

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**The deadly climate
change deception**

**America's retreat
from world leadership**

Germany's next crisis

**Why we translate
into 10 languages**

Escaping North Korea



The illustration shows several hands of different skin tones pointing towards the word 'JERUSALEM' written in large, bold, brown letters. The hands are emerging from sleeves with various national flags: the European Union flag (blue with yellow stars), the United States flag (blue with white stars and red stripes), the United Kingdom flag (white with red stripes), the United Arab Emirates flag (green with white Arabic calligraphy), and the United States flag (white with red stripes). The background is a textured, light brown surface with faint geometric shapes.

JERUSALEM

How the
wrangling over
the Holy City
hastens Bible
prophecy



NO RECOGNITION Female members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group protest President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. (MOHAMMED ABED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

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THE KEY OF DAVID

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How King Hezekiah Saved Jerusalem Anciently

The world's attention is riveted on the Holy City as dangers increase. Some history shows how Jerusalem's security could be guaranteed.

THE WORLD IS UP IN ARMS OVER UNITED STATES PRESIDENT Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state of Israel. Leaders all over the world made strong statements against it. Protests filled the streets in several capitals. Palestinian leaders called for a violent uprising. *No city stirs passions like Jerusalem!*



GERALD FLURRY

It is remarkable to see this city continually in the news. But when you understand the Bible's prophecies, you know why this is the case.

The truth is, no city stirs GOD'S passions like Jerusalem! This city is extremely important to God—like no city on Earth.

God says Jerusalem will be a “burden-some stone” and “all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces” (Zechariah 12:3). In a sense, you can see this fulfilled to a certain degree today. Every effort to solve the impasse over Jerusalem has ended in failure.

Jerusalem means “city of peace.” Yet if you understand the history of Jerusalem, this could be likened to a sick joke. This city's history has been filled with rivers of blood. No city has seen more bloodshed! No city has suffered like Jerusalem. It has known almost no peace!

But there is very good news. This blood-soaked city will yet become a city of peace.

Europe's Response

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It has been right at the heart of the Jews' presence in that area for thousands of years (“An Unremarkable Declaration,” page 4).

Every country has its embassy in the other country's capital, but they are afraid to do that where Jerusalem is concerned. The last three American presidents had promised to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem because that is irrefutably the capital. But they never followed through on their promise because they were intimidated by the Arabs.

However, President Trump has moved forward on that promise. He hasn't let the Arabs or anyone else intimidate him. He may have to pay a price for that.

Across the world, probably the most common response to his announcement was that it proved America can no longer be the mediator of the Arab-Jew peace process. They said that recognizing Israel's capital in West Jerusalem betrays a bias against the Palestinians—even though Israel's hold on West

Jerusalem has *never been* a point of debate. Only Arab leaders who say Israel SHOULD'N'T EXIST AT ALL dispute the Jews' claim over the area where the U.S. plans to move its embassy!

So this announcement supposedly destroys the peace process. But the truth is that the peace process has been a farce from the beginning! It has been a deadly “wound” to Israel (Hosea 5:13). You can read more about this in my free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.

Other nations now say the United States cannot mediate in the Middle East. Europeans are putting themselves forward as the natural replacement. This is exactly what Bible prophecy foretold (article, page 2). And Bible prophecy also tells us the HORRIFYING OUTCOME of Europe's involvement!

“Peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved by one side dictating the conditions.” —Spiegel Online

The German media had a lot to say about President Trump's announcement. “Donald Trump has made a historic mistake,” wrote Spiegel Online. “Peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved by one side dictating the conditions” (Dec. 7, 2017; *Trumpet* translation throughout). Their general view is that the Jews are occupiers and the Palestinians are victims. IS THAT AN UNBIASED VIEW?

Anyone who thinks that Germany and Europe would be an impartial mediator in this conflict needs to see reality. There is a strong swell of hatred for the Jews in Europe. Reports of rising anti-Semitism in Germany are routine. On the weekend after President Trump's announcement, thousands of people demonstrated in Berlin. Polls show a lot of hatred for Jews growing in that nation today. We see that in their stance on Jerusalem.

In an article titled “Jerusalem Dispute: EU Rejects Netanyahu,” Spiegel Online reported, “Benjamin Netanyahu demands that Europeans recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but EU foreign ministers are giving the premier a cool reception in Brussels” (Dec. 11, 2017).

“For 3,000 years, Jerusalem has been the capital of the Jewish people,” Netanyahu said at a meeting in Brussels. He said that has been the case since it was “established by King David, [which is] well documented in the history of the Bible”

In response to his statement, Spiegel Online quoted a professor of history and culture of ancient Judaism and Christianity

Donald Trump Brings Bible Prophecy Alive in JERUSALEM

America's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital was a good one, but not for the reasons you might think. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

WHEN UNITED STATES President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital on Dec. 6, 2017, the announcement pleased many Jews around the world and was an injection of confidence and hope for the people of Israel, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But elsewhere—throughout the Middle East, Europe, Asia and elsewhere, it was panned as a terrible blow to peace.

That the announcement was controversial is a measure of just how difficult and perplexing issues surrounding Jerusalem can be. In many ways, Mr. Trump's support was a simple statement of fact (sidebar, page 4). It did not change the status quo nearly as much as the 2016 United Nations Security Council resolution that declared Israeli communities in the West Bank illegal and invalid. Yet that decision was universally accepted, while this was treated as though it would spark a violent intifada and destroy prospects for advancing the peace process.

Ultimately, this victory for Israel and Mr. Trump will come with a heavy price. Since the decision was made, it has been hijacked and manipulated to harm Israel, to undermine America, and to create more hostility, tension and violence in Jerusalem.

But the fallout from Mr. Trump's decision will not be entirely negative. This announcement, and the reaction from the international community, has

significantly accelerated the fulfillment of three key end-time Bible prophecies.

That means this decision thrust us much closer to the coming of the Messiah!

One: A Vanishing Superpower

One of the most significant effects of President Trump's decision is that it will be used to undermine and marginalize America's role as the chief broker for peace in Israel.

This should not happen. The fact that America's president showed himself capable of telling the truth ought to inspire confidence in Washington.

But this is not the way the Palestinians, the Muslim world and the liberal West see it. They saw Trump's announcement as a sign that the U.S. is not objective and therefore cannot be trusted to lead peace negotiations. *Most* people agree with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who said that Mr. Trump had "crossed all the red lines with the Jerusalem decision" and had disqualified America as a peace broker in the Middle East.

A few days after Mr. Trump's decision, representatives from 57 Muslim nations met in Istanbul to discuss how the Muslim world should respond. The gathering produced the Istanbul Declaration on Freedom for al Quds (the Arabic word for Jerusalem). Among other conclusions, this dossier stated that America could no longer be recognized as an "unbiased" voice in peace talks.

The Arab nations were supported by leaders of the United Nations and



MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

UNITED U.S. President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stand united on Jerusalem.



RAGE Demonstrators wave Palestinian flags in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany, as they protest Trump's declaration.

Europe, and even the pope, all of whom forcefully condemned President Trump's decision and said that it undermined peace in Israel and Jerusalem.

The way this situation has been manipulated to attack the U.S. is significant.

Regular *Trumpet* readers will be familiar with the end-time prophecies in Daniel 11:40-45, Ezekiel 38 and Isaiah 10. These prophecies (among

others) describe the emergence of three powerful Gentile powers: a German-led European empire, the Iran-led king of the south, and an Asian conglomerate, led by the "prince of Russia" (Vladimir Putin). Daniel 11 and Ezekiel 38 do not discuss America (nor Britain). Isaiah 10 does discuss America, but it depicts the U.S. as a *helpless victim* of the German-led European beast power.

The absence of the U.S. in these end-time prophecies is telling: By the time these events unfold, AMERICA HAS BEEN MARGINALIZED AS A WORLD PLAYER.

Now let's notice a more specific prophecy in Hosea 5:13. This end-time prophecy says, "When 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." Proving the identity of Ephraim (Britain), Judah (the Jewish state) and Assyria (Germany) is not that difficult. You can prove it for yourself by reading our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained more than 20 years ago that this prophecy is about Israel's peace process. The term "wound" describes Israel's struggle with the Palestinians. (This is proved thoroughly in *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, free upon request.) But

An Unremarkable Declaration

There shouldn't be anything controversial about saying Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

WHEN U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP OFFICIALLY recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and pledged to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem, the announcement plunged the civilized world into mass hysteria. Pundits called it the "kiss of death" for peace between Israel and the Palestinians and said it would plunge the world into "a fire with no end."

In fact, the truth at the heart of this announcement is *entirely unremarkable*. It was a simple formal recognition of a *demonstrable* truth, a truth that rational human beings the world over have accepted for 4,000 years. Since the time of Abraham, humanity has recognized Jerusalem as the capital of the Jews' homeland and a city that is inextricably connected to Judaism and the Jewish identity.

Granted, many of these people did not particularly like this reality, and there were periods when foreign powers (such as the Babylonians, Romans and Turks) managed to temporarily wrest control of the city from the Jews. But whether they liked it or not, *humanity for four millennia has at least recognized the Jews' historic attachment to Jerusalem*.

It is generally believed that the Jews' history with Jerusalem began with King David in the 11th century. In fact, the Jews' attachment to Jerusalem began about 1,000 years earlier.

The Old Testament (and Jewish historians) plainly reveal that Abraham was the great-grandfather of Judah, the son of Jacob from whom the Jewish people descended. Abraham was born in Chaldea and spent time in Egypt, but his *homeland* was the land of Canaan. Genesis 13 shows that following his short

stint in Egypt, Abraham established his family home "between Bethel and Hai" (verse 3), *only 10 miles or so from Jerusalem*.

Abraham visited Jerusalem often. Genesis 14 talks about Abraham visiting there and dining with the "king of Salem." Abraham even paid tithes to Jerusalem's king. A study into Abraham's life shows that his behavior, lifestyle and ambitions—his *entire identity*—was shaped by Jerusalem, by his relationship with the high priest and king in Jerusalem, and by his hope in the prophecies about Jerusalem.

Abraham passed this affection for Jerusalem on to his offspring, especially his son Isaac, grandson Jacob and his family. Between about 2000 B.C. and 1750 B.C., Abraham and his extended family populated a vast amount of territory in the land of Canaan, including a lot of land east of the Dead Sea (in modern-day Jordan). At the center of Abraham's realm was Jerusalem.

Abraham's descendants (the Israelites) were captives in Egypt between the mid-18th century and the mid-15th century B.C. But upon their release, they returned to Canaan, and by the beginning of the 14th century B.C., had once again settled the land, inhabiting territory that extended from Egypt in the south to Dan (near modern-day Damascus) to the north; and from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the land of Edom, Moab and Ammon east of the Jordan River and Dead Sea. We know too that the tribe of Judah (Jews) inhabited a large section of land in the south—*land that included the city of Jerusalem* (which they shared with the Jebusites). You can read this history in Joshua 15.

notice: America is not even mentioned! The time is coming when ISRAEL WILL NOT LOOK TO AMERICA FOR HELP IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

Why not? BECAUSE THE U.S. WILL HAVE BEEN PUSHED OUT OF THAT PROCESS!

Part of the reason America is sidelined, Mr. Flurry explains in *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, is that by this point, America “will be too weak and too sick itself to help.”

Two: The German Savior

President Trump’s decision to recognize Jerusalem lit a fire in European capitals. Following the announcement, many European leaders and journalists openly called for Europe to get much more involved in the peace process.

“The European Union will engage even more with the parties and with our regional and international partners,” European Union Foreign Policy

Chief Federica Mogherini said Dec. 7, 2017. She also said the announcement “could diminish the potential role” of the U.S. The EU is “*now determined to play an even more convinced and active role in trying to relaunch the peace process*” (emphasis added throughout).

Other European foreign ministers concurred. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said: “We’ve been waiting already for several months for the American initiative, and if one is not forthcoming *then the European Union will have to take the initiative.*”

The Germans seemed especially enthused about the opportunity to get more involved in Israel. A few days after the announcement, *Der Spiegel* ran an editorial titled “Time for Europe to Take the Lead on Peace.” The article said Mr. Trump’s decision “disqualifies the United States as a mediator.” Thus “it is now up to us—the Europeans, THE

GERMANS—to come up with new ideas and new formats” for securing peace between Israel and the Palestinians (Dec. 8, 2017).

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel made similar remarks. According to von Mittelstaedt, “No other conflict should be as important to Europe as the one between the Israelis and the Palestinians.” She also said that Germany and Europe needed to develop a peace strategy in “cooperation with moderate Arab countries” in the region.

Does this sound familiar? The prophecy in Hosea 5:13 states, “When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, THEN WENT EPHRAIM TO THE ASSYRIAN” Here is how Mr. Flurry explained it, again, *more than 20 years ago*: “Hosea prophesies that wounded Judah [Israel] and sick Ephraim [Britain] will go to Germany for help. Why? Because AMERICA IS EVEN SICKER THAN

In the mid-11th century B.C., King David, a warrior from the tribe of Judah, consolidated Israel’s power and transformed the nation into a regional power. Like his forefather Abraham, King David’s life orbited around Jerusalem. The Jewish king augmented Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, fortifying it as the seat of Israel’s political, cultural and religious identity.

King David was succeeded by his son Solomon. Under Solomon, Israel became a world empire with two navies, tin and copper mines in Arabia, and a trade network reaching into Africa and Asia (1 Kings 10). But of all King Solomon’s incredible accomplishments, his crowning achievement was the work he did developing Jerusalem, all of which revolved around the construction of the first temple.

After Solomon’s death, Israel split into two nations. The nation of Judah (comprised of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) remained in the south and continued to revolve around the temple in Jerusalem. Jerusalem remained the political nucleus of the Jewish people till the early sixth century B.C. In 585 B.C., the city was destroyed and the remaining Jews were taken captive to Babylon. But the Jews’ disappearance from Jerusalem was short-lived. Seventy years later, Persia’s King Cyrus—*recognizing the Jews’ abiding attachment to Jerusalem*—allowed a contingent to return and rebuild the city. The Jewish population grew, and over the next five centuries, Jerusalem was inhabited *mainly* by Jews (though it was visited, sometimes with painful consequences, by attackers from both the north and south).

The Jews lost significant control over Jerusalem when the



REALITY President Trump displays his signed proclamation recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

Romans conquered the region in the first century B.C. But even though they didn’t control Jerusalem, the Jews maintained a large presence in the city throughout Roman rule, right up until Jerusalem’s destruction in A.D. 70. The Jews did not regain *control* over the city after the Roman conquest—over the next 1,600 years the city was controlled by Muslims, Catholics, Ottomans and the British—but they did maintain an uninterrupted presence there and in the wider region until they regained control in the 20th century.

This history is undeniable. Jerusalem has been central to Judaism and the Jewish identity for 4,000 years. No other people on Earth are as inextricably attached to a city or region as the Jews are to Jerusalem.

Yes, this truth is contentious and, for some, inconvenient. But it’s still the truth: Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital, literally and figuratively, SINCE THE TIME OF ABRAHAM. ■



BURNING HATE (top to bottom) Palestinians burn an effigy of President Trump on Dec. 7, 2017. Hamas leader Haniyeh calls for a new Palestinian intifada. Palestinians in the West Bank protest President Trump's Jerusalem proclamation.

