

# THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet



FROM THE EDITOR **GERALD FLURRY**

## Watch German Politics!

**G**ERMANY WILL VOTE FOR A NEW CHANCELLOR ON SEPTEMBER 26. Angela Merkel has ruled for 16 years, and she is retiring. Who will replace her? Nobody can predict what is going to happen.

Previous elections in Germany have been similar to the United States: a main left-wing and right-wing party, but with a few smaller parties serving as coalition partners, usually providing the extra 5 percent or so that the main parties need to govern with a majority.

That is over. All the major parties are failing, and their leaders are unpopular. Several of the “minor” parties are now major parties. In April, a key poll put the Green Party in first place. There’s a real prospect of a Green chancellor. The Greens could do a deal with the right-wing Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Merkel’s party, but they might also do a deal with the Left party (the successor to East Germany’s Communists) and the Social Democrats, pulling the government to the hard left.

This is shaping up to be the most interesting German election in a generation. Bible prophecy shows why you need to watch closely.

“This is the stuff of nightmares for the German establishment,” wrote Ambrose Evans-Pritchard (*Telegraph*, April 21).

The CDU is in free fall. They selected Armin Laschet as their candidate for Ms. Merkel’s replacement. The leaders of the party like him. The public does not. A recent poll found that 77 percent of CDU members thought their party had chosen the wrong man.

“Never has a candidate entered a general election for the CDU



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so torn and disheveled,” wrote *Spiegel*. “The weather is ugly,” one party insider told *Bild*. “I’ve never seen anything like it before. Not in the refugee crisis or in the euro crisis.” *Bild* published a letter from a longtime member who was quitting the party.

The situation is so bad that the Christian Social Union (CSU)—which has been in a political marriage with the CDU for 70 years—is considering divorce. Usually, the CSU runs in Bavaria, and the CDU runs everywhere else. The two parties work together at the federal level and unite behind a single candidate for chancellor.

A recent poll showed that if the CSU ditched the CDU and went nationwide by itself, it would be Germany’s most popular party. In fact, the CSU alone would be more popular than the CDU-CSU union is right now.

German politics are changing fast. “The Germany that most of us have known all our lives is about to change in radical and unpredictable ways,” wrote Evans-Pritchard.

Germans are weary of weak leadership. They are desperate for a change. Many are looking for a strongman! They want someone with brawn and backbone to rise up and lead the nation—and Europe—out of this malaise.

This is critically important. A new strong German leader is one of the key Bible prophecies for the end time. We should watch closely for such a man to emerge from this political mess.

Herbert W. Armstrong warned for decades about the arrival of such a leader. European nations are becoming “distrustful of America and thinking more and more about uniting themselves into a united states of Europe,” he wrote in March 1950. To do that, they need a “new supreme leader—the successor of Adolf Hitler—to rise up and assert himself and take command.”

I have continued this same warning since the *Trumpet* magazine’s earliest issues. “If a real crisis develops, will the Germans call for a new führer?” I asked in our December 1991 issue. “Your Bible says that is going to happen! That crisis will probably be triggered by an economic collapse in the U.S.”

Political shifts in Germany could soon bring an opening for such a man. Mr. Armstrong believed the CSU could provide that strong leader, and I have long said the same thing. This party’s newfound popularity could help this happen.

However events turn out in Germany in the short term, you need to know where Europe is heading. The Bible’s prophecies reveal how it will soon change, and how it will affect you. My free booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent* takes you through the prophecies that informed Mr. Armstrong. It will show you what prophecy says about this strongman, and why he is so central to end-time events. It will help you prove for yourself what your Bible says about such a man. Study these prophecies, and watch Germany! ■

# What Will Happen After Trump Regains Power

Bible prophecy shows that he will return to office to stop some of the destruction being caused by the current administration. But that is not the end of the story. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**I**T IS PRACTICALLY AN OPEN SECRET THAT radical Democrats stole the 2020 United States presidential election. Polls show that over 70 percent of Republicans believe the election was stolen. A lot of Democrats also believe the election was stolen; I think many of them *know* it was. Even official totals show a record 74.2 million people voted for President Donald Trump—nearly 5 million more than anyone in American history!

Yet somehow, Joe Biden received 6 million more votes than that. Dr. Peter Navarro, a former White House adviser, has uncovered 3,069,002 “possible illegal votes” in just the swing states of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Since Joe Biden’s “victory” margin in these states was a 10th of that (312,992 votes), no reasonable person can conclude the presidential election was free and fair. Project Veritas uncovered thousands of registered voters in Georgia who all shared a single address across the street from Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger’s office at the state capitol.

Yet America’s justice system has no interest in investigating voter fraud. The Trump administration filed at least 63 lawsuits alleging fraud in several states. Almost all of these suits were thrown out—not by the merits, but over technicalities.

Now, a group of experts is asking a judge to unseal and review absentee ballots in Georgia to see if the election there really was stolen, and it seems that the courts will allow it. This could be just the beginning. An investigation in Georgia could also expose fraud in the election for U.S. Senate, which would take

away the Democrats’ majority there and negate the decisions they have been making. And Maricopa County, Arizona, is conducting what appears to be a full and fair audit of more than 2 million ballots and dozens of electronic tabulators that could expose major fraud.

I do not know how it will happen, but I am convinced Donald Trump is going to regain the presidency. Bible prophecy foretells it!

## Prophecy of President Trump

To understand the election fraud in America, you must understand a passage in 2 Kings 14. The book of Kings is part of the Bible called the former prophets. The former prophets *are* prophets: The men who wrote them were prophets, and prophets are used by God to PROPHECY. These books contain history, but they are highly prophetic (see article, page 24).

“For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel. And the Lord said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash” (2 Kings 14:26-27).

For many reasons that I have explained in a series of articles in this magazine, this is a specific prophecy about this end time. This is an important truth you need to prove for yourself.

“Israel” refers *prophetically* to America and Britain. These nations—as well as the State of Israel, or biblical Judah—are most prominent among those descended from ancient Israel (for proof, request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong). So when “Israel” is spoken of

in end-time biblical prophecy, these are the nations it concerns.

Verse 26 shows there are people working to *blot out* the *name* of Israel—and many of them are within America! This alone helps us to understand the *seriousness* of America’s affliction today.

But God says in verse 27 that He “saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.” Today, Donald Trump is fulfilling the role of an *end-time* “Jeroboam.” As we will see, in Amos 7—another, more explicitly end-time prophecy—Jeroboam is the name of the leader of Israel. That prophecy connects with this passage in Kings, which shows how God actually used this leader to *SAVE* America, *temporarily*, from its enemies. *This happened* during Donald Trump’s first term as president. (Read “Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily” at [theTrumpet.com/17092](http://theTrumpet.com/17092)).

But that is not the end of the story. The next verse is actually a new paragraph, as you can see in the King James Version of the Bible: “Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he *WARRED*, and how he *RECOVERED* Damascus, and Hamath, which belonged to Judah, for Israel, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?” (verse 28). This verse marks a new development. It happens *after* God uses Jeroboam to save Israel.

This verse shows that the end-time Jeroboam has to *WAGE WAR* to expand his domain. After using the word *saved*, it uses another, even stronger word: *warred*. Jeroboam has to do that to *recover* something. Every word here is important.

Anciently, King Jeroboam II reigned 41 years, but many Bible chronologists believe the first 12 years of his reign were a co-regency with his father, Joash, when he warred against Syria. But often, what happened anciently is not exactly the same as what is prophesied to happen in the end time, though the principle is the same. The fact that the verse about *warring* comes after the verse about *saving* indicates that the end-time Jeroboam wages “war” after he has already saved Israel once. God could use Jeroboam to do this *warring* in many different

ways.

How does this verse apply to Donald Trump? Bible prophecy shows that, however it happens, Mr. Trump *will* return to office.

### **‘Warred’ to ‘Recover’**

Amos 7 contains a prophecy about end-time Israel—most prominently, the superpower America today. It is clearly about the *very end* of the nation. It shows that at that time, Jeroboam is not only in power, but he is wielding kingly authority.

This prophecy describes a confrontation Jeroboam has with a representative of God. I will explain more about this in a moment. But it’s important to note that Amos 7 looks like one flowing event: There is no hint of a gap or pause in Jeroboam’s reign before this confrontation. Is it possible that this prophecy doesn’t mention an interruption in his rule because in God’s view, there is no gap? I believe that by maintaining the flow of Jeroboam’s rule in this prophecy, God may well be showing that the 2020 election was stolen. Perhaps He looks on Mr. Trump as *still* being president of the United States! The view that the election was stolen has far more weight if that’s the way God Himself sees it.

But 2 Kings 14:28 gives us insight into what is happening during the *PAUSE* in Trump’s rule, between his first and second term.

*Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon of the Old Testament* says the word “warred” means “to fight, to war.” *The Theological Word Study of the Old Testament* says that *warring* occurs 171 times, pertaining to God’s role in Israel’s wars. That would apply in this case, because God has commissioned Mr. Trump to save Israel. Consider how different this word is from “saved” in verse 27. Mr. Trump did not literally have to *WAR* to save Israel during his first term—though he did have to fight to expose all the fraudulent investigations, treasonous acts and bogus impeachments. There are different ways you can war, but the indication is that regaining office may take considerable work. Donald Trump will have to fight for it. It doesn’t have to be military action, but it certainly *could*.

President Trump could also lead some states to secede from the union. That would lead to some kind of warfare.

Verse 28 of 2 Kings 14 strongly indicates that Mr. Trump *recovers* his presidency by some kind of *warring*—not voting.

It seems certain to me that this will happen *before* the next presidential election in 2024—unless there would be some kind of war and voting combined. But 2 Kings 14:28 does not even *hint* of an election.

There is going to be some kind of war to recover something. If God says President Trump is going to “recover” something, then it **WILL** be recovered. Amos 7 also shows that war will be successful. And what could he recover, if not the stolen election?

This all must happen because of a miracle from God! And that should be obvious to everybody when it happens—if they were honest.

## Antiochus

2 Kings 14:27 says someone is trying to “blot out the name of Israel from under heaven.” *Satan* is the real power that wants to blot out the name of Israel—America most of all. But he often works through human beings. And this points to another prophecy we have drawn considerable attention to in recent years, that of an end-time political “Antiochus” who attacks America from within.

