

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

Blocking the U.S. out of world trade

America's university scam

The battle for the Arctic

Is 'white male privilege' a thing?

What is Armageddon?



Why Europe
wants to
cancel
the Internet



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“Europe wants to conquer the world all over again. Only this time, its killer app isn’t steel or gunpowder. [The GDPR is] an EU legal juggernaut aimed at imposing ever tougher privacy rules on governments and companies from San Francisco to Seoul.”

MARK SCOTT AND LAURENS CERULUS—POLITICO



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Germany Is Taking Control of the Internet

New EU laws attempt not only to curb America's big technology companies, but to take over the World Wide Web.

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS WORKING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE Internet. It has already made significant progress in this effort. Many people, including some of America's top business leaders and government officials, are deeply concerned.

Through various pieces of legislation, the EU now has extraordinary influence in the homes of Internet users and within every corporation and government on Earth. The EU is waging a campaign of technological imperialism, and most people don't even know it!

While a lot of this legislation is created by the EU, the ultimate source of this global effort to undermine the United States' domination of the tech industry and control of the Internet is Germany.



GERALD FLURRY

Germany is the EU's largest, most powerful and most influential nation. It is using the EU as a tool to stealthily fulfill its own ambitions. Anyone who has followed the European Union knows that nothing significant happens in Brussels without Germany's sanction and endorsement.

Germany's ambitions for the Internet should concern everyone, even those who don't have a computer. The EU's behavior on this issue exposes the dictatorial nature of this German-dominated entity. Really, we are witnessing the manifestation of the spirit of the Holy Roman Empire in the tech world. The biblically prophesied seventh and final resurrection of this empire wants to control the Internet!

GDPR

Last year, the EU introduced a new rule that affected the 4.3 billion people around the world who access the Internet. Called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), this EU law regulates the way companies process and manage the personal data of European citizens. Any corporation worldwide—no matter the size, industry or location—that doesn't comply with this EU law risks massive penalties.

Five hundred million people live in Europe, and roughly 85 percent of them have Internet access. The EU is comprised mostly of First World nations with high personal wealth, at least compared to many other nations. That makes the EU market extremely attractive. If you want to access these half a billion consumers, you must live by the EU's rules—RULES SET BY GERMANY. Break them, and risk gargantuan fines.

This law has compelled some prominent U.S. media organizations to abandon the EU market. Their websites have become inaccessible to people within the EU. For example, if you visit the EU, you cannot access the websites of the *New York Daily News*

or the *Chicago Tribune*. To preserve access to the EU market, many American companies have had to spend millions installing software and instituting new practices to comply with the GDPR.

This is how Europe works: It wants to manage every aspect of people's lives! It is a major reason that the majority of British citizens in June 2016 voted to leave the EU: They are tired of this kind of dictatorial interference. With the GDPR and other Internet legislation, the EU is expanding its influence well beyond its borders—even over America.

The EU has been warring against U.S. tech companies for years. Since 2010, it has fined Google more than \$9 billion. Google pays more to the EU in fines than in taxes.

"Europe wants to conquer the world all over again," wrote Mark Scott and Laurens Cerulus in *Politico* last year. "Only this time, its killer app isn't steel or gunpowder. [The GDPR is] an EU LEGAL JUGGERNAUT aimed at imposing ever tougher privacy rules on governments and companies from San Francisco to Seoul" (Jan. 31, 2018; emphasis mine throughout).

In an article on this subject last year, *Trumpet* contributing editor Brad Macdonald recognized the concerns many have about the power of U.S. tech companies. "To be sure, there are genuine concerns and questions about the behavior of these companies and their inordinate power and reach," he wrote. "That said, do we really want a handful of anti-American, European bureaucrats trying to solve these problems? We have enough evidence proving that Brussels isn't acting altruistically, in the best interests of mankind. The EU is clearly attacking America's influence and trying to establish itself as the *king of the Internet*" (theTrumpet.com, Nov. 29, 2018).

There are legitimate concerns—but do we trust Germany and this rising Holy Roman Empire to rationally and fairly solve these issues?

Another Attack

On April 15, the EU adopted another new directive that it claims will stop people from violating copyrights online. It is actually another massive power grab.

The new Copyright Directive will make it illegal to quote an author's news article without paying him. Both Germany and Spain have already tried this, and it didn't work. In the end, the legislation actually prevented articles from being shared online. Rather than paying the author, most people simply refrained from quoting the article or sharing it. Legislation like this will actually *hurt* many authors because they will lose exposure.

This law can even be used to block criticism. To debunk a false story or criticize a piece of work, you generally have to quote from it. Under the new rules, if an author doesn't like

your criticism, he can refuse permission to quote him.

Another part of this regulation requires websites that post material from the public to filter everything for copyright infringement before posting it. This means EVERY VIDEO, ARTICLE OR AUDIO FILE posted on sites like Facebook, Twitter or YouTube—sites where people increasingly get their news—must first go through a filtering system. So these companies will have to spend millions creating a new filtering system and instituting new policies and practices. And many experts fear this filtering system could easily be changed to filter out anything the EU doesn't like.

Many are deeply alarmed by what is happening here. In June 2018, dozens of Internet pioneers—including the inventor of the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee, and the cofounder of Wikipedia, Jimmy Wales—signed an open letter to the European Parliament president, warning that it was about to pass a directive that was “AN IMMINENT THREAT TO THE FUTURE” OF THE INTERNET.

Still, the directive was passed and is on the way to becoming law. European Digital Rights called this a “censorship machine.”

These companies will have to spend millions creating a new filtering system and instituting new policies and practices. And many experts fear this filtering system could easily be changed to filter out anything the EU doesn't like.

Its senior policy adviser, Diego Naranjo, warned, “Article 13 of the directive sets a DANGEROUS precedent for Internet filters and automated censorship mechanisms.” In other words, IT'S ALL ABOUT GETTING CONTROL.

“The Copyright Directive will create two internets,” wrote Matthew Lesh of CapX. “The first, a heavily censored version for European users, including filters to prevent you from uploading content. The second, a free Internet where creativity is encouraged, for everyone else” (March 26). Germany and the EU are transforming the way the Internet operates!

“This is a press regulation by the back door,” warned Lesh. Even websites like the *Times* and *Telegraph* will be subject to the regulation because the public can post comments on their pages.

This is a slippery slope. Using this legislation, the EU will soon be able to silence any message it doesn't like—SUCH AS THE MESSAGE YOU ARE READING RIGHT NOW!

This new regulation will also be another weapon in Germany's assault on American tech companies. YouTube's CEO Susan Wojcicki said on Oct. 22, 2018, that the EU's behavior poses a threat to both your livelihood and your ability to share your voice with the world. “The new EU law is terrifying U.S. technology companies, especially Google, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube,” wrote Macdonald. “Many consider it to be an attempt not only to curb the power of America's big technology companies, but to literally *take over the Internet*” (op cit).

I know that these American tech companies are far from perfect. I'm not arguing for them to have tyrannical control over the Internet. But when you let a handful of people get that level of control over something as important and powerful as the Internet, it can be VERY DANGEROUS! Legislation like this can destroy corporations, it could cripple Silicon Valley, and it could destroy national economies!

The Holy Roman Empire

We must put this issue in the context of Bible prophecy and history. The German-led EU is behaving the way the Holy Roman Empire has *always* behaved. Germany is once again seeking to impose its will on the world.

This is a difficult message to accept, and many people will disagree with it, but it is the truth!

The Bible prophesied that this Holy Roman Empire would rise repeatedly in Europe. In World War II, Adolf Hitler led the sixth resurrection of this power. He caused the death of 60 million people. Germany also started World War I, which cost more than 15 million lives. But soon we may not be able to write or speak about that European history—because the newly resurrected Holy Roman Empire will censor it!

Bernard Connolly wrote a *bombshell* book in 1995, *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, exposing this European power. For years, he served at the heart of the Exchange Rate mechanism for the European Union. He called the European superstate ROTTEN! Within that union, he writes, “is the battle for control of the European superstate in which French technocrats confront German federalists, both sides claiming to fight under the banner of Charlemagne. The collateral damage from the battle lies mainly in the future, but it could be ghastly.”

Germany has won that battle. Nobody disputes this today. Connolly writes that this union is all about “the pursuit of a ‘European’ cloak for German ambitions!” He is right. And his country voted to leave the EU because it knows that what he said is true. Britain's exit is a warning to everyone else—they see where this is going.

In 1995, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher warned that this was coming, but people didn't listen. She said, “You have not anchored Germany to Europe. You have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you'll find it will not work.” They hoped this Union would restrain Germany. Instead, Germany has gotten control. It dominates the EU economically—and more and more, politically.

The late Otto von Habsburg was from the famous Habsburg dynasty of the Holy Roman Empire and a member of the European Parliament. He said, “The [European] Community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority don't know by what heritage they live.” That's what Connolly was writing about. The EU is not a democratic organization—it is an imperialistic empire. The world will learn this very soon.

This message isn't personal; God is not racist. In fact, God says we must love ALL people—even our ENEMIES—or we are not thinking like Him. Certainly we love the Germans. We want to warn them of where they will end up if they don't change course.

Mr. Habsburg also said, “We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally. This is the

crown of the Holy Roman Empire.” Hitler called his Nazi empire the Third Reich, after the First Germanic Reich of Charlemagne and the Second Reich of the German empire. The EU is about the Germans ruling more than just Germany: They want an EMPIRE! They want to control the Internet—and that is only a stepping-stone to controlling the world! Every time it has risen, the Holy Roman Empire has made an attempt to do just that! These Internet regulations show that the *spirit of Charlemagne* has returned.

After the Third Reich was defeated in World War II, the world was fed up with Germany’s *military aggression*. In the Yalta Conference report, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and United States President Franklin Roosevelt made this statement: “It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism, and to ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world.” Germany has disturbed the peace of the world repeatedly. It was the same with the Germans’ ancient ancestors, the Assyrians. Both history and prophecy show that it is in their heart, or national character, to destroy many nations (Isaiah 10).

The Bible says Germany and nine other nations will make up the coming Holy Roman Empire. There will be 10 KINGS. At present, there are 28 EU members—soon to be 27 when Britain leaves. But something will cause that Union to shrink. Maybe some nations will be pushed out. Maybe some will want to leave. The EU’s Copyright Directive requires national governments to implement the rules in their own national law by 2021. Even this process could pare the number of nations down.

A Man to Watch

For the Holy Roman Empire to exert its power on the world scene, it needs a strongman. We don’t know who he is for sure, but he is certain to be far stronger than Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is very weak.

Germany’s former defense minister, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, has been a very popular figure in Germany. We have said for a decade that we think he could become the next German chancellor. He may be that strong leader who can wield Germany’s, and Europe’s, power like an emperor.

Guttenberg has an expert understanding of technology. He spent several years as senior adviser to the European Commission on global Internet freedom. This job included advising the EU how to use the Internet to undermine dictatorial governments they oppose. For example, he examined how the EU could use the Internet to support opponents of Russian President Vladimir Putin. He has a strong grasp of the power

of the Internet and how Germany can control the Internet to its advantage.

Guttenberg is also a financial technology consultant. He is an expert in the field of finance, technology and cryptocurrency. He is studying how the Internet and computer science can change the way banking works.

Guttenberg also hates the president of the United States, Donald Trump. He appears regularly in the German- and English-language media condemning him. Soon we are certain to see whether Guttenberg is already working behind the scenes against America.

The Bible has important things to say about this coming strongman. Daniel 8:23 says, “And in the latter time of their kingdom [a modern Holy Roman Empire], when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of *fierce* countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.” The book of Daniel is ONLY for this end time, and it talks about a man rising up to rule over that Holy Roman Empire with a *fierce* countenance! Verse 25 states, “[H]e shall conjure up great plans and when they *least* expect it, work havoc on many” (New English Bible).

This is the man the Holy Roman Empire is really waiting for. If you think Germany is dangerous NOW, Bible prophecy says you haven’t seen anything yet!

As I said, the Germans are a great people, but the Germans have a long history with the Holy Roman Empire. This empire has a history of bloodshed like no other institution in at least the last 2,000 years! The Bible gives us a stark warning about this institution!

Verse 24 states that “his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power” This verse is talking about the devil. Revelation 13:4 speaks of a system, a modern-day empire, that worships the *devil*!

But after the bad news, there is good news! Daniel 8:25 prophesies that this man “shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.” The book of Revelation tells us the same thing. Revelation 17:13 describes these soon-coming 10 kings: “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Then the next verse says, “These shall make war with the Lamb” These nations, these 10 kings, are going to make war with Jesus Christ Himself!

And how will that end? “[A]nd THE LAMB SHALL OVERCOME THEM: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (verse 14).

This power is about to be destroyed forever! And you have the opportunity to be among those who are “called, and chosen, and faithful” at Christ’s side when He returns! ■

What if Europe controlled the Internet?

The European Union is asserting its power over crucial infrastructure. In the right hands, this power could multiply, helping to make Europe a superpower. And those hands might be Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg’s. To learn why, request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet **A Strong German Leader Is Imminent**.





Blocking the U.S. Out of World Trade

The global economy is being reoriented—away from the United States.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

A COLOSSAL EURASIAN SUPERCONTINENT is forming. From Tokyo to Lisbon, groups of Asian and European nations are hammering out history-altering trade deals and building billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure to better bind themselves together.

With the ideological lines that divided East and West during the Cold War fading away, the links between Asia and Europe are solidifying at hypersonic speed. Latin America, too, is being drawn deeper into the Eurasian orbit.

All of these trends, deals and projects have one common denominator: The United States is excluded.

And this is all happening in fulfillment of specific end-time biblical prophecies.

Rebuilding the Ancient Silk Road

China has taken the lead in working to integrate Eurasia. It is accomplishing this largely with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the brainchild and foremost national priority of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The project was enshrined into the Chinese Constitution in 2017 as part of Xi's "Chinese Dream." It aims to rebuild the ancient "Silk Road" network of routes that facilitated the flow of goods and ideas across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

Xi has been working to convince nations in those regions to cooperate with China to build roads, rail networks, bridges, ports, pipelines and Internet systems to rebuild and greatly expand those ancient routes. If the Belt and Road Initiative comes together as planned, its infrastructure will connect more than 60 percent of the global population and about 36 percent of total global gross domestic product—to China. And it is all for the purpose of reshaping the international system to place China at the center.

Many countries, especially in poorer parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, immediately signed on. They calculated that accepting Chinese loans and granting China the right to build road, rail and port infrastructure might be risky, but the benefits to their economies would be worth it.

TRADE BLOCS

The highlighted countries are members of some of today's most dominant trade agreements and other international initiatives. These include the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Belt and Road Initiative, Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement, Eurasian Economic Union, and Mercosur.

But in Europe, most nations were skeptical. They worried about China's human rights abuses and deceitful trade practices, including its tendency to steal the intellectual property of foreign investors. Europeans also feared China's debt trap diplomacy, by which it uses loans to gain leverage over borrowing countries and force them to make concessions they would never make otherwise. They worried about how the expansion of Chinese interests globally sometimes precedes the expansion of Chinese military assets and deployments.

On top of all that, Europe's historical postwar alignment has been toward the United States. And American leaders view the BRI as a dangerous drive for Chinese global hegemony, and often encourage nations in Europe and elsewhere to shun it. These factors combined to



darken EU countries' view of the initiative, and to initially dissuade them from integrating more deeply with China.

But over the years, especially as Europe's anti-American sentiments grew stronger, some of the less powerful, mostly southern European nations rejected U.S. warnings and joined the Chinese project. And in March a *major* European power made the extremely significant decision to follow suit.

When in Rome

Italy normally reserves its most lavish welcomes only for close allies. But on March 21, it hosted Xi for a state visit in Rome, including an elaborate, red-carpet reception, state dinner and private concert by an opera megastar. But the highlight of the visit for Xi was Italy's signing up to the Belt and Road Initiative.

"Xi Jinping's dream," *Business Insider* wrote after the signing, "just claimed one of its biggest victories yet."

The victory was enormous, not just because Chinese ships will be able to easily unload cargo at Italy's choicest ports, but also because Italy is a member of the G-7. This group of democratically governed, advanced economies also includes Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the U.S. and the United Kingdom. The G-7 are powerful nations that help shape global policy. Now that one is on the list of Belt and Road participants, other European nations are seriously considering joining.

Quartz noted that Italy's move was partly motivated by its desire to break with traditional partners, including the U.S., which has been its ally since the founding of NATO 70 years ago. "[An] endorsement for BRI ... can signal the likelihood of a country breaking ranks with traditional allies to side with China over politically charged themes," it wrote (March 19).

Italy's "signal" of anti-Americanism is sobering. And European, Asian and African countries are not the only ones demonstrating that they are eager to side with China. Alarming, it is also happening with more and more countries in the U.S.'s periphery.

Crashing America's Neighborhood

The Belt and Road infrastructure development initially concentrated on Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe, the same regions that were linked by the ancient Silk Road. But in 2017, Xi said he views Latin America as a "natural extension" of the project and invited nations there to join. Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Panama, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have already signed on. More Latin American and Caribbean nations are preparing to follow.

Chinese money has already built a port in Trinidad and Tobago, railways in Argentina, and roads in Costa Rica and Jamaica. As China persuades more Latin American and Caribbean nations to join the project, this region, which is vital to U.S. security, will become increasingly aligned with Beijing and its partners.

And the Belt and Road Initiative is just one of many ways that China and its anti-American partners are deepening their influence in Latin America.

In the case of China's closest comrade, Russia, the influence is becoming overtly militaristic. In recent months,

Russia has modernized Nicaragua's military, loaned Cuba \$43 million for military gear, and said it may build a base there. In Venezuela, Russia has sent soldiers and military gear to prop up the regime of failed dictator Nicolás Maduro, and Russia's *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* has reported that Moscow may build a permanent military base there.

Given the proximity of these Latin American nations to the U.S. and to the Caribbean shipping lanes that the U.S. economy depends on, the deepening influence of Russia and China there should be red flags to U.S. policymakers.

The World Is Banking on China

On Jan. 16, 2016, while inaugurating China's new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Xi told the assembled dignitaries they were witnessing "a historical moment."

The bank was established mainly to support Belt and Road projects and to advance China's broader goal of asserting leadership on the world stage. The bank offers nations an alternative to the post-World War II U.S.-dominated institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It is another economic weapon for China to openly challenge American leadership.

Despite U.S. pressure, several of America's Asian allies and partners joined China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, including the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. Several of America's closest allies outside of Asia—Britain, Germany, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and France—also joined.

Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers wrote in the lead-up to the Bank's inauguration: "[T]his ... may be remembered as the moment the United States lost its role as the underwriter of the global economic system." Summers also stated that America's failure to persuade allies to stay out of the Chinese initiative is a "wake-up call."

Luxembourg's finance minister said in 2016 that the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is "further proof of the rebalancing of the world economy."