BOTH OF THEM AND CAN BE OF NO HELP AT THAT POINT!" (*Hosea: Reaping the Whirlwind*; emphasis his).

President Trump's decision, *and Europe's promise to get more involved in Israel's peace process*, brings this prophecy into dramatic focus. This prophecy has not been fulfilled completely, but it is getting easier to see that IT SOON WILL BE!

Expect Germany and Europe to take much greater interest in Israel and Jerusalem, and for Israel to rely increasingly on Germany and Europe for support.

Three: Devastating Self-reliance

America recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital reinforced the popular narrative that the Palestinians are helpless victims and that Israel is a tyrannical apartheid state. That is *not* the truth. But even in the West, the accepted narrative is the one espoused by Turkey's radical president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Following Mr. Trump's announcement, he stated: "Palestine is an innocent victim," and "Israel ... is a terrorist state—yes, terrorist!" (Dec. 10, 2017).

Sa'adollah Zaeri is an Iranian journalist with connections to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. He admitted that President Trump's decision has advantages for Iran and the Palestinians. "This situation ... makes Iran's work in forming a resistance front with a focus on defending Palestine EASIER," he wrote for the Tasnim News Agency.

Speaking from Gaza following President Trump's decision, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh called for a third intifada and stated that the Palestinians should not stop fighting until Jerusalem and the West Bank have been liberated. Remarks like these, and those from Turkey's president, explicitly promote violence. Yet who in the West will condemn Erdoğan or Hamas or Palestinian leaders for inciting violence against Israel?

The truth is, many believe such remarks are a justifiable response to Mr. Trump's decision. After the announcement there was a massive outpouring of compassion for the Palestinian cause. In the end, the Palestinian cause will likely come through this stronger, healthier, with greater global sympathy and support.

Sadly, Israel's *response* to the hostility and persecution it faces will result in much greater pain and suffering. The prophecy in Hosea says that Israel, instead of trusting in God, as many of its ancestors did (such as David, Jeremiah and Hezekiah), *trusts in its own judgment*. Instead of relying on God, Israel rushes into the arms of Germany and Europe, even though much of the anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian discourse *originates* in Germany and Europe.

Trusting in Germany will prove to be a painful mistake. Hosea 5:13 says, "[Y]et could he [Germany and Europe] not heal you, nor cure you of your wound." Here

is what Mr. Flurry wrote *more than 20 years ago*: "IT SEEMS THE ISRAELIS CAN TRUST THEIR WORST HISTORICAL ENEMY, BUT THEY CAN'T TRUST GOD TO PROTECT THEM! And God is their *only* source of help" (op cit; emphasis his).

Where It Will End

Prophecies in Daniel 11 and Matthew 24 also discuss Germany's involvement in Israel, and *specifically in Jerusalem*. Daniel 11:41 says that following its clash with the king of the south (Iran-led radical Islam), the king of the north (the German-led European power) immediately enters the "glorious land," or JERUSALEM.

In fact, as Mr. Flurry writes in *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, there is a "strong indication that the [Daniel 11:40] war was triggered over that city." Jerusalem is the German-led king of the north's "MAIN CONCERN." "The Vatican and Germany are the heart of the Holy Roman Empire," writes Mr. Flurry. "They have conquered Jerusalem several times before. AND THEY ARE DESTINED TO DO SO ONE LAST TIME!" (ibid).

The issue of Mr. Trump's decision and its repercussions is such a paradox. On one hand, there are many, many tragic repercussions. It is inciting greater hatred of Israel, and uniting much of the world against the Jewish state. It is also causing America, Israel's primary ally since World War II, to be sidelined from the peace process. Finally, it is driving Israel into the arms of the nation responsible for the Holocaust, a nation with a long-standing history of anti-Semitism.

On the other hand, this decision accelerates the fulfillment of some key end-time Bible prophecies. Prophecies in Daniel, Isaiah and Matthew 24 clearly warn that events in Jerusalem are the catalyst that initiates the return of Jesus Christ.

Jerusalem, Mr. Flurry has stated, is the primary "THERMOMETER" we use to detect when the Messiah is about to return. And the thermometer reading is off the charts! ■

To learn more about what to expect in the Holy City in the time ahead, request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.





WHY THE TRUMPET WATCHES

AMERICA'S RETREAT FROM GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

A trend that is reshaping the world order **BY ANDREW MILLER**

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A SUPER-power loses its superpowers? History shows that when a superpower declines, rival nations challenge it for global supremacy. The end result is almost always war.

For seven decades, the world has had relative peace and unprecedented prosperity. As recently as 2011, psychologist Steven Pinker actually argued that the better angels of our nature were finally turning us away from the nasty, brutish violence that has dominated human history. But the truth is that this long peace is primarily due to one factor: the United States of America. Historians call it the American Peace, or *Pax Americana*.

American assistance helped Britain and France win World War I. American might helped to save Europe from the Nazi menace and to save China, the Philippines and Southeast Asia from Imperial Japan. American aid and protection saved many of these same nations from Soviet enslavement during the Cold War.

During the 20th century, millions of people would have starved without U.S. projects like the Marshall Plan, the Point Four Program, the Alliance for Progress, and the Food for Peace Initiative. Democratic societies would never have spread around the world without Anglo-Saxon ideals of limited government, separation of powers, rule of law, freedom of religion, and free-market

economics, underwritten by American economic, political and military might.

Unfashionable though they may be, the facts show that America (and Britain before it) did more good than harm to other nations. These English-speaking peoples have been a blessing to the world for the past 200 years.

But Britain has already faded from power. And now America is retreating from global leadership.

Burdened by public debt, domestic unrest and guilt over past mistakes, America is withdrawing from the world

they fail to recognize what the Bible says about this massive event. Even many Christian leaders ignore the fact that the Bible is full of prophecy, from Genesis to Revelation—and a great deal of it speaks of this modern trend.

One prophecy that carries special significance today is in Micah 5:7-14. This passage is about “the remnant of Jacob.” The patriarch Jacob was renamed *Israel* (Genesis 35:10). Micah says his descendants would receive great wealth and power from God, and would dominate every other nation. But unlike most

We are facing the end of Western dominance and a new era of competition between rising powers.

and focusing on internal problems. But if the United States no longer steps up to handle global crises, who will? Global leadership is now up for grabs.

We are facing the end of Western dominance and a new era of competition between rising powers.

The remarkable thing is that the Bible foretold *Pax Americana* thousands of years ago. And just as the Bible foretold how this period of peace and prosperity would begin, it foretells how it ends.

A Lion Among the Nations

Newscasters and politicians often speak about the dangers of America retreating from global leadership. But

other empires, they would use their wealth and power to save and improve the lives of people around the world.

“And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off” (Micah 5:7-9).

Micah wrote these prophecies after the northern 10 tribes of Israel had already been conquered by Assyria, so he was not describing a period of ancient greatness under King David or King Solomon. He was describing a future time when Israel would achieve superpower status on the world scene. These scriptures describe the generation of Israel just before the Messiah comes.

This generation would possess great power. It would be like a lion among the nations, the king of the beasts. Thus, if you have proved that we are living in the last days, you can identify the descendants of the ancient Israelites simply by

with military victories and economic prosperity. And He promised that if they disobeyed, He would curse them with military defeats and financial ruin.

Sudden Destruction

God's promise to punish Israel for disobedience is reiterated in Micah 5. Here God explains how and why Israel's time as world superpower will come to an abrupt end.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots: And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw

power He gave to the Americans. The same is true of the British. These nations have indisputably rejected the beliefs of the Bible, and they are also losing control of the world's strategic trade routes, plunging further into debt and suffering serious domestic problems.

The Americans filled the power vacuum the British left behind after World War II. Now the Americans are leaving behind a power vacuum.

Who will fill it?

Time of the Gentiles

The greatest prophet of all time, Jesus Christ, told His disciples about the time when the world would be dominated by non-Israelite nations.

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). Jesus did not correct these men and tell them that the world as we know it would never end. He answered their question, detailing specific events that would occur when the present civilization comes crashing down (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21).

Jesus said the people of "Jerusalem" would "fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

Who are the Gentiles? Most people think that all non-Jews are Gentiles. But the Jews are just one of the 12 tribes of Israel. There are 11 other tribes that are Israelite, and not Gentile.

The first book of the Bible lists the tribes of Israel, and prophesies their fate in "the last days" (Genesis 49:1). Genesis says that the descendants of Joseph's son Manasseh would become a "great" nation and that the descendants of Joseph's son Ephraim would become a "multitude of nations" (Genesis 48:19). This prophecy is one of the many proofs that Manasseh is the United States, the strongest nation in world history, and Ephraim is Great Britain, which governed a vast commonwealth of nations.

Jesus said that the "times of the Gentiles" would be a sign of the end time. This means that there had to be what you might call the "times of the Israelites"

America filled the power vacuum the British left behind after World War II. Now the Americans are leaving a power vacuum. Who will fill it?

locating the global superpower. Which nations have been like lions defending the world from tyrants like Napoleon Bonaparte, Shaka Zulu, Kaiser Wilhelm, Adolf Hitler, Hideki Tōjō and Joseph Stalin? Which nations have been like showers upon the grass, spreading food, technology, free markets and free societies around the globe?

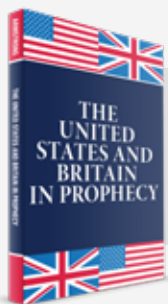
From the start of the 19th century until today, it has been the peoples of Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S. who have fulfilled this role. The very existence of *Pax Americana* is proof that these nations are Israel.

The Bible records that God created human beings and gave them the opportunity to obey Him, but they chose to turn from His laws and rely on their own beliefs of right and wrong. Then, about 2,000 years after God created the first man and woman, He founded the nation of Israel. He gave these people His laws so they could be an example to all other nations. In Leviticus 26, God made a special covenant with the Israelites. He promised that if they obeyed Him, He would bless them

down all thy strong holds: And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands. And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities" (verses 10-14).

According to this prophecy, at the moment end-time Israel reaches the zenith of its power, God cuts off its armaments of war and throws down its strongholds. He breaks the pride of its power. Why? Because the people have turned away from Him to embrace "witchcraft" and "soothsayers." This means the people look to false teachers who refuse to teach God's commands. Instead, they promote lawlessness and moral relativism. They endorse sins like abortion, adultery, drug abuse, homosexuality, lying, Sabbath-breaking and sexual promiscuity. They indulge in shallow religions, false doctrines and even literal witchcraft.

Because of these sins, God is keeping His promise and stripping away the



The remarkable history and future of America

To discover the true origin of the American people and learn what Bible prophecy says will happen to this one-time superpower, request your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy***.

prior to that. This is the period referred to in Micah and other books of the Bible. Secular historians call it the *Pax Britannica* and *Pax Americana*.

Yet Micah said that Israel's time as a "lion among the beasts of the forest" would abruptly end. And Jesus said the rise of Gentile nations would be a sign of the end of this world and of His Second Coming.

Return of Jesus Christ

These non-Israelite nations spoken of by Jesus Christ will wreak unimaginable havoc on Earth, to the point where they would destroy all life on Earth if Jesus did not return to stop them.

Yet the seismic shift away from America and toward Gentile nations like China, Iran, Germany and Russia is actually good news. While America's influence has been declining for decades, the Bible says that the "time of the Gentiles" will be very short. It will be ended by the return of Jesus Christ to set up the Kingdom of God.

"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot *forty and two months*" (Revelation 11:1-2).

Verse 2 reveals that the times of the Gentiles will last only 3½ years after the fall of Jerusalem. The only thing currently stopping Gentile nations from conquering Jerusalem is the alliance between America, Britain and the Jewish state. But soon these Israelite powers will be too weak to prevent a conflict over "the holy city" from igniting World War III.

Bible prophecy also often uses Jerusalem, the capital of ancient Israel, to symbolize all the modern descendants of Israel. This means all the nations that descended from the ancient Israelites will be conquered and trodden underfoot by Gentile powers. But most especially, it means that America, Britain and the Jewish state will be taken away captive.

The patriarch Jacob placed his name on Ephraim and Manasseh, giving these tribes the birthright of Israel (Genesis 48:16). Israel, Ephraim and

Judah will fall together in their iniquity (Hosea 5:5-7).

The Bible reveals that various Gentile nations will war against each other for global supremacy. These prophecies forecast that 10 dictators will arise in Europe, in the region once dominated by the Roman Empire. They will give their power over to an arch-dictator referred to as the "beast" in scriptures such as Revelation 17:12-13. This dictator of dictators will war against another Gentile power, known as the "king of the south." Then this beastly authoritarian will conquer the Israelite nations (Daniel 11:40-44; Hosea 5:5).

But even then, this world war will not be over. Scriptures say that the beast power will attack a confederation of Asian strongmen known as the "kings of the east." These Asian kings will gather an army of 200 million soldiers to assault Europe (Revelation 9:16; 16:12). This final battle between Europe and Asia will be so devastating that Jesus Christ will have to intervene to stop humanity from self-annihilation.

All these events are lining up perfectly to unfold in precise accordance with the Bible's prophetic outline. This is why the *Trumpet* watches the geopolitical balance of power tipping away from America and toward the world's Gentile powers. America and Britain are retreating into isolationism. This is the first step heralding the beginning of the end of mankind's experiment in self-government.

Mankind must recognize the dreadful results our 6,000 years of self-rule have produced. The evil that permeates the world today must be removed for mankind to truly live the abundant life and for the godly way of life to cover the Earth. The horrors of the Great Tribulation will lead into the *Pax Millennium*—the 1,000-year rule of Jesus Christ. This will be the greatest time of peace and prosperity that has ever been. Until then, the warning must go out. This hope-filled message culminates in the establishment of God's soon-coming Kingdom! ■

WHY THE TRUMPET WATCHES

This magazine is utterly unique in what it reports—only prophetically important news.

Learn what trends the *Trumpet* follows and prove its track record of analysis.



theTrumpet.com/trends

THE DEADLY CLIMATE CHANGE DECEPTION

Analysts and experts have dangerously misdiagnosed the cause of devastating weather disasters.

BY GERALD FLURRY

MASSIVE CLIMATIC DISASTERS are happening regularly. Evidence shows they are increasing in frequency and intensity. The usual political and media response is to blame this trend on “climate change.” The worse the disaster, the louder the calls for taking action against climate change by addressing the supposed man-made causes, such as carbon emissions and the use of fossil fuels.

This view about “climate change” has taken hold of millions of minds around the world. It is often presented as if it

were irrefutable scientific fact. The truth, though, is that it is an *ideology*, and it will negatively affect every single person who falls for it!

I don’t want to discuss political views; my job is to give you GOD’S VIEW. Our great Creator knows that climate change is *not* the cause of weather disasters!

The Worst Weather Disaster Ever

Do you believe the Bible? It gives an undeniably clear explanation for what causes climatic disasters.

“The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the

wicked: *the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet*” (Nahum 1:3). This says that God has power over the storms. He controls where and how hard they strike.

The idea that *carbon emissions* cause storms is the *antithesis* of what God says!

Read the rest of the Prophet Nahum’s account. It is consistent with the message you find throughout the Bible. It says that, in a sense, humans *are* responsible for weather disasters. Not because of fossil fuels, but because of SIN—*breaking God’s commandments!*



CLEANUP
A woman stands amid the remains of her home on Barbuda after Hurricane Irma nearly leveled the island.