The prophecy begins in Daniel 8:9. Commentaries agree the ancient type referred to here was Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a deceptive, wicked Seleucid king who controlled the Jews in the second century B.C. While peoples in other areas were allowed to keep their religions, Antiochus wrathfully tried to destroy not only many Jewish men, women and children but also the Jewish faith itself. He robbed the temple, set up a pagan altar and idol of himself inside it, deceived then destroyed and enslaved tens of thousands of Jews in Jerusalem, and burned and demolished much of the city.

The fruits show that America was ruled by a political “Antiochus” for eight years, much to the injury of the nation. Barack Obama worked hard and fast toward his stated goal of

“fundamentally transforming” America. He and his followers actually worked to blot out the name of Israel! I realize this is an explosive claim, but the evidence is abundant. I have written two booklets (both free) explaining this truth: *America Under Attack* and *Great Again*.

However, God used President Trump to prevent that—NOT because of that man’s righteousness, but because he has the courage to step out and fight for Israel and knows it is the right thing to do.

Yet now, this same man is ruling again through an illegitimate president. President Biden has rapidly signed executive orders to not only undo what President Trump did but to blot out America’s history and traditions and biblical foundations as quickly as possible. The Biden administration is allowing immigrants, including criminals and drug smugglers, to pour over the border. It is spending billions on housing, health care, education and welfare. They are sinking this country in a \$30 trillion debt, which could explode in our faces any day! But if you know what to look for, you realize what the ultimate goal is: *to blot out the name of Israel*. And the way they are going, they would do it!

## Helping Judah

2 Kings 14:28 states that Jeroboam recovered Damascus and Hamath. The *Soncino* commentary states that Damascus was once ruled by King David, and that the king of Hamath paid tribute to David and became part of his son Solomon’s kingdom (2 Samuel 8:9-10; 1 Kings 8:65). So the indication is that Jeroboam reclaimed something to help Judah.

Here is how the New International Version translates 2 Kings 14:28: “As for the other events of Jeroboam’s reign, all he did, and his military achievements, INCLUDING how he recovered for Israel both Damascus and Hamath, which had belonged to [Judah], are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?” The Ferrar-Fenton translation reads, “For the other affairs of Jerabam, and all that he did, HOW HE WARRED, AND HOW HE RECAPTURED Damascus and Khamath of

Judah to Israel, they are recorded in the history of events of the days of the kings of Israel.”

When Barack Obama was president, he was very unmerciful to the Jewish nation of Israel. But in President Trump’s first term, he saved the Jewish nation (biblical Judah) from much of Obama’s tyranny. He supported Israel in many ways, including helping it sign the “Abraham Accords” with Arab nations in the region. Respected columnist Lee Smith described the alliance between Israel and the Gulf states as “an impediment to the dream of a reempowered, nuclear-armed Iran backed by the United States, *which was Obama’s main foreign-policy aim*—and an affront to peace processors convinced of their own never-ending importance. The Biden administration apparently aims to sink the accords by penalizing Israel and its peace partners for getting too close, and returning the Palestinians to center stage—in order to prepare the ground for reentering the Iran deal” (March 21; emphasis added).

Note that: “Obama’s main foreign-policy aim” was to align America with Iran—Israel’s enemy and the world’s number one terrorist-sponsoring nation! **IRAN’S MAIN GOAL IS TO BRING AMERICA DOWN AND TO WIPE JUDAH OFF THE MAP!** For America to support Iran makes no sense, *unless* you realize that this leader is trying to blot out the name of Israel! Iranian leaders talk about this all the time. This nation wants to *blot out* the name of Israel. That includes America and Britain. Yet Americans allowed their president to enact that foreign policy. And now, that foreign policy is back! Biden is empowering Iran so it may soon obtain nuclear weapons. I am certain we will have more Palestinian terrorist attacks now because of who is in charge.

God is wrathful about this. If this continues, it will end very badly! **YOU SEE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT SOMEBODY NEEDS TO “RECOVER” SOMETHING.**

Isaiah 40:9 shows that God’s Church in this end time has a message that must be delivered to “the cities of Judah”—“behold your God!” Satan knows that. He also knows about God’s Church supporting archaeology projects in Jerusalem for the past 50 years, and how we

helped uncover King David’s palace.

**IT APPEARS MR. TRUMP MAY HAVE TO RECOVER SOME OF JUDAH’S FREEDOM FOR US TO EVEN DELIVER GOD’S MESSAGE!**

God’s Church possesses the new throne of David today (request a free copy of my book *The New Throne of David*). The Jews need to hear this message as a *witness* in this end time! But Satan and his Antiochus are working fiercely to *beat out* our message—which is the ultimate expression of “the name of Israel”!

## **A Warning for Jeroboam**

The end of Jeroboam’s life and reign are recorded in 2 Kings 14:29: “And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, even with the kings of Israel; and Zachariah his son reigned in his stead.” This too indicates a second term for Donald Trump. He will recover power, but not for long. That is when Amos’s prophecy will be fulfilled.

Amos 7 gives no hint of a political Antiochus. This could mean that that individual will be removed somehow. Will God somehow remove him when Jeroboam “wars”? Will that be the end of the political Antiochus’s work? God does not say definitely, but I believe Amos 7 indicates it.

Now notice the prophecy more specifically. “And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more: And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword” (Amos 7:8-9). Here God is giving His man a warning message to deliver to Israel and to Jeroboam. The Prophet Amos was a type of a messenger who will have to proclaim this warning in the end time. God says this is the *last time* He will warn Israel before its destruction if they don’t repent—and it is in the time of “Jeroboam.”

Notice: God is *not happy* with Jeroboam! This is important to recognize. God has a stern message for this man, and He will use this end-time Amos, backed by God’s true Church, to deliver it.

Look at the history of King Jeroboam I, the first leader of the northern kingdom of Israel.

He broke away from the throne of David, polluted the priesthood, and established a false religion—changing God’s holy days, priesthood and worship, turning people to *himself* rather than to God—though God warned him not to (1 Kings 12:25-33).

This end-time Jeroboam is committing the same sins! Our free book *The Former Prophets* will explain this to you. The Amos 7 prophecy shows that he promotes false religion and gets religious people to *look to him*, not God. He also rejects the throne of David and what God is doing with that throne in this end time. God’s Church is going to have to show this man what his great sin is and what his followers’ sins are.

Amos 7:10 shows a *false minister* telling Jeroboam about Amos’s warning message, and he says, “the land is not able to bear all his words.” This is a key verse. It shows that the message coming from God’s Church will achieve such notoriety and get so strong that the people cannot bear it!

“For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there. But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king’s chapel, and it is the king’s court” (verses 11-13). Yes, this end-time Jeroboam has “the king’s chapel,” a strong religious following. And he has *kingly* powers. The modern leader of Israel is committing the same sins that King Jeroboam I did anciently. And he and Amaziah and his followers *despise* what God’s Church is saying. We are proclaiming a message that Jeroboam and his followers have the wrong religion, that the throne they have will not last, that they are not truly repenting toward God, that they are *sinning*, that God is *cursing* them for it, and that this will result in the destruction of this nation and the enslavement and death of its people!

The rest of Amos 7 describes the horrific prophesied Great Tribulation. This will be the worst time of suffering ever, and the Americans, the British and the Jews will have

to suffer it!

Right now, the big question revolves around *how* Donald Trump will regain power. America is in the throes of an Antiochus administration that is rapidly driving the nation toward radicalism, socialism, amorality, class division and race war! As I wrote in our April issue regarding 2 Kings 14:26, America’s affliction is very bitter, and the nation has no helper!

But God’s prophecies are sure. Jeroboam’s clash with God’s Church is about as clear as any prophecy in the Bible. This has not happened yet; therefore, President Trump must regain office—one way or another. We must have faith. God is *always* testing our faith in certain ways; we would never grow if He didn’t. We must reach the point where we *totally believe God!* If we are shown to be wrong, then we will change and believe God! But everything God is showing us now makes it look like, despite appearances to the contrary, we are right on target.

The bigger issue is WHAT WILL HAPPEN *AFTER TRUMP REGAINS POWER*. He will put a stop to the immediate destruction. But this nation is very far from God! And Jeroboam and everyone else need a *powerful* warning and a call to repentance. That is what God’s Church is here to provide, as loudly and clearly as we can. If the American people do not heed God’s warning message, this will be followed by the most terrifying time you can imagine! But that severe correction is what it will take for God to reach people, and humble them, in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth! ■

# 'This Verdict Is Not Justice'

Despite getting the conviction they wanted, Democrats and media pundits cry, *It's not enough!* **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**G**EORGE FLOYD'S DEATH WAS CLEARLY A tragedy. Whether Derek Chauvin received a fair trial, however, is far less clear.

Chauvin was the police officer at whose hand Floyd died, and who was convicted on April 21 by a Minnesota jury of unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Was the trial impartial? The media, politicians including members of Congress and the president did everything they could to intimidate jurors and witnesses into ruling that Chauvin was guilty. A bloody severed pig's head was found at the door of one expert witness who testified on Chauvin's behalf. Black Lives Matter protesters made it clear that they would engulf the nation in flames if Chauvin were acquitted.

"I hope we get a verdict that says guilty, guilty, guilty," said Rep. Maxine Waters at a protest two days before the verdict. "And if we don't, we cannot go away. We've got to stay on the street. We get more active. We've got to get more confrontational. We've got to make sure that they know that we mean business."

The judge in the Chauvin trial stated that Waters's inflammatory remarks could result in the trial being overturned on appeal if lawyers can make the case that jurors were intimidated into making their ruling. The rioting that started after Floyd's death last year killed at least 30 people and cost the nation an estimated \$2 billion. So we will never know how much fear of rioting impacted the jurors' decisions.

Whatever Chauvin's guilt, his trial was a classic example of mob justice.

Making matters worse, the mob will not be

appeased even if Chauvin gets the maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. Why? There is a sinister reason.

## Embracing Mob Rule

Mob rule is becoming the law of the land in America.

Journalist Ami Horowitz went to the George Floyd memorial the day before the guilty verdict was announced and asked questions of black protesters to get their real views. The truth was shocking. One person told him, "There shouldn't even be a trial; he should be convicted just as is." Another said, "Burn the whole city down, what does it matter?" Another said, "I don't want to say we need to start killing all white folks, but it's like—maybe they need to feel the pain and the hurt." When asked whether a civil war was necessary, another protester said, "If that's what it takes, then we have to do it."