Trade Blocs Blocking Out the U.S.

"[G]overnments have proven eager to move forward with trade negotiations as

a way to counter some of the uncertainty in the global trading system today,” John Murphy, senior vice president for international policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told *USA Today* last November.

As a result of this push, major new trade blocs are emerging around the globe.

The European Union has been especially aggressive. In recent years, it has signed new agreements with Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ukraine and South Korea. In December, Europe announced two deals with Japan: the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement and EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. The latter integrates 635 million people and one third of the world’s GDP, making it *the largest trade bloc on the planet*. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said the deal brings EU-Japan trade and political ties “to a whole new level.”

On April 9, the EU hailed a “breakthrough” in its push for a trade agreement with China. The two sides agreed to dramatically boost their trade volumes,

the Belt and Road Initiative. Putin said the Eurasian Economic Union member countries “unanimously supported the idea of linking the construction of the Eurasian Economic Community” and the Belt and Road.

Meanwhile, in December, the Japan-led Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership came into effect. This deal includes Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Chile, Peru and Malaysia. The 500 million people living in these nations, constituting 13.4 percent of the global economy, can now trade nearly tariff-free.

And all the while, the EU has been frantically working toward a landmark free-trade deal with the Latin American trade bloc MERCOSUR, which includes Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. “This trade agreement will impact the whole world!” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote of the EU-MERCOSUR deal in our March issue.

These agreements are fundamentally altering the world economy. And they all have one thing in common: They exclude the U.S.

The anti-American sentiments that helped shape these trade deals predate the Trump administration, but his leadership has intensified such feelings.

broaden market access, work together on World Trade Organization reform, and for China not to force EU companies operating there into divulging sensitive knowledge. “It is a breakthrough,” said European Council President Donald Tusk. “For the first time, China has agreed to engage with Europe on this key priority for WTO reform.”

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said of the deals: “Not only will this be conducive to China’s reform and opening up, but also Europe’s unity and prosperity.”

China also recently signed a free-trade agreement with the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union. This group includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in April that the bloc’s goal—facilitating the free movement of goods, labor and capital in the region—perfectly aligns with the aims of

In the case of some of the agreements, America chose not to participate. Nevertheless, the trend is undeniable: More and more nations are forging massive economic alliances—and America is out.

Many of these history-altering trade deals have been under negotiation for years. And now they are suddenly becoming reality. “Analysts attribute that to the Trump administration’s policies,” (*USA Today*, op cit). In reality, the anti-American sentiments that helped shape these trade deals predate the Trump administration, but his leadership has intensified such feelings and made more world leaders feel urgent about acting on them.

The Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the multiplying number of U.S.-excluding trade blocs are reorienting the world economy—to the detriment of the

United States. These trends take on extraordinary significance when viewed through the lens of Bible prophecy.

‘The Times of the Gentiles’

During His ministry on Earth, Jesus Christ prophesied of a global era that would begin shortly before His return. He called this era “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

In the July 2014 *Trumpet*, Mr. Flurry wrote, “These ‘times of the Gentiles’ are yet to be fully realized. However, we are in the outer edges of this catastrophic storm.”

He explained that the term *Gentile* refers to “non-Israelite peoples.” The Israelite peoples make up “a lot more than the little nation in the Middle East,” he wrote, explaining that in end-time prophecy, *Israel* means mainly modern-day America and Britain. (For a complete, enlightening explanation, order your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

Mr. Flurry continued: “Once you understand who Israel is, then you can understand how the Gentiles—the non-Israelite peoples—have started to take charge of the world *right now*.”

For decades, American and British leadership stabilized much of the world and advanced civilization. But during “the times of the Gentiles,” the reins of world power will be taken up by two groups of non-Israelite nations. “While there are many Gentile nations around today, when this prophecy is completely fulfilled there will be two *major* powers,” Mr. Flurry wrote. One of these will be led by Germany, and the other by Russia and China.

China’s rising power and the increasing number of trade blocs that exclude the U.S. are shifting global power away from “Israel” and toward these non-Israelite nations. Prophecy shows that as this shift continues, cooperation between China, Europe and several other Gentile nations will be consolidated and take a *sharply* anti-American turn.

A ‘Mart of Nations’

Around 2,700 years ago, God inspired the Prophet Isaiah to write about a massive trade bloc that would emerge shortly before Christ’s return. He described it as “a mart of nations” (Isaiah 23:3).



What the University Scam Reveals About America

Wealthy parents buying their kids' way into elite schools provides a peek at a culture of lawlessness that should concern us all. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

IN MARCH, THE UNITED STATES Justice Department charged 50 wealthy people for trying to buy their children's way into elite colleges like Yale, University of California–Los Angeles and Georgetown. These students were academically unqualified, so their parents paid their way in. One family spent \$500,000 for two of their daughters to enter the University of Southern California. Such bribery is almost *routine* in some of these universities, reports showed.

This is a sham, and very disturbing. Besides being disgraceful and degenerate, it is much more destructive to America than most people realize. It exposes the nation's moral degeneration, its twisted priorities, and its disregard for character and for law.

Get In, and You Have It Made

One elite college implicated in the scandal was Harvard, home of the Harvard Law School. Ben Shapiro, who attended Harvard Law, wrote a shocking article in the *Daily Wire* about it.

"Colleges aren't about training kids for the real world, or teaching them significant modes of thinking, or examining timeless truths. Universities aren't about skill sets, either—at least in the humanities. They're about two things: credentialism and social connections," Shapiro wrote (March 12). A degree from one of these universities raises social standing and opens doors in society.

But "[h]ere's the problem: Neither of these priorities actually demands that universities *teach anything*. Credentialism occurs upon admission, so long as you aren't thrown out of school; social capital begins to accrue with presence, not with performance."

These students only need to show up to succeed. That is a farce, and terribly destructive to those students—and to society! It isn't that way at Herbert W. Armstrong College, and it never will be, God willing.

"Hence colleges watering down curricula and grades in order to make it *easier* to credential, and to generate *less* friction," Shapiro continued. "That's what students and parents demand: not skills, not education, but credentialism and social capital." They want the *status* of a brand-name degree even if the students gain little education! These students, or their parents, buy their way *past* an education.

Consider this: "After I was admitted to Harvard Law School, I attended orientation. Our 500-strong class was gathered in Memorial Hall, in historic Sanders Theater, where then Dean Elena Kagan (now Supreme Court justice) spoke to us." What Shapiro then wrote tells you a lot about this woman. This type of thinking *should* disqualify her to sit on that court!

"SHE INFORMED US THAT THE COMPETITION WAS OVER—WE WERE IN! NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE STUFF WE'D SEEN IN *THE PAPER CHASE*—WE WERE ALL GOING

TO LEAVE WITH DEGREES AND JOBS. NOT JUST THAT—AS GRADUATES OF HARVARD LAW, WE WERE DESTINED TO RULE THE UNIVERSE. SHE INFORMED US OF HOW MANY ALUMNI WERE IN THE SENATE, HOW MANY IN CONGRESS, HOW MANY ON THE SUPREME COURT. THE BATTLE WAS OVER UPON OUR ACCEPTANCE TO THE INSTITUTION" (emphasis mine).

You have it made if you just get in—apparently, even if you *buy* your way in! This philosophy has catastrophe written all over it!

Harvard Law School probably teaches more about the U.S. Constitution, the supreme law of the land, than any other university. This former dean of students is now sitting on the Supreme Court, and is supposed to be protecting and defending the Constitution. Clearly, in many cases she is not.

Law school students *should* learn all about the Constitution. When America's founders created it, much of their thinking was rooted in the Bible, and that noble document reflects this. In many ways, our republic's foundation was built on the Bible. But today's elite universities are teaching students to disrespect both the Constitution and the Bible!

Pampered, Not Challenged

"This also has significant *political* ramifications," Shapiro continued. "It means that students admitted to colleges *expect* to be pampered, not challenged."

Harvard has more social capital than probably any other university, yet students there are being pampered. Parents DEMAND it!

Shapiro then gave a shocking example. “Prof. Harvey Mansfield of Harvard University was essentially forced by the administration *not to give honest grades*—he started giving two grades, one for merit, and then one for the administration, so as not to penalize people for taking his classes. Politically, this also means that students expect not to be challenged—they expect to be comfortable.”

Isaiah prophesied that in our day the people—whether in churches, universities or anywhere else—would want to hear “SMOOTH THINGS” and DECEITS,

SLIP THE RULE OF LAW, WERE DESTROYED! That is exactly what will happen to the United States if we continue to undermine the law in this country.

An Attempted Coup

Here is an example of what lawyers receiving anti-law education at these elite schools can do to undermine society. Many of these lawyers are part of what is called the “deep state.” Virtually *all* of them have a deep hatred for the current president of the United States.

Lisa Page was one of those lawyers. She worked on the team of Robert Mueller’s Special Counsel investigation of Donald Trump, and was discovered to have been part of corruption within the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

the department that told you: ‘You’re not going to charge gross negligence because we’re the prosecutors and we’re telling you we’re not going to,’” he said. Page responded, “That’s correct.”

These are people from those elite colleges, and this is how they conduct business. They think they “rule the universe,” as Shapiro put it. They excuse whatever illegality they choose, and attack whom-ever they will. They feel entitled and unaccountable. They believe they are *justified* in operating outside the law!

Since Donald Trump became president, a MOUNTAIN of this type of shady, behind-the-scenes lawlessness has been exposed. The Mueller investigation was not really an investigation—it was an unlawful attack on the Trump administration! These educated elites are trying to overthrow the votes of 63 million Americans! THAT IS AN ATTEMPTED COUP!

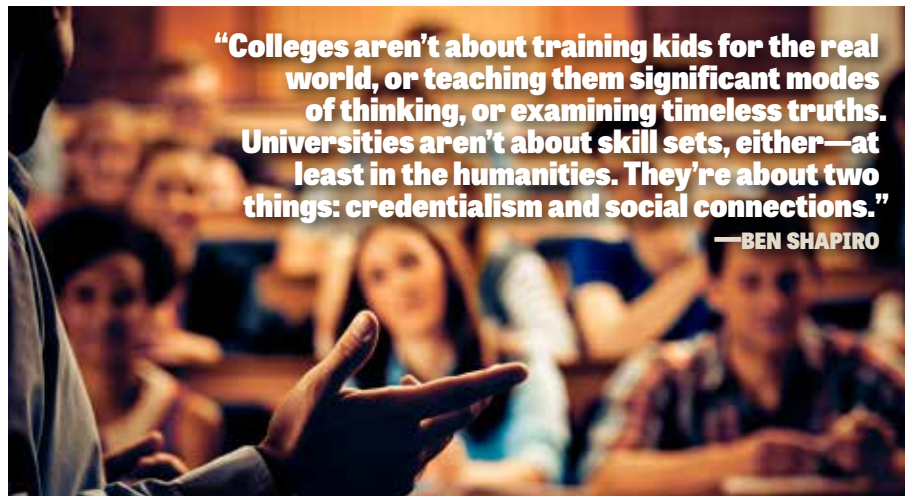
Before the last presidential election, these people just KNEW they would win. They think they are *destined* to “rule the universe”! In most cases, they are not elected officials, nobody voted for them, but they consider themselves the only ones *qualified* to govern. They *cannot believe* a “barbarian” like Donald Trump became president, and they cannot take it! So they MUST OVERTHROW HIM.

THESE INDIVIDUALS DO NOT FEEL BOUND BY THE CONSTITUTION—THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND! They have no respect for our Bill of Rights, which safeguards our freedom of speech and freedom of religion and protects us from governmental overreach.

What if Mr. Trump had lost that election? None of this would have come to light. The more we learn, the clearer the picture becomes of just how deep the corruption is and how much worse it would have gotten!

Spirit of Lawlessness

What is behind this SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS? As I write in my booklet *America Under Attack*, it is actually an evil spirit being that is trying to destroy the country! Satan the devil has been cast down from heaven, and he and his demons are confined to this Earth (Revelation 12:9, 12). You see his growing influence in the partisan division, lying and deceit, anger and hatred, contempt for authority, and lawlessness!



whatever keeps them comfortable (Isaiah 30:10). But events are hurtling toward disaster! People’s delusions and preoccupation with comfort won’t protect them from reality crashing in! Those students’ education is doing them a terrible disservice.

This world needs to be *truly* educated. Without true education, you will not seek wisdom from anything beyond the self—you will simply go the way of human reasoning and human nature. This is exactly what we see in our young people. Universities are turning them into conscripts and shock troops for the radical left! This is unraveling society!

At the root of this scandal is LAWLESSNESS. Even *law schools* display a *contempt for law*. Yet look at history and you see that even the greatest EMPIRES, LIKE GREECE AND ROME, WHEN THEY LET

In 2016, the FBI was about to investigate Hillary Clinton for gross negligence. Last year, Page testified before a congressional committee that *many* in the FBI, including its director, James Comey, believed Clinton may have been guilty. She said, “[W]e had multiple conversations, *multiple conversations*, with the Justice Department about charging gross negligence.” THERE WAS GROSS NEGLIGENCE, AND AN UNPARALLELED COVER-UP: CLINTON DESTROYED OVER 30,000 OF HER E-MAILS. NEVERTHELESS, PAGE SAID, THE OBAMA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SAID NO TO AN INVESTIGATION.

Rep. John Ratcliffe directly asked Page if the decision not to investigate was because of a direct order from the Justice Department. “When you say advice you got from the department, you’re making it sound like it was

Satan's malevolent influence is in our faces every day, yet most people are blind to it. In most cases, they have no idea of the *power* they are dealing with! So what chance do they have to resist it—unless God intervenes to help them in some way?

God *has* intervened to temporarily save America. I explained this in my article "Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily" (read this at theTrumpet.com/17092). God is using a modern-day version of Jeroboam—an unrighteous king who nevertheless led ancient Israel into a brief period of restored greatness that postponed the nation's collapse! (2 Kings 14:23-27). This is exactly what is happening in America today under our current president.

The devil, though, is trying to DESTROY this man who is being used to temporarily save modern-day Israel! And he is stirring up and using a lot of people who are products of a deeply corrupted educational system.

God loves America and Britain—the modern-day descendants of biblical Israel. He is *correcting* and *punishing* our nations to try to turn us from our sins. He asks, through the Prophet Ezekiel, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

Really, had Mr. Trump not been elected, this nation would have ALREADY DIED!

Civil War

Look again at the prophecy of Isaiah 30: "[S]peak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits." This is a prophecy for OUR TIME TODAY! God told Isaiah—and He tells the group of people who are doing His work today, "Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be FOR THE TIME TO COME for ever and ever" (verse 8). That's the END TIME.

This is a dual prophecy: It is for America today, and for the Church of God, which is mostly turned away from God during this age. And God's message is, "That this is a *rebellious people, lying children*, CHILDREN THAT WILL NOT HEAR THE LAW OF THE LORD" (verse 9). People WILL NOT HEAR THE LAW! Even those who are STUDYING THE LAW in the universities—those being groomed to lead the nation—are learning to hold

not only God's law but even the *nation's own Constitution* in derision! *Don't worry about that*, they are told—*just get in here and you've got it made! You'll rule the universe!*

People today don't want truth. They love deceits. The media are so intent on bringing down the president that they *will not accept* the results of a TWO-YEAR INVESTIGATION into whether President Trump colluded with the Russians. Robert Mueller's team of Trump-hating lawyers spent two years and more than \$25 million doing *everything possible* to find the president guilty—and found nothing! There was no collusion, which means legally there could be no obstruction of justice. But Mueller said he didn't exonerate Mr. Trump in that area—to help the Democrats keep this thing alive. They will not stop attacking! They discard the evidence and keep hammering away at all the supposed crimes and terrible conspiracies the president is involved in!

Most of the mainstream media are like robots. They all say the same thing, exactly what the Democratic Party directs them to say. And they are walking in lockstep toward a cliff, and are about to walk right off!

This is the condition of our country today. We live in a dangerous world. China is getting a choke hold on world trade routes. Russia is flying soldiers into Venezuela, just south of the U.S. Germany is domineering Europe and rising as a superpower. America has many enemies working to undermine the nation economically and politically, and preparing to challenge it militarily. Open your eyes to what these nations are doing. The threats are real! Yet Americans are ignoring them all. Instead the educated elites and the radical left keep talking about President Trump's supposed collusion with Russia. They are leading this nation toward civil war! That is coming to this country! Americans are ripping each other apart and weakening the nation from within!

Isaiah also prophesied that our great leaders would be removed—the mighty men, the great warriors and judges, the honorable men, the eloquent orators (Isaiah 3:1-3). They are gone, and in their place, we have CHILDREN ruling over us—and grown-ups behaving like

children! (verse 4). The radical left in particular are acting like unruly children. They HATE LAW! They want to destroy the Constitution. That is what these elite universities are teaching them in many cases. They are following the lawless dictates of human nature. Of course, when they get control, they use tyrannical methods to rule.

Establishing the Rule of Law

Where is this lawlessness leading? Please study this paragraph by British historian Paul Johnson, which I quote in my booklet *No Freedom Without Law*: "The rule of law, as distinct from the rule of a person, or class or people, and as opposed to the rule of force, is an abstract, sophisticated concept. It is

Even those who are studying the law in the universities—those being groomed to lead the nation—are learning to hold not only God's law but even the nation's own Constitution in derision.

mighty difficult to achieve. But until it is achieved, and *established in the public mind with such vehemence that MASSES OF INDIVIDUALS ARE PREPARED TO DIE TO UPHOLD IT, no other form of progress can be regarded as secure*. The Greeks had tried to establish the rule of law but failed. The Romans had succeeded under their republic, but Caesar and his successors had destroyed it. *The essence of the rule of law is its impersonality, omnipotence and ubiquity. It is the same law for everyone, everywhere—kings, emperors, high priests, the state itself, are subject to it. IF EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE, THE RULE OF LAW BEGINS TO COLLAPSE—THAT WAS THE GRAND LESSON OF ANTIQUITY*" (emphasis mine).

How precious and unique is the rule of law! And how dangerous is its collapse!

America's early pioneers risked their lives making the dangerous pilgrimage across the Atlantic. Many of them died during the journey, and many more died when they arrived. They had to fight to get here. Why? Many of them fled oppression and persecution. They yearned for freedom from despotism, and freedom to practice their religion.

THOSE EARLY SETTLERS ACTUALLY CAME HERE TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF GOD ON EARTH. THAT WAS THEIR GOAL! Look at the laws they established for the colonies from the beginning. The minds of many were filled with the Bible. And they did accomplish the mighty goal of establishing the rule of law. The leaders and the people of early America died to give this nation freedom and to establish the Constitution—probably the greatest constitution there has ever been. Many shed their blood because they believed in this government.