DELUGED
Houston, Texas, sits under 50 inches of rainfall from Hurricane Harvey.



NATURE'S FURY?
A wildfire rages in Ojai, California.

as yet [nobody saw that storm coming], moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7). For 100 years, Noah warned of the Flood that would come as punishment for the rampant sins of the entire world. Nobody believed him, and they paid a terrible price.

Diligently Seek God

Hebrews 11 talks about the FAITH we need in order to please God. Notice: “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that *he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (verse 6). That is a powerful statement. God expects you to test and prove Him on that to make sure His words are true.

Do you have *faith* in what God says in the Bible? WE NEED FAITH IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE STORMS. God says we can have the very same faith that Jesus Christ had on Earth (e.g. Galatians 2:20). As we walk by that faith, and diligently seek God and do as He commands, He will reward us—physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally—in a multitude of ways! That is the truth of your Bible—Old Testament and New Testament.

Are the people who proclaim the dangers of climate change *diligently seeking God*? From everything I have seen, it is usually the reverse: They leave God entirely out of the picture. But GOD WILL NOT BE LEFT OUT.

WHAT THE AUTHORITIES OF THIS WORLD ARE SAYING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE DESTROYS FAITH! It deprives people of those great rewards of God. It *destroys our hope!*

‘For Correction’

Here is another clear statement of God’s power over the weather—and it explains WHY God uses it as He does: “He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. They turn round and round *by his guidance*, to accomplish *all that he commands them* on the face of the habitable world. WHETHER FOR CORRECTION, OR FOR HIS LAND, OR FOR LOVE, HE CAUSES IT TO HAPPEN” (Job 37:11-13; Revised Standard Version). All these natural elements obey God’s commands!

One reason God sends storms is *for correction*. God corrects us through the weather, and there are many scriptures that tell us this. Could this be the reason for some of the disasters we have seen recently?

TO SAY THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS CAUSING ALL THESE VIOLENT STORMS IS REJECTING EVERYTHING GOD SAYS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. Those who believe in that wouldn’t all say they are anti-God or irreligious. But what they are saying is in direct conflict with what God says. And whose view on this issue do you think will prevail?

Here is yet another Bible passage on this subject: In Amos 4:7, God says, “And also I have withholden 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.” Here God is controlling the rainfall, causing floods and droughts! Why would He do that? Verse 8 answers: “So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: *yet have ye not returned*

That might seem *strange* to some, but think about the greatest weather disaster in history: the Flood of Noah’s day. There the waters covered even the peaks of the highest mountains, killing every human, except for those preserved on Noah’s ark! (Genesis 6-8). Talk about a killer storm! And it wasn’t caused by climate change. It was GOD PUNISHING PEOPLE FOR THEIR SINS!

There was no physical evidence to predict that storm, but Noah had received word from God that it was coming, and he warned the world. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen

unto me, saith the Lord.” God causes these conditions as punishment for pushing Him out of our lives. These are prophecies for the near future.

Many scriptures show that God rewards and protects those who put Him first. If everyone in America would look to God, the plagues would stop! Here is just one example: “Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways” (Psalm 91:9-11). God does try and test His people, but overall, He protects and blesses and rewards those who make God their habitation. He instructs His angels to watch over them.

Blessings and Curses

The book of Daniel is ONLY for our day—“the time of the end” (Daniel 12:4, 9). In it, the Prophet Daniel shows us where to look for the solution to weather disasters and other curses.

“Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him” (Daniel 9:11). “Israel” here refers primarily to America and Britain, not just the Jewish state in the Mideast. (Read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to prove this point.)

Israel is cursed for not obeying “the law of Moses”! That is talking about the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch, which Moses wrote. Daniel refers us to the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These spell out God’s law—but they also have a lot of PROPHECY. Genesis 48-49, for example, prophesy what will happen to America and Britain in our day. And Daniel specifically speaks of “the CURSE” that

God says will come upon us if we disobey His law.

Daniel continues, “As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice” (Daniel 9:13-14).

God loves us, and does all that He can to bless us. But what is He supposed to do when we are caught up in sin and are disobeying Him? It is clear that God punishes, just like any father who loves his children. That is the only way He can turn us around so we can be in His Family! It is all done in love.

A former U.S. president recently said that rejecting the popular view of man-made climate change is the same as rejecting the future. You have *no future* if you don’t believe it, he said.

That is the exact OPPOSITE of God’s view! God says that you had better accept His view of climate change, or you DON’T HAVE A FUTURE—FOREVER!

Whom do you believe? God, or men?

Leviticus 26 is known as the blessings and curses chapter. Read the entire chapter, and apply each point to America today. It is extremely accurate—more relevant today than ever! Daniel states that it is mainly for this end time.

“If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit” (Leviticus 26:3-4). This is how to avoid violent storms and climatic extremes. When we obey Him, God provides temperate weather. He isn’t eager to inflict storms, but there is a reason He causes them at times, and it is connected to how we live.

Read verses 5-8, and you see how the nation that obeys God enjoys abundance and peace, security from enemies. “And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be

my people” (verse 12). What is better than being in the good graces of the Almighty God? What blessings come when we follow God’s law as revealed in the first five books of the Bible! This is an absolute PROMISE from God!

God’s blessings hinge on our obedience. But notice what God says if we *don’t* obey. From here on, this chapter delivers bad news: “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant” (verses 14-15). In verse 16, He says we will experience “terror,” or terrorism, as He tries to get our attention and direct our minds back to Him. We are seeing all these curses today.

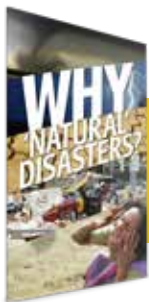
“... I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: ... for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits” (verses 19-20). God curses us with weather catastrophes when we rebel! No rain falls. Our crops don’t grow. The damage and the death toll mount.

“And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins” (verse 21). God will continue to ratchet up the weather disasters until we finally begin to listen to Him!

God wants to give us every blessing imaginable, but first we must turn to Him in humble obedience.

This is the major lesson that God wants to teach us in these weather disasters. That is why it is such a dangerous deception to remove God from the equation and blame all these problems on carbon emissions causing climate change.

We need to be concerned about our MORAL conduct. We need to go back to the law of Moses. We must accept the correction of our loving Father and return to Him in humble repentance and obedience. *That* is the way to reverse this deadly trend and end the disasters. God rewards those who DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM. He will give us all the blessings we can imagine—including protection from all these storms—if we will just do that!



Why does God allow suffering?

Natural disasters raise this fundamental question. To learn the biblical answer, request your free copy of *Why 'Natural' Disasters?*



U.S. Economy: Germany's Next Crisis

Conditions are in place for bringing Europe's strongest economy to its knees. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

GERMANY HAS A SPENDING PROBLEM. It's a problem that is poisoning negotiations on forming a government and threatening the nation's relations with other countries. The various political parties all disagree on how to eliminate it.

The problem? What to do with Germany's "cash mountain."

Almost every other Western government is borrowing money to make ends meet. Germany's federal government is bringing in *more* money than it spends. Furthermore, 15 out of Germany's 16 states are also enjoying budget surpluses.

Just about every other country in Europe would *love* to have this problem.

The new German government will collect €30 billion (US\$35.6 billion) more than it spends in its first year, at least according to official figures. "According to one insider, the true figure was closer to €60 billion," wrote Philip Stephens in the *Financial Times*. "The politicians kept quiet because it would have been embarrassing to admit

such riches while Germany's neighbors struggle with austerity" (Nov. 22, 2017).

Germany is Europe's economic superstar—its great success story. At 3.6 percent, Germany's low unemployment rate is half the overall rate for the European Union, and the envy of the Continent. Its economy continues to grow steadily while other major EU countries like Spain and Italy have barely grown at all since the financial crisis in 2008.

Despite all this good news, Germany has a deadly Achilles' heel: the United States.

Germany's Economic Achilles' Heel

Germany's economy depends on exports, which account for nearly half of its economy.

On the one hand, Germany's strength is that its economy relies on producing goods and selling them to other countries—unlike Britain and America, whose economies rely on their own citizens borrowing money and spending it on services.

On the other hand, this makes Germany uniquely vulnerable to global economic shocks. In 2009, its economy shrank by nearly 6 percent. The crisis hit Europe hard, and at that time over 60 percent of German exports went to Europe.

Many of Germany's main trading partners are still recovering from the crisis. Germany, in order to pick up the slack, turned to America. In 2016, America accounted for 9 percent of German exports.

This means that nearly 4 percent of Germany's economy comes from selling to the U.S.

The indirect impact stretches even further. America's other top trading partners are France (8.3 percent of exports), the United Kingdom (7.1 percent) and China (6.2 percent). These nations' economies are also closely tied to America's. When America's economy slows, these nations' economies slow too—which means they also import less from Germany.

Making matters worse, Germany's exports tend to be the kind of products that people first stop buying when times are bad. In 2016, 20 percent of Germany's export revenue to the U.S. came from the automotive industry. When recession hits, sales of new cars fall fast.

This makes Germany's exports vulnerable to big decreases. In 2009 America's economy shrank by 2.8 percent, but its imports from Germany shrank much more. German exports to the U.S. in 2009 were 27 percent lower than in 2008.

If this happened today, the *direct* effects alone would cause Germany's economy to shrink by 1 percent. Once the knock-on effect is factored in—with Germany's other top customers all cutting back at the same time—Germany's economy could be pushed into a serious depression very quickly.

For Germany at this time, a 5 percent fall in exports means a nearly 2.5 percent drop in the size of the economy. From 2008 to 2009, Germany's exports fell by nearly 20 percent.

"Understanding the degree of dependency of Germany and its export growth on the U.S. becomes key to analyzing the dynamics of the German economy," wrote Geopolitical Futures (June 29, 2017). For most of the world, the old adage holds true: *When America sneezes,*

the world catches a cold. But Germany's massive dependence on exports means it is at risk of pneumonia.

Political Crisis

Few commentators detect this risk, but an exception is Geopolitical Futures founder George Friedman, who has been speaking on this potential crisis. His biggest concern? "The most important consequences of financial crises are political," he told the 2017 CFA Institute European Investment Conference in Berlin on Nov. 16, 2017.

"My eyes at least, if not everyone's eyes, are on Germany," he said. "How does it navigate the next few years? How does it navigate an American recession? How does it sustain exports? And if it can't sustain exports, how will it politically manage the contraction in GDP and the inevitable unemployment that follows?"

The result of this unemployment would be "more fuel for the right-wing parties," he said. The entire political establishment could be discredited. "People who have never been politicians before will have more credibility than those who have been politicians for 10 years," he said. This would lead to a "social crisis." When asked what is the best period of history to use as a guide

for what is happening today in Germany, he pointed to the late 1920s and 1930s.

Though Friedman said he felt it was "less intense" this time, this is still a remarkable statement. If we are looking at history to guide us through what is happening in Germany, we must look to the time immediately before World War II!

Other analysts are making comparisons to this period. Harvard professor Charles S. Maier wrote an article for the *New York Review of Books* titled "In Merkel's Crisis, Echoes of Weimar" (Dec. 4, 2017).

"For all the institutional safeguards in Germany's postwar system, which were designed to prevent extremist parties from gaining seats in parliament, the September election results bear a distinct resemblance to the results of the September 1930 election for the Reichstag," Maier wrote. "Naturally, the ideologies of the parties of left and right in 2017 are different from those that contended in 1930, but the logic of the political divisions in the two legislatures is nevertheless similar. This can hardly be encouraging—either for the stability of any government or for the long-term health of Germany's political culture."

He's right. Germany is struggling to form a government because so many

Will Donald Trump's Tax Plan Lead to Trade War?

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD Trump is set to sign a controversial tax reform plan into law. This plan has Europe worried, as Spiegel Online reported on Dec. 8, 2017. It marks the biggest overhaul of U.S. tax policy in decades—and it could lead to an international trade war.

As *Spiegel* reported, the new tax plan will transform the U.S. from a high-tax country to a low-tax country, making America much more attractive for businesses. To make up for the subsequent revenue shortfall, the plan includes measures to tax *imports* more heavily. This is why Europe eyes the bill with suspicion. The tax bill embodies President Trump's protectionist "America first" policy. Germany, in particular, is unhappy about where that leaves it.

Germany and other European nations see the tax bill as an attempt to penalize imports and discourage trade with other countries. Subsidiaries of foreign companies will now have to pay a special tax if they import components from their parent companies, pushing them to do more business in America.

With its economy so dependent on exports, Germany is worried. Germany, France, Britain, Spain and Italy have written a complaint to U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, warning him that the tax reforms may violate international treaties, including the German-American Treaty of Friendship, which forbids Germany and America from "discriminating" against each other's companies. America is also a member of the World Trade

Organization. The tax reforms may violate its commitments and agreements as a member of that group.

Spiegel Online, a German news source, stated: "The American tax reform is nothing less than the beginning of a new tax race. ... Trump's unilateral actions could prompt a new push towards European unity." If America starts looking out more for itself than for the international good, Europe will fight back by doing the same—matching an "America first" policy with a "Europe first" policy.

Herbert W. Armstrong warned that economic pressures could lead to a coming trade war. In the March 1971 *Plain Truth*, he wrote: "Either we start raising high tariff barriers against other countries, starting a trade war

people voted for the fringe left and fringe right that no standard, mainstream coalitions are possible. This is a parallel with history the *Trumpet* wrote about in our September 2012 issue (“Déjà Vu,” theTrumpet.com/9740).

This is the situation in Germany today—and this is in the absence of a major financial crisis. Once such a crisis hits, conditions will get even worse.

There is always a lot of furious economic debate on whether an American financial crisis is imminent. But what almost no one disagrees on is that, at some point, an American recession is inevitable.

When that happens, it will trigger a political earthquake in Germany far larger than the one it experienced in the September election.

A Long-term Forecast

Both *Plain Truth* publisher Herbert W. Armstrong and *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry have written about the role an economic crisis could play in transforming Europe.

A “financial crisis in Europe ... is going to bring a strongman on the scene,” Mr. Flurry said in a 2015 *Key of David* program titled “The America-Europe Financial Crisis.” He emphasized the dependence of the

which in time will trigger the nuclear war that would destroy us—or American workers are going to have to meet the competition of the workers in other countries, by lowering living standards. Obviously American workers are not

America is raising tariffs against other countries. This move could lead to trade war and economic siege that would destroy America economically.

going to choose to do the latter. And if they don’t—well, the handwriting is on our national wall.”

That is exactly what we see happening today. America is raising its tariffs against other countries. This move could lead to the trade war and

For most of the world, the old adage holds true: When America sneezes, the world catches a cold. But Germany’s massive dependence on exports means it is at risk of pneumonia.

German economy on America. Now an expert in geopolitics is warning that a financial crisis in America could lead to Germany repeating the history of the 1930s. These men are giving the same warning!

For 80 years, the *Trumpet* and *Plain Truth* have blasted a very specific warning about Europe: Ten nations will unite under the leadership of a powerful German leader. That will be a big change in how Europe is constituted today—and it won’t be easy. For such a leader to rise up, a political revolution will have to occur in Germany. It will also require European powers, which have centuries of enmity among themselves, to overcome their differences to form a single superstate.

For decades, the *Trumpet* has said that a financial crisis—specifically one originating in America—could serve as a catalyst to revolutionize Europe.