"How many unarmed blacks were killed by cops last year?" Horowitz asked. "Thousands! *Thousands!*" one woman said. The correct answer was 18. Another chimed in, "It seems like you're trying to ... destruct the whole African-American race." Several protesters agreed that police are committing "*genocide*"—the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political or cultural group—against blacks.

So Black Lives Matter extremists are preparing to burn down cities and start a civil war over 18 tragic deaths because the media are making it feel like thousands and instilling the fear that American police are systematically exterminating over 42 million African Americans.

Rhetoric inflaming such fears is coming



from almost every institution in the country: corporations, tech companies, academia, Congress, even the presidency.

In a livestream outside the Capitol, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez told her audience, “This verdict is not justice. Frankly, I don’t even think we call it full accountability because there are multiple officers that were there. It wasn’t just Derek Chauvin. And I also don’t want this moment to be framed as this system working.” In other words, even if all four police officers present during George Floyd’s death were convicted of murder, Ocasio-Cortez still wouldn’t be satisfied until the United States has a completely new criminal justice system.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said, “I would not call today’s verdict justice, however, because justice implies true restoration. But it is accountability, which is the first step toward justice. And now the cause of justice is in your hands. And when I say your hands, I mean the hands of the people of the United States.” Former President Barack Obama published a statement saying, “Today, a jury in Minneapolis did the right thing .... But if we’re honest with ourselves, we know that true justice is about much more than a single verdict in a single trial. True justice required that we come to terms with the fact that black Americans are treated differently every day .... While today’s verdict may have been a necessary step on the road to progress, it was far from a sufficient one. We cannot rest. We will need to follow through with concrete reforms that will reduce and ultimately eliminate racial bias in our criminal justice system.”

What do these radicals mean when they say “get more confrontational” and “we mean business”? What do they mean when they say the entire system is not working, that the conviction on all counts they hoped for is not justice, that we cannot rest? If they aren’t really after a Derek Chauvin conviction, what are they really after?

## Toward Federalization

During Barack Obama’s second presidential term, he admitted that he “can’t federalize every police force in the country and force

them to retrain.” But he sure acted like he wanted to move in that direction.

When the Obama administration released its Task Force on 21st-Century Policing Plan after Freddie Gray died in police custody, it recommended imposing federal standards on state and local police forces. Critics of the plan pointed out that it underhandedly worked to nationalize law enforcement, violating a crucial principle of the Constitution, by using federal tax dollars as bribes. But racial activists did not seem to care. In fact, some openly proclaimed that a national policing authority is just what America needs.

“There must be national policy and national law on policing,” said racial activist Al Sharpton. “We can’t go from state to state; we’ve got to have national law to protect people against these continued questions.”

In other words, because of racism, we must take power from local governments and give it to the federal government.

The department head of Criminology and Justice Studies at Drexel University summarized the plan to federalize policing power in an article he wrote last year. “Suppose we reimagined the nature of American policing?” he wrote. “And suppose we started by acknowledging that local policing has been a failure in this country since its origins in the 19th century? From slave patrols in the South, to controlling the ‘dangerous classes’ in the North, the foundations of local policing were built on the assumption that state-sanctioned coercion was to be weaponized by the white and wealthy against the poor, black and brown. ... And so, at this crossroads, I pose the radical question: Why not disband most local police forces and federalize them?” (*Hill*, July 17, 2020).

This is why radical leftists will not be appeased no matter what happens to Derek Chauvin. They do not really care about justice for George Floyd. The leftists who are working out their agenda care about *creating a national policing authority*. They are looking for a pretext to disempower local police departments and to transfer that power to the federal government. Thus they are *deliberately* fanning

flames of racial hatred in an attempt to ignite race riots. They could then use that crisis as an excuse to deprive local voters of the power they have over local police.

In his article “The Real Agenda Behind Black Lives Matter” ([theTrumpet.com/13722](https://www.thetrumpet.com/13722)), my father explained that this is a Machiavellian strategy straight from the Communist playbook. “These leaders are still using phrases like ‘police brutality’ and ‘black power’ to further their agenda,” he wrote. “In a 1950s tract titled ‘And Not a Shot Is Fired,’ Czech Communist Party theoretician Jan Kozák wrote about how Communists took over Czechoslovakia through parliamentary maneuvers. The strategy he described required pressure for radical change from two directions simultaneously: from the upper levels of government and from provocateurs in the streets” (*Trumpet*, May-June 2016).

The Biden-Harris administration is using a similar strategy to fundamentally transform America. Radical politicians like Representative Waters meet with street provocateurs who advocate rioting as a form of protest, while “deep state” bureaucrats are pushing seizure of police authority as a way to solve those riots.

This strategy may sound shocking, but the late Herbert W. Armstrong predicted it decades ago. In his March 1969 *Plain Truth* personal, he asked, “Why are our people unable to recognize the Communist line—the Communist plan and conspiracy—in college and university riots, in propaganda accusing ‘police brutality,’ in ‘black power,’ ‘black panther’ and other slogans, even in ‘civil disobedience’ and ‘nonviolent’ movements of protest which lead to violence?” Then he answered with this shocking truth: “The guiding hand in student revolt is the Communist Party. 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.”

Some of those college-age students and high school adolescents that Mr. Armstrong wrote about now control the Democratic Party, and they are still using the same racially charged propaganda. Without racial hatreds, real and perceived, *they would have no influence or power over the American people!*

## **Tearing Down the System**

Left-wing politicians hate the fact that there are 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies that they cannot control from Washington, D.C. They want a centralized federal policing authority that they can control, and they are willing to incite riots until they get it. But the founders of the United States specifically avoided establishing a national policing power for a very good reason: to prevent government tyranny.

Agents of the federal government exist only to combat interstate crimes, such as counterfeiting, treason and piracy. The vast majority of the law enforcement power that would affect an American’s day-to-day life is left to the states and to the people. Yet radical leftists are distorting history to tell people that local police forces are systematically racist in a way that federal police forces are not—for some unexplained reason.

Discrediting, disheartening, disarming and defunding local police departments across America is only a first step toward establishing exactly what the founders blocked: a national policing authority. Yet Bible prophecy reveals that the radical left’s efforts to tear down America’s local police will spiral out of control.

The Prophet Ezekiel warned of these days: “Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence. ... Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none” (Ezekiel 7:23, 25).

A lot of Christians don’t realize it, but Jesus Christ was also a prophet. He prophesied that the last days before His Second Coming would be just like the last days before the Flood (Luke 17:26). And what was human society like during the time period Jesus emphasized? “God saw that the wickedness of man was great

in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

Jesus Christ was right. The world is again descending into violence. We have multiplied *our* evil and corruption, so our nation is *filled with violence* (Genesis 6:11), and our cities are *burned with fire* (Isaiah 1:7).

The racially charged rhetoric being hurled by politicians is intended to stir up negative

emotions and anger that radical leftists can exploit in their quest to fundamentally transform the nation. But by tearing down the police, radical leftists are actually in the process of tearing down the nation’s last line of defense. The flames of hate these agitators are intentionally fanning will spread enough to the point where they can burn down the whole nation! ■

## Hero Worship for Another Career Criminal

**T**HE DEMOCRAT MEDIA COMPLEX HAS MADE another saint out of a career criminal who was killed in an altercation with police. Rioting broke out in the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Center, where Officer Kim Potter fatally shot Daunte Wright as he tried to escape arrest on April 11. The agenda of the propaganda media is to deepen the narrative in people’s minds that America is a racist country and its traditions and institutions must be torn down. In service of that agenda, they are creating a *hero* out of Wright and a *monster* out of Potter.

But these characterizations leave out the full picture—and it’s not an accident.

Anyone can search the Internet and immediately find several of Wright’s own social media posts in which he records himself making gang signs, showing wads of money, using drugs, and waving a pistol. Court papers obtained by the *Daily Mail* show Wright had a warrant out for his arrest when Potter and two other officers stopped him for an expired registration tag. According to the *Mail*, “Daunte Wright choked a woman and threatened to shoot her if she did not hand over \$820 she had stuffed in her bra .... Wright was due to face trial on a charge of attempted aggravated robbery—with a possible maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.”

You won’t hear about these assault charges at a “Justice for Daunte” protest, but they are extremely significant to understanding what actually happened. Potter and her colleagues

pulled over Wright’s white Buick LaCrosse and then followed standard procedure by checking Wright’s name in their database. They learned that he was a violent criminal with a warrant out for his arrest. Two officers then asked Wright to step out of the car. Wright initially complied, but then broke free and began to drive away. Officer Potter shouted that she would tase Wright, but she unholstered her gun instead of her taser and shot him in the chest.

Three days after the shooting, Officer Potter was arrested and charged with second-degree manslaughter. So there will be an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Daunte’s death. But that has not stopped protesters from making all kinds of accusations and rioters from fighting with officers at police headquarters.

And it has not stopped race baiters from forcing city officials out of their jobs for saying that Potter should receive *due process*. Police Chief Tim Gannon was forced to resign despite having nothing to do with Wright’s death, and city manager Curt Boganey was fired after suggesting Potter deserves *due process of law*.

Now Mayor Elliot has called on Gov. Tim Walz to have Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison take over Wright’s case—despite the fact that Ellison is a far-left radical with Nation of Islam connections who wrote an editorial for the Communist Party USA arguing that grassroots socialist organizations are needed to bring about necessary reform in the

United States. He has always believed American police are irredeemably racist, and in 1989 told the Freedom Road Socialist Organization that the “responsible activist has to show young folks out there that white supremacy

and capitalism are what’s putting them in the position they’re in.”

The evidence keeps piling up that the radical left does not want justice. They want to destroy the police! ■

# Gotten Your Job Yet?

**Vaccines have been hailed as the miracle that will help COVID-weary society return to normal. But one ingredient has been missing from the vaccine rollout: honesty.**

**BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**T**HE RESPONSE OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT and our media to COVID-19 is revealing a lot about our society and ourselves. It is showing us how quickly the world can change, how much we take our rights for granted, and how much or how little we value truth.

COVID-19 was the subject of the first speech Joe Biden gave after entering the White House. He recounted how countless Americans have lost their jobs, businesses and homes; how school closures have set children back a year; how graduations, weddings and family reunions have been canceled. He portrayed these people as victims of COVID, when in reality, they were victims of government-imposed lockdowns. He then stated that if Americans would obey the newest batch of restrictions, the government might let them enjoy barbecues in their backyards with their families by, ironically, Independence Day.

