuinely shocked at this man's immorality. Hollywood *glamorizes* immorality. The fact that this powerful producer—whose movies have made billions of dollars and won dozens of prestigious film awards—could commit these sexual crimes for so long highlights the nature of the people he mixed with and the product he peddled. Tens of thousands of people in Hollywood literally work day in and day out to script, rehearse, build sets for, film, edit, polish, mass market, distribute, project and broadcast this exact kind of private vice. How can society suddenly condemn his reprehensible actions, yet not recognize the problem with the *films* that disseminate this culture far and wide? How is a secluded solicitation worse than one that is recorded, glamorized and distributed worldwide? Society cannot freely enjoy the latter without having to deal with the former as an ugly consequence.

Jesus Christ told us to judge by fruits, and the revelations about Harvey Weinstein are fruits by which his industry should be judged.

Since the truths about Weinstein have emerged, others have denounced him—only to be subsequently exposed for similar sins of their own. More and more women are emerging with accusations against more and more actors and industry leaders. But that's not all. One former child star insists that sexual harassment of women in Hollywood is secondary to the *greater* problem of sexual harassment of *children*. His explosive charge was backed up by the 2015 documentary *An Open Secret*, which exposed the “pedophilia epidemic” inside the entertainment industry.

These are people with enormous social influence. These are people Americans subsidize and idolize. They shape society's attitudes, change its standards, animate its dreams.

God calls America “an hypocritical nation” for good reason (Isaiah 10:6). Hollywood culture is intrinsically, undeniably and epically hypocritical. It masquerades as feminist and pro-women, while it treats women as sex objects—in private at parties and in public at the cinema. It rails against guns in the political arena but romanticizes gun violence on the silver screen. Its moral standards are as fake as its movie sets. This shouldn't shock us. This industry's business is playacting. Its product is *image*.

A lot of people are getting a self-righteous charge out of condemning one movie producer right now. The Motion Picture Academy booted him and said, “[T]he era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behavior and workplace harassment in our industry is over.” We'll see. But don't expect the product to change.

Romans 1 condemns those who reject God and take on a reprobate mind, becoming filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, maliciousness, deceit and malignity. But God doesn't just condemn those who commit such things—He also condemns *those who “have pleasure in them that do them.”* That's a whole lot of people in America today.

Can we then turn around and expect only blessings? “How shall I pardon thee for this?” God asks through one of His prophets (Jeremiah 5:7-9). “[T]hy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?”

That verse has bad news—but also very GOOD NEWS! Satan's time left on Earth is "short"! He is about to be kicked off his throne on this Earth and banished by the King of kings (Revelation 20:1-2).

However, in the short term, our world is going to experience worse and worse atrocities as Satan's GREAT WRATH reaches unparalleled heights! A demoniacal gunman firing on a crowd is only the start. Look around at the explosion of crises plaguing our world: weather disasters, racial hatred and social unraveling, economic volatility, international instability, nuclear proliferation!

Christ prophesied that these problems would culminate in a short period of the worst suffering in human history! (Matthew 24:21).

The world keeps looking for material explanations—even as it gets consumed in spiritual darkness!

If you leave God out of the picture, not only can you not understand events, but they will lead to a catastrophic climax: *human annihilation!* (verse 22). This is a stark reality that the media and politicians refuse to face. If there is no God, WE ARE NOT GOING TO SURVIVE.

But there is a God. He is letting us go our own way for the time being so we can SEE that *we are unable to properly rule ourselves!*

You know, if you have lived a while, that you can't solve your problems. I couldn't. I just made a disaster of my life trying to do things my way. I had to learn that that would never work!

What sort of disasters will it take before people learn that lesson?

"And take heed to yourselves," God says in Luke 21. Watch yourself! You cannot trust your human nature. You cannot trust anybody but God. Take heed, "lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on ALL THEM THAT DWELL ON THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH" (verses 34-35).

This is a promise from God. Nightmares are not going to be restricted to cities like Las Vegas and pockets of the world. Tribulation is coming upon ALL those on this WHOLE EARTH. God is going to correct *all people!*

So here is what you need to do, and *we all* need to do: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (verse 36).

Moffatt translates that verse as, "From hour to hour KEEP AWAKE"! Keep awake! A lot is happening in this world, and we need to be paying close attention!

If we do that and put our trust in God, we don't need to fear what is happening in the world. We desperately need the vision and hope that only God supplies.