In fact, Mr. Armstrong discussed this with one of the EU’s greatest statesmen, the late Otto von Habsburg. He told

economic siege that will destroy America economically. President Trump’s tax reform plan is leading toward that siege, although he doesn’t know it yet.

A trade war is fast becoming a dangerous reality. A trade war could well

form a major component of the economic crisis that spreads from the U.S. to Europe. It did in the 1920s and ’30s.

To learn more about the prophesied trade war and where it will lead, read Brad Macdonald’s article “Trade Wars Have Begun” (theTrumpet.com/14643).

Mr. Habsburg that he thought it would take a financial crisis to unite Europe. Mr. Habsburg agreed.

In 1984, Mr. Armstrong wrote that a massive *banking crisis in America* “could suddenly result in TRIGGERING EUROPEAN NATIONS TO UNITE as a new world power larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S” (co-worker letter, July 22, 1984; emphasis added).

Mr. Armstrong “showed how the American economic danger and the European superpower will be linked,” wrote Mr. Flurry in the May-June 2015 *Trumpet*.

Our forecasts of this united power come directly from the Bible.

“The Bible’s prophecies about this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire say that it will comprise a union of ‘ten kings’ (Revelation 17:12),” he wrote. “Ten leaders, representing 10 European peoples, will join together to forge a superstate more powerful than any Europe has seen for a long time. ‘THESE HAVE ONE MIND, and shall give their power and strength unto *the beast*’—prophetic language for a mighty political and military empire (verse 13).

“What will cause these nations to unite so forcefully? It is very difficult to unite nations into ‘one mind’! That’s an incredibly challenging undertaking. But it is going to be done. In fact, it is taking place even now before our eyes.

“Mr. Armstrong had profound insight in specifically forecasting that the catalyst for this dramatic unification would be a MASSIVE FINANCIAL CRISIS that starts in America and ripples out from there.”

With Germany’s politics already in crisis, just think of the effects that an economic crisis could have. “Watch the economic situation in America closely, and its effect on Europe—and see if this dramatic prophecy from Mr. Armstrong doesn’t come to pass just as he said it would!” concluded Mr. Flurry.

Nearly three years on, the stage is perfectly set for this to happen. ■

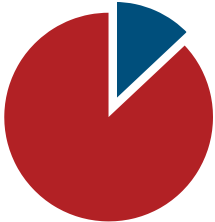


LANGUAGES

The *Trumpet's* publisher currently translates content into 10 languages.

AFRIKAANS *dieBasuin.com*
DUTCH *deTrompet.nl*
FINNISH *Pasuuna.com*
FRENCH *laTrompette.fr*
GERMAN *diePosaune.de*

HEBREW *laTromba.org*
ITALIAN *Trompeten.co*
NORWEGIAN *aTrombeta.pt*
PORTUGUESE *laTrombeta.es*
SPANISH *laTrompeta.es*



ENGLISH One of the three most commonly spoken languages in the world: **1 billion** speak English as a first or second language. **6.6 billion** are non-English speakers.



Why We Translate Into 10 Languages

The publisher of the *Trumpet* reaches beyond the English-speaking world. **BY EDWIN TREBELS**

THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF God (pcg), publisher of the *Trumpet*, produces a television program, magazines, booklets, websites, videos, radio and other media, primarily in English. Its Bible prophecy-based commission is to publish a message about and principally directed toward the modern descendants of Israel. These descendants mostly speak English.

However, there are six times as many people on Earth who *don't* speak English as a first or second language. The Church is making a strong effort to reach as many of these individuals as possible with a translations department that renders English-language media into 10 other languages.

The most remarkable part of this effort is that it is powered mainly by dozens of Church members scattered

across four continents. These men and women volunteer their time after work hours, on weekends, or in retirement to take on the task of converting the original English into Afrikaans, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and now Hebrew.

This army of volunteers cheerfully shoulders the inherently tedious, detailed process of selecting words that retain the original meaning of the source text while rendering text that reads as if produced by a native speaker. The PCG's first translations were produced in 1991, less than two years after the Church was incorporated. Many of these volunteers have contributed thousands of man-hours, and some have sacrificed their time for more than 25 years.

As of the end of 2017, the Church has approximately 2 million words available in its English literature library and

VOLUNTEER TRANSLATORS

The translations department has added new staff in recent months, but the lion's share of translation continues to be done by about 50 volunteers from 16 countries.

1. AUSTRIA, 2. BELGIUM, 3. BRAZIL, 4. CANADA, 5. CHILE, 6. COLOMBIA, 7. EL SALVADOR, 8. FRANCE, 9. GERMANY, 10. ITALY, 11. MEXICO, 12. THE NETHERLANDS, 13. SOUTH AFRICA, 14. SURINAME, 15. UNITED KINGDOM, 16. UNITED STATES

Combining all non-English languages, the translations department publishes about 1.5 million words per year, the same amount of words as two King James Bibles.



A bimonthly Spanish-language version of the *Trumpet*, called *La Trompeta*, currently reaches 5,000 subscribers.



LISTEN ONLINE

Trumpet Hour

(segment begins at 33:56)

theTrumpet.com/go/ft

approximately 7 million words in 250 pieces of literature in nine other languages. Staff members at the Church's headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma, print, pack and mail these materials around the world to those who have requested them, free of charge.

Over the past few years, the translations department increased the manpower and resources devoted toward this effort. It launched its first four websites in 2016 and added five more in 2017. It also brought one of its longtime volunteers on board full-time at headquarters to edit literature translations and manage the new websites. A graduate of Herbert W. Armstrong College also now serves on the staff to help produce foreign-language videos and provide German translations.

The department strives to produce one new post per business day for each of the Dutch, French, German and

Spanish websites. It also offers YouTube channels in these languages, with an emphasis on producing Gerald Flurry's *Key of David* program. Short videos are also available, some of which have been viewed tens of thousands of times.

Over the past year, the translations department has expanded its reach online. For Dutch, French and German, the department now maintains regular Facebook and Twitter feeds. It also offers e-mail newsletters in nine languages, advertises online in three languages, and is examining digital marketing strategies for all languages.

In the first 11 months of 2017, the department recorded 300,000 page views across its Dutch, French, German and Spanish websites and fulfilled online and in-print orders for 10,000 pieces of literature.

The translations department is excited by the growth it is

experiencing. Our websites garner large surges in traffic during elections, terrorist attacks and other major world news developments. The department is now reaching larger numbers of people online than it did previously with print magazines.

But the goal for PCG translators will always be the same: to produce more words, more books, more booklets, more videos, more website posts, more social media updates, more e-mail newsletters and more advertisements—more Bible prophecy-based insights, warnings and hope, reaching more people. The goal of the publisher of the *Trumpet* will always be to reach the largest audience possible. ■

Edwin Trebels is the foreign language translation department manager at the Philadelphia Church of God regional office in Edstone, United Kingdom.

AMERICAN EDUCATION IS FAILING

Americans get an A in education spending. Over the past 70 years, it has increased inflation-adjusted spending per student by approximately 650 percent. America now spends more money per pupil than any country on Earth.

Yet its students lag behind students in other nations in literacy, science and basic math.

\$9,487
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT IN OECD COUNTRIES

Less was spent on the students from these countries, who then outperformed Americans in all three core academic categories of reading, science and mathematics: Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Estonia, Taiwan, Finland, South Korea, Ireland, Slovenia, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Belgium, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Portugal.

\$16,268
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT IN THE UNITED STATES

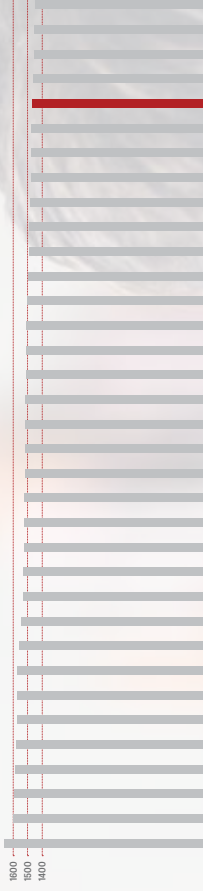
\$1,893
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT IN THE U.S. IN 1945

DEFINING DUMBNESS DOWNWARD

Thomas Jefferson said the U.S. government's duty is "to provide that every citizen in it should receive an education proportioned to the condition and pursuits of his life." The educational system the Founding Fathers built has provided vast opportunities for millions throughout American history. But in recent years, the effectiveness of that education has deteriorated. The reason for the decline, according to Susan Jacoby, author of *The Age of American Unreason*,

U.S. STUDENTS LAG BEHIND THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a test measuring the performance of 15-year-old students in more than 70 countries and educational systems. The most recent analysis from 2015 assessed the literacy, math and science proficiency for 540,000 pupils, including 5,700 Americans.



has been a comprehensive dumbing down of American education. She wrote, "Dumbness, to paraphrase the late senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, has been steadily defined downward for several decades, by a combination of heretofore irresistible forces. These include the triumph of video culture over print culture, ... the erosion of general knowledge, [and] arrogance about that lack of knowledge."

DANGEROUS IGNORANCE

The deficiency of America's education systems is evident beyond just the subjects of reading, science and math. A staggering number of young Americans are geographically illiterate, and great percentages are unaware of constitutional rights that have been vital to America's success. This indicates that such rights are not as secure as they may seem. "Protecting the rights guaranteed by the Constitution presupposes that we know what they are," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Annenberg Public Policy Center director. "The fact that many don't is worrisome."



American students lag behind the industrial world. They fell to 31st place

in overall scores among the 35 OECD countries in 2015 testing.

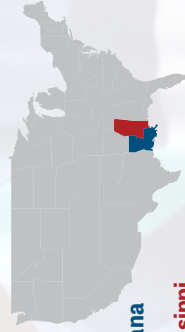
By subject American students ranked:

- 24th in reading literacy
- 25th in science literacy
- 40th in mathematics

Percentage of American high school graduates in the United States who "were not adequately prepared academically for first-year college courses."

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Young Americans don't know their way around the world, or the country.



On a U.S. map ...

- 37%** cannot find **Louisiana**
- 48%** cannot find **Mississippi**

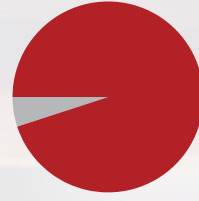


On a world map ...

- 47%** cannot find **India**
- 60%** cannot find **Iraq**
- 75%** cannot find **Israel**

LIMITED LITERACY

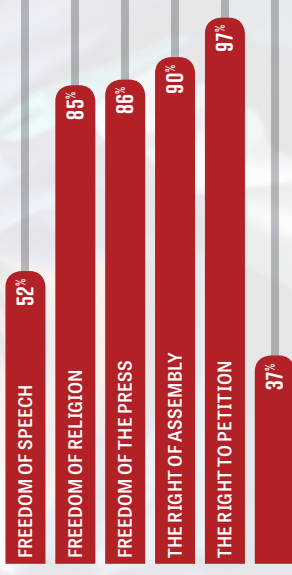
Many American adults who lack formal education beyond high school have trouble locating and comprehending everyday information.



95% failed one or more complex tasks, such as understanding credit card offers or comparing two newspaper editorials with contrasting interpretations of scientific or economic evidence.

WE DON'T NEED NO EDUCATION

Percentage of Americans who cannot name the following rights from the First Amendment ...

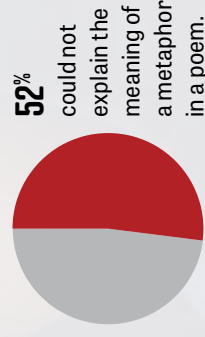


Percentage of Americans who cannot name any of their rights listed in the First Amendment

... nor the three branches of the United States government (legislative, executive and judicial)



Or any of the three branches of government



52% could not explain the meaning of a metaphor in a poem.



SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

LEE MIN-BOK'S HOME, SOME 25 MILES south of the 38th parallel that divides North and South Korea, is built out of shipping containers. In his driveway, he parks a five-ton second-hand truck, the bed of which is laden with a large hydrogen tank. The vehicle is a vital tool for Mr. Lee's life's work.

Mr. Lee counts himself immensely blessed to be living in South Korea.

In 1991, he escaped from his native North Korea. He was 34 years old and had been working in a government-run agricultural research company when he happened upon a stray leaflet. The piece of paper had made its way into the North from South Korea, and it stated a claim that shocked Mr. Lee: *It wasn't the United States that started the Korean War, as your government constantly says. North Korea started it. Your government is lying to you.*

Mr. Lee said he was shaken by these words. He read them again and again, and began asking older North Koreans who lived near the border and remembered the war if the assertion was true. He soon became convinced that it was correct, and that his government was deceiving its people.

A few months later, Mr. Lee escaped into China. Eventually, he made his way into South Korea where he lives today, and where the *Trumpet* spoke with him.

"I am so happy and grateful to have broken out," he said.

North Korea, Balloon Warriors— and a World Held Captive

An inspiring story
of a brave defector
BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

'The Diabolical Regime'

Mr. Lee's gratitude is easy to understand when you consider how abusive the North Korean government is to its people.

Life for most of the country's 25 million citizens is a slow-motion nightmare. One out of every hundred is imprisoned, mostly on trumped up charges of treason. Prisoners regularly suffer abuse and torture. Even "free" citizens live in grim squalor. The average North Korean lives on \$25 to \$30 per month. More than three quarters of North Koreans are starving. One out of every three children is severely malnourished, to the point of stunted growth.

And the people are not allowed to leave. Fences and walls surround the nation. Soldiers open fire on people who try to escape. Anyone caught is killed or tortured. And if one individual attempts escape—whether he is successful or not—authorities often brutally punish everyone in his family, including small children.

The regime also controls information. Every word that is printed in any book or newspaper must be approved by the government. Practicing religion is a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment or death. Every word spoken on radio or TV is censored by or actually written by the regime. The government uses its grip on information to lie to and brainwash its people: *This country is paradise, better than any nation on Earth. People in all other countries are racially inferior savages who are far poorer than you. Your leader is a god—the only god, in fact. You should worship and bow to him. You are infantile, and you need his benevolent guidance.*

"The diabolical regime idolizes itself," Mr. Lee said in an e-mail, adding that the process of brainwashing North Koreans to worship their leaders begins "as soon as they are born."

From cradle to grave, all North Koreans are taught that the members of the Kim dynasty are their gods. That great numbers of them believe the lies was apparent in 2011, when it seemed that the entire nation was weeping uncontrollably in the streets after Supreme Leader Kim Jong-il died.

"North Koreans have been enslaved by the leadership's deception," Mr. Lee said.

Life After Escape

Each year, some few North Koreans manage to escape. Many settle into a new life in South Korea or another country and try to quietly forget the still-ongoing nightmare they left behind.

Mr. Lee could have taken this route after he broke free. Instead he has devoted his life to doing for others what was once done for him. He is trying to penetrate the regime's deception and tell the North Korean people the truth.

"For me, escaping North Korea was the beginning of a new human life," he said. "I am determined to share this happiness and freedom with all the people still in North Korea."

Since the government controls information tightly, breaking through from the outside is not easy. Mr. Lee uses an unconventional method to get his message across the border and inside North Korea.



HOPE-FILLED
South Koreans release balloons
with messages for North Koreans.

"Balloons cannot be blocked by radar, heat, radio jammers or border guards," Mr. Lee said.