Intentionally or not, it highlighted the fact that the government’s gigantic, oppressive “cure” has been worse than the disease. But nobody in the radical establishment will say that. Mainstream media outlets, predictably, praised the speech. They continue to support the government’s radical agenda by emphasizing their COVID coverage and prominently displaying their death trackers. They are helping scare and shame Americans into wearing masks, then two masks, standing like chess pawns on floor markers 6 feet apart, staying inside their

homes, giving up their businesses and incomes, and sacrificing their constitutional rights.

The campaign is coordinated by liberals in politics, big media, Big Tech, big business and beyond. Many of its most virulent supporters call their political party “the party of science.” They accuse those who do not believe in their cause of ignorance, hatred and lying (“Is Lying Always Wrong?”, page 20).

Now the campaign has transitioned to pressure everyone to get vaccinated. It includes a mix of feel-good advertising, shaming and fear-mongering. And it is marked by the same propagandistic and deceitful techniques that were used for the lockdown campaign.

## **Vaccine Deaths**

Many government officials count anyone who died within a few weeks of having a positive COVID-19 test as a COVID death. These are some of the numbers we see on the government and the media’s ominous “COVID death” tickers.

Many everyday people, on the other hand, believe that dying *with* COVID is far different from dying *from* COVID. They say there are complicating factors. They say that many who get tested are at higher risk of death in the first place. They say that there are thousands of deaths from all causes every day in the United States. They say that many who die after a positive test result actually died from other causes (some as obvious as gunshot wounds).

But liberal elites reject these objections.

The truth is, though, that some people have died after their bodies absorbed not the virus but the *vaccine*.

So, is anyone who died 28 to 60 days after having the COVID vaccine a “COVID vaccine death”?

No. The *same* officials, journalists, experts, commentators and other elites who want you to think that dying *with* COVID is the same as dying *from* COVID stridently insist that dying *with* the vaccine is far different from dying *from* the vaccine. They say there are complicating factors. They say that many who get vaccinated are more at risk of death in the first place. They say that there are thousands of deaths from all causes every day in the United States. They say that many who die after a vaccine actually died from other causes.

They directly contradict themselves—and pressure you to believe both contradictions! This is not an accident. This is dishonesty. And it’s dishonesty in pursuit of a radical agenda that affects you personally.

Since COVID-19 vaccines were developed and distributed at “warp speed” and began being administered in the U.S. on Dec. 14, 2020, more than 219 million shots have been given to more than 135 million Americans. Yet, as the Biden-Harris administration urges the remaining 197 million Americans to follow suit, disturbing details are emerging about the vaccine’s side effects.

Data released on April 16 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that 86,080 people in America reported serious health problems after taking a COVID-19 vaccine. These include birth defects (71 cases), permanent disabilities (1,217 cases), hospitalizations (6,271 cases), and deaths (3,186 cases). There are somewhat similar reports of adverse reactions and deaths in other countries.

But there are no nightly news COVID-19 *vaccine* death tickers.

A January study from the same agency admitted that people who receive the vaccines experience anaphylaxis at a rate 10 times higher than the flu vaccine. Anaphylaxis is an

allergic reaction so severe that it causes death in 0.7 to 2 percent of cases. This study gives us an early indication that the COVID vaccine could be 10 times more fatal than the flu shot. That is still a small percentage, but the same politicians and commentators who wring their hands over every death they can tenuously tie back to COVID-19 are suspiciously silent about any drawbacks connected to the vaccines.

The anti-vaccine organization Children’s Health Defense asked the CDC how it was investigating reports of COVID-19 vaccine deaths, but their questions went unanswered.

### **‘Remember—Shots Are Safe’**

The numbers of reported vaccine-connected deaths is small, but we have no idea what the effects will be in the medium term or long term. When much is unknown, why are so many so biased? Why do liberal, mainstream news outlets give wall-to-wall coverage of everything to do with the virus, which has still killed fewer Americans per year than heart disease or cancer, yet present much more favorable headlines about the possible dangers of the vaccine, like “Pfizer COVID Vaccine Probably Didn’t Kill Woman, 78, Who Died Shortly After Having It,” “Woman Dies from Brain Hemorrhage in Japan Days After Vaccine, but Link Uncertain” and “Macomb County Man, 90, Dies After COVID-19 Vaccine—but Doctors Say Shots Are Safe”?

Why rush to emphasize “no evidence COVID-19 vaccines cause death”? Is it because they want truth, or because they’re advancing an agenda?

Thousands of real-life Americans whose loved ones have died soon after getting vaccinated from no other discernible cause would probably like to talk to the elites who insist there is “no evidence.”

Some of them might be from the family of Kassidi Kurill. She was 39 years old, and she died within days of her second dose of the Moderna vaccine. Her father said she was “healthy and good, then she took the shot,” but soon began feeling poorly. After two days in bed, she asked her father to drive her to the emergency room. Doctors told him that her

liver was not functioning. Before they could do anything further, her kidneys and heart stopped working.

There have been other scattered reports of vaccines apparently killing people, including miscarriages and stillbirths, in the United States, Canada, Norway, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland and elsewhere. Gregory Michaels, 56, died of a hemorrhagic stroke two weeks after he received a jab, and his widow affirms that he died “due to a strong reaction to the COVID vaccine.” Former Detroit news anchor Karen Hudson-Samuels, 68, died one day after taking the vaccine, though public health officials say the cause of her death is unknown. Daniel Thayne Simpson, 90, died within a day of getting jabbed, prompting public health officials to once again repeat that COVID-19 vaccines are nothing to worry about.

One man interviewed by ABC News talked about “spurious relationships” and says that sickness and death occurring “in proximity” to something does not prove that the thing caused the sickness and death. Of course he is correct that something happening before another thing is often not its cause. But why isn’t the same logic applied to COVID death counts, which are engineered to be as high and as terrifying as possible?

## **The Common Denominator**

Plenty of people get these vaccines who seem to have no ill side effects. These vaccines are apparently preventing millions of people from procuring coronavirus, and could facilitate a return to pre-COVID normality for many.

That said, there is *also* evidence of some dangers associated with these vaccines. The concerns are significant enough that more than 20 countries have revoked their authorizations for the distribution of certain COVID vaccines (while permitting and promoting others).

Yet America’s government, with the support of the media and many businesses, are ignoring this evidence and proceeding with efforts to make vaccinations universal. On one hand they have proven themselves willing to take every possible measure to prevent COVID deaths—even to the point of shutting down

the national economy—yet on the other, anyone who expresses concerns about the safety of the vaccines is ridiculed for their ignorance. The contrast is jarring.

But the most salient common denominator in both of these positions is that they involve people sacrificing individual freedom, and the government gaining more control over our lives. The pressure is increasing to ignore the risks and get the jab; for a growing number of people it is becoming compulsory if they want to keep their job (article, page 12). The right to choose is being squeezed out. And once the government grabs that much power over people’s rights, including their health, you can be sure it won’t give it up!

Experts like Utah’s chief medical examiner say that proving a vaccine as a cause of death almost never happens. Is that because a vaccine almost never *causes* death, or could there be other reasons? There are powerful interests at stake, of moneyed pharmaceutical companies, the medical industry and the agenda of a big government getting bigger.

America has even deployed National Guard troops to inject millions of Americans with rapidly developed, rapidly approved, emergency-authorized vaccines that are still partially under trial. This is not just the government doing its best with a bad situation. This is the government taking a fairly standard flu epidemic and manipulating it to expand its power and prepare for even greater manipulation. *Even when doing so could be killing some people.*

## **Witches’ Brew**

How can public health officials be so sure these vaccines are safe? It normally takes a decade of research and development before medical professionals declare a vaccine “safe” for human use. Both Pfizer and Moderna developed COVID-19 vaccines in a single year. These vaccines have barely been tested by comparison to the normal process, which still doesn’t yield side-effect-free vaccines.

In 1976, when Army recruits at Fort Dix fell ill from a virulent form of swine flu, President Richard Nixon rushed out a vaccination program. About 45 million Americans received a

new, experimental vaccine, and 450 of them developed a rare neurological condition called Guillain-Barré syndrome. The connection of this syndrome to the vaccine is debated, but it still highlights the risks of “warp speed” vaccine rollouts.

This risk becomes even more concerning when you realize that Pfizer and Moderna have developed a brand-new type of vaccine. Normal vaccines use killed or inactive pathogens to prompt the human body to start manufacturing antibodies against that pathogen. The COVID vaccine is different. It is the first-ever mRNA vaccine. It uses a specialized sequence of ribonucleic acid to hijack a human cell’s protein-making machinery and instruct it to start manufacturing coronavirus proteins—specifically the spike protein that gives the coronavirus its crown-like appearance. So instead of injecting people with dead COVID-19 cells, doctors are injecting them with highly engineered acids that make human cells manufacture coronavirus proteins instead of human proteins.

This is a game-changing and potentially dangerous technology. Despite claims to the contrary, scientists still have no real idea what the unintended consequences of injecting people with mRNA will be. Tal Brosh, head of the Infectious Disease Unit at Samson Assuta Ashdod Hospital, told the *Jerusalem Post*, “There is a race to get the public vaccinated, so we are willing to take more risks” (Nov. 17, 2020). He then noted that there are unique and unknown risks to mRNA vaccines, including systemic inflammatory responses that could lead to autoimmune diseases.

It is too early to tell what the long-term effect of this new technology will ultimately be. But you would think people would take such warnings more seriously.

“This is not your normal flu vaccine,” noted Dr. Carrie Madej, an internal medicine specialist in Georgia. “This is something totally different. This is a witches’ brew. I’ve never seen anything like this in science or medicine.”

The Pfizer and the Moderna versions of the COVID-19 vaccine contain polyethylene glycol—a petrochemical known to cause skin rashes,

nausea, vomiting, difficulty breathing and shock. And the AstraZeneca version was developed using kidney cells from a baby aborted in 1973 and a cold-causing virus isolated from the stool of a chimpanzee. If you added the eye of newt and toe of frog, Dr. Madej’s comparison to a “witches’ brew” might become literal. Yet millions are injecting themselves with this cocktail of chemicals and experimental molecules in hopes that it will protect them. In some few cases, this brew ultimately kills them!

## Divine Healing

Now is a good time to be thinking about where you put your trust for health and healing. We all put our trust in something. Most of us place it partly or wholly in the medical establishment—even when that establishment is inherently limited to what human beings can scientifically discover—even when what it discovers is then discovered to be wrong just months or weeks later—even when advancements in science are constantly outpaced by advancements in disease—even when the medical method of “healing” is not to return the body to its natural state but to make it even less natural with chemicals and scalpels—even when much of the medical industry has nothing to do with science or healing and has everything to do with pharmaceutical stockholders and political agendas.