Of course, we are human and we can get cowardly. I can, too. But I know that if I put my faith and trust in God, He will do exactly what He says. He fulfills His word every single time! And that includes His unbreakable promise to remove and banish Satan the murderer and to establish His wonderful Kingdom on Earth!

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 keyof david.com.



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Nationwide Satellite
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

AT&T U-verse
Entertainment Studios, 7:30 ET, Sun

Direct TV
CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri
Justice Central/Comedy.tv, 7:30 ET, Sun

Dish Network
ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri
Justice Central, 7:30 ET, Sun

Verizon FiOS
Entertainment Studios, 7:30 ET, Sun

Nationwide Cable
CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri

Buckeye Systems
Justice Central/Comedy.tv, 7:30 ET, Sun

CenturyLink
Entertainment Studios, 7:30 ET, Sun

Mediacom
Comedy.tv/Pets.tv, 7:30 ET, Sun

NCTC
Entertainment Studios, 7:30 ET, Sun

Suddenlink
Comedy.tv, 7:30 ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00, Fri;
WVUA 8:30, Sun
Dothan WDFX 8:30, Sun
WTYV-DT 8:30, Sun
Mobile WFGX 7:30, Sun
Montgomery-Salem WBMM-DT/WNCF-DT
8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun
Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun
Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri;
KASW 8:00, Sun
Yuma KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, El Dorado KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
Fayetteville KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
Fort Smith KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun
Rogers KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
Springdale KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
El Centro KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun
Eureka KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun
Los Angeles KCAL 6:30, Sun; KPXN 6:00,
Fri
Monterey KION 9:30, Sun
Palm Springs KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun
Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;
KRCR 9:00, Sun
Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri;

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun
San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria KSBY-DT
9:30, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri
Grand Junction KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun
Montrose KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun
Jacksonville WPXC/WPJ-LP 6:00, Fri
Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri
Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri
Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun
Pensacola WFGX 7:30, Sun
Tallahassee WTXX 7:30, Sun; WTLF/
WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri
West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WFXL 10:30, Sun
WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun
Atlanta WPXA 6:00, Fri
Augusta-Aiken WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun
Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri
Columbus WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Macon WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Savannah WGSA-DT 9:30, Sun
Thomasville WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;
8:30, Wed
Kaui Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue
Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku
Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon
Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat
Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

Idaho, Boise KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
Pocatello KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30,
Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
Peoria WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun; WREX
10:30, Sun
Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WISE-DT 21.2 9:30, Sun
Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri
Des Moines KFAX 5:00, Fri; WOI-DT 9:30, Sun
Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun
Sioux City KTVI-DT 8:30, Sun
Kansas, Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun
KTKA 9:00, Sun

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Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun
Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KALB-DT 8:30, Sun
Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
Lafayette KADN 6:30, Sun; KATC-DT 8:30, Sun; KLAJ 6:30
Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Baltimore WUTB 7:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KWSW/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun
Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KSVI-7:00, S
KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun
Helena KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City WPIX 6:00, Fri; WWOR, 8:00, Sun
Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Asheville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun
Durham WRXP 6:00, Fri; 9:00, Sun
Fayetteville WFXP 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRXP 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun
North Dakota
Bismarck KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Dickinson KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun

Fargo KXJB 8:30, Sun
Minot KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Valley City KXJB 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Toledo WMNT 8:00, Sun
Youngstown WYTV 11:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun
Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WACP 9:00, Sun; WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Anderson WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KEVN 6:30, Sun
KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun
Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30
Texas, Abilene KTYS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun
Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun
Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KJTV 8:00, Sun
KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KDXE 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Temple-Bryan KYLE 9:00, Sun
Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Richmond WUPV 8:00, Sun
Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun

Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWXP 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun
Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Madison WREX 10:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Superior KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun
Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

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Nationwide satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Nationwide cable
 Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
Atlantic Provinces
 CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun
Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun
Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun
Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun
Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia,
Vancouver CHEK 9:00, Sun;
 CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
New Brunswick, Moncton CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Saint John CKLT-DT 11, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax CJCH-DT 11, Sun
Sydney CJCB-TV 11, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun
Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun;
 WUTV 10:00, Sun;
 CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun;

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Puerto Rico WSJX 8:00, Sun

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 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

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Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed
Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun
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CBS United Kingdom

Station	Day	Time	sky			
CBS Action	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 64	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 149	Ch. 197	Ch. 74	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

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