On days when the winds blow northward, Mr. Lee drives his truck up to locations near the border. He fills up dozens of huge, cylindrical balloons with hydrogen. To each balloon, he attaches numerous bundles: small amounts of money, computer memory sticks and hundreds of leaflets.

The leaflets explain that the North Koreans are being deceived by the government, that communism and the Juche ideology have failed, and that Mr. Lee has found freedom and hope in his understanding of Christianity. Mr. Lee has invented a timer device that allows each balloon to drop multiple bundles at several different points as it drifts

over North Korea's forested uplands and mountains and across its alluvial plains.

Mr. Lee launches up to 1,500 balloons each year, each carrying some 30,000 leaflets.

And he is not the only "balloon warrior" quietly fighting the propaganda, border guards, secret police, prison camps, torture and executions of the Kim Jong-un regime. About 50 other individuals, most of whom are defectors from the North, are pursuing the same mission. Since the efforts began in 2003, together, these individuals have launched more than 250 million balloons.

"The balloons provide us with a cheap, safe and peaceful way to get the truth into the North," he said. "They allow us to continuously send news of truth from the outside world."

The North Korean government abhors the balloons. It considers them an attack on the country, and soldiers

along the border sometimes shoot them down. But most get through, and Mr. Lee and the others hope their ongoing campaign will eventually convince the people to rise up for freedom. They hope that once the people are made aware of the regime's deception, they will work to overthrow the corrupt rulers of the country. The balloon warriors hope their message will convince the people that they can and must be free.

A Microcosm

The largely unknown truth is that, on a spiritual level, almost everyone on Earth is in the same trap as the North Koreans.

In his book *Mystery of the Ages*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "For almost 6,000 years a civilization has developed, which we call the world. But

it has been a world held captive. It has become Satan's world, though millions have been deceived into believing it is God's world. To this day, Satan is still on that throne."

Mr. Armstrong's understanding of this global spiritual captivity came from the Bible: 2 Corinthians 4:4 states that the "god of this world" is not *God* but *Satan*. John 12:31 designates "the prince" of the Earth as Satan. Revelation 12:9 explains that Satan "deceiveth the whole world."

These and other Bible passages, such as Matthew 4 and Ephesians 2:2, show that the world today is ruled and deceived by a being far more evil than the leader of North Korea. He has deceived mankind into thinking it is free. In reality, mankind is enslaved to him.

"[T]his world has been so completely deceived that it cannot realize what actually has happened to it. "[R]emember, one who is deceived would not be deceived if he were aware of the deception," Mr. Armstrong wrote in *A World Held Captive*. "It's a world held captive, deceived into loving its captivity," he stated in the booklet's quip.

Mr. Armstrong was only able to understand this concealed truth because he was divinely led to see through the deception. He escaped it, just as Mr. Lee and some other North Koreans escape their government's deception and enslavement every year. The Bible shows in such scriptures as John 6:44 that God chooses to free some people from Satan's deception at this early phase of His plan. They can

then see reality for what it is. They are shown the truth, and it makes them free (John 8:32). At a later phase in His plan, all men will have the opportunity to know and be liberated by the truth (1 Timothy 2:4; Revelation 20:12).

Metaphorical 'Balloons of Truth'

The organization behind the *Philadelphia Trumpet* works with a goal that parallels the efforts of Mr. Lee and other balloon warriors. We send out magazines like this one you are reading that point readers to *Mystery of the Ages* and other books explaining the truth about "the world held captive." We send these books and booklets out freely to anyone who wants to read them. We post links to articles on theTrumpet.com out on social media



SPONSORED
North Korean
dictator Kim
Jung-un's
benefactors allow
him to continue his
tyrannical rule.

North Korea— Truly an Isolated State?

A look below the surface shows that the North is receiving some vital support from other nations.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

NORTH KOREA IS THE WORLD'S MOST ISOLATED COUNTRY and also one of the poorest. Yet this isolated and impoverished state is now able to legitimately threaten the mightiest military power in the world—the United States—with a nuclear weapons strike.

This was evident on Nov. 29, 2017, when Pyongyang successfully tested a new advanced intercontinental ballistic missile capped with a "super-large heavy warhead" that is capable of striking the U.S. mainland. "[W]e have finally realized the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force," North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said after the launch.

Many experts are perplexed by how such a poor and apparently isolated nation could have developed sophisticated

missiles and miniaturized nuclear weapons so rapidly. And an increasing number realize that it could not have happened without a considerable outside help.

"The idea that [Kim] would simply be developing this on an indigenous basis within his own population of scientists simply seems unlikely given how fast it's moving," said former NATO Supreme Allied Cmdr. James Stavridis in a December 3 radio interview with AM 970 in New York.

The Dragon and the Bear

Stavridis said "at least part" of North Korea's nuclear and missile advancements are "coming from either China or Russia."

The Washington-based C4ADS think tank agrees with Stavridis's assessment. Its 2017 report states: "North Korea is not self-sufficient in supporting weapons programs development. It remains highly dependent on foreign sourcing of both sophisticated technology and mundane items like switches and relays."

C4ADS says the evidence shows that Pyongyang is actually "far from being isolated," and that the regime "is globally active through its overseas networks."

The companies in North Korea's networks use "layers of shell and front companies," which allow them to camouflage the true nature of the business they are conducting.

On the other side of the equation, C4ADS identified who these North Korean firms are doing covert business with: "Chinese trade data suggests that there are additional types of goods, including potential dual-use weapons components, being exported to North Korea," the report said.

Stavridis, too, singled out China as the nation giving the most assistance to North Korea: "China is going to have to make a choice about whether or not it will continue to align with North Korea"

The "best tool" China has to pressure Pyongyang with is "control over oil going to North Korea," Stavridis said, adding

platforms and elsewhere on the Internet, striving to make them visible to as many individuals as possible.

We also broadcast episodes of the *Key of David* on channels that reach across the United States and much of the rest of the world (see page 36). We broadcast radio shows such as *Trumpet Daily Radio Show*, *Trumpet Hour*, *Watch Jerusalem* and *Live by Every Word*—all of which explain the truth about the “world held captive” and what the solution to that ubiquitous deception is.

Each book, booklet, magazine, article, TV program and radio episode could be viewed as a balloon of truth being sent out into the enslaved world. Each could help to educate and liberate the people who find it. Each could help them see the truth. Even if these

messages do not immediately reveal the truth to readers, viewers and listeners, they could still give them precious education that will be of great benefit in the near future.

To understand how and why this world was taken captive, and the details of what true freedom is, please order our free reprint “A World Held Captive” by Mr. Armstrong (theTrumpet.com/go/captive).

The Truth Shall Make You Free

Jesus Christ revealed an amazing truth in John 8:28-29: “I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. ... I do always those things that please him.”

Christ is saying that He doesn’t do anything of Himself. He only follows

His Father’s directions and does what pleases His Father. Many people would say such a mindset is lacking in freedom. *That’s a slave mentality! If you’re free, you will do what pleases you!*

But Christ disagrees with that reasoning: “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE” (verses 31-32).

Mr. Lee quotes this scripture on the leaflets he drops onto North Korea. *Only God’s truth* can liberate a person from spiritual deception and give him true freedom. Anything else is not actual freedom. Christ concluded His discussion of true freedom in verses 33 through 36 by saying, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be FREE INDEED” (verse 36). ■

that this tool could enable Beijing to “stop that [North Korean] economy in a heartbeat.”

But on Dec. 2, 2017, news emerged showing that both Russia and China are utterly unwilling to use that “tool.” Journalists with Asia Press International news agency reported that day that “massive amounts” of fuel were flowing from Russia into the North Korean province of Ryanggang. The influx of fuel has been substantial enough to reduce the price of diesel oil sold in North Korea by 60 percent since early November, and the price of gasoline by 25 percent.

Ryanggang does not border Russia, so for the Russians to move fuel into this part of North Korea, they would first have to ship it through a large section of northeast China. This shows that China is at a minimum complicit in this fuel flooding underhandedly into North Korea.

Double Dealing

On Sept. 11, 2017, shortly after North Korea had conducted its sixth and largest nuclear test, both Russia and China voted to pass a United Nations Security Council Resolution that banned exports of condensates and natural gas liquids to North Korea and restricted exports of refined petroleum products to the country. As a result of this resolution, during late September and throughout October, the price of fuel in North Korea skyrocketed.

By late October, the soaring prices showed that the economic pressure that the United States and the UN were striving to apply was reaching a critical level. But that is around the time when Russian fuel shipments began to arrive in North Korea, via China. And the numbers reveal that the unauthorized fuel is releasing that pressure.

The fuel imports show that despite bouts of agreeable rhetoric from Russia and China and despite their occasionally cooperative UN votes, Moscow and Beijing are not truly willing to help apply pressure on the Kim regime.

A Forecast Confirmed

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry was not duped by Russia’s and China’s September 11 UN vote. In the days following the vote, he said that the world should be more concerned about Russia and China than about North Korea, partly because it is these two nations that allow the North to behave as it does. This analysis, he explained, is based on Bible prophecy.

“The Bible’s prophecies show that, in a sense, the North Korea crisis is a massive distraction from the real threat posed by China and Russia,” he wrote. “These powerful Asian nations are the only reason North Korea is able to operate so freely. And Bible prophecy shows that they pose a threat many times greater than the one from North Korea!” (co-worker letter, Sept. 13, 2017).

The statements from Stavridis, C4ADS and Asia Press International prove that Mr. Flurry’s assessment is spot on.

The specific prophecies his analysis is based on are recorded in Ezekiel 38 and 39, Daniel 11 and Revelation. They show that in the near future, Russia will lead a powerful military bloc of Asian nations, with China in a position of secondary leadership. Smaller Asian countries such as North Korea will be assimilated into that Russian-led bloc and lend their military power to it, but they will not be instigators or major players (Ezekiel 38:1-6).

To understand the significance of the increasingly pushy policies of Russia and China, and what their support for North Korea means for the future, request a free copy of Mr. Flurry’s booklet *Nuclear Armageddon Is ‘At the Door.’*

Deceived, kidnapped and enslaved.

That’s how the Bible describes your world. But there is hope!
To learn how God plans to free the world, request Herbert W.
Armstrong’s free reprint article **“A World Held Captive.”**

saying, “I do not know which edition of the Bible Mr. Netanyahu owns.” This scholar could hardly have made a more ignorant statement! Has he ever even LOOKED at the Bible?

Spiegel went on to say, “Even among Israelite researchers, it is controversial whether David was the king of an empire with temples and palaces or ruled as a clan chief over a few mud-huts. Furthermore, 3,000 years ago there was no Jewish people in the present sense.” That is abysmally wrong! There is *abundant* archaeological and historical evidence to prove that the biblical account of King David is accurate! What Netanyahu said is true! But sadly, nobody believes the Bible.

The hostility against the Bible and the hostility toward the Jews and their presence in Jerusalem are closely related. And they come from fundamentally the same source.

That hostility is going to erupt into violence. Bible prophecy shows that Jerusalem will be at the center of that explosion—and that this will actually be a trigger for end-time events. (This is also covered in *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.)

The Trump administration’s announcement regarding Jerusalem could hasten that violence. Read our article on page 2 to learn more about this. We need to be watching closely for the fulfillment of these urgent end-time prophecies.

Israel is in a precarious position. A shift away from America and toward Europe as a peace broker is not going to make it more secure. It actually signals the beginning of the fall of the Jewish state! The Jews should never place their trust in other

Israel is in a precarious position. A shift away from America and toward Europe as a peace broker will not make it more secure. It actually signals the beginning of the fall of the Jewish state.

nations for their own protection—especially the very people that perpetrated the Holocaust in recent history!

Whom SHOULD the Jews look to for protection? There is an example in Israel’s history of how to thrive amid terrible opposition and danger. It is powerful history that the Jews should be looking to today.

How Jerusalem Was Saved Before

The vivid example can be found in the Bible that so many people dismiss. It’s the story of King Hezekiah of Judah—the kingdom from which the modern state of Israel descended. “Jew” is simply a shortened version of “Judah.”

Hezekiah was a king who followed King David’s example, doing what pleased God (2 Chronicles 29:2). 2 Kings 18:5 tells us that Hezekiah “trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.” What a commendation!

Scholars push aside this history, but Hezekiah is no myth. He lived and ruled. In 2009, archaeologists in Jerusalem discovered a bulla, or clay seal, dating to his period and inscribed with these words: “Belonging to Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, king

of Judah.” *Trumpet* writer Brent Nagtegaal was one of three people involved in the excavation, and another was also a member of our staff.

The head archaeologist who unveiled the find, Dr. Eilat Mazar, called the bulla “the closest as ever that we can get to something that was most likely held by King Hezekiah himself.” This bulla makes the events surrounding Hezekiah’s leadership come alive in a powerful way (article, page 26).

What made Hezekiah so unique? One of his most remarkable traits was how he handled threats against the nation. HE PUT HIS TRUST IN GOD.

The beautiful temple that Solomon built had fallen into disuse and disrepair. Previous kings had ignored it and allowed it to degenerate into ugliness and ruin. They even permitted idolatry within its hallowed walls. But Hezekiah had the temple cleansed of all filth and idolatry (2 Chronicles 29:4-19). Something was very wrong in Judah, and Hezekiah worked to change that! He worked to restore the rich temple services that King David had established (verses 20-36). He reinstated holy day observance (2 Chronicles 30).

God was very moved by what this man did. It’s amazing what a king can accomplish when God is behind him. He can change the direction of his nation and even other nations!

But God did test Hezekiah’s faith. Assyria was a fearful superpower at this time. Its king, Sennacherib, launched an invasion against Judah and began conquering its cities. He set his sights on the greatest prize of all: Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32:1-2).

One of the cities that Sennacherib had conquered was Lachish (verse 9). The Assyrian king considered this a great accomplishment. He had the scene of its defeat carved into the walls of a room in his palace in Nineveh. This too is history that archaeology has proved true. You can see this carving today: It is housed in the British Museum in London.

Hezekiah was aware of Sennacherib’s conquests, and knew that Jerusalem was his next target. How did he respond? He humbled himself before God! Then he sent his men to the Prophet Isaiah to learn what God would do and how he should approach the imminent invasion (2 Kings 19:1-2).

What a rare approach for a king to take toward God! It is an approach filled with faith. This is a rare occurrence in Judah.

Sennacherib sent men to taunt the Jews and instill as much fear in them as possible. Hezekiah fervently prayed for God to deliver the nation. He showed abundant faith.

God was very pleased with Hezekiah’s response. He sent an encouraging message to Hezekiah through Isaiah (verses 20-34). That message concludes, “Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come



Among all the cities on Earth, it is this city that God has chosen—for a spectacular purpose. God has been involved with this city from the beginning.



into this city [Jerusalem], nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake."

The threat against Jerusalem was every bit as great as the one facing that same city today. But how did that threat end? "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses" (verse 35). **GOD SUPERNATURALLY WIPED OUT THAT WHOLE ARMY—185,000 SOLDIERS—IN ONE NIGHT!**

This is the **ONLY** way to protect Jerusalem today!

'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem'

This is a powerful example of what God will do for the nation that puts its confidence and faith in Him! It is amazing what could happen to a nation if they would listen to God's prophet and the message of God.