Regarding your *health*, your body, your life, you need to understand the truth. The truth is that physical, biological laws exist. Obeying them *causes* the *effect* of good health. Breaking them *causes* the *effect* of poor health.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *The Plain Truth About Healing*, “Medical ‘science’ operates primarily on that method—trying, with medicines, to prevent God’s law from exacting its penalty. That theory says, in effect, we can transgress God’s law and then prevent God’s law from exacting its penalty. The theory is: The sufferer has in his body one poison, so we add another poison in the form of medicine. And one poison plus one more poison equals NO poison!” The COVID-19 vaccine rollout is a full expression of this distorted theory.

It is amazing the lengths to which human beings will go to “cure” themselves, so long as they can avoid submitting to the laws of the very *Creator* of human bodies and minds. God’s arithmetic is one poison *minus* that one poison equals no poison. And yes, it requires obeying the laws of the Creator and even the intervention of the Creator.

God has power to heal. He promises, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee” (Exodus 15:26).

This does not mean a true Christian never gets sick. It means that a true Christian need not panic, get injected with a vaccine, and suffer the side effects. Sickness is the result of broken physical laws, and God promises to *heal* upon repentance: “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; *who healeth all thy diseases*” (Psalm 103:2-3).

If you are interested in trusting and obeying the Creator of human health, request a free copy of *The Plain Truth About Healing*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. It explains the scriptures proving that God wants to heal us, and how to claim God’s promise to heal! ■

# Where Are Vaccine Passports Leading?

Could covid-19 usher in a brave new world of governmental control?

BY RICHARD PALMER

“**P**APERS PLEASE.” THESE ARE PERHAPS the most un-American or un-British words in the English language. The Western world has established and prided itself on love of individual freedom and limited governmental control.

That time could be ending. In America and Britain, and around the world, governments are planning unprecedented surveillance and control on the pretext of combating COVID-19.

This new surveillance society will require no rustling of papers. Governments are working on the most convenient system of identification and surveillance ever using smartphones and online tools. But the result is the same. New vaccine passports could soon mean the government can track your every move.

Here is what the daily routine of a vaccinated

citizen might look like.

In the morning, you leave for work. On your smartphone, you buy a train ticket to commute. The ticketing app checks your vaccine status, verifying when and where you were vaccinated, before allowing you to buy a ticket. You board one of the more convenient carriages. People unverified as vaccinated must wait in a line for the socially distant carriages, if they are allowed on the train at all.

You scan your security pass to get into work. Then you scan your COVID vaccine app. Your employer only allows vaccinated staff in the office. No jab, no job.

At lunch, you leave the office to buy a sandwich. There’s a good coffee shop down the road. Scan the vaccine app, and you’re in. Scan the app again to get back to the office, and you are back at the desk.



After work, you stop by the gym. They checked your vaccine status when you re-enrolled after lockdown. No vaccine, no membership. After heading home to change, you stop by a friend's house party. But government rules prohibit group gatherings unless everyone is vaccinated. By law, your friend has to scan all your smartphone vaccine passes with his smartphone. It used to be awkward, but now everyone is getting used to it.

The result is the government knows where you are at every point of the day. It has a level of surveillance, and therefore control, that until recently the Chinese Communist regime could only dream of. A government record determines if you can work, travel, access entertainment or gather with friends.

Does this seem far-fetched? It is actually a reasonable picture based on plans *already* being drawn up by governments around the world.

## Real Plans

Some of this is already reality in the State of Israel. Restaurants and sporting venues are open—if you have a vaccine pass. Only with a “green pass” do you have the freedom to stay in a hotel, go to the gym, hold a wedding, or even attend certain religious gatherings. A teaching assistant who refused one has been fired, and lost in court when she tried to recover her job.

Gil Gan-Mor, director of the civil and social rights unit at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, sees no problem with this. “Anybody who is complaining can get the vaccine tomorrow morning,” he said. And this is someone whose *job* is to uphold citizens' rights!

On April 5, the United Kingdom laid out its plans: requirements for vaccine passports to attend concerts, theaters, nightclubs and large sporting events. One contractor working on the pass boasts that the app could deny people tickets or entry to the office for those unvaccinated. It even shows how the app could be used to prevent the unvaccinated from private events like birthday parties.

It won't get that dictatorial though, will

it? This is *Britain*, after all, the mother of parliaments, the land of constitutional monarchy. As slippery as all politicians can be, they would never attempt to oppress the people with anything so un-British as a vaccine passport, would they?

They have guaranteed that they won't. In December, Vaccines Minister Nadhim Zahawi said, “We have absolutely no plans for vaccine passports.” Cabinet minister Michael Gove said the same month: “I think mandating vaccinations is discriminatory and completely wrong ... and I would urge businesses listening to this debate today not to even think about this.” In a later interview, he said, “I certainly am not planning to issue any vaccine passports, and I don't know anyone else in government who would.”

They were lying.

The very same month, a consulting firm published a government commissioned report into how vaccine passports could be used to keep unvaccinated people out of pubs, sports events and other crowded venues.

The government insists that it won't force pubs and restaurants to require the vaccine. Yet it seems prepared to require these same businesses to enforce measures like social distancing—*unless they require vaccine passports*. The government claims to be saying, *We're not requiring pubs check vaccine passports, but if they do it voluntarily, we won't stand in the way*. Meanwhile it crafts rules that make it almost impossible for a restaurant to make a profit if it doesn't require a passport.

Fraser Nelson warned in the *Telegraph* that “the fundamentals of a biosecurity state are now under construction. This is what ministers think the public now want: a big shift in the dial away from liberty so the state can better provide security. It's happening incrementally, with no real debate” (March 25).

The European Union is also marching toward vaccine passports. Its efforts involve more than national tracking; with free travel across many European borders, it needs a supranational system. This means a new level of centralization, with data gathered on ordinary citizens across a couple dozen

countries to be united in a single centralized system. Never has the EU exerted such control over the lives of Europeans.

Vaccine passport plans are underway even in America. New York is rolling out its “Excelsior Pass.” Without it, you cannot attend art and entertainment venues, or have more than a certain number of people attend your private gathering. And you can only get the pass with proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test or vaccination.

But something like this—or even more restrictive than this—could go nationwide. The Biden administration used to say vaccine passports should be left to states. But on March 29, they announced it was working on a federal, standardized system. CNN cited an anonymous government official stating, “Multiple government agencies are engaged in conversations and planning, coordinated by the White House, as this kind of system will play a role in multiple aspects of life, including potentially the workforce.”

Like the British government, the U.S. government has said that citizens will not be forced to accept a vaccine passport. Maybe it will not pass a law explicitly stating that the non-vaccinated shall serve a prison sentence. But if the government gets its way, you will be forced to accept a vaccine passport *if* you want to resume a somewhat ordinary day-to-day life.

Governments have made all kinds of promises that the data they collect and track will be private and not subject to tracking. But how much can you trust governments that have been caught surveilling and tracking their citizens in other ways, and have been caught lying specifically about this issue?

Even if the intentions of every powerful member of government are pure and good, the track record of governments and even businesses that engage in mass data collection is poor, to say the least.

Not even the Soviet Union was able to track its citizens’ movements in real time. Such a system could be misused in many ways. Once a government builds it, it could use the same infrastructure to track, check and exclude people for any reason. A big red X could show

up on the screen of the train conductor, job interviewer, café cashier, banker, school administrator, social worker, police officer or government agent if the person shows up in the government database as unvaccinated, unregistered in some other government scheme, guilty of something the government has declared a crime, involved in a certain political party, possessing membership in a certain religious group, having contacted certain people, having read certain material, or having posted a certain opinion online.

The infrastructure for vaccine passports won’t do all these things, but it will do most of the heavy lifting. And crucially, it will break perhaps the first and biggest barrier of all: citizens’ resistance to surrendering their rights.

## **Should You Be Worried?**

The infrastructure we are talking about—that elites in your national government are talking about—can determine your ability to buy, to sell, to work. This has reminded many people to think of a particular verse in the Bible: “And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (Revelation 13:17).

This is describing the “mark of the beast,” a dangerous, ungodly mark that Bible prophecy says will be implemented during a terrible period in modern human history.

Considering this verse, should Christians be worried about the fact that their governments have begun implementing vaccine passports?

There are certainly general biblical principles at play that should cause us concern. Jeremiah 17:9 warns, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Give flawed human beings such massive governmental power over other human beings, and they *will* abuse it. Britain’s and America’s forefathers had enough Bible knowledge to know this. That is what motivated them to limit and check the power of the national government. What the Bible reveals about human nature, human government and specific events prophesied for the future *should* prompt us

to pay close attention to what is underway in our governments.

However, a COVID vaccine or passport is *not* the biblically prophesied mark of the beast (see sidebar). However, this system could one day be used to set up such a mark—and exclude those that refuse it from business,

public transport and the workplace.

Even if opponents to these kinds of passes succeed, look at how much liberty we have already lost over the course of the pandemic. Another assault on that liberty, in order to implement a mark, will be that much easier. ■

## Is Coronavirus the Mark of the Beast?

**T**HE BIBLE WARNS OF A SPECIFIC EVENT THAT will occur in our generation. It characterizes a certain human government as “the beast” and warns that it will implement the “mark of the beast.” Many will accept this mark: To them, it will make sense to do so. But God warns that those who do will suffer terrible curses.

The Bible reveals exactly what the mark is and how to avoid it. But we must look “here a little, and there a little” (Isaiah 28:10) to consider all the relevant scriptures.

Many think the mark will be something brand new. What does the Bible say?

Revelation 20:4 describes John seeing in a vision all those who have been killed for Christ. He wrote: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands ....”

This vision depicted true Christians who have been martyred over the past 2,000 years. Some of these Christians, already dead, also refused the mark of the beast. This means that the mark is not a 21st-century invention.

The Bible also shows that this mark revolves around obedience to God and His law. The same passage in Revelation 14 that warns of the dire curses for those who accept the mark of the beast shows how those who refuse it are different. They “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (verse 12). Other scriptures state that the wrath of God falls on

those who disobey (Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:5-6). Those who reject the mark and thus are targeted by the beast are those who “keep the commandments of God” (Revelation 12:17).