The Constitution was created by men who held great respect for the Bible and its Author, and who understood some of its important, basic truths. They built a system to safeguard the God-given

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU THINK THERE ARE IN AMERICA TODAY WILLING TO SHED THEIR BLOOD FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND THE RULE OF LAW? Do you think those people buying their way into the elite colleges would? What about those lawyers who are trying to overthrow the government?

Without the rule of law, you lose everything! When America's government was established, Benjamin Franklin said that we have "a republic, IF YOU CAN KEEP IT." Sadly, we cannot keep it, because we are so far from God! It is only a matter of time before we LOSE IT! We are going down fast. You don't have to understand biblical prophecy to know the U.S. is at its end—you just need a good education in history!

freedom where they came from.

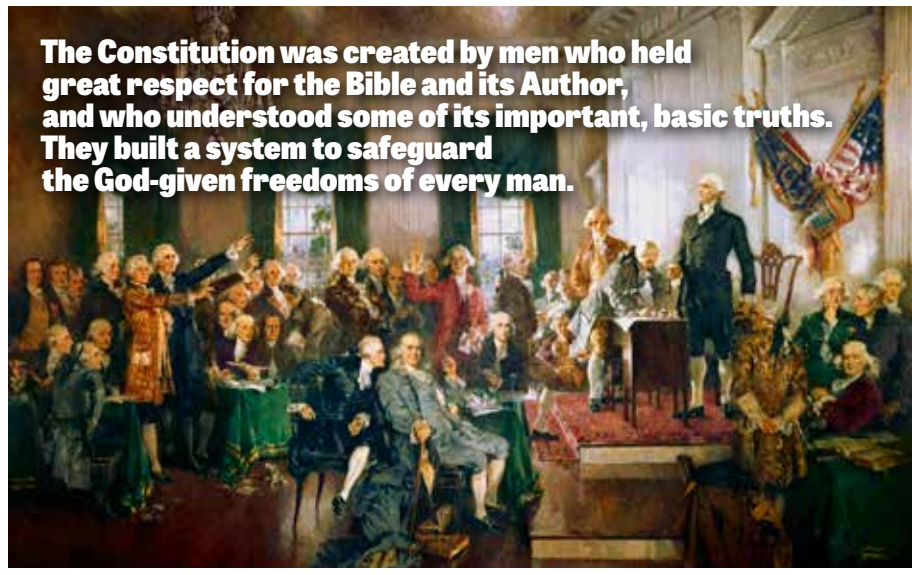
These people mustered profound commitment and courage. They believed in their cause so deeply they were willing to die for it. IT REALLY IS GREAT TO HAVE A CAUSE IN YOUR LIFE YOU ARE WILLING TO DIE FOR. If you don't, you will sputter around in shallow water and never gain any real depth.

Look at our *spiritual* forefathers. Remember the 12 apostles of Jesus Christ? Eleven of them were *martyred!* The only one who lived to old age was John, and he wrote most of his books while imprisoned on the isle of Patmos. The Apostle Paul was repeatedly jailed, attacked and finally *murdered*—simply because he believed God and taught the truth of the Bible. He didn't hide it under a bushel; he let his light shine all over the Gentile world and parts of Israel.

That is the sacrifice God required of these men as they proclaimed His wonderful truth and fought to establish it and preserve it for future generations. And those men considered dying for their cause a TREMENDOUS BARGAIN!

God is going to use those individuals as part of a NEW GOVERNMENT. He is preparing people for offices in the government that will rule Earth very shortly once Jesus Christ returns and establishes a new civilization! It will *eradicate* the sin and *correct* the injustice of today's world. The arrogance of self-impressed scholars who suppress truth and defy God will cease! This government will administer the law of God, and teach people to LOVE law.

What *honor* God gives to those who are part of that! It's not always easy as we prepare for that future in a world so hostile against it. But God is offering that opportunity to *you*. You can learn the law and constitution of that future civilization today, live by it, and help God proclaim it. Seize the opportunity! ■



freedoms of every man. They created a government aimed at restraining the corruptible human heart. They guaranteed the rights of all citizens to worship God without fear of government coercion. In 1954, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, "I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it."

What has happened to that understanding today? Why have so many Americans, especially those most steeped in education from our elite universities, become so hostile to the Constitution? Why are they so contemptuous of the rule of law? In many ways, an attack on the U.S. Constitution is an attack on God, and the truth of God.

I marvel when I look back at that history. How rare for people to have the opportunity to accomplish something so momentous! They weren't putting politics first, or education or riches. They wanted FREEDOM—freedom of religion, freedom of speech—freedom rooted in the RULE OF LAW. They didn't have much

Are you concerned about lawlessness?

The college admissions scandal shows America heading toward a civil breakdown, and the reason revolves around society's attitude toward law. To learn why lawlessness is so deeply concerning, request Gerald Flurry's free booklet **No Freedom Without Law**.



ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ MIGHT be the most famous person in Congress. In a March 15 Gallup Poll, 7 in 10 people had heard of the 29-year-old, Congress's youngest member in history. That is remarkable recognition for a freshman representative from a small district who was waiting tables barely a year ago. Despite her political inexperience, Ocasio-Cortez repeatedly makes headlines as she calls for open borders, free health care, free college, a federal jobs guarantee, a 70 percent tax rate for incomes above \$10 million, and a "Green New Deal" that eliminates fossil fuel-powered electricity and requires retrofitting "all existing U.S. buildings."

Such radical proposals by a self-proclaimed socialist would have rendered a candidate unelectable a few years ago. But Ocasio-Cortez rose to prominence supported by an organization working to hijack the Democratic Party.

In 2016, a political action committee called the Justice Democrats held auditions for candidates willing to endorse their far-left platform. It received over 10,000 nominations. Ocasio-Cortez's brother submitted her name for the position while she was working at Flats Fix, a Manhattan taco restaurant. The Justice Democrats selected Ocasio-Cortez and 78 other candidates to run against moderate Democratic incumbents.

Of these candidates, seven won seats in the House of Representatives: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for New York's 14th District, Ayanna Pressley for Massachusetts' 7th District, Ilhan Omar for Minnesota's 5th District, Pramila Jayapal for Washington's 7th District, Rashida Tlaib for Michigan's 13th District, Raúl Grinalva for Arizona's 3rd District, and Ro Khanna for California's 17th District.

Organized Opposition

It is not unusual for political action committees to audition candidates. What makes the Justice Democrats unusual is that it has partnered with Our Revolution, the largest Marxist front group in America. Claiming more than 100,000 members, Our Revolution acts as a front for the three most influential Marxist organizations in America: the Democratic Socialists of America, the Communist Party USA, and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization.



How 67,000 Socialists Hijacked the Democratic Party

Radically far-left political groups have gained outsized political power. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

Most of the leadership of Our Revolution comes from the Democratic Socialists of America. Some are members of the Freedom Road Socialist Organization or Communist Party USA. Communist Party USA leader John Bachtell explained their strategy for hijacking the Democratic Party in an online webinar on May 23, 2018, when he told an audience of activists that they must campaign for openly socialist candidates within the Democratic Party to challenge President Donald Trump.

Combined, these three Marxist groups have only about 67,000 members. Most of them are not the type of people who could be elected. But by using groups like the Justice Democrats and Our Revolution, these 67,000 socialists can recruit more charismatic, electable personalities like Ocasio-Cortez to espouse their ideals. Largely as a result of the work done by the Justice Democrats and Our Revolution, the Congressional Progressive Caucus grew from 78 to 96 members. That means the radical left controls 22 percent of the House of Representatives and 41 percent of the entire Democratic Caucus.

Communist Infiltration

This political transformation did not happen overnight. Decades ago, *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong warned that communism would strip America of its blessings—the greatest blessings ever conferred on any people—not because socialists outmaneuvered conservatives, but because the American people as a whole have turned away from God's law. He warned that communism would pervert America's morals, sabotage its educational system, wreck its social structure, destroy its spiritual life, and weaken its economic power.

In particular, Mr. Armstrong pointed to the New Left movement that swept through U.S. college campuses in the 1960s. This Communist movement sought to change the cultural superstructure of modern society by implementing a broad range of reforms on issues such as abortion rights, homosexual rights, gender roles and drug legalization. "The guiding hand in student revolt is the Communist Party," Mr. Armstrong wrote in his March 1969 *Plain Truth* Personal. "Many students, their emotions stirred and enraged to violence, do not themselves realize this. Yet actually, these young leaders of the 'New Left' movement are going beyond the Communist Party. Their plan is to stir up college-age students to revolt first, and the teenage high school adolescents. If they can corrupt and/or win over tomorrow's students, they will gain control."

The rise of the radical left is a direct result of America's multidecade tolerance of communism. More specifically, it is a result of America's drift into lawlessness and secularism. As people reject God and the Bible, they have devised their own man-made solutions to problems like racism, poverty, illiteracy, sickness and pollution—"solutions" that contradict the Bible and defy its Author. Instead of individually repenting of the sins that cause such societal problems, people have turned to the U.S. government to treat the EFFECT. But both history and Bible prophecy reveal that rejecting God and embracing lawlessness will lead America down a path toward bankruptcy, strife and anarchy. ■

To learn more, request our free reprint article "[Communism in America Today.](#)"



Must society neutralize the advantages of whiteness before it can heal?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

NEARLY TWO DOZEN DEMOCRATS are vying to replace Donald Trump as the next president of the United States. And as they jockey for the highest office in the land, they are promoting and pushing into mainstream discourse some ideas that, until recently, would have been considered astonishingly radical.

One came from presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke in the midst of a public apology for a harmless joke that his wife was raising their three children "sometimes with my help." "I'll be much more thoughtful going forward in the way that I talk about our marriage," he said, "and also the way in which I acknowledge the truth of the criticism that I have enjoyed white privilege. Absolutely. Undeniable."

Ah yes, "white privilege." *Whiteness* automatically confers unjust advantages on a person, we are now told. Not only that, *maleness* gives a person *more* unjust advantages. *Heterosexuality* gives *even more*. And being content with your biological sex—being "*cisgendered*." And *wealth*. We are informed that society is a competition, and people who have these

advantages are starting the 100-yard dash with a 50-yard head start.

People with such privileges must recognize this and apologize, we are informed. Society must award preferential treatment to minorities, women, homosexuals and transgenders. It must punish the wealthy and support the poor. Then we will have a truly fair world.

Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren believes true fairness requires giving reparations to black Americans. At a televised town hall interview, she answered a black woman who asked for "a public apology for 400 years of free labor" by saying, "*I believe it's time to start the national full-blown conversation about reparations in this country.* And that means I support the bill in the House to appoint a congressional panel of experts, of people who are studying this, who talk about different ways we may be able to do it and to make a report back to Congress, so that we can as a nation do what's right and begin to heal" (emphasis added throughout).

According to this view, the problems afflicting the black community today are

the residual effects of a practice that was abolished more than 150 years ago. The solution is to place our faith in a "congressional panel of experts" to decide on reparations. Then we can all just accept what the experts say, unanimously comply, at last put our slave-owning past behind us, and enjoy racial harmony. Who could possibly envision such a marvelous plan not working out?

O'Rourke and Warren are two prominent white people who have tried to downplay their whiteness. Warren infamously labeled herself an American Indian; in 1996, she was billed as Harvard Law School's "first woman of color." Beto O'Rourke is using a Spanish nickname, but his real name is Robert Francis O'Rourke. Why do these things if whiteness automatically affords such vaunted privileges?

The truth is that America is full of white people who work hard, who struggle, who face setbacks, who miss opportunities, who get overlooked, who get pushed aside, who are mired in debt, who must toil away at mundane jobs, who are effectively stuck in their circumstances, the same as black people, Hispanic people and others. Yet they are being lectured by politicians, media commentators, wealthy academics, celebrities and professional athletes about their "white privilege." They are being told that society lacks equality, they are at fault, and that politicians and bureaucrats need to artificially normalize for any factors that give one person an advantage over another.

This thinking is *insidiously wrong*. The more we indulge it, the more individual lives will be destroyed, and the more we will tear our country apart.

It is wrong—because it is the opposite of the way God thinks.

A Fancy New Word

Among those falling prey to this error, a new theory of social justice has arisen. An impressive new term has entered the public lexicon: "intersectionality." This is essentially a matrix for measuring the scale of your deprivation, and the benefits the rest of society owes you.

What is *intersectionality*? Black feminist scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term in 1989. It's an attempt to categorize and formalize people according to

their race, gender, age, wealth, class, religion, disability and sexual orientation in terms of how disadvantaged they are in society. This concept enabled black feminists to argue that the feminist movement was ignoring racial grievances. White women were at a disadvantage, they said, but *black* women were at a *double* disadvantage.

What does this mean in 2019 America? It is playing out in Democratic politics in a specific way. The party is attacking itself. Leftist politicians who are bona fide progressives, even cutting-edge revolutionaries, are being criticized as not leftist enough. Why? They lack appropriate intersectionality.

Sen. Bernie Sanders led the socialist groundswell in the 2016 presidential election. He excited flocks of youths to engage in politics and to embrace big-government, spendy socialist thinking. He is running again in 2020, but many on the left are less excited this time. Why? As Rich Lowry explained in *Politico*, “In the language of the modern left, the straight, cisgendered Sanders is burdened by his utter lack of intersectionality” (February 20).

Senator Sanders was asked on Vermont public radio how he, being old, rich, white and male, can lead a diverse Democratic Party. He said: “We have got to look at candidates, you know, not by the color of their skin, not by their sexual orientation or their gender and not by their age. I mean, I think we have got to try to move us toward a nondiscriminatory society, which looks at people based on their abilities, based on what they stand for.”

Sanders wants to move America “toward a nondiscriminatory society” based on merit and values. Most Americans would say we *already are* the most nondiscriminatory society on Earth and in history. The trouble for Sanders is, his political party is crowded with crusaders moving America toward a *far more discriminatory* society.

Predictably, these people attacked Sanders for his statement. Neera Tanden, from the Center for American Progress, posted this: “At a time where folks feel under attack because of who they are, saying race or gender or sexual orientation or identity doesn’t matter is not off, it’s simply wrong.” Former Clinton aide Jess McIntosh wrote: “This

is usually an argument made by people who don’t enjoy outsized respect and credibility because of their race, gender, age and sexual orientation.”

People who are to the left of even *Bernie Sanders* are broadcasting that they do *not* want a society where you are judged by your abilities and what you stand for. They want a society where you are judged by *race, gender and sexual orientation*. They want to level the playing field, which means *discriminating* in these areas, bestowing advantages on those *not* white, *not* male, *not* straight, *not* “cisgendered.”

The less white you are—the less of *all* those privileged things you are—the more deserving you are of reparatory privileges. The more the government should use its power to take from others and give to you. They want to solve discrimination—by discriminating.

‘A Sad Descent Into Tribalism’

The *truly liberal* American ideal is that race should not matter. Martin Luther King Jr., an icon among liberals, dreamed of a nation where people would “not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” Yet those who claim to be his successors proclaim that people should be judged not by their character, but by their color, as well as their sex. But these are actually the *most primitive* aspects of a person’s identity. Human societies have been discriminating and judging each other based on these attributes for thousands of years!

People do not want a society where you are judged by your abilities and what you stand for. They want a society where you are judged by race, gender and sexual orientation.

More than any other nation ever, America has been a place where people of *any* race and *any* background can make a success of themselves, educationally, vocationally, financially, culturally, morally.

Leftists are dismantling this ideal. They are convincing people that this nation is actually the most *unfair and discriminatory*. And somehow, they are persuading people that the *solution* is to exalt race, sex and class as the DEFINING ASPECTS of their identity.

They want more diversity. Not intellectual diversity, not ideological diversity, not diversity of ability. No—they just want diversity of *skin color*, sex and “gender identity.”

This revolutionary effort to characterize our land of unprecedented opportunity as a country that victimizes a literal majority of its people (nonwhites, women and many others) has been shockingly successful. But it is also creating some problems of its own.

“Now the revolution cannot figure out its own hierarchy of authentic grievance groups,” Victor Davis Hanson wrote. “So it has agreed on a loose ‘intersectionality,’ in which over a dozen and often overlapping victim cadres agree that each degree of nonwhite-maleness adds authenticity and becomes a force multiplier of left-wing radicalism.

“Among leftists, Kamala Harris, as black and female, trumps Cory Booker who is just black, who trumps Elizabeth Warren who is exposed as just female, who trumps Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders who are reverse threefeers as white, male and heterosexual” (*American Greatness*, March 3).

Hanson correctly described this development as a “sad descent into tribalism.” That is exactly what it is. It is not enlightened. It is not sophisticated. It is not just and fair. *It is tribal*. It is *primitive*. It is absurd.

And it is terribly destructive, individually and nationally.

A Dangerous Lie

There are *countless* factors that determine success or failure in life. That is why there are people who manage to overcome tremendous setbacks—family dysfunction, extreme poverty, lack of opportunity, bodily limitations—and become spectacular successes. That is also why there are those who have tremendous advantages yet become spectacular failures.

Success comes from *hard work*. It comes from diligence and discipline,

from driving oneself in pursuit of worthy goals, making good choices, living the right way, having the right mindset. It comes from surmounting obstacles, again and again, and sometimes chance. But *character* determines what happens when someone catches the occasional good break, or when God opens a door.

The people decrying “white privilege” are believing a lie: that you reach success not by climbing up to it, but by bringing everyone else down.

Their message is: *Focus on what the world ISN'T doing for you. Don't count your blessings—complain about your burdens. Don't dream about possibilities. Don't seize opportunities. Open your eyes to all the OBSTACLES people are putting in your path! Your failures are someone else's fault. Find people to blame! Resent those with success. They're just unfairly privileged.*

This thinking draws people's energy away from responsibility, self-motivation, resiliency, improvement, achievement, contentment and happiness—and redirects it toward dissatisfaction, envy, hypersensitivity, offense, blaming others, protest and destruction. It traps them in their failures.

Radical leftists don't want people to become diligent, disciplined, driven, resourceful, persevering people who take responsibility for their own lives. After all, if more people judge themselves and others not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character—what would they need the Democratic Party for?

Leftist leaders have the temerity to contend that they know—based on a short list of superficial identity markers—exactly who in society is privileged and who is marginalized. Somehow they can measure how much of each individual's success or failure was earned, and how much was unfairly obtained because of bigotry against others. And with their unerring wisdom, they and their panels of experts will settle scores, resolve injustices of generations long buried,

negate the effects of all prejudice and bias. They can do all this without being biased toward whatever decision will give them the most votes and the most power.

If we will just surrender more of the power we have over our own lives and give it to them, *finally* America can be a land of justice for everyone.

This is hubris on an epic scale. Beyond that, carrying out these utopian fantasies would take an unimaginable level of *authoritarian power*. It is beyond delusional to believe that congressional and bureaucratic panels and experts—and ultimately their armed agents—picking winners and losers based on identity will actually make the world a better place.