This lesson even applies in our individual lives. The Jews facing the Assyrians were helpless. "They faced certain defeat—just as you may feel helpless in the face of your troubles today," Herbert W. Armstrong wrote. "If some of you try to solve your problem or overcome your bad habits or resist sin in nothing more than your own power and strength, you, too, will find yourself outnumbered, overpowered and doomed to defeat! You must learn, as this ancient king did, that God stands ready and willing to fight your battles for you" (*Good News*, March 1985).

After returning to Assyria, Sennacherib recorded his endeavors to take over all of Judah on a clay prism, the Taylor Prism. It reads: "As for Hezekiah the Judahite who did not submit to my yoke: forty-six of his strong-walled cities ... I besieged and took them. ... [Hezekiah] himself like a caged bird I shut up in Jerusalem, his royal city." And that is where the account ends. There is no historical record of Sennacherib actually **CONQUERING**

God's chosen city—and the Bible account explains why! God destroyed his army because one king looked to God in faith.

Hezekiah's example should intensely resonate with the Jews today, especially as the terrorist threat grows. Look what could happen—what would happen—if they followed that example of faith and looked to God! The Old Testament examples of faithful men and women were recorded for our learning and for us today (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Imagine if leaders of Israel today took Hezekiah's approach. Would Jerusalem be in the turmoil it is today? Would Jews have to fear Palestinian terrorists? Would they face a double cross from European leaders? Absolutely not.

God would gather Jerusalem together under His wings for protection (Matthew 23:37). He looks after those who look to Him, and rewards those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

And on top of that, God truly loves the city of Jerusalem!

God Has Chosen Jerusalem

Among all the cities on Earth, it is **THIS CITY** that God has chosen—for a spectacular purpose (1 Kings 11:13, 32; Zechariah 3:2). God has been involved with this city from the beginning. In fact, the evidence in the Bible is that God Himself founded it! (This is proven in *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.)

It was in this city that Abraham sacrificed Isaac (though God didn't make him go through with it). And it was in this city that God the Father sacrificed His Son Jesus Christ! God's emotions about Jerusalem run deep.

It was this city that served as the capital of Israel under kings David and Solomon. And if you study into the Bible's prophecies, you will know that God is going to make this city the capital of the **WHOLE WORLD** after Christ returns!

Jerusalem will yet dazzle the world with godly brilliance! The entire world will soon be looking to this city for leadership!

In the end, God Himself will establish **NEW Jerusalem** on Earth and move His throne room there—and make it the capital of the whole universe! ■



The Significance of the Hezekiah Bulla

The official seal of a Judean king holds a moving message for the whole world. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

IN 2016, OUR SMALL LIBERAL ARTS INSTITUTION, HERBERT W. Armstrong College, received recognition for an exciting archaeological discovery at the Ophel excavation site in Jerusalem. It was a small clay seal belonging to one of the greatest kings in Judah's history, King Hezekiah.

What a message this small clay seal has for the world, if people will listen!

Hebrew University wrote in a statement that the discovery “vividly brings to life the biblical narratives about King Hezekiah and the activity conducted during his lifetime in Jerusalem’s royal quarter.”

The bulla was actually found in material excavated back in 2009. It takes time to wet-sift and process what you uncover in those digs. At the time it was found, the excavating was being done by three people, two of whom were our Herbert W. Armstrong College students: Brent Nagtegaal and Harley Breth. So we were directly involved in what turned out to be a massive discovery!

The head archaeologist, Dr. Eilat Mazar, and her team didn’t realize it until 2015, but this bulla has an inscription reading: “Belonging to Hezekiah [son of] Ahaz king of Judah.”

Other seals of King Hezekiah have been available on the antiquities market since the 1990s. But their origins are suspect. The bulla Dr. Mazar unearthed in 2009 was the first seal impression of an Israelite or Judean king that has ever been found in a scientific archaeological excavation.

Even secular sources corroborate the existence of King Hezekiah, and, by extension, the veracity of the Bible. Assyrian King Sennacherib, who invaded Israel and surrounded Jerusalem, wrote about Hezekiah in his annals. Still, uncovering this bulla right in the royal quarter of Jerusalem adds exciting proof and detail to what we know about this king—and we were directly involved in its discovery.

The history of King Hezekiah is deeply inspiring. It is actually extremely prophetic for us today! This seal has a message for this world that it desperately needs to hear.

A History With Bullae

The Hezekiah bulla is not the first seal impression of a Judean noble that we have been interested in. In 2005 and in 2008, Dr. Mazar’s team unearthed bullae belonging to Jehucal and Gedaliah, respectively. These are two Judean princes who persecuted the Prophet Jeremiah. Both are named in the very same verse of the Bible: Jeremiah 38:1. These two seals powerfully corroborate the record Jeremiah wrote.

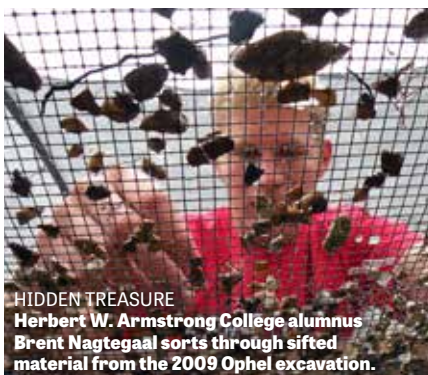
Miraculously, the first place these two bullae were publicly displayed was 6,856 miles away, in Edmond, Oklahoma. Dr. Mazar agreed that Armstrong Auditorium, on the same campus as our main *Trumpet* offices, would be an appropriate place to display these amazing archaeological finds, and the Israel Antiquities Authority approved. The “Seals of Jeremiah’s Captors Discovered” exhibit was on display to more than 4,000 visitors, and thousands more concertgoers who visited Armstrong Auditorium for over three years.

On the very day we packed up the Jehucal and Gedaliah bullae to ship back to Israel, Dr. Mazar announced discovery of the Hezekiah bulla. In many ways this is an even greater find, with more historical significance, than the bullae of the two evil princes who tried to have the Prophet Jeremiah killed. It is certainly a much more *inspiring* find, with a spectacularly uplifting message!

Hezekiah and the Temple

Look at what Hezekiah accomplished when he was king. 2 Chronicles 29 shows that when he took office at age 25, he began his reign the right way. He refused to follow the idolatrous path of his father, King Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:22-25). He saw the spiritual filthiness of his nation and immediately began to purge all pagan practices. He cleansed the temple of God and put a prod on the priesthood to purify themselves and serve God once again (2 Chronicles 29:11-17). He got rid of the idolatry. He singlehandedly put the nation back on course to properly worship the true God! How impressive! It’s amazing what *one man* can do when he zealously commits himself to God.

Hezekiah led the people to resume keeping the holy days. He wrote letters to all of Judah and Israel to convince them to attend the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread services at the temple in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 30:9). Sadly, many of the people refused to follow Hezekiah in this



HIDDEN TREASURE
Herbert W. Armstrong College alumnus
Brent Nagtegaal sorts through sifted
material from the 2009 Ophel excavation.

righteous cause (verse 10). But there were some who humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem to keep the holy days (verse 11). True joy began to flow in their lives. Verse 21 says they “kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with *great gladness*”—or “great delight” (Moffatt).

This is how to have joy in your life! “So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem” (verse 26). If you don’t have this joy in your life, follow Hezekiah’s example, and serve God with all your might!

Look at this world. Do you see *great joy* in America and Britain and Judah? No—you see terrible problems, fears, anxieties and stress-induced sickness. There is a cause for every effect. The cause for the problems that plague our peoples is sin.

Obey God! What joy it gives us when we do things the way God wants them done!

Deliverance From Destruction

Setting the kingdom of Judah back on track spiritually was courageous, arduous, difficult work for Hezekiah. But after that came a monumental trial.

Assyria was a fearsome superpower at the time. The armies of King Sennacherib were massive. They could not be beaten by any physical army, and they struck terror in nations! And they began to move on the cities of Judah (2 Chronicles 32:1). The Jews were greatly outnumbered and had no hope of withstanding this daunting enemy.

To understand how terrifying the Assyrian army must have been to the Jews, think about the modern descendants of the Assyrians under Adolf Hitler. Hitler’s goal was to exterminate every Jew in Europe and eventually the world. His fanatical anti-Semitism stemmed from his hatred for God! God entrusted the Jews to preserve His oracles and the Hebrew calendar, so Satan used Hitler to try to wipe them out. Hitler nearly succeeded, killing 6 million Jews in concentration camps and causing the deaths of 60 million people in World War II. The Bible says the Assyrian war machine will be far more destructive the next time around. We can see that prophecy borne out in the proliferation and scale of the advanced weaponry that exists today.

But Hezekiah responded to this crisis by turning to God and crying out for deliverance (2 Kings 19:1-2). He also became close friends with the Prophet Isaiah. Not many national leaders look to men of God as this king did. Hezekiah put this hopeless situation completely into God’s hands.

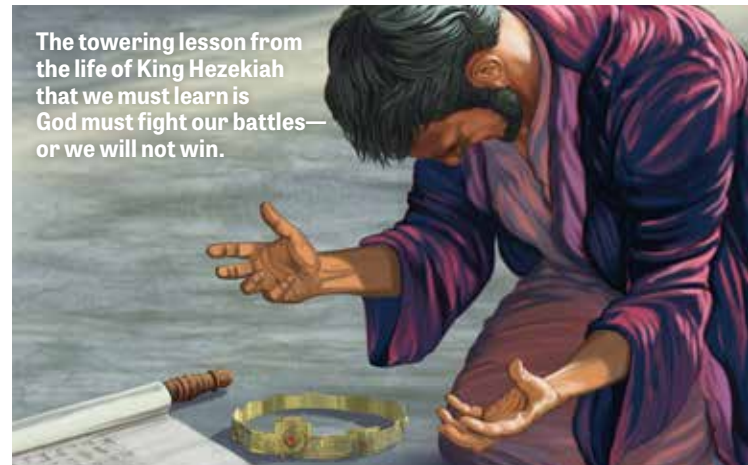
God heard Hezekiah’s prayer and gave a courage-building reply through the Prophet Isaiah (verses 32-34). Hezekiah passed God’s encouraging words on to the people. “And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying, Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah” (2 Chronicles 32:6-8). One godly leader can inspire an entire nation to trust God!

What did God do? “So the Eternal rescued Hezekiah and the citizens of Jerusalem from Sennacherib the king of Assyria as well as from all other foes, protecting them on every side” (verse 22; Moffatt). God sent a death angel into the Assyrian camp by night to slaughter 185,000 troops (2 Kings 19:35). He supernaturally *wiped out* the entire Assyrian force that had gathered against Jerusalem! Sennacherib returned home in disgrace and was eventually killed by his own sons (verses 36-37).

Realize that this is written as an example for us to follow! The deep lesson in what Hezekiah accomplished can be applied to the physical nations of Israel today. These are times of grave national sins. How could Jerusalem be saved today? Or America, or Britain? Hezekiah shows how to save a nation!

God’s Protective Wings

At the center of Hezekiah’s bulla is a small circle representing the sun. And Hezekiah had it depicted *with wings*, outspread and oriented down a bit. What might a circle with downturned wings mean? It symbolizes the fiery, all-powerful God who is also a God of love! It shows that God shelters and protects us! When we face tribulation, God will simply wrap



us up in His wings. God even told Hezekiah through Isaiah that He was like a bird flying over and protecting Jerusalem (Isaiah 31:5). He will rescue us from trials, whether they are related to health, finances, persecution or even invading armies! That is quite a symbol!

That symbol points to a statement Jesus Christ made in Matthew 23:37: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” God wants to protect His people, just like He did Hezekiah. He would *shelter* them if they would just obey Him! But what do they do? They kill the prophets and stone those who come to help them!

What would it do for Jerusalem today if the Jews would turn to God the way Hezekiah did? What do you think would become of all the rocket attacks and stabbings that have been occurring there? What would it do for America and Britain?

Their problems would be solved! In this age of terror, the *Hezekiah bulla* should resonate with the Jews more than any

New coalition deal—a solution for Germany?



ANGELA MERKEL

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is making a second attempt to form a coalition government after her first effort collapsed on Nov. 19, 2017.

Federal elections on Sept. 24, 2017, led to an attempt to team up with the environmentalist Green Party and the pro-business Free Democrats. But the Free Democrats pulled out, with their leader declaring, “It is better not to govern than to govern badly.”

On November 30, Merkel, who leads the Christian Democratic Union, along with Horst Seehofer, leader of the Christian Social Union, met with Martin Schulz, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SPD). These three parties formed the coalition that governed Germany prior to the September election. But after the SPD experienced its worst election result since World War II, its leaders said they did not want to govern with Chancellor Merkel any longer. After the November meeting, however, the SPD said it was open to the possibility.

Will a partnership with the Social Democrats solve Germany’s coalition quandary? No. These parties still have a long way to go before starting negotiations. As of yet, the SPD has not committed to even exploratory talks. Most politicians and commentators agree that these negotiations

will extend into early 2018.

Merkel’s Christian Democrats have formed a coalition with the Social Democrats twice before, which has led many to think these negotiations will be easy. However, after their epic defeat in September, the SPD’s survival as Germany’s main left-wing party is on the line. It has to take a stand for its policies and avoid the perception of “vote for the SPD, get Angela Merkel.” For these reasons, Merkel will find the SPD difficult to negotiate with and any coalition to be unstable.

This difficult negotiation process is a symptom of a deeper problem. Combined, Germany’s two main parties received only 53 percent of the vote, their worst showing in postwar history (down from at least 75 percent in the 1990s). In 2017, voters abandoned mainstream parties and turned to fringe parties that oppose traditional politics. This shows a growing anxiety and dissatisfaction among German voters.

A CDU-SPD coalition may not even happen, but if it does, it cannot solve Germany’s problems as it ignores underlying causes. A Germany with a weak government or no government is ready for a strongman to take advantage. Read Gerald Flurry’s booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent* (theTrumpet.com/go/germanleader).

German military plans for a possible collapse of the West

The German Army is working out what to do if Europe falls apart, according to leaked documents published by *Der Spiegel* magazine on Nov. 4, 2017.

The 102-page document, published in February 2017 and titled “Strategic Perspective 2040,” reveals that the German Army is contemplating how to react to six political trends that could escalate in the coming years. The document describes as its sixth and worst-case scenario “The Collapse of the EU and Germany in Reactive Mode.” The document proves Germany has a strategy for a time when it is no longer under United States or European Union dominance.

For 70 years, Germany has been content to rest in America’s shadow and hasn’t bothered with this kind of planning. That

Germany to upgrade Saudi Arabia’s armaments industry

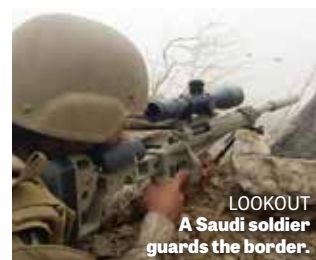
In October, Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) announced its appointment of a German military armaments director to become its chief executive officer. Andreas Schwer is “closely enmeshed with the [European Union’s] arms industry” and thus can “possibly open doors for SAMI at the EU’s arms producers or their subsidiaries outside the EU” (German-Foreign-Policy.com).