God will not visit these terrible punishments on someone who is scared by the government into receiving a vaccine. That decision will certainly have consequences. But a loving God isn’t going to visit this kind of punishment because someone is tricked into receiving something. This mark revolves not around whether you have been vaccinated, but around the question of whether you will accept or reject God’s commandments.

The mark of the beast is connected directly to one specific commandment. It has differentiated true Christians for millennia. It is the Fourth Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Generations of true Christians have been put to death for keeping Saturday and not Sunday. Then, as now, it was a “test commandment.” It was, and will be, easy to disobey, especially when persecution intensifies.

Who will you obey: the words of the Bible, or the religious traditions of men? Will you keep the day Jesus Christ kept (Mark 1:15, 38-39; Luke 4:16), the day that first-century Christians kept? (Acts 13:14-15, 42-44; 16:12-15; 17:2). Or will you follow the churches and governments of this world? Will it be God’s law that is figuratively written on your forehead and right hand (Deuteronomy 6:6-8)—or will it be a law of men?

***Read a thorough biblical explanation of the mark of the beast in your free copy of Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast? by Herbert W. Armstrong.*** ■

# What Does Free Money Cost?

Economists think paying back what we owe is a relic of history. Are they nuts? **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

**I**F YOU DON'T SAVE FOR THE FUTURE, YOU will starve. This is a truth that people learned from early in human history. It is obvious to all who farm, hunt and preserve food, and who watch the weather and climate. It is an ancient principle put into practice long before the creation of money, credit and just-in-time inventory management. Saving for the future is what people everywhere used to believe in.

Today, the United States is \$28 trillion in debt. We have no savings. There is no emergency fund. We have already spent the taxes on future earnings of our grandchildren—and their children.

But if you believe America's leaders, everything will be fine because none of that matters anymore.

Leaders in Washington, Wall Street and even Main Street believe in a new economic theory. Politicians love it, because it makes saving for the future obsolete. It theorizes that deficits and debts are actually good because their main effect is to stimulate the economy. It theorizes that we won't ever *really* have to pay back borrowed money because our central bank can create unlimited numbers of dollars out of nothing—at the push of a button. The theory has a name: Modern Monetary Theory. Believers view it as a modern monetary miracle, a way to push economic problems into the future *forever*.

These theorists think they have transcended the basic laws of economics.

Can you borrow money and spend it without ever having to pay it back? Can you print massive amounts of money out of thin air without destroying its value and making everything

more expensive?

We are going to find out.

## Print and Spend

Since the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown and resulting economic fallout, the Federal Reserve has increased the nation's money supply to record levels. Over the past 12 months, the M2 money supply—which includes cash, checking accounts and other easily spent money—has ballooned by more than 27 percent!

In other words, ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE DOLLARS of all the easily spendable money in existence since the founding of this nation was created over the past 12 months. And the Federal Reserve has used much of that money to buy trillions of dollars of government bonds, treasuries and even people's mortgages.

This is how it works: The U.S. Treasury prints a bond, which is basically just a promise to pay back borrowed money with interest. It sells it to the Federal Reserve in exchange for dollars that the U.S. government then spends. Where does the Federal Reserve get dollars to buy bonds? This is where the modern monetary miracle comes in. The Fed doesn't earn dollars by providing goods or services or anything else, or even by collecting taxes. It creates dollars out of thin air. It has the ability to add as many zeros to its bank account as Washington wants. With the push of a keyboard button, it can expand its dollar supply to approach infinity.

But according to the Federal Reserve, there is nothing of concern here. In March, it quietly announced that it will no longer publish weekly data showing the number of dollars coming into

existence.

“They are trying to hide something,” said Steve Hanke, professor of applied economics of Johns Hopkins University. “They don’t want people paying attention to money supply growth.” As Hanke pointed out, “[Federal Reserve] Chairman [Jerome] Powell has very explicitly claimed that money doesn’t matter in recent testimony. He’s basically said that money and the measurement of money doesn’t really matter because it’s unrelated to inflation.”

Hopefully Mr. Powell is right, because the U.S. government is spending a lot of it. Consider the scope of the “stimulus” bills over just the past 12 months:

\$2.2 trillion for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020.

\$2.3 trillion for the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

\$1.9 trillion for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

\$6.4 trillion! Where did all that money come from?

Some of it was borrowed and will have to be paid back with interest. But an incredible \$3.6 trillion worth was created with the stroke of a pen and a push of a button.

Pantera Capital gives some context. With the first trillion dollars the United States printed throughout its history, “We defeated British imperialists, bought Alaska and the Louisiana Purchase, defeated fascism, ended the Great Depression, built the Interstate Highway System, and went to the moon.”

What did we accomplish this past year with \$6.4 trillion?

Initially, the government distributed money to businesses and individuals, many of whom had lost income because the government shut down much of the economy. This was one of the first times in American history that the government gave direct cash handouts to individuals. The government also increased unemployment benefits and issued grants to businesses. But much of the money went to other uses.

Now more than a year has passed since the first COVID lockdowns. Official unemployment

has dropped back down to just over 6 percent, gasoline demand is approaching pre-COVID levels. Housing prices are setting records all over the nation. And the stock market is reaching record highs.

Yet the stimulus spending plans are not even close to over.

## Looming Inflation

The Biden administration is currently working on a \$2.3 billion infrastructure bill in addition to another \$2 trillion American Families Plan infrastructure bill. “Together, the ideas inside these plans aim to redefine what infrastructure is, by bolstering ‘human infrastructure’ along with everything else,” writes *Slate*. “[It’s] a new kind of American populism.” More accurately, it’s American socialism.

This spending comes in addition to the regular \$1 trillion budget deficits the government was running before it began shutting down the economy.

And contrary to Fed Chairman Powell’s claims, the economic laws of supply and demand are asserting themselves. More money (due to money printing, government spending and government handouts) chasing a constant or shrinking supply of goods (due to the global lockdown) means the same goods and services cost more dollars.

“A little inflation *feels good at first*, because wages are rising, and people *feel richer*,” investment adviser Jared Dillian said. “But the laws of economics are not to be conned. What Powell is doing is what I call *central bank populism*. [T]here is inflation in the beginning. At the end, there is revolution.”

Notice the price of lumber lately? A sheet of plywood at your local hardware store now costs more than \$65. A standard 2x4 costs \$7. Average lumber prices have surged close to 200 percent over the past year. Why? Because of supply shortages due to government-mandated factory lockdowns and soaring demand due to people with government handouts remodeling their homes.

Gasoline is also becoming more expensive, with prices nationwide averaging \$2.86 per gallon before the summer driving season has

even hit. Corn is up 67 percent year over year. Corn syrup is in just about everything. Wheat is up 24 percent. Milk is up 9 percent.

This is not just happening in America. Governments worldwide are printing money to spend. Prices for basic necessities like food are rising. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports that food prices are up 24 percent over the past year to the highest levels since 2013. Remember the Arab Spring? Some say that, like so many revolutions before it, it began as a hunger revolt.

Other commodities are costing more dollars this year too. Copper: 82 percent more. Silver: 62 percent more. Texas oil: 28 percent more. Concrete: 60 percent more.

Powell and the Fed assure us that the inflationary effects will be moderate and temporary. His comments sound eerily similar to former Fed Chair Ben Bernanke's comments that the subprime mortgage bubble was contained. That infamously led to the Great Recession of 2008.

One big difference between that crisis and this one is where the Federal Reserve has directed its response. In 2008, the money it created through quantitative easing was injected into the banking system. It caused asset inflation in financial sectors like the stock market and the housing market, but it kept the banks from collapsing and caused less inflation in consumer goods than many people feared. This time, the cash is being sent directly to individuals and businesses. When spending increases, the velocity of money could send inflation soaring and the value of the dollar plummeting.

In other words, massive money printing did not fix the fundamental economic problem in 2008, nor has it fixed the problem this year. We temporarily papered over a volcanic economic upheaval, and it cost us mountains of money to do it.

"Two years, we will be at \$40 trillion in debt, and in two years after that, if we continue this stimulus we are going to be at \$50 trillion" said Jim Puplava at Financial Sense Wealth Management. "At some [point], these debt levels are unsustainable."

The U.S. government was running trillion-dollar deficits under presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump. And that was in relatively good times.

"If you are spending \$6 to \$7 trillion per year to stimulate the economy now, when the economy is recovering, what do you do when you get into a recession?" Puplava said. "How big will the stimulus have to be to get out of the next recession or depression?"

How sad that we are even asking this question. America is the wealthiest nation in world history. Yet its economy is doomed.

Why doesn't America manage its resources better?

## **An Ancient Lesson**

Before taking office, all politicians should read Genesis 41. So should Federal Reserve chairmen and secretaries of the Treasury. Our worsening boom-bust cycles, our imminent social upheaval, the causes of so much suffering would be avoidable—if we had the humility to learn.

God inspired the leader of the wealthiest and most powerful nation in the world to have a dream. One of its vivid, haunting scenes was seven fat, healthy cows being eaten by seven emaciated, sick cows. He could not get the dream out of his mind, and none of his advisory staff at the capital could tell him what it meant or what to do.

Then one of his staff remembered a certain imprisoned slave. He was brought in, and said that the dream meant the nation would enjoy seven years of fantastic abundance, followed by seven years of famine. He advised that the leadership save during the good years so that the nation could survive the lean years.

This is the record of how God used Joseph to advise the pharaoh of Egypt. You might know the story. So too might many of our modern politicians, economic wise men and financial magicians. But they reject the lesson: *You must save for the lean years!*

Even during the best years of the last two presidential administrations, not once did the government run a budget surplus. It took in record amounts of revenue through taxes, yet

spent even more. The national debt took more than 200 years to reach \$1 trillion. It took only 26 more years to rise to \$10 trillion in 2008, and only 12 years to exceed \$27 trillion. Our national debt is now greater than the sum of all goods and services all Americans produce in an entire year. Yet our leaders—and many of us—refuse to change our behavior and comply with economic laws of cause and effect.

At least during President Trump's term, he cut taxes, allowing people to save more of their income. But which of us did? Did a single politician even worry about the rising debt during the last presidency?

America's leaders have instead motivated people to eat their grain, then borrow grain from their neighbors (and other nations) and eat that too!

When the government shut down the economy citing COVID-19, no one was prepared. The store houses were empty. America had to resort to even more radical, even more dangerous monetary extremes to keep the economy going.