The Real Author

Here is a fact: Virtually *everyone* could focus on how unfair life is, if they wanted to. Human nature is adept at finding ways that life should be giving us a better shake. That is because human nature is under the sway of the prince of the power of the air, Satan the devil (Ephesians 2:2). That thinking comes straight from the devil.

Satan likes to provide people excuses for their failures. He wants them to shuck the responsibility that would enable them to learn from mistakes and summon determination to surmount difficulties and challenges. He wants people to think the world is unfair, always denying them the benefits that would otherwise fall into their laps.

Well, the world *is* unfair. This is Satan's world! Truly equal opportunity has never existed in any society in human history!

Ironically, America has gotten closer to offering equal opportunity than any society ever has—yet people are being deceived into viewing it as the most unequal, unfair society in history. This is a remarkable propaganda triumph by Satan—aimed at fracturing our society and turning us against each other so we will rip ourselves apart.

Sadly, this is exactly what we are doing. And the more we believe this

terrible error—the more we try to “heal” ourselves by demanding apologies for privilege and reparations for past wrongs—the more destructive this trend will become. Just watch. Look at the fruits.

Consider how this illustrates the colossal contrast between Satan's thinking and God's. Satan fixates on all the ways we are irredeemably disadvantaged. God—who made all people, of all races, male and female, IN HIS IMAGE—wants us all to *overcome* whatever disadvantages we may have and SUCCEED. And He has a long-term plan for helping us do so.

God is the one who can judge what advantages and disadvantages we have had in our lives. God is the one who created male and female, beautiful races, resources and wealth we can work with. He is the one who judges each person with perfect justice. Notice the story of the talents in Matthew 25 and the story of the pounds in Luke 19. What matters to Him is not the education, career opportunities and money we receive, but the *content of our character*. We are all different in race, sex, parentage, mental abilities, health, physique, location and so on. Yet we are all equal in terms of developing godly virtue. We all ultimately have the same opportunity to live lives of godly character.

God gives each person a measure of resources to see what we will do with it. He wants us to take responsibility for ourselves, to make the very most of whatever opportunities we have, to take full advantage of whatever blessings and privileges He provides, to conquer whatever obstacles stand in our way. He wants the content of our character to grow and grow and grow! Because in the future, He intends to give ALL PEOPLE a great deal *more* responsibility and blessings and privileges—and He is preparing, for that exciting future, all those who accept the challenge today! ■



GOD WANTS YOU TO GROW!

No matter where you started in life and no matter your current situation, your future depends on what you do, led by God. Look for opportunities, not blame, and make the most of your life. Read **Biblical Manhood** (theTrumpet.com/go/responsibility) or order Herbert W. Armstrong's free book **The Incredible Human Potential**.



The Scent of Danger

Manufacturers use fragrance to sell, but it can hurt your health. **BY JORG MARDIAN**

YOUR FACULTY OF SMELL IS probably your most underrated sense. You can detect at least 1 trillion distinct scents.

Your memories and emotions linked to smells can be stronger than those associated with sight or sound.

Manufacturers have tapped into this powerful emotional consumer response, adding artificial scents to many household products. And this has brought about some serious health concerns.

A Fragrance by Any Other Name

In the commercial industry, a fragrance is anything that adds a smell to something else. Manufacturers of products like shampoos, air fresheners, house cleaners, candles and dryer sheets re-create inviting scents in products. Some grocery stores artificially pump in aromas of chocolate and baked bread; car dealerships spray artificial “new car smell” inside vehicles; perfume manufacturers create “scent logos” to elevate a brand’s appeal. A study by Nike showed that adding scents to their stores increased intent to purchase by 80 percent.

The public generally perceives scented products as pleasant and harmless. But these fragrances often contain chemicals that can be dangerous when inhaled or touches the skin. Many are listed on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Hazardous Waste List. They include numerous carcinogens, neurotoxins, respiratory irritants, solvents, aldehydes, petro-chemicals, phthalates, narcotics and more (Connie Pitts, *Get a Whiff of This*).

There are many clinical accounts of fragranced products causing, triggering and exacerbating an increasing number of health conditions. People with multiple chemical sensitivities experience excessive reactivity to a wide range of chemicals and can develop dysfunction in organ systems that baffle physicians.

It increasingly appears that chemical sensitivity comes from the body’s detoxification systems suffering from accumulated chemical exposure. This can result in strange forms of cancer, neurological, autoimmune or genetic disorders, and a widening array of allergies, says the Arizona Center for Advanced Medicine.

Consider this stunning fact: When you see the word “fragrance” on the label of a product, that scent will typically contain a blend of *100 to 350 ingredients*. About 5,000 fragrance ingredients are used in heavy rotation, and the Food and Drug Administration gives them a free pass from being revealed to consumers, even when products have caused serious health problems.

But the fragrance industry is facing a real problem: About 30 percent of U.S. citizens (98 million people) now exhibit serious symptoms to the toxic chemicals in their products, according to the *Journal of Environmental Health*. Some experts believe chemical fragrances may be causing many modern diseases. This concern is slowly seeping into public consciousness as the new “second-hand smoke.”

Hazardous Household Products

If you have not given this subject much thought, you should start examining some of the products you use.

The EPA reveals that potent carcinogens are present in your fabric softeners and dryer sheets. Benzyl acetate is linked to pancreatic cancer; limonene is a known lung irritant; dichlorobenzene, a carcinogenic solvent, causes respiratory distress and heart attacks. Fabric softeners and dryer sheets are specifically designed to transfer their scent onto clothing, which means these chemicals stay close to your body.

Laundry detergent is no better. It may contain nonylphenol, shown in studies to cause reproductive and developmental

problems. The carcinogen formaldehyde has also been added to fragrance formulas, as have phthalates, causing hormone disruptions, cancer, birth defects and fertility problems, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Everyone has favorite hair products, but shampoos and moisturizers may contain paraben preservatives that tamper with hormone function, perfumes that cause allergic reactions, and even lead, which can lead to cancer.

Air fresheners also poison the very air you’re trying to enliven. The Environmental Working Group says they include the known carcinogen 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, a dangerous chemical found in the blood of 96 percent of Americans, as well as other volatile organic compounds that can cause headaches, breathing difficulties, depression, irregular heartbeats and other health challenges.

Do you want to create some ambiance with scented candles? Many of these contain acetone, benzene, lead, carbon monoxide, toluene and more. The lead comes from metal wicks that release particles, and these have been found in the human brain where they are associated with Alzheimer’s Disease, as well as birth defects in babies, according to National Air Quality Testing Services.

Go Fragrance Free

Chemical fragrances are invisible and often pleasant, but most are deceitfully dangerous. Look for products that are free of fragrances. Check ingredient lists. Avoid any product with one of these as an ingredient: fragrance, parfum, phthalate, DEP, DBP, DEHP, limonene or linalool. And note: Some products labeled “fragrance free” still contain fragrance ingredients to mask unpleasant chemical smells.

If you want a scented product, look for one that uses essential oils instead of chemical artificial fragrance. You can use essential oils (in a diffuser) as an excellent, safe way to freshen up a room, and you can dab a drop or two of essential oil onto a washcloth and put it in the dryer with your laundry to freshen your clothes.

For a list of safer cleaning products and recipes for making your own, visit LessToxicGuide.ca. You can also search the Skin Deep database at ewg.org/skinddeep, a comprehensive list of safe products for cleaning and personal care. ■

THE BATTLE FOR THE ARCTIC

'Russia's icebreakers make it king of the Arctic, and America is just a pauper.' BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

ST. PETERSBURG

OUR ENTRANCE INTO ST. PETERSBURG via boat could have been difficult and dangerous had it not been for Russia's famous icebreaker ships that came through a few weeks earlier. Through the window of our cabin on the M/S Princess Anastasia, we saw miles of ice that had been shattered to make way for commerce and tourism in the waters around the nation's former capital city.

Russia's icebreakers in the Baltic Sea are a significant economic asset. But there's another region where Russia's expanding fleet of icebreakers is making a more meaningful difference, not only economically but also militarily: the Arctic.

Historically, the frigid Arctic has been relatively free of the geopolitical struggles among world powers that have beset most other regions. But in recent decades, due to thawing ice and improving technology, this has begun to change. The region has become increasingly important to the Arctic nations: the United States, Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. And none has been more determined to dominate it than Russia, which is accomplishing its objectives largely with icebreakers.

Energy and Minerals

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the Arctic holds 30 percent of the world's undiscovered natural gas and 13 percent of oil. It also contains vast caches of minerals, such as gold, zinc and platinum. Altogether these resources are worth an estimated \$30 trillion, and the Russians are tapping into them at unprecedented rates.

The Yamal liquid natural gas plant is one notable example. Located almost 380 miles north of the Arctic Circle, *yamal* in the local language literally means "end of the world." Temperatures drop lower than 58 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, and for seven to nine months each year the waters around this wasteland are frozen solid in ice up to seven feet thick. Until mining facilities are opened on the moon, you will not find a more hostile environment for industry than the one surrounding Yamal LNG.

But thanks to a new fleet of 15 Arc7 icebreakers that can carry liquefied natural gas shipments, the Russians can keep operations humming year-round as they extract and transport Yamal's 44 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves. "[T]he LNG icebreaker carrier ... will allow LNG to be transported not only during the summer months, but also all year long," Hellenic Shipping News wrote (April 16).

Grand Vision, Tightening Grip

During a visit to Yamal LNG in 2017, Russian President Vladimir Putin made clear that the plant and its icebreakers are part of a larger vision to dominate the region. "This is perhaps the largest step forward in our developing of the Arctic," he said. "Now we can safely say that Russia will expand through the Arctic this and next century."

A major part of this expansion is development of the Northern Sea Route, which runs along Russia's Arctic coast from the Kara Sea to the Bering Sea and the Pacific Ocean. With this route, Russia can ship gas from Yamal and

other Arctic locations to energy-thirsty Eastern nations weeks faster than the time required to go west around Europe and through the Suez Canal. In the case of China, the most energy-thirsty nation of all, the Northern Sea Route cuts shipment times by as much as 15 days.

And Russia is now tightening its grip on this route in a troubling way. Moscow announced in March that foreign ships must submit a request 45 days in advance, bring a Russian maritime pilot aboard for the crossing, and pay hefty transit fees. Any vessel that fails to comply can be detained and even "destroyed," Moscow said. Even if a foreign vessel abides by all the requirements, authorities say they can reject any request for passage with no explanation.

The worrisome—and illegal—part of these new Russian rules concerns the Bering Strait, which lies between the U.S. and Russia. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) says waters within 200 nautical miles from a given nation's coast constitute that country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and the nation has control over them. But international straits such as the Bering are excluded from EEZs. The UNCLOS guarantees freedom of navigation through them.

Russia, however, insists that the Northern Sea Route, including the Bering Strait, is subject to its new rules. Due to this illegal policy, U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Sean Fahey recently warned that "the rights and freedoms all states enjoy to operate ships and aircraft in the maritime domain" might soon become "the most important strategic issue" in the Arctic.

But because of an ever widening "icebreaker gap" between Russia and the rest of the world, Russia's grip on the Arctic will only get tighter.

'King of the Arctic'

"You can't explore the depths of the Arctic, or traverse its seas, if you can't get to it," Terrell Starr wrote for Foxtrot Alpha in "Russia's Icebreakers Make It King of the Arctic, and America Is Just a Pauper" (Jan. 26, 2017).

With 54 vessels, including seven nuclear-powered models, Russia already has the world's largest fleet of icebreakers by far. A distant second place, with 10 ships, goes to Finland. Canada has

seven, as does Sweden. The United States has five, none of which is nuclear.

The number of icebreakers alone doesn't tell the whole story. Only Russia and the U.S. operate "heavy" icebreakers, which have the power to break through thicker ice packs. But here again, Russia has a major advantage with two operational heavy icebreakers and four more in refit. The U.S. has just one—the 42-year-old USCGC Polar Star—and it operates in Antarctica, on the other side of the globe.

Russia's heavy icebreakers are considerably newer, and they remain in the Arctic year-round. Putin says that by 2035, Russia will have 13 heavy icebreakers, including nine nuclear-powered behemoths. At the end of the year, Russia's 33,000-ton Arktika-class of heavy nuclear icebreakers will undergo sea trials. Not far behind will be the 71,000-ton nuclear-powered Lider-class, which will be the world's heaviest icebreaker many times over. The Polar Star, in comparison, weighs around 10,000 tons.

"The highways of the Arctic are icebreakers," U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan recently said. "Russia has superhighways, and we have dirt roads with potholes." As Russia's fleets keep growing, the U.S. and other nations will find it ever more difficult to challenge Putin's control of the Arctic.

Military Matters

In the last few years, Russia has rushed to revive many abandoned Soviet military bases in the Arctic. Thanks largely to its icebreakers, the Russians have revamped airstrips and radar facilities on numerous islands, established four new Arctic brigade command units, opened 16 ports, built new air bases, and deployed anti-ship and ground-to-air missile systems to the region.

"The modernization of Arctic forces and of Arctic military infrastructure is taking place at an unprecedented pace not seen even in Soviet times," Mikhail Barabanov, editor in chief of *Moscow Defense Brief*, told Reuters (Jan. 30, 2017).

With these bases and missiles, Russia can guard its energy claims and enforce its new rules for the Northern Sea Route even if other Arctic nations dispute their legality.

'A Dangerous New Era'

After the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991,

Russia trudged through the next decade as a depleted and exhausted nation. It was outside the mainstream of international affairs, and many Westerners ignored it.

Then Putin came to power and began to right the ship and change its course. In August 2008, he shocked much of the world by invading the former Soviet nation of Georgia and bringing one fifth of its internationally recognized territory under Russian control.

That October, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote about what the invasion signaled for the future: "Russia's attack on Georgia in August marks the beginning of a dangerous new era in history. This was the first military strike of a rising Asian superpower—and there will be more! ... We have witnessed the beginning of a new era!"

Mr. Flurry then speculated on which former Soviet nation Russia might set its sights on next: "Will a crisis occur over Ukraine? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well." Time proved that forecast accurate, with Russia's 2014 invasion and annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and destabilization of Ukraine's eastern regions.

Since then, Putin has continued using his power to prevent Georgia, Ukraine and other former Soviet countries from developing closer relations with Europe. He made Russia a major player in the Middle East, where it has weakened U.S. influence, assisted the brutal Syrian regime, and helped Iran keep pursuing nuclear weapons. Putin has also transformed Russia's military into a modern and more

lethal 21st-century force, including his militarization and control of the Arctic.

It is clear that Putin is restoring Russia's power and boosting its international relevance back toward Soviet levels. And as Mr. Flurry wrote, the world is now in a "dangerous new era."

Bible prophecy shows that, in the years ahead, Putin will lead Russia in an even more aggressive direction. In his booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia,'* Mr. Flurry explains that Putin is personally described in ancient Bible prophecies in Ezekiel 38 and 39. "We need to watch Vladimir Putin closely," he writes. "I believe he is *almost certain* to be the 'prince of Rosh' whom God inspired Ezekiel to write about 2,500 years ago!"

Vladimir Putin's rule indicates that "[w]e are entering into the worst crisis ever in man's history," he writes, but adds that these developments are "super-inspiring at the same time."

Mr. Flurry continues: "VLADIMIR PUTIN IS A SIGN, LITERALLY A SIGN, THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ABOUT TO RETURN! This is one of the most inspiring messages in the Bible. What we are seeing in Russia ultimately leads to the transition from man ruling man to *God* ruling man! And it is almost here! It is just a few short years away."

The rise of Putin's Russia, including its dominance of the Arctic, signals that nuclear World War III is near. That is a fact that should sober every one of us. But these trends are also intimately tied to the best imaginable news: Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth and bring in an age of unprecedented peace and prosperity for the whole world. ■

COLD WAR

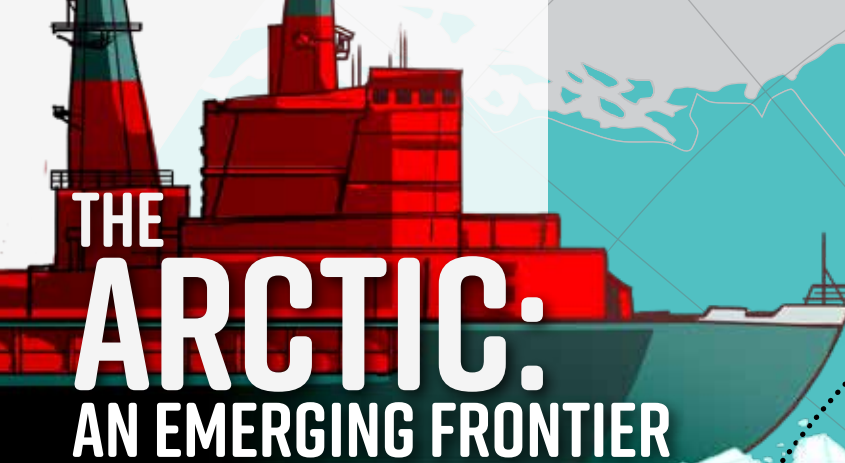
Russian President Vladimir Putin's power is extending into the Arctic, and now even the ends of the Earth are possible future battlegrounds.



This aggressive leader was prophesied in the Bible. To learn more, request Gerald Flurry's free booklet

The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'





THE ARCTIC: AN EMERGING FRONTIER

1. RUSSIA HAS A HUGE ICEBREAKER FLEET

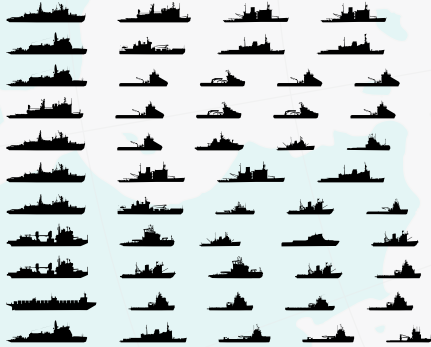
Russia's main tool for staying leagues ahead of other nations in the Arctic is its vast and growing fleet of icebreaker ships. Meanwhile, the United States, often called a "reluctant Arctic power," has just a handful of icebreakers.

"You can't explore the depths of the Arctic, or traverse its seas, if you can't get to it. Russia's icebreakers make it king of the Arctic, and America is just a pauper."