Saudi Arabia is one of the top five military spenders in the world. A significant amount of its imports come from Germany, and that trend is growing: In the third quarter of 2017, it nearly quadrupled its imports of German military equipment to \$175 billion, compared to \$48 billion during the same period

CONTINGENCY PLANNING
German soldiers participate in military exercises.

time is over. As the EU and NATO crack under an increasingly divergent set of interests among their members, Germany is making its own plans, and it is planning for the worst.

Spiegel noted that the Bundeswehr’s future projection “describes a world in which the international order erodes after ‘decades of instability,’ in which the value systems worldwide diverge and globalization stops” (*Trumpet* translation). Bible prophecy shows that such plans will be necessary sooner than most people realize. And it shows that Germany will be a country ready to take advantage when that time comes. ■

LOOKOUT
A Saudi soldier guards the border.

in 2016. German manufacturers have also promised to help the local Saudi armaments industry to produce half of its armory and even export weapons.

Germany and Saudi Arabia share a common enemy in Iran, and, as RT reported, the Germans consider the Saudis a “stabilizing factor” in the Middle East. The common interests of both powers in this volatile region, boosted by increased military cooperation, are uniting Germany and Saudi Arabia into an alliance that was prophesied millennia ago in the Bible in Psalm 83. ■



TRUSTWORTHY?
Israeli F-15s participate
in military exercises
with Germany.

German, Israeli fighter jets train together

Israel hosted Blue Flag 2017 from November 5 to 16, the largest international military exercise ever in the nation, and the largest air drill in the world in 2017.

The drills at Ovda Air Base involved air forces from Israel, the United States, India, Greece, Poland, Italy, France and Germany. They were designed to “strengthen diplomatic relations between the countries, expose the participating militaries to new tactics and techniques, and improve

military cooperation by forcing the air forces to work together,” the *Times of Israel* noted, citing Israeli Air Force officers.

The maneuvers were not only enormous but also symbolic. For the first time in Israel’s modern history, the German Air Force flew through Israeli skies.

Germany has provided military support to Israel for decades, but most of this support has been secretive to avoid provoking the Arab nations surrounding the Jewish state. German and Israeli air forces

openly training together in Blue Flag 2017 marks a new chapter in Israeli-German relations.

“Every cooperation with Germany and Israel is very emotional,” Israel’s Ovda base commander told *Deutschlandfunk*. “We can’t eliminate the past. But we are looking forward. And the relationship of our aircrafts is based on trust” (*Trumpet* translation).

Many see German and Israeli fighters flying side by side as signifying hope for the relationship between the two countries despite the Holocaust and the rising anti-Semitism in Germany. The Bible prophesies that Germany and nations like Israel will reconcile, but that this reconciliation will be illusory. God warns in Hosea 5:13 against Israel and its allies turning to Germany for help. Bible prophecy warns that Germany will double-cross Israel. Read *Jerusalem in Prophecy* for more information (theTrumpet.com/go/jip). ■



PREPARED
Chinese soldiers
fire a howitzer
during military
training.

China’s military catching America in East Asia

China’s military might is catching up to that of the United States in East Asia, according to an assessment by U.S. Navy Adm. James Stavridis (Ret.) published in the *Nikkei Asian Review* on Nov. 22, 2017.

“At present, China seeks the ability to control East Asia, dominate the South China Sea, operate at will in the East China Sea, overpower any Asian competitor (notably Japan), and compete with the U.S. in the region,” Stavridis wrote.

He explained that even though America’s \$600 billion military budget is around three times the amount China is estimated to be spending on defense, “The military balance is approximately equal in East Asia.”

Beijing’s “\$200 billion focused on regional security roughly equals the U.S. spending and presence in the Pacific,” Stavridis wrote, adding that “Chinese military spending and operations are increasing, while the U.S.’s are largely static.”

For the past 72 years, the world has enjoyed relative peace. Since the U.S. and its allies have been the powers primarily responsible for keeping the peace, journalists and historians have taken to calling the time period since World War II the American Peace, or *Pax Americana*. Now, the rise of nations like China, Germany, Iran and Russia threatens to bring this period to an abrupt end—in East Asia and beyond. ■

Putin to Russian companies: Prepare for war

Russian President Vladimir Putin told his country’s top defense companies to be ready to boost arms production in case of a sudden declaration of war.

“The economic ability to increase the production of defense products and services quickly is a vital element of military security,” Putin told senior defense officials on Nov. 22, 2017. “All strategic and simply large companies, regardless of the type of ownership, must be able to do this.”

This proclamation comes only two months after the weeklong Zapad 2017 military exercises held in Russia’s westernmost states. The war games involved thousands of soldiers, testing Russian defenses against a



GETTING READY
Russian President Putin
examines models of new
military equipment.

simulated attack by Western nations. Putin had high praise for the Russian troops in his address, but noted that military manufacturing companies’ readiness was unacceptable.

“The exercise has exposed certain shortcomings. We must analyze them so as to propose additional measures to enhance mobilization readiness,” he said.

Putin’s focus on military readiness and the aggressive direction he is taking Russia has many Europeans concerned.

“[S]ome Europeans recognize that Putin’s power maneuver on Ukraine was no isolated incident,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in *The Prophesied ‘Prince of Russia’* (theTrumpet.com/putin). “The Ukraine crisis continues, and America is sleeping through it. But Europe is deeply alarmed! The changes this crisis provokes in Germany and Europe will shake the nations! ... We need to watch what is happening in Russia and how Europe responds to it.” ■

ABLAZE
The Thomas Fire
burns near Santa
Paula, California,
on Dec. 5, 2017.

Worst wildfires in California's history

A swath of new wildfires lit up Southern California in early December. Yet even before these fires ignited, 2017 was already the worst wildfire season in California history.

The new fires began on Dec. 4, 2017. The largest and most destructive, in Ventura County, scorched 140 square miles. Strong Santa Ana winds fueled the fire, which threatened

thousands of homes, requiring mandatory evacuations for more than 27,000 residents. More than 1,000 structures burned to the ground.

Soon after, two other fires sprang up in the San Fernando Valley, one that burned more than 7,000 acres; the other, more than 12,600 acres. On December 6, another fire ignited, reaching homes in the wealthy Los Angeles suburb of

Slavery booming in Africa, Mexico and beyond

Authorities in five African nations rescued some 500 victims of human trafficking, including 236 children, a Nov. 23, 2017, Interpol report said. Two days later, Mexican police rescued 30 women from sex trafficking.

The African operation took place in Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal and led to the arrest of 40 suspected human traffickers, mostly women. Interpol said female traffickers ensnared many of the vulnerable girls and young women into prostitution rings. Other victims were handed over by destitute parents on promises that traffickers would provide them with a better life; instead, victims were forced "to engage in activities ranging from begging to prostitution, with little to no regard for working conditions

or human life," Interpol said.

In Mexico, the 30 women, mostly from Colombia and Venezuela, were being held against their will as prostitutes.

The two rescue operations were conducted after footage emerged of people in Libya being sold as slaves for \$400 each.

These heart-wrenching accounts show that human trafficking and slavery still thrive. In fact, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that in 2016, some 40.3 million men, women and children worldwide were victims of slavery. This is more than triple the total number of Africans who were shipped to the Americas during the entire 360-year history of the New World slave trade.

Modern slavery is not limited to the Third World. Across the

Bel-Air. The fire skirted along the edge of Interstate 405, temporarily shutting down the nation's busiest highway.

What is causing the wildfires? The most popular answer is climate change. "Fire season usually peaks in October in California, but officials suggested that with climate change, more fires are occurring later in the year," the *New York Times* reported (Dec. 6, 2017). California Governor Jerry Brown blamed a "warming climate."

But there is more to this than climate change. The Bible warns that God punishes with "natural" disasters. "Thou shall be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire" (Isaiah 29:6). An increase in earthquakes, storms, tempest and devouring fires marked this past year. For a more detailed explanation, read Gerald Flurry's article on page 10. ■

Islamic State fighters return to UK without punishment

The British government believes up to 850 Britons left the United Kingdom to fight for the Islamic State. Over 400 have returned home, but only 54 have been convicted of crimes. The rest have been left free to reintegrate.

"So far, only a small proportion [of Britons returning from Syria] have been prosecuted, and counterterrorism officials have said it can be difficult to find evidence that they committed crimes in the war zones of Syria and Iraq," the *Telegraph* reported on Oct. 29, 2017.

Terrorism legislation advisor Max Hill said Islamic State fighters returning to the UK should be kept out of the court system because they "traveled out of a sense of naivety, possibly with some brainwashing along the way"

The *Telegraph* also reported "the Home Office is looking at a new strategy to reintegrate extremists that could even see them propelled to the top of council house waiting lists if needed." They could even have their rent paid by British taxpayers. One unnamed source said, "We are planning a number of pilots to explore the best way to diverting such people from terrorism and extremist activity."

The Bible has a perfect description for behavior like this. The book of Hosea describes many of the afflictions of the modern descendants of the ancient Israelite tribe of Ephraim. "Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment. ... Ephraim is like a dove, easily deceived and senseless" (Hosea 5:11 and 7:11; New International Version). The modern descendants of Ephraim are the British, and these descriptions are startlingly accurate. ■



United States, 7,621 cases of trafficking and enslavement were reported in 2016—up from 5,575 the year before.

"Slavery isn't just a scourge of the past," we wrote in the February 2014 *Trumpet* (theTrumpet.com/11234). "It is in your country, your city, even your neighborhood. But a solution is coming soon that will break the shackles that bind them all." That solution is the return of Jesus Christ and His establishment of the Kingdom of God. ■

Elementary school teachers flee classroom violence

Dozens of school- teachers have quit their jobs amid a wave of violence from students as young as 7 years old. The Harrisburg Educational Association says at least 45 teachers from Pennsylvania's capital city resigned between July and October 2017, and association president Jody Barksdale told the Associated Press that there have been more

resignations since October. While not all of these resignations were in response to unruly students, Barksdale is calling for a task force of teachers, administrators and parents to help students who display violent behavior.

"I have been kicked, punched, hit, scratched. I've had a student physically restraining me in front of my other students.

... And many of the personal things that I have bought for my classroom have been broken or destroyed," first grade teacher Amanda Shaeffer told board members on Nov. 20, 2017. "Many minutes are spent each day dealing with violence that is happening in the classroom." Shaeffer was one of the half dozen teachers who appealed to the board for decisive steps

to deal with these troubled children and their destructive behavior in the classroom.

The National Center for Education Statistics released its 2016 Indicators of School Crime and Safety report last May. It found that "10 percent of elementary teachers and 9 percent of secondary teachers reported being threatened by a student from their school in 2011-12." The report also said, "During the 2014-15 school year, there were 1.3 million reported discipline incidents in the United States for reasons related to alcohol, illicit drugs, violence or weapons possession that resulted in a student being removed from the education setting for at least an entire school day."

The trend vividly fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 3:5, "[T]he child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable." ■



Americans still paying holiday bills from 2016

Christmas shopping bills from 2016 have still not been paid off by 8 percent of baby boomers, 16 percent of Generation X, and 24 percent of Millennials, a Nov. 17, 2017, CNBC report stated. The report highlighted a disturbing trend in American consumerism.

Total U.S. credit card debt is more than \$1 trillion and counting. Total household

debt—including credit card debt, auto loan debt, student loan debt and mortgage debt—is \$12.96 trillion, surpassing the amount owed at the beginning of the Great Recession.

National debt is now \$20 trillion. According to the U.S. debt clock, U.S. total debt is over \$68 trillion. The U.S. economy is wallowing in debt on both individual and national levels. ■

Third of UK children born to unwed couples

The number of babies born to single mothers in the United Kingdom has fallen to its lowest level since 1986, the *Times of England* reported Nov. 28, 2017. However, nearly a third of UK children are born to couples who are not married but live together, and more than 1 in 10 British children have parents who live apart.

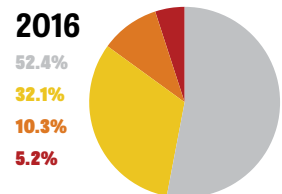
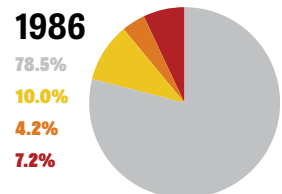
This means that almost half of British babies are born to unmarried parents, whether single mothers or cohabiting couples. These statistics show that the traditional family structure in the United Kingdom continues to implode, a trend that can only have disastrous consequences.

A 2014 study sponsored by the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia found that the children of cohabiting

couples are much likelier to experience family instability, school failure, and emotional problems than are the children of married couples. ■

Babies born in England and Wales to:

MARRIED COUPLES
COHABITING COUPLES
SEPARATED COUPLES
SINGLE MOTHERS



THE PUSH TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA in America is gaining momentum. Today, 29 states allow cannabis for “medicinal” use, and another eight for “recreational” use. A 2016 Gallup poll found that 13 percent of Americans smoke the drug, 43 percent admit to trying it, and 60 percent support full legalization. With more support campaigns underway, more states are certain to allow cannabis use.

Is marijuana a harmless high? Are there actually medicinal health benefits to the drug? What harm does it do?

How Marijuana Affects You

Marijuana originates from the *Cannabis sativa* plant and can be smoked, eaten, vaporized, brewed and even taken topically. The drug contains more than 60 chemical substances; its major psychoactive ingredient is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Cannabis is recognized as a psychoactive drug. One drag causes a chain reaction of mood and personality changes, including passivity, agitation and even aggression. *Sensual Drugs* author Hardin B. Jones writes, “The THC content of marijuana is 10,000 times stronger than alcohol in its ability to produce intoxication.”

More concerning is marijuana’s increasing chemical strength. The THC content of cannabis has increased from about 1 percent in 1970 to 10 percent or even upward of 30 percent in today’s street-grade variety, according to the Potency Monitoring Project.

THC is also slow to leave the body. Alcohol in moderation is metabolized quickly by the body. But with marijuana, about 30 percent lingers in brain and fatty tissues after one week, and 10 percent remains even after seven weeks. The more a person smokes, the more THC he accumulates.

Promising Health Benefits

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine analyzed more than 10,000 studies and believe cannabis has many positive health effects based on two primary chemicals.

Clinical Psychology Review says THC shows evidence of being an effective treatment for depression, arthritis, anxiety, lupus and multiple sclerosis and for preventing epileptic seizures.

The Smoke and Mirrors of Medical Marijuana

Do the scientific health benefits of marijuana outweigh its downside?

BY JORG MARDIAN



However, this is the same chemical that causes a psychotropic high. Although marijuana temporarily alleviates symptoms of certain medical conditions, its THC content is of questionable safety.

The other active chemical is cannabidiol (CBD), which is non-psychoactive and outshines THC in health benefits. *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* says it provides relief from pain, anxiety, paranoia and seizures, and has potential as a cancer treatment. Many states have deemed CBD oil a legal, safe product due to its harmless medicinal effects and overall separation from THC-based marijuana.

Alternately a Poison

What are the effects of legalizing marijuana?

Already, nearly 100,000 teens are treated annually for marijuana dependency. Legalization is certain to boost the addiction rate. And Bristol University researchers found that teens who regularly smoke pot are 26 times likelier to begin using other drugs by age 21.

More concerning, marijuana hijacks normal brain functioning in teens, and many scientists believe the drug may have permanent effects on brain development. Studies show that in teens who use marijuana, memory-related structures in the brain shrink, and knowledge and verbal ability significantly decline. The National Academy of Sciences found that adolescents with a “wake-and-smoke” habit risk a permanent 8-point loss in IQ.