Heeding Joseph's advice would have prevented much of this mess. Had Americans saved instead of spent, denied themselves instead of indulging themselves, they and their government would have abundant savings to fall back on to survive the lean years—and we would not be implementing make-believe monetary policy that is guaranteed to inflict future lean years on ourselves.

Instead, America has an increasingly sickly currency and an enormous pyramid of debt.

Pharaoh was smart enough to heed Joseph's advice. When the famine struck, the people of Egypt had food to eat, probably preventing a revolution. The economies of neighboring nations were destroyed, and Egypt actually grew even wealthier as both Egyptians and foreigners were forced to sell their flocks and herds and other wealth to the Egyptian government in exchange for food.

If America had obeyed the fundamental laws of economics rather than becoming an even more greatly enslaved debtor nation, it could have become a creditor to the world. As Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich ruleth over the poor,

and the borrower is servant to the lender."

## Heed the Lesson!

By following Joseph's advice, Egypt went into the crisis from a position of strength and turned into a superpower. Pharaoh promoted Joseph to second in command. He was given such high esteem that his family was granted the choicest agricultural land in Egypt, and when his elderly father later died, the Egyptians mourned him as if he were one of their own.

The good news is that, even if America refuses to learn this lesson, you can. God wants you to prosper, even during severe economic depressions. Joseph's name became synonymous with *prosperity*. "And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man .... And ... the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand" (Genesis 39:2-3). Those who obey God's laws do face trials and tests—Joseph is a prime example. But if God could take an unjustly enslaved, unjustly imprisoned foreigner and prosper him in character, stature and wealth, He can prosper you, no matter your condition.

God prospered Joseph for a reason: JOSEPH UNDERSTOOD AND FOLLOWED GOD'S LAWS.

Believe it or not, this whole world could soon have the opportunity to benefit from Joseph's economic management.

Longtime readers of this publication know that the economic situation for America and the nations of the world is hopeless. Yet God will soon personally intervene and save humanity from itself, from lawless thinking that plunges us into disaster, suffering and death (economic and otherwise). When Jesus Christ returns, as the Bible prophesies, He will return to assume governance of all nations. He will teach and enforce God's law. He will inspire and compel human beings to follow the laws of cause and effect that produce peace, prosperity and purpose (see Micah 4:1-4).

In his booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, Herbert W. Armstrong described this future time, when people will obey God's laws of economics worldwide: "[Joseph's] specialty was dealing with the economy—with prosperity. And

what he did, he did God's way. It seems evident, therefore, that Joseph will be made director of the world's economy—its agriculture, its industry, its technology, and its commerce—as well as its money and monetary system. ...

“Undoubtedly Joseph will develop a large and perfectly efficient organization of immortals made perfect, with and under him in this vast administration. This will be an administration that will eliminate famine, starvation, poverty. There will be no poverty-stricken slums. There will be universal prosperity!”

Universal prosperity! Universal hard work, saving, self-discipline, wise spending, and growth of wealth and character.

Lean years are coming. We will learn the hard way that the theories, systems and institutions of human beings are flawed to their foundations. But the Bible gives us hope for the years that follow, when human beings will finally submit to their Creator. This is our last and best and only hope, for America and for the world. ■

# Is Lying Always Wrong?

Society is confused. Are you? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**L**YING IS NORMAL. LYING IS NECESSARY. LYING is not a problem if you know how to use it. If you really know what you are doing, you can even tell big, bold lies. We need lying to make things work: our marriages, our friendships, our businesses, our politics, our security, our international relations.

This is the standard attitude in our society. And it is a *lie!*

Look at the role of *lying* over just the past year with COVID-19, with irregularities in America's election last November, with truth and facts being censored by media and Big Tech, with leftist causes being promoted in spite of contrary facts. There is an epic amount of lying in the public sphere today. And in so many cases, life moves on; new headlines emerge and the truth is overwhelmed by deceit.

This is terribly destructive and dangerous to you and me and to our whole society.

## A Prophesied Crisis

The Prophet Jeremiah forecast the role of lying in our society. He said God would be amazed at the boldness of people's sin: how they “cling tightly to their lies,” how they rush toward sin, how they are unashamed, how lying and other

sins are routine, how people who weaponize lying “proceed from evil to evil.” He said God would be moved with sorrow and indignation by the boldness of people's sin (see Jeremiah 8:4-12; 9:1-3). Read Jeremiah 9:4-5, see what happens in a society that accepts lying, and ask yourself if this sounds familiar: “Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother, for every brother is a deceiver, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity” (English Standard Version).

The value we place on truth is central to our character. It's the difference between thinking like God and thinking like the devil.

The God who inspired Jeremiah's prophecy is the one, true, eternal Creator God. But this world *is not God's world*. The societies humans have built are *Satan's* societies. His influence permeates and dominates humanity. He is the god of this world, he has deceived the whole world, he is the father of lies, and there is no truth in him (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9; John 8:44).

His influence reaches into even the closest



human relationship: One study has found that an average of 10 percent of communication between spouses is deceptive. Lying is so easy. In fact, if you don't prize and exalt truth, you will easily slip into various subtle forms of deception without even thinking about it.

But even "small" lies that you seem to "get away with" *cut you off* from the God of truth! Humanity as a whole has indulged in lies and hypocrisies from the beginning and has plunged deeply into them in our lifetimes. And largely because of this sin, we are entering a period of terrifying darkness.

### **Why Do We Lie?**

God's communication is 100 percent truth. The Apostle Paul wrote that hope of eternal life itself is based on faith in something that "God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:1-2). Thank God He has set His will to *never* lie. Nothing can stop Him from keeping His word. Our hope in that is an anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:18-19).

God's nature has not even a shadow of deception (1 John 1:5). He wants us to walk in the light as well, with our words in perfect accordance with our deeds. Let sin in, let it spread, and you have a world where the average person lies every day as a way of life.

People almost always lie to try to benefit themselves. They lie to hide wrong things they have done; to avoid punishment; to lower the reputations of others, especially in comparison to their own; to raise their reputation, especially in comparison to others; to hide personal insecurities; to avoid an issue; to let an untrue statement go uncorrected; to receive more money than they would otherwise receive; to avoid telling people no or other things they don't want to hear; to avoid hurting people's feelings; to flatter.

But God forbids *all lying* with His Ninth Commandment: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" (Exodus 20:16). Proverbs 6:16-19 show that God *hates* lying. It destroys relationships; it destroys character; it destroys people. Not just sometimes—*every time*.

Using our tongues to lie is a sin all of us have

to battle. Adults learn to hide it somewhat, and it is often more obvious in children. Yet one study shows that children as young as 3 years old can commonly deceive adults without being detected. In fact, *all* children lie until caught! Parents need to be vigilant and prayerful to catch it and prevent that tendency from becoming a habit.

One of the most dangerous forms of lying is hypocrisy: pretending to be something you are not or to believe something you do not believe, especially regarding religion. This is a deceptive, self-destroying burden—from which God wants to free us! When we walk in the truth—not pretending to be something we are not, living completely free of deceit, having nothing to hide, living with integrity even when others aren't looking—we give God the Father His greatest joy! (3 John 1-4).

### **Lying Harbors Vice**

Sam Harris is a neural scientist, an atheist and a prominent critic of religion. Disregarding religion and the Bible, he has written a book called *Lying* that evaluates this subject from his own narrow secular perspective. But his conclusions are quite interesting.

"Most forms of private vice and public evil are kindled and sustained by lies," Harris writes. "Acts of adultery and other personal betrayals, financial fraud, government corruption—even murder and genocide—generally require an additional moral defect: a willingness to lie."

But aren't there *some* cases where lying works out for the best? "[E]very lie haunts our future," Harris writes. "There is no telling when or how it might collide with reality, requiring further maintenance. The truth never needs to be tended in this way. ... The liar must remember what he said, and to whom, and must take care to maintain his falsehoods in the future. ... When you tell the truth, you have nothing to keep track of. The world itself becomes your memory ..."

Sounds a lot like what the God of truth reveals much more poetically in His Word: "Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel. ... The lip of truth shall be established for ever:

but a lying tongue is but for a moment. ... For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Proverbs 20:17; 12:19; Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Harris writes, “Lying is, almost by definition, a refusal to cooperate with others. ... Research suggests that all forms of lying—including white lies meant to spare the feelings of others—are associated with poorer-quality relationships. [T]he moment we consider our dishonesty from the point of view of those we lie to, we recognize that we would feel betrayed if the roles were reversed. ... Every lie is a direct assault upon the autonomy of those we lie to.”

This is modern terminology for exactly what you will read throughout the Holy Bible, recorded by men without neural science backgrounds but inspired by the God who created the human brain and mind.

Harris relates an example of a “poorer-quality relationship”: a family in which the mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The doctor told her husband but lied to her. The husband lied by concealing the truth from her. She researched it herself, self-diagnosed, but concealed it from her husband. Her son found out accidentally a year later, and the other two children found out two years later. The family concealed it from the grandmother (and, therefore, all other friends and family members). One of the children said, “Rather than feeling grateful and protected, I felt sadness that we hadn’t come together as a family to face her illness and support each other,” and “I think she deprived herself of the opportunity to have a closer relationship with her mother.” Tragically true.

## **A Form of Hatred**

Yet surely there is some place for lying: For instance, being positive and building up someone’s self-esteem—right? “A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin” (Proverbs 26:28).

Harris writes that lying to friends—even with flattery—makes them ignorant to part of reality, harming them in ways we cannot

anticipate and treating them like less than they deserve. “When we presume to lie for the benefit of others,” Harris writes, “we have decided that we are the best judges of how much they should understand about their own lives—about how they appear, their reputations, or their prospects in the world. This is an extraordinary stance to adopt toward other human beings.”

God does not command us to go out of our way to criticize others. Sometimes we should decline to share what we know (without giving the impression that we don’t know). But when asked for our opinion, we are disobeying God and actually hurting our friends and acquaintances when we pretend not to notice flaws. Help them by being loving and positive, but truthful.

Being truthful can lead to confrontation. In those situations, should we avoid confrontation or avoid truth? God commands in Ephesians 4:15, 25 that we must be “putting away lying” and “speaking the truth in love.”

Pretending not to notice someone making a bad decision or being self-destructive shows no love. A true friend is willing to deliver what the Bible calls a *faithful wound* (Proverbs 27:6). One paraphrase of Proverbs 24:26 states: “An honest answer is the sign of true friendship.” A couple of my closest friendships started with a difficult conversation over a point of disagreement or a personal problem. Willingness to confront a problem in love can actually open the door to genuine friendship based on sincerity and truth.