—FOXTROT ALPHA

ICEBREAKERS DEPLOYED IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE:

RUSSIA (52)



CANADA (7)

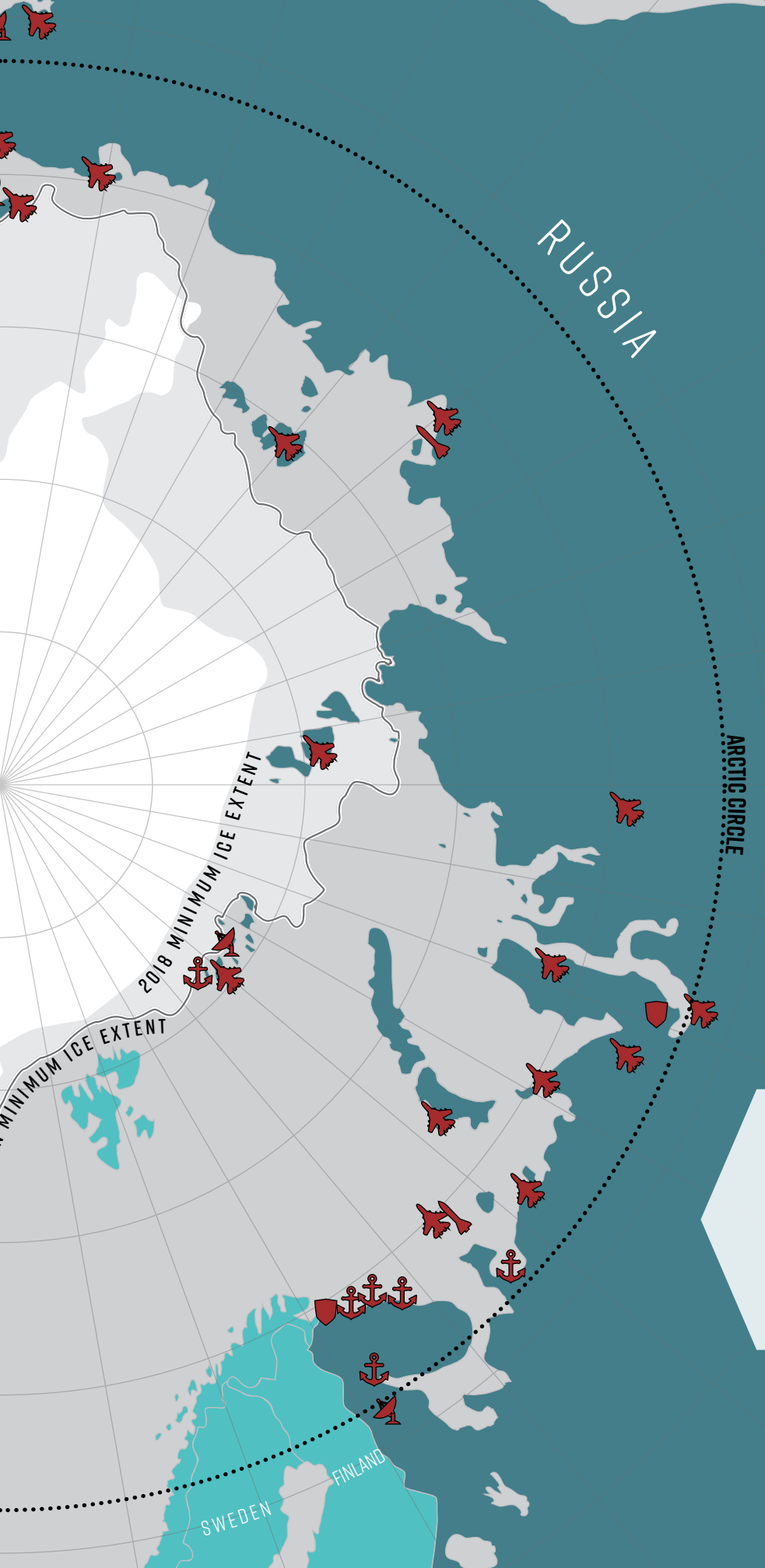


FINLAND (5)



USA (4)





2. HIGHER-THAN-AVERAGE TEMPERATURES HAVE MADE THE ARCTIC MORE ACCESSIBLE

For the last few centuries, the Arctic has been too icy and too remote to enable much of the exploitation and competition among world powers that have shaped most other regions. But due to thawing ice and improving technology, this has begun to change. The Arctic is an emerging frontier, containing vast quantities of energy and mineral wealth as well as shipping lanes that could soon be among the world's most traversed. The Arctic is increasingly important to nations with territory there, and none has been more determined to dominate it than Russia.

WHAT IS ESTIMATED TO BE UNDER ARCTIC ICE?

24.3%
OF THE WORLD'S
KNOWN GAS RESERVES

5.9%
OF THE WORLD'S
KNOWN OIL RESERVES

According to NASA, the average amount of Arctic sea ice present after the summer melting season has shrunk by 40 percent since 1980. Winter sea ice has also been at record lows.

3. RUSSIA IS PREPARED TO DEFEND ITS ARCTIC CLAIMS

Russia is also protecting its Arctic interests with a rapidly growing military presence, while America's military presence in the region is extremely limited.

- RUSSIAN BASE ● UNITED STATES BASE
- AIRFIELD & SEARCH AND RESCUE
- INFANTRY BASE
- AIR DEFENSE
- ELECTRONIC WARFARE AND RADAR
- NAVAL BASE

"The modernization of Arctic forces and of Arctic military infrastructure is taking place at an unprecedented pace not seen even in Soviet times."

—MIKHAIL BARABANOV, MOSCOW DEFENSE BRIEF

MORE PROOF

The Nathan-Melech bulla adds evidence to the authority of the Bible.



King Josiah Proved— **AGAIN!**

New archaeological discovery in Jerusalem adds to evidence of the great biblical king's reign.

BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL

JERUSALEM

HE WAS KING WHEN THE KINGDOM of Judah experienced its last gasp of freedom. His demise was the death knell of the kingdom. Now, archaeological discoveries in and around Jerusalem are breathing life into the epic reign of King Josiah. The most recent evidence proving Josiah's reign and the biblical record is a seal impression bearing the name of Nathan-Melech.

Dr. Yiftah Shalev, codirector of the Jerusalem excavation that uncovered the artifact, told the *Trumpet* in early April, "It's a relatively rare name. It's the first time that it was found on any document outside the Bible. ... In the Bible itself, it's mentioned only once."

That record is found in 2 Kings 23:11: "Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech, the officer who was in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire" (New King James Version).

Normally, archaeologists find clay seal impressions only after putting

excavated earth into a sieve, spraying it with water, and closely inspecting the contents that remain. Surprisingly, the seal of Nathan-Melech, which measures just over 1 centimeter in diameter, was discovered in the archaeological field. A worker discovered the bulla while excavating through a destruction layer of a public building constructed in the eighth century B.C. and destroyed during the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem in 585 B.C. Shalev and codirector Yuval Gadot from Tel Aviv University were able to immediately read the ancient Hebrew inscription and recognize its significance.

The bulla records both Nathan-Melech's name and his title: "Servant of the King." Shalev explains that this means "this person was a high official in the court." This title equates to "the officer who was in the court," mentioned in 2 Kings 23:11.

"We got a name which is relatively rare, appears on the bulla and in the Bible," Shalev said. "The date of the bulla, according to epigraphy [the shape of the

letters], is the second half of the seventh century, early sixth century. Which is exactly the time that this person [the biblical Nathan-Melech] was active here in Jerusalem. And the date of the context, the structure itself, is also to the second half of the seventh century, early sixth century."

Shalev said that all the necessary elements are present to confirm "it is likely" that this seal impression belonged to the man mentioned in the Bible.

Archaeology Confirms Josiah's Reign

The discovery of the Nathan-Melech bulla adds one more archaeological confirmation of the biblical account of King Josiah's reign.

The start of Josiah's reign in 640 B.C. was a difficult time. Eighty years prior, the Assyrian Empire had conquered and taken captive the kingdom of Israel, just to the north of the kingdom of Judah. At about the same time, Josiah's grandfather, King Manasseh, had subjected Judah to the Assyrians. The biblical record of Manasseh's deference to Assyria is confirmed by a clay prism of the Assyrian King Essar-Haddon.

The Bible describes Manasseh's reign as a time of rampant idolatry and pagan worship, which continued into the reign of Josiah's father, Ammon. After just two years, the people of Judah replaced Ammon with his 8-year-old son Josiah. At this time, the Assyrian Empire was waning, and the Babylonian Empire was rising. During this time of upheaval, Josiah enacted one of the most thorough religious revivals in Judah's history.

The book of Chronicles describes how during the 12th year of his reign, Josiah continued to purge paganism even beyond Judah's northern border, entering the territory of the former kingdom of Israel and destroying centers of pagan worship. "And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 34:6-7; English Standard Version).

Amid this revival, Josiah expanded Judah's territory north and west. Archaeology supplies evidence of this expansion.

MESAD HASHAVYAHU OSTRACON

In 1960, a fortress from the time of Josiah was uncovered on the Mediterranean coast, just south of Tel Aviv. Most archaeologists acknowledge that the site is Judean. Hebrew inscriptions and Judean material found at the site are proof that it was a part of King Josiah's expansion of the kingdom.

An inscription found at the site testifies that the residents kept the Sabbath—the oldest extra-biblical reference outside the Bible and further proof of Josiah's religious reforms. The inscription, found on a discarded piece of pottery, confirms not only that Josiah took over this territory, but also that he enforced the biblical Sabbath command. The inscription also

refers to the biblical law that outlaws keeping a person's clothing as collateral past sundown (Exodus 22:26-27):

“Let my lord, the governor, hear the word of his servant! Your servant is a reaper. Your servant was in Hazar Asam, and your servant reaped, and he finished, and he was storing up (the grain) during these days before the Sabbath. When your servant had finished the harvest, and was storing (the grain) during these days, Hoshavyahu came, the son of Shobi, and he seized the garment of your servant, when I had finished my harvest. It (is already now some) days (since) he took the garment of your servant. ... So grant him mercy in that you return the garment of your servant and do not be displeased.”



BULLA OF GEMARIAH, SON OF SHAPHAN

In the 18th year of his reign, King Josiah turned his attention to restoring the temple in Jerusalem. While cleaning the temple, the high priest discovered an ancient manuscript of the book of the law. The Bible records that Shaphan the scribe took the manuscript to King Josiah. One generation later, Shaphan's son Gemariah continued in the family occupation of serving as a royal scribe (Jeremiah 36:10).

In the 1980s, in a City of David excavation just 100 meters from where the Nathan-Melech bulla was found, Yigal Shiloh found a stash of over 50 preserved clay seal stamps. One bulla bore the inscription: “Belonging to Gemariah, son of Shaphan.” This man was a scribe mentioned together with his father in Jeremiah 36. Like Nathan-Melech, the bulla lay in the ash and debris dating to the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem (586-585 B.C.), which helped match the bulla to the biblical figure. This was the first bulla found in the City of David that can be conclusively attributed to an individual in the Bible.

KETEF HINNOM SCROLLS

The same year that Shaphan the scribe read the book of the law to King Josiah, the king restored to its rightful use an area in the temple precinct that had been used to shelter chariots and horses used in sun worship. The Bible records this as “the entrance to the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech ...” (2 Kings 23:11; NKJV). Evidence of this aspect of Josiah's religious revival is found in the Ketef Hinnom Scrolls.

In 1979, during archaeological excavations on the edge of the Valley of Hinnom, not far outside ancient Jerusalem's walls, a large treasure cache was found in a burial tomb by the team of Prof. Gabriel Barkay. The cache included two tiny scrolls made of 99 percent pure silver. They were painstakingly opened in a laboratory, and measure about four inches by one inch when unrolled. The inscriptions feature portions of Scripture. One of the amulets reads, “May Yahweh bless you and keep you. [May] Yahweh make [his face] shine.” Numbers 6:24-25 read, “YHVH bless thee, and keep thee; YHVH make His face to shine upon thee ...” (Jewish Publication Society).

By studying the artifacts around them,

scientists have dated the scrolls to the late-seventh to early-sixth century, somewhere between 650 B.C. and 585 B.C. Bible critics say this is improbable, as the Bible supposedly wasn't finished and distributed until the second and third century. But technological advances in recent years have made it possible to confirm the scrolls' creation more specifically to the seventh century. New high-definition photographs were examined by four scholars of four different institutions who concluded that the new techniques enabled them to “reaffirm with confidence that the late pre-exilic period is the proper chronological context for the artifacts.” Thus, they predate the earliest of the Dead Sea Scrolls by 400 years, making them the oldest biblical texts ever found.



Clay seals, clay prisms, seaside fortresses and silver scrolls: all archaeological discoveries confirming the accuracy of Bible history from more than 2,600 years ago. These discoveries from King Josiah's time prove that the Bible is not

a collection of man-made fairy tales, concocted by Jewish scribes writing hundreds of years after the fact. Rather, it is an accurate account of history, continuing to be proved by an ongoing stream of archaeological discoveries. ■

TO WATCH MIDDLE EAST NEWS IS to feel a sense of déjà vu. Once again, hundreds of thousands are protesting in the streets of major cities. Once again, dictatorships are toppling. Once again, radical Islamists are waiting for their chance to exploit the chaos and uncertainty.

The Arab Spring in 2011 upended the Middle East and shook the world. Syria and Libya are still engulfed in civil wars sparked during that tumult. Europe's political structure is still shaking as the resulting mass migration has damaged mainstream parties and boosted new, often far-right groups. Russia continues to use the civil war in Syria to dramatically augment its power in the Middle East.

Now comes Arab Spring 2.0. Popular uprisings are destabilizing governments in North Africa. The resulting storms could create problems far beyond the region. The stakes are huge.

And once again, the outcome revolves around one critical country: Egypt.

Algeria's Arab Spring

This time, the first flash point was in Algeria. Protests against dictator Abdelaziz Bouteflika began in February, after he announced he would stand for a fifth presidential term in April 18 elections. Bouteflika had governed as an authoritarian, but he is credited for bringing peace to the country and keeping radical Islamists out. However, he suffered a stroke in 2013 and is rarely seen in public. He is generally believed to be incapable of ruling. Algerians complained that they are being governed by a photograph or a ghost.

Angered by this charade of democracy, hundreds of thousands protested. On February 22, the capital, Algiers, saw its largest demonstrations in nearly 18 years. Protests have repeated every Friday since.

On April 2, Bouteflika resigned. But the protests continued. Bouteflika was little more than a figurehead. Those who stood behind him want to keep governing—but the protesters want them out too.

If the conflict destabilizes Algeria, the fallout could be staggering.

Algeria has walked this path before. The Council on Foreign Relations wrote that “the country is vulnerable to the same risk it faced in 1988, when it was

THE NEW ‘ARAB SPRING

MALI

- Nearly 90,000 have been forced to flee since January as tribal militia and armed groups clash in the country's northern and central regions.

ALGERIA

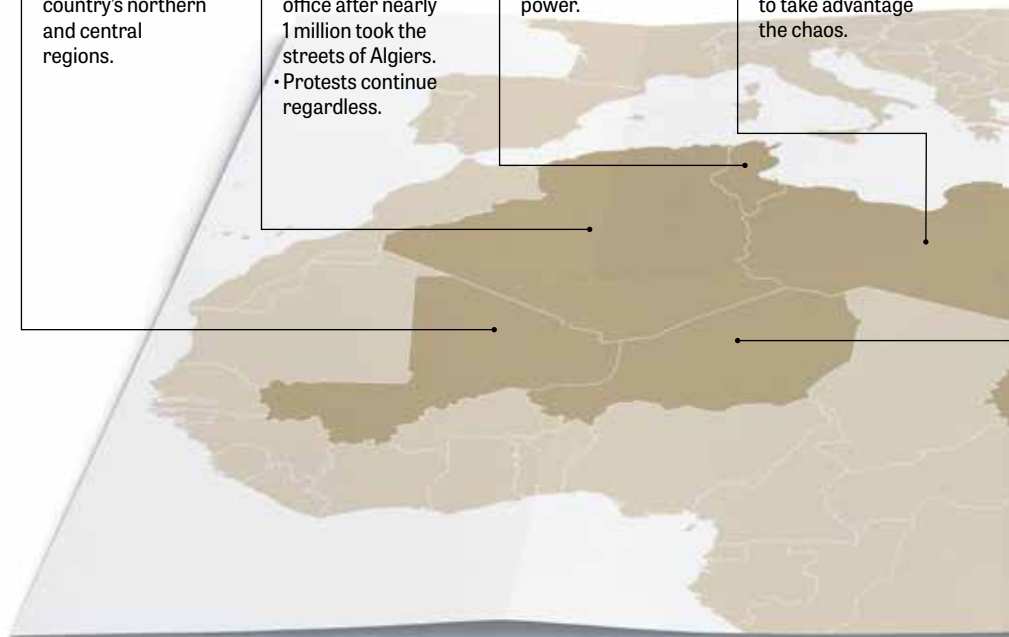
- Protests against dictator Abdelaziz Bouteflika began in February.
- Bouteflika was forced out of office after nearly 1 million took the streets of Algiers.
- Protests continue regardless.

TUNISIA

- Tunisia's president will not stand for reelection.
- Hard-line Islamist groups are positioned to take power.

LIBYA

- Civil war reignites as strongman marches on the capital.
- The Islamic State waits in the wings to take advantage the chaos.



rocked by unexpected (and still largely inexplicable) deadly and destabilizing riots” (March 7). These riots led to the so-called dark decade of the 1990s, where around 200,000 died as the country fought a civil war with radical Islamists.

Today, the Islamists remain a potent force. On Jan. 16, 2013, Algerian Islamists gained the world's attention when they seized a natural gas facility, taking hostage 700 Algerian workers and more than 100 foreigners.

“When Bouteflika goes, Algeria will probably implode,” warned Stephen Pollard at the *Spectator* in 2016. “The Islamists who have been kept at bay by his iron hand will exploit the vacuum. Tensions that have been buried since the civil war will reemerge. And then Europe could be overwhelmed by another great wave of refugees from North Africa.”

“An Algerian civil war would create huge numbers of refugees,” he continued. “One analyst told me he expects 10 to 15 million Algerians will try to leave. Given Algeria's history, they would expect to be rescued

by one nation: France. In its impact on the EU, even a fraction of this number would dwarf the effect of the Syrian civil war. Given the political trauma that the refugee crisis has already caused in Europe, a massive Algerian exodus could cause tremendous insecurity.” The resulting crisis, he warned, “could destroy the EU.”

Algeria is a huge country and an important supplier of oil and natural gas. If it destabilizes, the echoes will reverberate worldwide. Can Europe cope with yet another failed state at its borders?

The protesters know their country's history. They know there are risks to toppling the government. Kamel Daoud, a columnist for an Algerian newspaper, told the *Atlantic*, “I have a lot of hope as an Algerian. I'm also very worried that the Islamists might steal our revolution, but I think we still need to try. [W]e need to take the risk” (March 29).

War Criminal Under Siege

On April 11, another longtime African dictator fell: Sudanese President Omar

Governments are falling in North Africa again. The resulting storms could wreak havoc.