An intoxicated person taking his “high” on the road endangers the public:

Cannabis use doubles a driver’s risk of crashing his vehicle, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Workplace performance also suffers through absenteeism, turnover rates and productivity loss. Users have 55 percent more industrial accidents and 85 percent more injuries compared to nonusers. They also cause 40 percent of all industrial fatalities, according to a 2014 study by Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

With marijuana smoke containing over 400 chemicals—many of which are toxic—risks increase. Users are likelier to have a stroke, and their lungs to suffer with increased coughing, bronchitis and infections almost 20 years earlier than cigarette smokers. Cancer also looks likely to be linked because marijuana has been found to damage DNA.

Smoke and Mirrors

Marijuana’s reputation as “nature’s medicine” continues to grow. However, the entire premise that marijuana has legitimate medicinal uses may really be a smokescreen that obscures the public’s perception of the drug’s risks. A profit-driven marijuana industry is using it to aggressively market its product, expand its market, and push more potent (and more addictive) cannabis strains. Their success is causing trouble for a country already in a devastating substance abuse public health crisis.

Former Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy likens marijuana proponents to the big tobacco industry, saying lobbyists pushing for legalization “are trying to sell the public on a Trojan horse—making the drug seem more normalized and acceptable in society. Public health doesn’t stand a chance in this fight, because we’re up against money that is going to continue to grow as this industry spreads.”

It’s a sobering commentary on society’s moral and spiritual bankruptcy. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” Eating healthy food or drinking a glass of wine aligns with the will of the Creator, as each promotes the health of the body He created. Intoxicating the mind with a psychoactive drug violates our obligation to honor God through good health, clear thinking and sober actions. ■

The Encourager

What to do when your wife is discouraged

THE WORDS FELT FOREIGN AS THEY SLIPPED FROM MY LIPS. “Sweetie, I just want you to know that I love you, and I have no problem with your being emotional right now,” I said. “I understand why you’re upset.”

I wasn’t upset. And the event that had precipitated my wife’s distress was over, with no negative effects.



JOEL HILLIKER

Which is why my normal reaction under the circumstances would have been some variation of unhelpful. *You shouldn’t feel that way. Aren’t you over-reacting?* (judgment). *Seems to me you need to apologize to that person* (diagnosis). *Why are you mad at me? You’re being unfair* (my own special habit of taking things personally).

Maybe it’s a man thing. In the face of negative emotions, I instinctively reach for explanations and answers. Honestly, on some level it is an effort to turn sadness into joy. As instantaneously as possible.

Needless to say, it never works.

Amazingly, though, what I did in *this* instance *did* work. The distress on my wife’s face instantly melted into relief. A smile, even. She held her arms out for a comforting hug. It seemed the pain all but vanished in a moment.

“Part of our difficulty is that we think we have to have answers for every problem our spouses raise,” says Dr. Edith Munger. “Actually, a personal relationship is not predicated on solutions to problems or answers to questions. *Our top goal should be to understand each other, to get close to each other ...*” (Alan Loy McGinnis, *The Friendship Factor*, emphasis added).

In sharing her hurt with me, my wife wasn’t looking for my “solutions.” She certainly wasn’t inviting my judgment. She was only trying to make a connection.

Of course, occasionally when a wife is discouraged or upset she *may* need her husband to help her set her thinking straight. Sometimes she *does* need his problem-solving ability.

But virtually all the time—perhaps not in every single instance, but almost, even when she needs those other things too—I’m convinced that what she needs first, and often *solely*, is *encouragement*.

There is a beautiful spiritual dimension to this dynamic within a marriage. The marital bond pictures the relationship between Jesus Christ and His people (you can see this deep spiritual truth described in Ephesians 5:22-33). And a husband encouraging his wife points to Jesus Christ doing that for us.

Read 1 John 2:1, which says that when we sin, Jesus Christ becomes our *Advocate*. That word also means *Encourager*.

Commenting on that verse in his book *The Last Hour*, Gerald Flurry writes, “How often do you husbands see your wife down and depressed, and you know she needs your encouragement? A righteous husband will be there for his wife.”

That is what Jesus Christ does for His wife. When His people are discouraged, Christ does not make us feel judged and condemned. This verse shows that Christ is *doubling His efforts* to encourage us and set us back on our feet!

“Christ doesn’t ask us to do things in our marriage that He will not do in His marriage to the Church. We have the supreme Husband of all husbands!” Mr. Flurry writes. “Christ gives us every opportunity because so much is at stake. **HOW WE ARE LOVED!**”

God’s love is so multidimensional. God hates sin passionately. He recognizes our wrong emotions and knows we need to grow up and expunge them. At the same time, even in our worst state, His love for us *never diminishes*.

When we are down—especially when it is obviously because of *our own sin*—wouldn’t we be far less inclined to seek God out if all we got from Him was cold belittlement or condemnation?

There is *tremendous comfort* in knowing that, when our emotions are out of kilter, we can kneel before God and seek that spiritual connection. We can unburden ourselves, talk through our conflicted thoughts, lay bare our weaknesses, and trust that our Advocate and Encourager will somehow make sense of it all.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26). There really is no better tool for getting our emotions back into balance.



Such prayers enable us to anchor ourselves to God, and the loving, calming, stabilizing influence of His presence. We can always avail ourselves of His generally silent, always steady encouragement. Then, once we are closer to being aright, if necessary God will give us the answers or the correction we need.

“Our physical marriages are a *type* of our marriage to Christ,” Mr. Flurry writes. Contemplate these profound words. “**WE MUST STRIVE TO PATTERN OUR PHYSICAL MARRIAGES AFTER CHRIST’S MARRIAGE TO THE CHURCH. ONLY THEN ARE WE FULFILLING THE GOD-ORDAINED PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE!**” (ibid).

Only then. Only as we husbands consider His example as a Husband and really endeavor to emulate it.

Christ’s role as our Encourager illustrates His love, concern, patience, commitment, and determination to understand and embrace every individual whom His Father has selected for His Bride—probably better than anything else you could name.

Emulate Him. Be your wife’s encourager. ■

I want to thank you for your prompt responses to my questions. The answers you have given me hold true to the biblical account and teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong. When I was first introduced to your *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine it was 2003, and I was 22 years old. Now it is 2017, and I am 37 years old. That is nearly 15 years of reading and rereading over and over again to show myself approved of the truths that God the Father has given to me as a gift through you.

Phillip Massey GEORGIA

I thank you for all the literature I've received, especially the *Philadelphia Trumpet*; it is one of my favorite magazines. I really like how it relates Scripture to today's events, like with South Korea and all the mass shootings.

Vaughn Shelton FLORIDA

Just writing to say that there are some brilliant reports coming out of the *Trumpet* at the present time, and they are greatly appreciated by me.

Jane Barber

Excellent job at the *Trumpet*. It is my only source of reliable, honest and accurate news.

Robert Williams MAINE

Re: Trumpet Brief: The antidote to toxic masculinity

This is a subtle and very dangerous way to take the American people's focus off what is going on in the world—the urgent matters—and instead, focus continually on the petty details and behavior of movie and TV icons, airing our dirty laundry continuously for the world to see! That's one sure way for the rest of the world to know that our backs are turned, and we're not paying attention to anything but the trite. Of course, as you say, it is an important subject, but not to constantly be burying our noses in it so that we no longer see what's happening in the rest of the world and who's sneaking up on us!

Carolyn Risen OREGON









Congratulations on the new *theTrumpet.com*. It appears God's warning is available to the world as never before—beyond restoring the ruins, I think. The whole team you have working with you deserves the biggest thumbs-up. This is quite an understatement.

(e-mail response)

Your articles are beyond excellent, and they are relevant, timely and very well written. What a jewel I have found in you!

Dixie Wagner OKLAHOMA

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A Lesson From Backflipping Robots

People are capable of astonishing achievement. We just need to keep our perspective. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

I RECENTLY READ A PROPHECY MADE BY THE PROPHET ISAIAH about 2,500 years ago. Discussing the end times, Isaiah wrote: “Their land is filled with idols [and] they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.”

Just a few minutes after studying this end-time prophecy in Isaiah 2, I saw a video of a robot named Atlas, the “world’s most dynamic humanoid,” performing an impressive routine of box jumps and turns in the air, and finishing with a back flip. Boston Dynamics had posted the clip on YouTube, and within a week it had been viewed more than 11 million times.

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk was one of the millions who watched the clip. He tweeted: “This is nothing. In a few years, that bot will move so fast you’ll need a strobe light to see it.”

The natural response to such technology is to marvel at mankind’s astonishing intellectual power and progress. I have similar thoughts when I read about developments in artificial intelligence, or consider the algorithms behind Facebook and Google, or even see the capabilities of a common iPhone.

Humanity in the 21st century is just so *incredibly smart*.

And there’s the rub. The logical progression from marveling at mankind’s brilliance is to TRUST in this brilliance for guidance and leadership. *If we can figure out how to create an acrobatic humanoid, then surely we can eventually cure our diseases and ultimately erase human suffering.*

The more knowledge we acquire, the more we tend to trust in our own abilities, especially in the products, technologies and philosophies of the smart people among us.

This can be dangerous. Acquiring knowledge tends to foster pride and self-reliance. We lose sight of the fact that the human mind is limited, flawed and dysfunctional. We think our intellects are up to any task and can fix every problem. We fail to realize that our most fundamental problems cannot be solved through science and human reasoning.

As magical as many of our technologies are, is our collective pool of knowledge *significantly* and *permanently* improving the human condition?

MOST IMPORTANTLY, our magical creations have separated us from God, just as Isaiah prophesied. We “bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.” Atlas the acrobatic robot, Facebook, Google, the iPhone: These are truly astonishing inventions, but haven’t we really just replaced idols hewn from wood and stone with those hewn from tungsten and silicate? We are worshiping the handiwork of our own minds and imaginations.

Think about the ULTIMATE IMPACT of these creations and all our intellectual progress. Has Atlas the robot gymnast, or Facebook and Google, or the iPhone helped make us more modest, more teachable, more selfless, more serving? Is humanity happier, healthier and stronger, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually? Are human beings getting along better?

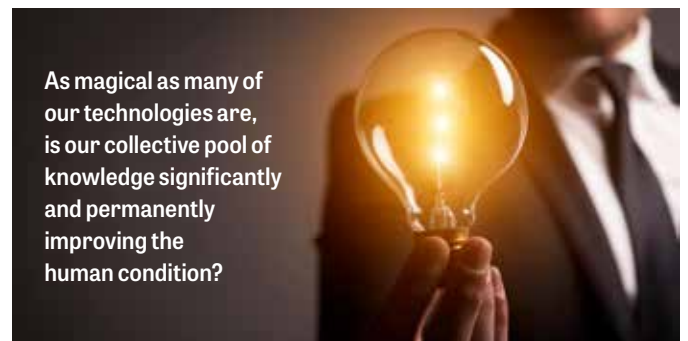
I’m not criticizing smart people, technology or the quest for knowledge. I’m thankful to live in the 21st century and to be able to travel to Europe on a jet, not a sailing ship. The problem isn’t knowledge, gadgets or smart people. The issue is human nature and our proclivity to invest our hope, trust and confidence in the human mind.

The problem, as the Prophet Isaiah warned 2,500 years ago, IS THAT WE HAVE MADE AN IDOL OF THE HUMAN MIND!

We are so blinded by our adoration of the human mind and the material realm that we fail to see God and His plan for human beings.

God’s power and supremacy can be “CLEARLY PERCEIVED IN THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE” (Romans 1:20). The most amazing physical creation of all, the universe, declares the existence of its Creator. Yet smart people insist that the myriad marvels in the natural world around us are products of chance—not designed, engineered or created. Then they turn around and wonder at the works of our *own hands*.

The development of Atlas and other artificial wonders ought to cause us to marvel all the more at the God-given potential of the human mind and brain. If we are humble and teachable, we will watch that clip of Atlas and marvel that human beings



even possess the ability to think, reason and create. We will wonder, *Where did man’s creative genius come from?* Forget about *how much* knowledge we have—think about *how man came to possess the ability to even acquire knowledge.*

Remember too: While smart people can make robots and iPhones, THEY CANNOT ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. Their intelligence is limited and incomplete. Thus, caution is warranted about investing hope and trust in smart people for long-term solutions and right answers.

If you want to understand why human beings have had such success in some areas and so little in others, request *The Incredible Human Potential*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. Outside of the Bible, you won’t find a better book to explain the human mind and our ability to think, reason and create. This book is special—not because it comes from a smart person, BUT BECAUSE IT COMES FROM THE MIND OF GOD. And getting information from the mind of God—NOW, THAT’S SMART! ■

election or policy or form of self-defense. The story of this great king shows the Jews, the other descendants of ancient Israel, how to solve our problems! If they followed this example, God would do for them exactly what He did for Judah under King Hezekiah.

This world needs hope. We are in dark times that are getting darker. We are experiencing regular terrorist attacks. The Jews in the Middle East are facing nation-threatening problems—some are concerned they could *lose Jerusalem!* If you understand Bible prophecy, you know that the modern descendants of the Assyrian empire that threatened Hezekiah's Judah are rising again—and they are going to deal a deathblow to America, Britain (the birthright nations) and the Jewish state (the scepter nation)! God is going to use that *same empire* to punish those three nations most of all, because of their rebellion against Him.

God will use Germany to purge America, Britain and Judah of sin (Isaiah 10:5). The Germans are subtly rearming and controlling more and more territory. They are moving their soldiers into the Middle East.

Our peoples have an inexplicable disdain for history. Just 70 years ago, United States President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged never to allow Germany to rise again. Just a few years ago, few people would have imagined Germany providing armaments to much of the world. Yet today, that is one of the most profitable sectors of its economy! Today, Germany is more powerful than ever.

The Germans are coming! The Assyrians are on the march once again. God is going to correct our people. The Messiah is coming soon, whether people heed the warning or not.

I am sure this is why God brought Hezekiah's bulla into the spotlight. That bulla has a message of tremendous hope, especially for those three nations! As our nations cower in fear under the threat of Islamic terrorism, God's Church sees a symbol of hope in the face of grave danger: the Hezekiah bulla. The story of Hezekiah really shows Jews and the other nations of Israel how to solve their problems. It shows us physically and spiritually how to win our battles! It is dual—and it is mainly for today.

“O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!” (Isaiah 40:9; Jewish Publication Society translation). God commands His loyal remnant to warn Zion (the rebellious Laodiceans), Jerusalem (America and Britain primarily) and Judah. We must shout with all our strength, “Behold your God!” That is what the Hezekiah bulla is all about.

This article is excerpted from a longer article about King Hezekiah and the significance of the bulla discovery. For the full article, request our reprint “The Significance of the Hezekiah Bulla,” or read it online at www.pcog.org/go/bulla.

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 keyofdavid.com.

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Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun
Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXX 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30
Texas, Abilene KTXS-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 KAUF-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 KGPM 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 WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WCPW 9:30, Sun
Weston WVPX-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 KDHL-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

CANADA

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 WVVN 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun;

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Bahamas FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun
Puerto Rico WSJX 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

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

AUSTRALASIA

Australia
Nationwide 9GEM 8:00, Sun
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed
Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV47:30 PHT, Sun

CBS United Kingdom

Station	Day	Time	sky	sky	Freeview	freeSAT
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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