BY RICHARD PALMER AND BRENT NAGTEGAAL

NIGER

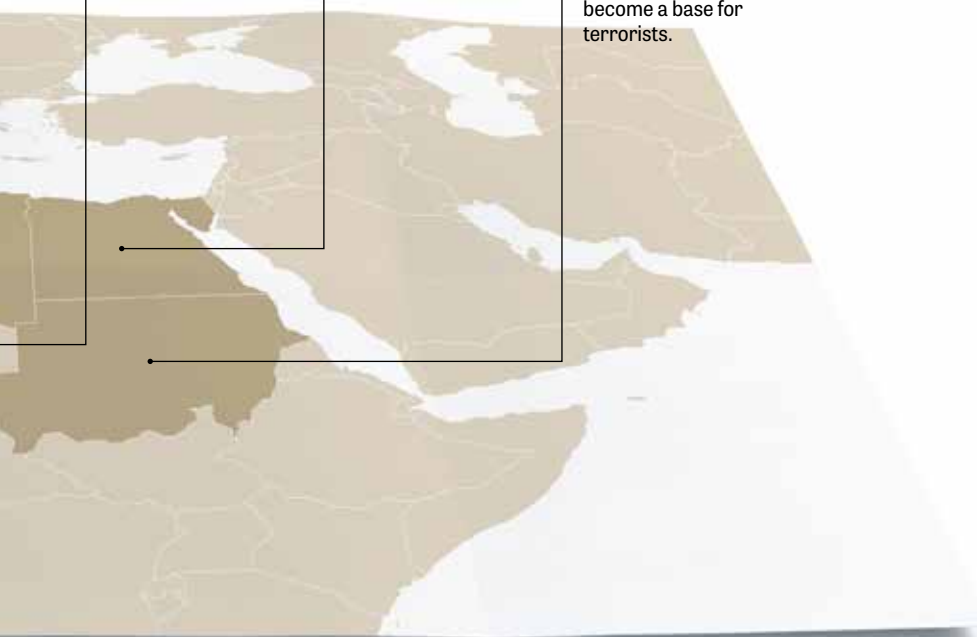
• 2019 has seen a resurgence in attacks by Boko Haram.

EGYPT

• Watch this space.

SUDAN

• President Omar al-Bashir was forced out of office in April.
• The destabilized country could become a base for terrorists.



al-Bashir. He had been fending off protests since the end of 2018. Finally a sector of the army backed the protesters and forced the strongman out of office.

It's easy to cheer his downfall. Bashir is the only sitting head of state indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Sudan's strict Islamic law forced people to convert to Islam. Punishable offenses in Bashir's Sudan included abandoning Islam, organizing protests, wearing perfume, men and women dancing together, teaching art and music, and consuming alcohol—even alcohol in medication.

And once again, the political void creates instability that Islamists can exploit. Sudan is ethnically and religiously divided. It has spent the last 30 years under Bashir, but has had more coup attempts than any other African country.

Islamists have much experience operating in Sudan. Bashir harbored Osama bin Laden from 1992 to 1996. He also forged strong links with Iran, allowing

its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to set up bases in his country. Sudan was a transit point for Iranian weapons smuggling. Squeezed by economic problems, Bashir abandoned Iran in recent years and switched sides to Saudi Arabia. Sudan's usefulness as a base for radical Islam has declined. The European Union gave him funds to stop and lock up migrants. But the terrorist and radical presence has not completely vanished.

Bashir's departure and the resulting civil crisis could create a surge of refugees and open up a base for terrorists to attack targets in North and West Africa.

Already, splits are developing between the Sudanese Army and the protesters. With Sudan's religious and ethnic divides, a spiral into worse violence is a real possibility.

Civil War in Libya

Libya has been in chaos since the Arab Spring in 2011, but the chaos has been far less destructive than it could have been. Last year, around 1,500 people

were killed in the fighting. That is tragic, but it is dwarfed by the 20,000 people killed in Syria and over 28,000 in Yemen over the same period.

Until April 4, the Libyan government was locked in a stalemate. The Government of National Accord (GNA) controls the capital Tripoli and is backed by the United Nations. But the Libyan National Army (LNA) under Gen. Khalifa Haftar controls most of the rest of the country and is backed by Russia, with support from France and some recognition from the United States. Meanwhile, terrorists, including the Islamic State, are exploiting the divided government and other weaknesses and are seizing territory.

But on April 4, Haftar marched on Tripoli. This power play threatens to unleash fighting on a whole new scale. The U.S. has withdrawn the small number of Marines it had posted in Tripoli. Haftar's initial push failed to take the capital quickly, and the fighting has continued. About 400 people have been killed, and 50,000 have left their homes.

"The conflict in Libya has entered a new phase," Stratfor warned shortly after Haftar's attack. "With their forward progress halted, it's unlikely that Haftar's forces will be able to take full control of the capital any time soon, leading to a high probability that the battle will become a protracted affair. ... [W]ith Haftar's forces stretched thin, rival militias and terrorist groups in the territory the LNA already had seized, such as in Benghazi, will have the opportunity to regain a foothold" (April 8).

"The chaos emerging from another full-scale conflict could allow the Islamic State to restrengthen as political crises continue in Algeria and Sudan," Stratfor wrote.

A Pattern of Instability

Major risks of conflagration lie elsewhere in Africa as well.

In Mali, nearly 90,000 have been forced to flee since January as tribal militia and armed groups clash in the country's northern and central regions. On March 23, more than 150 Fulani villagers were killed, probably by the rival Dogon tribe.

Meanwhile, the UN Refugee Agency said it is worried about the spike in attacks in southeast Niger, warning, "The beginning of the year has brought

a resurgence of violent attacks by Boko Haram, targeting security and defense forces as well as the civilian population in the region of Diffa, near the Nigerian border.” The Islamic State claimed to have killed 69 soldiers in the country between April 11 and 18.

Violence continues to simmer across the whole Sahel region. On April 18, Boko Haram terrorists destroyed a village in Cameroon and killed over a dozen people. Attacks like this happen regularly but seldom make big international news.

Further north, Tunisia has been the first Arab Spring’s only success story. Under President Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisians kept the Islamists out—barely. But the country’s economy has struggled, requiring a bailout from the International Monetary Fund with all the restrictions on spending that accompany it.

North Africa is on the brink of an explosion. Your Bible prophesies this explosion, and its ultimate outcome.

In the wake of Arab Spring 2.0, however, Essebsi announced that he would not stand for reelection after his presidency ends in the fall. His announcement came as movements on social media began to call for his ouster, inspired by events in neighboring Algeria. There are no clear candidates for replacing Essebsi, and his party has asked him to stay.

Tunisia’s number two party is Ennahda, an Islamic party inspired by the Iranian Revolution and the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2016, it declared itself a party of “Muslim democrats.” How the party would govern if it takes power is unknown. The results of the Arab Spring in just about every other country show there is plenty of scope for radical Islam in Tunisia.

Even in Turkey, strongman Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is under threat. His political party performed badly in critical local elections on March 31. This is despite a massive crackdown in dissent

in recent years and near total control of the media. “The strongman’s future looks weak indeed,” wrote *Deutsche Welle* (April 1). Erdoğan nullified the election results and insisted the vote be rescheduled. Such authoritarian heavy-handedness in the face of popular resistance could yield greater problems in the future.

The turmoil in all these areas will not dissipate quickly. Having several hot spots all smoldering at the same time increases the risk of broader revolution. But even if the present disorder settles down, the systemic problems will remain.

North Africa is on the brink of an explosion. Your Bible prophesies this explosion, as well as its ultimate outcome.

Watch Egypt

In all this chaos, Egypt, which was arguably the center of the first Arab Spring, is now relatively quiet. But we expect this to change.

For two decades before 2011, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry had forecast a “radical change in Egyptian politics.” He said radical Islam, led by the Muslim Brotherhood, would likely take over Egypt. He said Egypt would then align with Iran, the biblically prophesied “king of the south” (Daniel 11:40).

For this prophecy to take place, former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who was aligned with the United States, had to go.

This happened in 2011. Mass protests against his government grew and eventually toppled his regime.

Immediately afterward, the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood turned the situation into victory at the ballot box. The group’s leader, Mohamed Morsi, came to power the next year and installed the rule of political Islam in Egypt.

During his campaign for the presidency, Morsi stated, “The Koran is our constitution, the prophet is our leader, jihad is our path, and death in the name of Allah is our goal.” Egypt’s new trajectory was clear.

Straightaway, the Iranian-Egyptian relationship began warming. It had been frozen for decades because Iran disagreed with Egypt’s peace treaty with Israel, and Egypt rejected Iran’s descent into clerical rule. But for the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the two countries opened offices in each other’s capitals.

Commercial flights resumed between the two nations. And photographs of Morsi and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad embracing showed the world the establishment of an alliance.

Bible prophecy indicates that Iran’s control of Egypt will act as the gateway to Iran’s dominance of North Africa, and it was starting to happen before our eyes.

However, in 2013, just one year later, the Muslim Brotherhood leader was gone, as was the Iranian-Egyptian alliance. Morsi’s push toward religious rule rattled the military, and he was promptly removed in a coup. He was dethroned by Gen. Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, whose power and distrust of the Muslim Brotherhood are similar to those of former President Mubarak.

Egypt’s move into Iran’s camp has been delayed until a future time.

Has that time arrived? Events of early 2019 show that another “radical change” in Egyptian politics is coming.

It is hard to tell, given Sisi’s clampdown on freedom of the press, but so far, there appears to be no substantial movement by the Egyptian people toward ousting the president. Commentators, however, are starting to notice an increase in Iran’s efforts to ally with the Muslim Brotherhood. Iranian affairs analyst Tamer Badawi noted that Iran is seeking to capitalize on North African turmoil. And Iran knows the value of Egypt.

In an interview with Carnegie Middle East Center, Badawi said: “This topic [Iran’s relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood] is important because the Middle East and North Africa region today is defined politically by volatile alliances arising in response to specific situations. Despite how vulnerable and relatively unpopular the Muslim Brotherhood has become, it remains an integral part of the region’s social fabric, with an extensive network of contacts As the region is potentially witnessing a second wave of uprisings—in Algeria and Sudan—movements of political Islam may make a comeback and contribute to new governing structures. *Iran would be interested in approaching such groups and cultivating good relations with them*” (April 15; emphasis added throughout).

The Muslim Brotherhood seems weak with Sisi in power. But Egyptian politics can change extremely fast, as

we witnessed in 2011. According to Badawi, Iran is already reaching out to several factions of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Iran intends to “tap into the movement’s extensive network of regional contacts,” he said.

According to Badawi, Iran will try to use its outreach with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to influence other destabilized nations in North Africa. Unsurprisingly, this is exactly what the Bible says will happen.

Based on a prophecy in Daniel 11:40-44, Mr. Flurry has said that Egypt’s alliance with Iran will lead to Iranian control over the destabilized areas of North Africa.

“We need to understand the ENORMOUS IMPACT that *Egypt working with Iran* will have in the Middle East and even globally,” he wrote. “This Iran-Egypt axis is going to change the game in the Middle East—*particularly in Libya and Ethiopia*” (*Trumpet*, October-November 2012).

Right now, we see major popular movements across North Africa bringing down governments, as in 2011. But instead of just focusing on the turmoil in Algeria, Libya and Sudan, we also need to watch Egypt. It has a population larger than Algeria, Sudan and Libya combined. It is one of the leading nations in the volatile region.

“The emphasis here in [Daniel 11] verses 42 and 43 is on Egypt—then we have Libya and Ethiopia,” wrote Mr. Flurry. “This shows that *Egypt is the big conquest!* It is the *real* power behind Libya and Ethiopia, which suggests that *it is going to have a heavy hand in swinging those two nations into the Iranian camp.* ... Put simply, this means that we can expect Egypt—with Iran’s help—to lead Libya and Ethiopia into the Iranian camp!” (ibid).

As in 2011, it might be the civil unrest in neighboring countries that motivates Egyptians to rise up against their strong leader. However it happens, Egypt is the pivotal nation to watch.

A Clash of Civilizations

Daniel 11 prophesies a clash between two power blocs, a European “king of the north” and a radical Islamic “king of the south.” Though Egypt has not yet swung into the Islamic camp, conditions for this clash are still building.

In his article “Watch Algeria!”, Mr. Flurry wrote: “Northern Africa

is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications” (*Trumpet*, April 2013).

His article described the 2013 terrorist attack on the Algerian natural gas facility. “These terrorists are sponsored, for the most part, by Iran,” he wrote. “Iran has designs on being the strongest power throughout the region, and is extending its reach throughout North Africa.

“But Iran isn’t the only one interested in Africa. Germany is making strong inroads as well. Both of these powers are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can. They will inevitably clash with each other.”

Arab Spring 2.0 had been building for years. Bouteflika especially has been sick for a long time, and it has been clear that a handover of power was inevitable. The potential for Libya to explode again has also long been known. So has the opportunity this could give the Islamists.

Algeria’s military has been preparing for a clash. It increased its weapons imports by 55 percent over the last five years. Despite being a relatively poor country, it is the world’s fifth-biggest weapons importer. It is Germany’s largest arms customer outside of NATO. It is making sure it has the necessary armaments to take on the Islamists.

In that 2013 article, Mr. Flurry described the spread of radical Islam backed by Iran. But he wrote that the radicals “are beginning to face some opposition from Germany and the European Union. Algeria has a strong supporter in Germany. That is going to make a big difference for these terrorist groups.”

Algeria is Europe’s third-largest gas supplier. Spain depends on Algeria for half of its natural gas needs. “Do you think Germany will sit back and do nothing while terrorists take over Algeria?” asked Mr. Flurry. “I think you’re going to find Algeria getting a lot of help from Europe,

especially Germany. With all that fuel coming from Algeria, you know Europe and Germany must be very concerned.”

Mr. Flurry forecast in that 2013 article that Europe and radical Islam would increasingly clash in North Africa. The EU now has major military missions in Mali and the Central African Republic, and it is trying to organize a local force comprised of allied African nations to fight radical Islam. And the need for more intervention in North Africa is clearly intensifying.

Those clashes portend a major event prophesied in your Bible. “The Daniel 11:40 clash between the king of the south and the king of the north is about to be fulfilled!” Mr. Flurry concluded. “All of this violence in Africa is just a prelude to the fulfillment of this prophecy.

“Monitor these events closely and see if what we’re telling you doesn’t come to pass. So many prophecies already have. *Never in mankind’s history* has so much prophecy been fulfilled so rapidly! Events are racing along. This is not the world you knew 10 or even five years ago. It’s very different” (ibid).

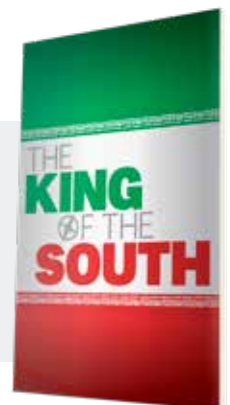
Both sides are already preparing for this clash. There are only a few pieces left to fall into place. Clearly, Bible prophecy is unfolding in North Africa.

Understanding these prophecies is not enough. God doesn’t give prophetic insight to titillate our curiosity or just for the sake of knowledge. In fact, there is a danger to understanding these prophecies and not acting on them (James 1:22).

These prophecies reveal the power of God. They show us, without a doubt, that the Bible is His Word. They also remind us that although this is not His world, God does rule in the kingdom of men (2 Corinthians 4:4; Daniel 4:17). Finally, these prophecies help you prove that the work of Mr. Flurry and the *Trumpet* is more than just a work of men. ■

The next Iran plot twist

Iran’s relationship with America and the world has been turbulent. It has gone from monarchy to theocracy to hostage-taker to terror-sponsor to negotiating partner to military ally to business associate to sanctions target to possible belligerent. Gerald Flurry forecast Iran’s rise—and what it will do in the near future—in ***The King of the South***. Request your free copy.





What Is ARMAGEDDON?

Few subjects in the Bible receive more attention, yet almost no one knows its meaning. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

WHAT IS ARMAGEDDON? Is it World War III? Will it be America and Britain fighting against Russia?

Television commentators and other pundits bring up this word often, but few people understand its true meaning.

Yet if we do not understand this subject, we cannot understand the Bible's most critical prophecies, and we can easily believe fables. When you fully understand what Armageddon means, you will be astonished.

You might be surprised to learn that Armageddon is mentioned in the Bible only once: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils [demons], working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue *Armageddon*" (Revelation 16:13-16).

This is talking about a time when three demons will emerge—one from

Satan (the dragon), another from a bloody political empire (the beast), and the third from a fraudulent religious leader (the false prophet). This is alarming imagery!

Demonic spirits are *already* stirring up worldwide warfare. Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). He and his demons have been cast down and confined to Earth in this end time (Revelation 12:9). He and his demons *infest* the Earth. They have never been more wrathful. They are the cause of the unprecedented problems now facing humanity. If people understood this, they would be very afraid!

Revelation 17 paints a terrifying prophetic picture of an evil empire coming on the world scene. If you are going to understand that empire, then you must understand Armageddon. A fascist government is rising in Europe today—a revival of the Babylonian system pictured in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17. It will plunge the world into a holocaust like we have never imagined!

These prophecies show that these men who are bringing the world into war are influenced—even *possessed*—by demons! This is a serious problem! Think: Satan has the power to influence people heavily, even to possess them,

and speak through them, and infuse them with his power! He will work through the political leader of this "beast" and through the "false prophet" of Revelation 16, to perform deadly miracles.

This is the truth of your Bible. Do you have the courage to face it?

A Gathering Place

In a November-December 1955 *Plain Truth* article, "What Is Armageddon?" Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: "First, notice that 'Armageddon' is a *Hebrew* word, not an English word. Actually, the Hebrew word is 'Har Magedon' or 'Har Megiddo.' In the Hebrew, the H's are usually not pronounced, and so are often omitted in the spelling in English. Megiddo is in the Valley of Jezreel, some 70 miles northwest of Jerusalem, just in from the port of Haifa.

"The Hebrew prefix 'Har' means 'fortified,' or 'fortified hill.' Between World War I and World War II, the British fortified Haifa at a cost of many millions of dollars. Consequently, Megiddo (or Magedon) *has now become*, in fact, ARMAGEDDON!"

People talk about the "battle of Armageddon," but it's really the "battle of the great day of God Almighty"! There is no *battle of Armageddon*. Armageddon is a specific location. It will be a gathering place for the great armies of this world. God will then lead them down to Jerusalem and fight them there.

As we will see, other Bible prophecies show that this "Day of the Lord" is the climax of the coming worldwide destruction!

Yet this wholesale warfare and destruction is tied to the greatest news you could hear.

Great Tribulation

Matthew 24 reveals the sequence of end-time events that precedes the return of Jesus Christ to Earth in power and glory. It reveals one key sign of looming trouble: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)" (verse 15).

Luke's Gospel account provides more clarity: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh"

(Luke 21:20). The abomination of desolation is when EUROPEAN ARMIES—not Arab armies—surround Jerusalem! This European power is a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, poised to destroy the world! Led by Germany, it will start World War III. This time, however, it will be destroyed forever by God Himself.

“[F]or sore anguish will come upon the land and Wrath on this people; they will fall by the edge of the sword, they will be carried prisoners to all nations, and Jerusalem will be under the heel of the Gentiles till the period of the Gentiles expires” (verses 23-24; Moffatt translation).

God asks in Ezekiel 33:11, “[W]hy will ye die, O house of Israel?” All nations on Earth will be punished, but God will punish the nations of biblical Israel—primarily America, Britain and the Jewish nation in the Middle East—first.

Continuing in Matthew 24, Christ said, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (verse 21). This nightmarish period is described in many other prophecies. The coming “tribulation” is the climax of Satan’s wrath against humanity, and will involve *nuclear* destruction!

We have brought doom upon ourselves through our sinful ways—and by creating weapons of mass destruction. Every weapon mankind has made, we have *always* used! Unsound strongmen are rising today who are eager to use nuclear weapons. But these madmen will not conquer this world as they plan to. They are no match for God’s infinite power.

Like Matthew 24, the violent events of the book of Revelation follow a precise time sequence. The 2½-year period of “great tribulation” is described in Revelation 6:9-11.

Next will come the heavenly signs: God will disrupt the heavens and Earth. The sun, moon and stars will become complete darkness. Earth will convulse with tidal waves and earthquakes (verses 12-17; Luke 21:25-26).

This is also described in Joel 2:31: “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, *before the great and the terrible day of the Lord* come.” God sends these supernatural signs just *before* the Day of the Lord. This is no routine warning! God is warning this world in ways that it cannot ignore!

Immediately after the heavenly signs, suddenly and unexpectedly comes the one-year period of *God’s wrath*, the Day of the Lord.

The Day of the Lord

The Prophet Zephaniah describes this event: “The great DAY OF THE LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness” (Zephaniah 1:14-15).

The “great tribulation” is the time of *Satan’s* greatest wrath. It will be followed by a period of GOD’S WRATH! It will be a time of indescribable suffering! But it

arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible” (Isaiah 13:6-11).

Yes, God is going to punish this world for its evil! Human beings will be howling like suffering wolves because of the intense agony! God does not want anyone to have to go through such suffering. This is why He warns and warns and warns; even after the Great Tribulation, He warns through the spectacular heavenly signs. Yet mankind still refuses to repent! (Revelation 11:10).

Those who are not protected by God will be petrified—fear will seize Earth. Anyone who fails to turn to God will be shaking with fear! We need Him to solve our problems!

There is only one way to be protected from this dreadful future: Submit to



also leads to the most hope-filled, exciting event ever.

“Howl ye; for the DAY OF THE LORD is at hand; it shall come *as a destruction from the Almighty*. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man’s heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the DAY OF THE LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and *he shall destroy the sinners* thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I WILL PUNISH THE WORLD FOR THEIR EVIL, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the

God now and help deliver His warning message. He gives each and every one of us a way to escape this coming suffering. Human suffering is the result of unwillingness to obey God.

Jesus Christ is tired of mankind’s wickedness! He will soon return and *stop* all suffering, ruling with a rod of iron: “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

Christ’s Return!

Yes—Christ Himself is going to return! “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ...

ICONIC
The Notre Dame
Cathedral burns down.

A fire in the heart of Europe

The burning of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on April 15 arrested the attention of France, Europe and the world. Melissa Mackenzie, publisher of the *American Spectator*, wrote, “The images from the burning of Notre Dame provoke the same sort of heart-heavy dread as the 9/11 images. ... It feels like we’re witnessing

the end of Christianity and Western civilization.”

The reaction to the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral is a powerful reminder that the Catholic Church remains at the heart of Western civilization.

The Catholic religion has influenced every facet of Western society, from art and music to science to the measurement

Catholic Bishop: ‘Islam will invade the world’

A high-ranking cardinal in the Catholic Church has made it his mission to open Europe’s eyes to the dangers posed by Muslim immigrants.

“As a bishop, it is my duty to warn the West,” said Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Vatican’s prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

In an April 5 interview, Sarah compared the modern influx of Muslim migrants to the invasions of barbarian tribes that ultimately brought down the Roman Empire in A.D. 476. If Europe’s policies toward Muslim migrants don’t change, Sarah warned, Europe will be “invaded

by foreigners, just as Rome has been invaded by barbarians. ... If Europe disappears, and with it the priceless values of the Old Continent, Islam will invade the world.”

The number of migrants fleeing to Europe has fallen dramatically since 2015, when Europe recorded its highest number of arrivals at more than 1 million. However, Cardinal Sarah warns that fresh arrivals of Muslim immigrants are not the only problem. He also cited the disparity between the birth rate of native Europeans and Muslims in Europe. “If the West continues in this fatal way,” he said, “there is a great risk that, due to a falling birthrate, it will disappear.”

of time to annual holidays. Its influence over Europe is even more extensive.

The front-page news of the cathedral fire reminds the world that Europe has been a Catholic stronghold for 1,000 years. For many, it also symbolizes the threats to European Catholicism from secularism, from mass migration of Muslim migrants, and from Islamist extremism. Many wondered if the fire was an act of terrorism, but it has since been linked to renovation work. People see pictures of Notre Dame burning and feel like they’re “witnessing the end of Christianity and Western civilization,” because they *already* fear they have been witnessing the end of Christianity and Western civilization.

But the outpouring of grief over Notre Dame shows the fight is not over yet. Catholicism still holds deep meaning for many, and given the right threats—and the right leadership—biblical prophecy shows that European Catholicism will come roaring back. To learn more, read “Will Europe Rediscover Its Christian Identity?” at theTrumpet.com/14249. ■



CARDINAL SARAH

Daniel 11:40 prophesies that Europe will be provoked by an aggressive king of the south. Iran is drawing closer and closer to having nuclear weapons by which it could threaten the West. Terrorist attacks are occurring in Europe. Islam is *literally* pushing into Europe in the form of migrants who refuse to assimilate. But when Islam pushes too far, Europe will push back. ■



ELECTION DAY
Vox supporters rally in Madrid.

The fringe is in

Dutch populist Thierry Baudet and his Forum for Democracy party stunned the Netherlands on March 20. It won the most votes in provincial elections to become the nation’s largest party, taking seats from Prime Minister Mark Rutte’s center-right party and the ruling coalition.

Three weeks later on April 14, a fringe party the media labeled far-right came within a whisker of winning Finland’s election. The Finns Party won 39 seats in Parliament and 17.5 percent of the total vote compared to the Social Democrats’ 17.7 percent.

In Spain, the far-right Vox party made its debut in parliament on April 29, after winning 10 percent of the vote in elections held the previous day. No far-right party has entered Spain’s parliament since the nation became a democracy in 1975. This development marks a new era in Spanish politics.

In Germany, recent polls show that the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) is now the most popular party in the former East Germany. If the trend continues, AfD will win throughout the east in state elections this fall, which could hasten Chancellor Angela Merkel’s exit.

Each country is unique, but across the Continent, the trend is clear: The fringe is growing. Europeans are increasingly fed up with politics as usual and are voting for parties that openly advocate a new political system.

Bible prophecy states that Europe will soon undergo a political revolution, from which an empire of 10 nations will emerge. These elections show the clear appetite for such a revolution. ■



Is South Africa the next Venezuela?

Eskom, South Africa's dysfunctional state-run energy monopoly, cast a dark shadow across the nation in February and March when it reinstated widespread "load shedding"—periodically shutting off power to alternating towns and villages to ensure demand for power does not exceed supply and cause the entire grid to fail. The company faced high costs, low revenues, deteriorating infrastructure and corrupt management.

Energy analyst expert Chris Yelland said that a severe power shortage would undoubtedly cause widespread "looting and civil unrest." According to Goldman Sachs, Eskom is the biggest single threat to South Africa's economy.

Between 1960 and 1990, Eskom increased its power production capacity 10-fold. In fact, South Africa in general experienced tremendous development and progress, thanks in large part to its mineral wealth and fertile land.

That prosperity directly fulfilled unconditional promises God had made for the patriarch Abraham's descendants, which today include a significant part of South Africa, British Commonwealth nations and the United States. The continuation of this prosperity depended on obedience, which is lacking in these nations.

South Africa today is closer to Venezuela-type conditions than many people realize. The reasons for this situation are biblical, as our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains. ■

Russia intervenes in Venezuela

Two Russian Air Force planes arrived in Venezuela's capital of Caracas on March 23, carrying military equipment, almost 100 soldiers and the chief of staff of Russian ground forces. The move emboldened the regime of Venezuelan despot Nicolás Maduro, who was reportedly considering giving up power, and helped him neutralize the massive street demonstrations of impoverished Venezuelans.

Since Maduro came into power in 2013, Venezuela has spiraled into the worst economic crisis of its history. In January, as

Venezuelans protested Maduro's rigging of the 2018 election, opposition leader Juan Guaidó declared himself interim president. The United States and most European and Latin American nations support Guaidó. But Maduro still controls Venezuela's military and has the support of China, Cuba and Russia. Russia's leadership has sworn to block any attempts to oust Maduro.

Just across the Caribbean Sea, Venezuela is becoming a staging ground for a future besiegement of America. As alarming as this sounds, Bible prophecy shows that such a besiegement will

U.S.: IRGC is a terrorist organization

It's now official: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is a terrorist organization.

On April 8, the United States State Department formally designated the IRGC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), acknowledging that the Iranian regime is not only a state sponsor of terrorism but also a perpetrator of terrorism.

"This designation will be the first time that the United States has ever named a part of another government as an FTO," U.S. President Donald Trump said in a statement. "It underscores the fact that Iran's actions are fundamentally

different from those of other governments. This action will significantly expand the scope and scale of our maximum pressure on the Iranian regime."

The IRGC is a military unit of 125,000 members, operating alongside the official Iranian military and answering directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei. It often boasts that it spends more than \$1 billion a year to fund terrorism across the world via proxies like Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iraqi militias, even as the Iranian economy falters. According to Brian Hook, U.S. special representative for Iran, between 2003 and 2011 the IRGC was responsible for 17 percent of all deaths of American



personnel in Iraq—at least 608 American servicemen.

Bloomberg wrote that, by designating the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization, "the U.S. government has formally recognized that a key part of Iran's military [and economy] is legally indistinguishable from the terrorist groups it has been sponsoring for decades. Trump's strategy, unlike his predecessor's, begins with the premise that Iran is an outlaw state—and treats it as such until it changes its behavior" (April 8).

As sound as this strategy is, Bible prophecy states that it will not change the Iranian regime.

Iran leads the biblical "king of the south" mentioned in Daniel 11:40. This radical Islamist alliance will include Iraq, as well as nations along the western coastline of the Red Sea and the southern Mediterranean, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Libya. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's booklet *The King of the South* expounds more on how this will happen. ■



soon happen. Around 2,700 years ago, God inspired the Prophet Isaiah to write about a trade alliance—"a mart of nations"—that would emerge in the end time (Isaiah 23:3). As our article on page 4 explains, this alliance will be led by European and Asian powers. The influence Russia, China and Europe are building in Venezuela and elsewhere in Latin America will play a key role in this prophesied besiegement. ■

Worst agricultural disaster in modern U.S. history

Severe storms devastated the American Midwest this spring. On May 1, heavy rains caused the Mississippi River to overflow its banks. This catastrophic flooding swamped America's agricultural heartland less than two months after heavy rains submerged more than 1 million acres of American farmland.

AccuWeather estimates that flooding in the Midwest has caused \$12.5 billion in economic losses—the worst agricultural



disaster in modern U.S. history.

Many are saying this latest weather disaster is caused by man-made climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels, but consider a few verses in Deuteronomy 28.

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day ... The Lord shall open unto thee his

China controls, weaponizes rare earth minerals

Three United States senators reintroduced legislation on April 5 to reduce U.S. reliance on imports of Chinese rare earth minerals, metals necessary for manufacturing most high-tech products.

Until the late 1990s, most rare earth minerals were processed in America. But as the U.S. government enacted more environmental regulations, the cost of processing them increased. American processing operations



closed down, and China stepped up, exploiting cheap labor and lax environmental regulations. Now, China controls between 90 and 97 percent of the globe's rare earth minerals supply, and it uses government subsidies to maintain its monopoly.

This monopoly gives China great power over other nations. And the senators' efforts may be

too late to prevent China from undermining the U.S. and its technology-dependent military.

Late educator Herbert W. Armstrong proved in his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that the U.S. and Britain are the descendants of ancient Israel. He showed that God promised these two nations “possession of the Earth's choicest agricultural, mineral and other wealth.” God gave America and Britain dominance over the world's rare earth minerals, helping ensure that these nations would become economic and military superpowers. But the

good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand” (verses 1, 12).

The fact that America is not experiencing rain in due season is a sign from God that the nation is not keeping “all his commandments.” If you believe the Bible, you must recognize the *link* between the conditions that are overtaking us and our disobedience to God—our sins. Not our “sins” of fossil fuel consumption, but sins like *blasphemy, adultery and lust, idolatry, covetousness and materialism*. God intends that these curses help us see the error of our ways. ■

American and British peoples have turned away from God's law, taken credit for their wealth and power, and chosen to rely on their militaries for defense. Now they have lost control of the critical metals necessary for sustaining their high-tech militaries. God warned that if end-time Israel (America and Britain primarily) rejected Him, then He would remove their blessings and instead curse them (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28). China's rare earths monopoly is another sign of America's declining military power and of these prophecies being fulfilled. ■

China tightens grip on Hong Kong

In compliance with Chinese demands, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam Yuet-ngor vowed in a report released on April 18 to rid Hong Kong of pro-independence movements. The report and the policies it delineates represent a clear encroachment on Hong Kong's autonomy.

Twenty-two years ago, Britain ceded Hong Kong to Chinese rule, and Beijing promised that for at least 50 years, Hong Kong

could maintain a “high degree of autonomy.” After less than half that time has elapsed, China is dictating policy in Hong Kong.

This highlights two prophetically significant trends: the decline of British power and the rise of China as a superpower.

Hong Kong's location makes it a “gate” controlling a major portion of world trade and transport. God promised to give the descendants of Abraham control over “the gates of their enemies” (Genesis 22:17; International Standard Version). The primary nations descended from

Abraham are Britain and the United States. (Read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by the late Herbert W. Armstrong.) Hong Kong was one of many “gates” given to the British as part of this promise. The Bible also prophesies in Deuteronomy that Britain and the U.S. would later lose control over these gates.

Britain's loss of its strategic “gates,” including the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, fulfills this prophecy.



Meanwhile, many of the gates formerly controlled by Britain and its ally, the U.S., are now controlled by China. China's rise was also prophesied in such Bible passages as Ezekiel 38:1-8, Revelation 16:12 and 9:16. ■

Business booming for private bunkers

Around the world, private individuals are paying big bucks to prepare for a nuclear disaster. Firms such as the Panic Room Co. in Britain have reported dramatic increases in sales. The Panic Room Co. installs nuclear bombproof bunkers and safe rooms for customers in cities and in relatively remote locations, both in and outside Britain. An employee told the *Telegraph* in an interview published on March 5, "Certain people are getting richer and, as the world's issues get more complicated, security comes higher up their list of things they need and want."

But will bunkers and stockpiles of food and water really protect what's left of humanity in the event of a global cataclysm? Jesus Christ said of the deadly conflicts prophesied to precede His Second Coming: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, *there should no flesh be saved*" (Matthew 24:21-22).

Only God can and will protect those who have repented and dedicated themselves to Him.



Request **Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door'**



Polarization in American religion

America is changing from a single-faith culture to a two-faith nation, according to data published on March 19 by

Ryan Burge of Eastern Illinois University. In 1969, 91 percent of Americans said they were Christian, and only 4 percent claimed "no religion" whatsoever. Today, only 67 percent of Americans say they are Christian, and 23 percent claim "no religion." Americans claiming "no religion" are often called "nones" because of how they answer the question, "What is your religious tradition?" They are becoming a powerful force in United States' culture and politics.

The rise of the "nones" tracks closely with the decline of

Why are younger adults less happy?

Young American adults are becoming less happy, according to data published on April 4 by the *Atlantic*. The number of adults ages 18 to 34 who report being "very happy" has sunk to a new low of 25 percent. The Institute for Family Study has identified three major causes of this "happiness recession."

The first cause is plummeting marriage rates among young adults. Young married couples are 75 percent more likely to report being "very happy," but the number of young married adults has tumbled from 59 percent in 1972 to 28 percent in 2018.

The second cause is less sex. "Young adults who have sex at least once a week are about 35 percent more likely to report they are very happy, compared with their peers who have no sex," the *Atlantic* stated. This demographic has dwindled from 59 percent in 1972 to 49 percent in 2018. This is closely related to the drop in marriage rates.

The third cause is loss of religion. Young adults who attend religious services more than once a month are about 40 percent



more likely to report being very happy, but that demographic has dropped from 38 percent in 1972 to 27 percent in 2018.

The Institute for Family Study draws connections between all three causes. "Finding a spouse can be hard and, crucially, one of the places young adults have historically found their spouses is church ..." it stated. "Declining sex is at least partly about family and religious changes that make it harder for people to achieve stable, coupled life at a young age."

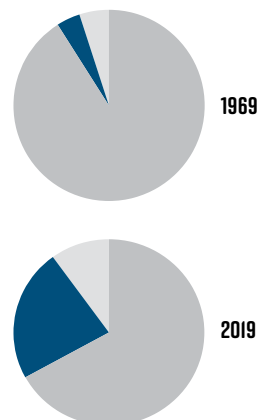
The current withering of happiness is the direct opposite of God's desire for mankind (John 10:10). In His Word, He gives the keys for true and lasting happiness, including how to succeed in marriage, sex and religion.



Request **The Ten Commandments**

old-line Protestant churches like the Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church, the Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church. Both Catholics and evangelical Protestants in the U.S. are holding steady at just under a quarter of the population. Since evangelicals are often more zealous about religion than those from older Protestant denominations, the U.S. is also becoming more polarized as Christians become more devout and "nones" become more secular.

■ CHRISTIAN
■ OTHER
■ NO RELIGION



Verse 1 shows that “Chittim” will be a head country in this trade bloc. Chittim, or Kittim, is an ancient name for the Han people that constitute the majority of modern China’s population. Mr. Flurry explains in his booklet *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision* that they descended from Noah’s son Japheth: “Genesis 10:4 lists the sons of Japheth’s fourth-born son: ‘The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, *Kittim*, and Dodanim’ (New King James Version). *Kittim* is synonymous with the *Chittim* of Isaiah’s prophecy. ... After their migration through Central Asia, the Kittim made their appearance in modern-day northeastern China and Mongolia under the name of *Khitan* in the fourth century A.D.”

Isaiah 23 names “Tyre” as the other primary power in this mart of nations. Mr. Flurry writes that this city represents “the *commercial center*” of modern Europe. He writes: “The *spiritual center* of the [modern European] Holy Roman Empire is called *Babylon* in your Bible (Revelation 17:5; 18:1-3). But here in Isaiah, the Bible refers to Tyre (and its allies Zidon, etc) as the *commercial center* of this European power. By understanding the spiritual and the commercial powers, you can understand what a colossus is rising in Europe.”

Verse 1 also mentions “Tarshish,” which in this context is an ancient name for modern Japan, showing that Japan will play a major role in this anti-U.S. bloc despite its current alignment with America. A companion passage in Ezekiel 27 mentions ancient names for modern Russia (Tubal and Meshech), showing that it will also be a part of this future “mart.”

To see China, Europe and these other powers linked in end-time Bible prophecies—and then to see the Belt and Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and numerous trade blocs linking them economically today—is astonishing. In today’s newspaper headlines, we are seeing the groundwork being laid for this history-altering “mart of nations,” prophesied thousands of years ago, becoming reality!

Even more astonishing is what the Bible shows that this mart of nations will do in the very near future.

The U.S. Under Siege

“The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America—and many other prophecies of America being *besieged*,” Mr. Flurry writes (*ibid*). He explains that the besiegement will be accomplished by the mart of nations. Europe will wage this attack with the help of the other countries that make up the mart of nations of Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 27, including China, Russia and Japan. “All of them are going to besiege America, Britain and the Jewish nation,” he writes.

“China and the giants of Asia,” he writes, will form a “brief alliance” with the European bloc. “Should Europe, the resurrected Holy Roman Empire, find a way to take advantage—even for a moment—of key resources and strategic holdings of China, Russia and Japan, it would have more than enough power to besiege the Anglo-Saxon nations ...

“This is why Isaiah’s prophecy of an end-time ‘mart of nations’ that includes both European and Asian powers is so intriguing. And why the trend of collusion between these two great economic blocs is worth watching.”

Mr. Flurry also draws particular attention to Latin America, highlighting prophecies by the late Herbert W. Armstrong about this region’s key role in these end-time events. “Herbert Armstrong long prophesied, and we expect, the alliance between Europe and South America to grow extremely strong,” Mr. Flurry writes. Europe already has considerable influence in parts of Latin America. And once China and Russia enter into this “brief alliance” with Europe, the influence that Beijing and Moscow are now building there will translate into even greater European control over the region. The finalization of the MERCOSUR deal will also greatly boost EU power in Latin America.

Mr. Flurry says the situation will morph into a European subjugation of Latin America, “The Latin American countries will become vassal states to Europe!”

With this level of control in Latin America, the European and Asian powers will be geographically situated to lay siege to the United States. “With a German-led Europe ... possessing great maritime power, North America will be

surrounded on the east by Europe and the south by Latin America” (*ibid*).

More details about the besiegement of the United States and United Kingdom by the “mart of nations” conglomerate are laid out in Deuteronomy 28:52: “And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee.” When God was actively blessing the U.S. and the UK, He gave them control over numerous sea “gates,” including Panama, Singapore, Malta, Cyprus and Hong Kong (Genesis 22:17; 24:60). Now these strategic locations are under the control of the “mart of nations” powers or are rapidly headed that way.

The importance of China’s growing dominance of world trade, and its strengthening links to Europe, Russia, Japan and Latin America, is revealed in these Bible prophecies.

The world has already entered into the outer edges of “the times of the Gentiles.” And these developments are setting the scene for the prophesied siege against America.

These are unsettling prophecies, showing that the U.S. and some of its allies will soon suffer severe catastrophe. But Bible prophecy shows that the mart of nations and the besiegement and conflict associated with it are intended as correction from God, and that it will be immediately followed by an era of unprecedented worldwide peace. “[T]hat trading partnership won’t last long,” Mr. Flurry writes. “Soon they will clash, just before Jesus Christ returns and destroys both of them” (*ibid*).

Jesus Christ will return, put a swift end to mankind’s self-destruction, and usher in an age of stability, peace and prosperity!

“Thank God,” Mr. Flurry writes, “there is great news beyond the bad news.” ■



To learn more about Isaiah’s prophecy of a “mart of nations,” and many other prophecies in this inspiring biblical book, request your free copy of **Isaiah’s End-time Vision**.

Use Only One Measure

Examine yourself for this form of hypocrisy.

I SUGGEST YOU GET RID OF SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE. IT'S something most of us carry unwittingly. Even if we recognize it, we justify it. We think it's harmless. But it's not harmless. It wreaks *terrible* damage in our lives.

Getting rid of it is not easy—but doing so will make your life happier, simpler and freer of stress. It will invite more of God's blessings in your life.

What is it? It is your second set of measuring tools.



JOEL HILLIKER

Here is God's law: "Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small" (Deuteronomy 25:13-14).

In ancient markets, transactions were placed on a scale a measured against standard weights. When a duplicitous merchant bought from suppliers, he might

use a heavy weight to make it appear he was receiving less than he actually was. When he then turned around to sell, he could get out his lighter weight to give less than his customer had paid for.

You're not an open-market vendor, but it is easier to possess two different scales of measurement than you may think.

You wouldn't steal a television from a retail store, but you might steal time from your employer by slacking off when nobody is looking. You wouldn't rob a bank, but you might justify not reporting certain income on your taxes. You wouldn't have an affair, but you might look at a salacious website.

Still, you consider yourself a person of integrity. You do the right thing in the big areas, where it really matters. But then you give yourself a pass for fudging occasionally in little areas. Where the policy "doesn't apply to you." It's "too small to matter." "This won't hurt anyone." "Nobody will know."

Two different measures.

Is stealing wrong? Then why would a little bit be OK? Is hatred wrong? Then what makes it acceptable to simply keep it to yourself and *pretend* you have nothing but love? (Proverbs 10:18). Why try to justify "virtual" lust when God says harboring it in the heart *is adultery* and will burn you just as surely as holding fire near your chest? (Matthew 5:28; Proverbs 6:25-28).

God says if you are faithful in that which is least, He can entrust you with greater things (Luke 16:10). But if you are dishonest in the small areas, your integrity is compromised. He is looking at your *character*. Your conduct in the little matters tells Him all He needs to know about the person you really are.

You might have two different scales, one to judge your friends and allies, and another to judge your enemies; or one to weigh your own actions and another to weigh other people's

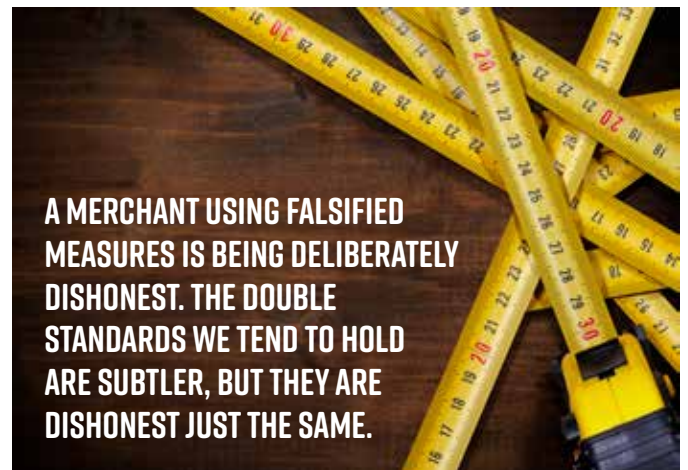
You might use one measure for when you're alone and another for when others are watching.

A merchant using falsified measures is being deliberately dishonest. The double standards we tend to hold are subtler, but they are dishonest just the same. Every day, many opportunities arise to exercise such deceit, even in small areas. Track yourself and see if you hold a double standard in certain details, giving yourself permission to think or do things you wouldn't want other people to know about.

The basic reason we possess two measures in these subtler forms is that our human nature likes to think of itself as good. We can be astonishingly adept at justifying dishonesty. *It would only hurt that person to know the truth. God understands—He knows I mean well.*

But if you find two measures, honestly assess *why* you have them. God wants us to be *totally* honest. "But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure ..." (Deuteronomy 25:15; also Leviticus 19:35-36). God knows diverse weights and measures when He sees them, and He calls breaking this law an *abomination* (Deuteronomy 25:16; also Proverbs 11:1; Amos 8:5).

In 1 Corinthians 5:8, the Apostle Paul summarized God's way of life with two words: *sincerity* and *truth*. *Sincerity* means purity; the Greek literally means "found pure when unfolded



A MERCHANT USING FALSIFIED MEASURES IS BEING DELIBERATELY DISHONEST. THE DOUBLE STANDARDS WE TEND TO HOLD ARE SUBTLER, BUT THEY ARE DISHONEST JUST THE SAME.

and examined by the sun's light." That is what God wants for your life: for you to live so your innermost heart can be unfolded in broad sunlight, scrutinized and found pure. *Truth* means that which is true and free from error, but it also means truth as a personal virtue—a mind free from pretense, falsehood, deceit. It is thus closely linked with sincerity.

The gap between two measures is a form of hypocrisy: proclaiming one standard and living by another. In reality, it is virtually impossible *not* to have some hypocrisy if you are trying to uphold godly standards; we all fall short of the ideals we profess. The question is how wholeheartedly we are working to close the gap between profession and action. We should always strive to match what we know to be right with what we do.

Don't weigh your goodness by other people's opinions. Don't calculate your righteousness by comparing it with sinners worse than yourself. Don't evaluate your thoughts by a lighter standard than your deeds. Get rid of all of your weights and measures, and keep the one and only perfect and just measure: God's. ■

Another absolutely amazing commentary exposing the radical left for who they are (“Climate, Gender and the Fight Over Truth,”

May-June). In a creative writing class I once took, we were to analyze a magazine piece written by a black person interviewing Rachel Dolezal. I remember that the author felt very insulted that someone like Ms. Dolezal could think of race as something cosmetic. Later in the class, we read an article about a transgender person who felt “persecuted.” I marveled at my professor’s double-standard. Yet, we have our own Rachel Dolezal (Senator Warren) running for president. At least, people called her on her fraudulent claims. However, something as absurd as her claim to be Native American should have caused nobody to consider her as a legitimate candidate. Instead, I have a feeling that she’ll be one of the front-runners. Keep up the good work. You must get a lot of hate mail, but may it be known that there is an audience out there that appreciates what you write.

Simeon Zekic BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

These people at the *Trumpet* magazine got it going on. They know what’s happening. When the end comes, we are all accountable, and I always want to be reading this magazine for that reason.

Charles Montgomery MINNESOTA

I regularly receive the *Trumpet* magazine and I find it to be very informative. We are really living in the last days. I remember Mr. Herbert Armstrong and all his good work in the past, and also his prophecies, which I can see today are coming to reality. I was also a subscriber of the *Plain Truth* magazine in the past.

Mukesh Seusingh TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Please continue sending me the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. I enjoy reading your magazine very much. The info and great articles are priceless. I appreciate all the hard work.

Richard Vega NEW YORK

Thank you ever so much for all the articles that have been published and will still be published! They have given me a new and profound understanding of prophecy. These are truths that we here on the southern part of Africa in Onrus, Western Cape, receive in no other way. I look forward to every article and print most of them to reread them later!

Ursula Potgieter SOUTH AFRICA

I really enjoy the magazine. It gave me the information I needed to settle a disagreement I had with a preacher. I gave him the verses, and he shook my hand and told me he was changing his mind! I have been getting the magazine for many years. My regards to all the workers out there.

Leroy Self SOUTH CAROLINA

I have been dealing with you since the '90s, and I love the magazine and books. I just want



to thank you all! I am 71 years old. Mr. Flurry really got me when he said, “Read it for yourself.” That has been a motto my whole life. I am really grateful for this ministry.

Maxine Josey TEXAS

Thank you for the e-mail to sign up for *Signposts*, which I did. *The Trumpet.com* has been an incredible source of understanding to me. I initially learned about it by watching the *Key of David* television program. My initial thoughts were, *This I need to know, but it’s so complicated, how can I understand? My mind is so messed up I can hardly focus.* Then a small voice inside said, “Just watch and follow.” I had been praying and praying for years and years for understanding and guidance. The trigger for this continual prayer was, I just knew deep inside things were wrong something needed to change.

Debbie Jaeger

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Homeless in Seattle

The crisis killing one of America's most beautiful cities **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**



TENT CITY
Homeless people in downtown Seattle take shelter in government-supplied tents.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST MAGNIFICENT areas. I grew up in Washington and traveled to Seattle often, when it was a beautiful city.

Today, Seattle is suffering a major crisis of homelessness. Local Seattle news station KOMO aired an hour-long special showing that it has become a dirty, trash-littered den of homelessness, drug addiction and crime. Despite the city spending \$1 billion every year to solve it, homelessness is getting *worse*.

No one knows what to do. Seattle citizens complain that the city council is not doing enough. One business owner told KOMO, "The city mayor doesn't give the [police] authority. That's the problem." Tents and piles of garbage litter the street next to his business. This man gets to the heart of the problem when he asks, "Why can't we ENFORCE THE LAW?" (emphasis added throughout).

In 2017, New York City had 1,448 property crimes per 100,000 people—crimes like burglary, theft, shoplifting and vandalism. Los Angeles had around 2,500, and Chicago had 3,263. Seattle had the second-highest number of property crimes of any city in America: 5,258. (Holding the record is San Francisco, which has many of the same problems as Seattle.)

These crimes are often perpetrated by the same individuals, sometimes just days apart. KOMO talked to Scott Lindsay, a resident who compiled a list of the 100 most frequent offenders in Seattle's criminal justice system. These 100 people, all of whom are homeless drug users, have 3,600 criminal cases among them. Some have 75 or more known crimes.

The city council tells residents to report property crimes by calling 911, but residents say this is pointless. Even if the police make an arrest, the criminals are often released back onto the streets within days or hours. Out of every 100 police reports filed in Seattle, only 18 actually result in convictions. The rest of the crimes go unpunished.

Shoplifting is also rampant. One business owner interviewed by KOMO said her business reported 599 cases of shoplifting over a 19-month stretch. How many of those crimes were prosecuted? Eight.

In short, Seattleites can commit "small" crimes with impunity.

KOMO sent questionnaires to police officers to fill out anonymously. The responses can be summed up by one officer's answer: "I am frustrated because I'm a law enforcement officer that is told not to enforce the law."

Another officer wrote: "People come here because it's called *Free-attle*, and they believe if they come here they will get free food, free medical treatment, free mental health treatment, a free tent, free clothes, and will be free of prosecution for just about everything—and they're right. It didn't use to be that way. Law enforcement officers used to be able to enforce the

laws. ... In the last five years, there has been a culture shift, and it started with the legislature decriminalizing felonies and dumping convicts onto the streets."

One frustrated officer wrote: "Why are we risking our lives to take felony-level fugitives into custody if they're just going to be released?"

Travis, a homeless man interviewed by KOMO, openly admits he is "having a blast" stealing and that he uses methamphetamines "at least" once a day. He is one of those 100 most frequent offenders, with 34 criminal cases in four years, including assault, attempted rape and trespassing. When asked what the criminal justice system should do with him, he replied: "I think that this system has done what any viable, legitimate system would, and they've really ... exalted me and ... shown deference and love towards me. ... I don't feel like I'll ever be arrested again. ... I have conquered the criminal justice system."

Judges and politicians think the answer is more permissiveness. A new Seattle statute allows people to carry three grams—30 doses—of methamphetamines without being arrested.

Seattle's problem is often called a homelessness crisis, but it's really a drug crisis. One homeless woman told KOMO that she has not met a single person on the streets who is not an addict.

People think that escaping, altering and damaging their minds with powerful drugs is freedom. It is becoming more and more obvious that drug addiction is *slavery*.

KOMO found that many of those on Seattle's streets *choose to stay there* because of their drug addictions. They are *enslaved* to their drugs.

Homelessness and drug use have become politically charged issues in the U.S. Perhaps that is why city governments are "solving" such crises with increasing permissiveness—and national media are treating them with overwhelming silence.

Isaiah 1:5-6 describe our nation: sick from top to bottom. We lack strong leaders taking bold action to eradicate these problems (Isaiah 3:1-3). The cause of this sickness is *transgression* (Daniel 8:12). We are breaking God's laws—laws that specifically protect us from such disasters—and are reaping the consequences.

In *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, Herbert W. Armstrong described what society will be like when people keep God's law. Instead of violence, drug addiction, homelessness and death, we will experience "vigorous, vibrant good health, filled with dynamic interest in life, enthusiastic interest in constructive activities bringing happiness and joy. There would be cleanliness, vigorous activity, real progress, no slums, no degenerate backward races or areas of Earth."

This is the real solution to Seattle's homelessness: the Kingdom of God executing God's perfect law. It's coming—soon! ■

► **ARMAGEDDON** FROM PAGE 27

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God" (Revelation 19:11, 13).

What an awesome, inspiring sight! Yet how will the Satan-inspired beast power and false prophet respond when they see Christ returning in the clouds with great glory? How will the armies of the world respond?

Remember, in Revelation 16, they had gathered in the plains of Armageddon, just north of Jerusalem.

The Prophet Zechariah foretells what is about to occur: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I WILL GATHER ALL NATIONS AGAINST JERUSALEM TO BATTLE ..." (Zechariah 14:1-2).

They will have congregated in Armageddon—but then will proceed to Jerusalem! And take note of the very next event: "THEN SHALL THE LORD GO FORTH, AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east ..." (verses 3-4).

Revelation 19:19 gives more detail: "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war"—against whom?—"against him that sat on the horse, and against his army"—which is composed of angels on horses! (verse 14).

This battle will not happen at Armageddon! That is where the armies gather, then God takes them to Jerusalem and fights them there. Revelation 14:18-20 say the blood from this battle will fill the Valley of Jehoshaphat that cuts through Jerusalem with blood up to the horses' bridles!

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).

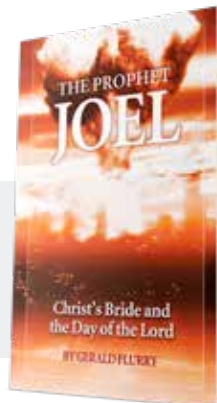
The "battle of that great day of God Almighty"—commonly misnamed "Armageddon"—will be a complete victory for God! What leads up to it is the worst news you could hear. Yet *spiritually*, it is the BEST POSSIBLE NEWS! The coming suffering and curses are tied directly to the return of Jesus Christ and His assuming the throne of King of kings! By declaring the bad news, we are also declaring the good news of the coming Kingdom of God!

Soon, God will fill the Earth with happiness and joy forever! This will happen after He has ended the massacre of the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. All plagues, misery and suffering will be removed from Earth. Christ will stand on the Mount of Olives and institute abundant blessings, happiness and joy for all eternity.

This is reality—you can be sure of it! ■

Want to know more?

Request Gerald Flurry's ***The Prophet Joel—Christ's Bride and the Day of the Lord*** to understand one of the most misunderstood subjects in the Bible.



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Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry appears each week on *The Key of David* explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. The program is also available at keyof david.com.

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