Anyone who avoids awkward conversation by lying to someone will fail to develop valuable interpersonal skills and character traits, such as tact, discretion, unfeigned politeness and patience.

“In committing to be honest with everyone, we commit to avoiding a wide range of long-term problems, but at the cost of occasional, short-term discomfort,” Harris writes. “However, the discomfort should not be exaggerated: You can be honest and kind, because your purpose in telling the truth is not to offend people: You simply want them to have the information you have, and would want to have if you were in

their position.”

Proverbs 3:3-4 give us a simple, powerful antidote to what is wrecking our society and threatens our lives and the lives of our children. Believe, be grateful for, enjoy and use the simple and powerful truth it communicates: “Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour

and good understanding in the sight of God and man.”

Forsake the broad path of breezy deceit. Commit to the straight and narrow way of truth. Be someone who means what you say, whose word can be trusted, who walks what you talk, who praises but doesn't flatter, who can deliver tactful, honest criticism, and who speaks the truth in love. ■

# The Woman Who Saved the Man Who Saved the World

By serving a child selflessly, one woman had a profound impact on Western civilization. Who might the children in your life grow up to be? **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

**I**T WAS A BABY BOY. HE ENTERED THE WORLD at 1:30 on the morning of Nov. 30, 1874, born to a noble family in Oxfordshire, England.

As a child, he had a large table for his thousands of toy soldiers and their momentous battles, wonderful collections of books and stamps, even his own log cabin, accessed over a small moat by a functioning drawbridge. All a boy could ask for.

Almost.

This boy was Winston S. Churchill. His parents provided his physical needs and luxuries, but deprived him of affection and even time together. In the Victorian era, high society parents like his viewed their children at appointed times and received reports from those who actually spent time with them, their nannies. But Randolph and Jennie Churchill had no time for even these brief interactions.

The two saw very little of Winston during his earliest years. When he turned 7, they sent him off to his first of several boarding schools,

where he suffered bullying from classmates and even teachers due to a sickly disposition and speech impediments.

Throughout these difficult years, Winston wrote to his father and mother, pleading for visits. “[C]ome and see me soon ....” “Come and see me soon, dear Mamma ....” “I am wondering when you are coming to see me?”

Except on rare occasions, neither his mother nor his father took the short train ride to see him. In fact, they rarely replied to his letters. Nine-year-old Winston wrote his mother, “I have only had one letter from you this term.”

While father and mother were tending to things they viewed as more important, who watched Winston? The live-in caretaker they hired when he was one month old, a 40-year-old woman named Elizabeth Anne Everest.

## ‘The Fireside at Which He Dried His Tears’

Most biographies include little mention of

nannies. But in biographies of Churchill, the situation is different. William Manchester's *The Last Lion*, for example, discusses Everest in dozens of passages, many quite detailed. That's because the early history of Winston Churchill is largely the history of Everest.

For Winston's first seven years, she was his world entire. This world was largely one of learning: Reading, writing and basic mathematics were part of their daily routine in the nursery. But Everest also allowed time for, and even joined him in, acting out scenes from the books they read.

"Woom" was apparently the closest young Winston could get to saying "woman." This became his name for her. "Woom" was more than educator and playmate. She saved him from emotional starvation. She shaped his personality. She taught him to navigate the vicissitudes of life. And Winston, neglected by parents, bullied and struck down by frequent and prolonged illnesses, experienced vicissitudes. But even as he grew and his world widened, he knew that whatever struggle he faced, he had someone to turn to.

In *My Early Life*, he wrote that she was his "confidante." "[T]o her I poured out my many troubles."

At age 11, Winston contracted double pneumonia and was violently ill for several days. His doctor wrote his parents: "Forgive my troubling you with these lines to impress upon you the absolute necessity of quiet and sleep for Winston and that Mrs. Everest should not be allowed in the sick room today—even the excitement of pleasure at seeing her might do harm!"

The next year, Winston was living at Harrow boarding school. His mother had not visited him there for nearly a year, and his father never had. But one day, after months of Winston beseeching his parents to send her, Mrs. Everest arrived. "Public-school boys then were ashamed of their nannies," Manchester wrote. But Winston "paraded his old nurse, immensely fat and all smiles, down High Street, and then unashamedly kissed her in full view of his schoolmates." One later said that kiss was "one of the bravest acts I have

ever seen."

Violet Asquith, a personal friend to Winston Churchill during his adult years, summarized all that Woom was to him: "In his solitary childhood and unhappy school days, Mrs. Everest was his comforter, his strength and stay, his one source of unfailing human understanding. She was the fireside at which he dried his tears and warmed his heart. She was the night light by his bed. She was security."

### **'Vast and Generous Moral Sense'**

Everest warned her charge of the dangers of debt, the perils of befriending bad influences, the importance of maintaining health, the virtue of practicing kindness toward animals. She helped him develop concern for the poor, which Manchester wrote would help make Churchill one of the two "most effective champions of the working class" in Britain's political arena.

Everest also taught Winston, as best she could, about his Creator. He would see her praying silently and ask about the purpose. She would explain, and pray aloud for him to hear and learn. It was from her lips that Winston first heard passages of the King James Bible. She helped him memorize parts of it, and taught him about the lives of men and women recorded in it. The two took frequent walks together, during which she taught him to sing hymns.

In *Never Give In*, Stephen Mansfield describes Everest as a "low church" adherent averse to the "ritual" and "popish trappings" of the Anglican Church. "But she was ... a passionate woman of prayer and she taught young Winston well."

Thanks to Everest's influence, Churchill realized during his teen years that Britain's colonial policy was noble and worth fighting for only as long as it remained founded on what he called "a higher reason" and "a moral force—the divine foundation of earthly power."

His belief that his country represented "Christian civilization" was central to his life-long sense of mission. Growing inside him was his now historic indomitable determination to stand and fight.

"[W]ho put such moral steel in Churchill's

heart and spine?” journalist Cal Thomas asked. “If his parents were not strong spiritual and ethical guides, who gave Churchill such principles?”

Elizabeth Anne Everest.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s 2014 biography concludes that: “She it was, I reckon, who helped him to that vast and generous moral sense.”

The “moral sense” Everest helped build in young Winston is not incidental. It ultimately changed the course of history.

“There has probably never been a greater political watchman than Winston Churchill,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his booklet *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman*. “His foresight saved the Western world from demise in World War II.”

The importance of Churchill’s uncompromising stand against Nazi evil, at a time when no one else was willing to confront it, cannot be overstated. It truly saved the world. Mr. Flurry makes clear that it was actually God who accomplished that, but He did so through Churchill. And Churchill would never have had the foresight, conviction and spine to be used in a mighty way without Everest.

### **‘My Dearest and Most Intimate Friend’**

When Winston was 19, financial strain prompted his family to dismiss Everest, despite his adamant objections.

She moved in with her sisters who, along with more financial support from Winston than he could sensibly afford, kept her from utter destitution. But the following year, Winston received a letter saying she had contracted peritonitis.

He dropped everything and rushed to see her.

Everest knew her own condition was serious, but her worry was over Winston, who had traveled through rain to visit her. She refused to be comforted until he dried himself off. Soon after, she slipped into a coma. The young man sat at her side, holding the hand that had dressed him, helped him walk, turned the pages of his storybooks, pointed to the Scriptures, dried his tears, picked him up, and

built his life.

It was Woom who had always been there when he was otherwise alone. Woom who had taught him compassion and humility. Woom who had shown him endless love.

He held her hand until the end, at 2:15 the next morning. He later wrote, “Death came very easily to her. She had lived such an innocent and loving life of service to others and held such a simple faith that she had no fears at all, and did not seem to mind very much.

“She had been my dearest and most intimate friend during the whole of the 20 years I had lived. ... I shall never know such a friend again.”

Used by God, Winston S. Churchill changed history and our lives. And Elizabeth Anne Everest changed Winston S. Churchill. ■

# The Former Prophets: How History Becomes Prophecy

The history recorded in the ‘former prophets’ might be ancient, but the lessons they carry are far more important today than they were 3,000 years ago! **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**H**OW OFTEN HAVE WE HEARD THAT HISTORY repeats itself? It does—time and time again.

The Hebrew Bible is divided into three main sections: the law, the prophets and the psalms, or writings. The prophets include what are classified as the major and minor prophets. There also are the former prophets, comprised of the biblical books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. These were originally just two books: Joshua-Judges and the Book of Kings. They are all tied together; we need to understand them individually and as *one prophetic unit*.

The former prophets record a broad sweep of history of the nation of Israel—from the time the Israelites entered the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua until the two parts of the divided kingdom, Israel and Judah, were conquered and taken into captivity. There is a special message in all the former prophets. They are mostly about *history*, but they are called *former* prophets for good reason. The word *former* simply means they are the *earlier* prophets. These books were written *by prophets* and they are filled with end-time prophecy.

The Jews today, and all people, can learn a lot by studying the former prophets!

Consider the basic message in Joshua and Judges, which is powerful and unique. When the nation followed Joshua’s way—which was really the way of Moses, which was really the way of God and His law—things went well for Israel. The period of the judges, when the nation rejected God and His laws and “every man did

that which was right in his own eyes,” shows what happens when a nation abandons God.

The books of Joshua and Judges contain lessons about success and failure.

The books of Samuel and Kings contain similar relevant lessons. These books record the history of David and Solomon, the two kings responsible for uniting Israel and making it a regional superpower. These two books reveal how a nation surrounded by enemies can remain independent and safe. They reveal how national *unity* is crucial to national *security*. They contain powerful lessons on leadership and how leaders determine the destiny of a nation.

Israel today has many enemies. Its politics are divisive and unstable; the nation is divided, not just politically, but ideologically and religiously. Israel’s government is wracked with disputes; the nation’s leaders spend more time competing than cooperating. In many ways, the nation is making the same mistakes it made anciently.

This is why the people of Israel, especially the nation’s leaders, need to study and understand the former prophets!

## **Only History?**

Many people believe the former prophets contain only history. That is not true, but even if it were, it would make these biblical books extremely valuable.

Many authorities call history our most effective teacher. There is a lot of truth to that statement. Napoleon Bonaparte said if

you want to be a great general, you must study the great generals of the past. That is good advice for us spiritually as well. Bible history is the greatest history of all because it is God's history. We must learn about these spiritual warriors of the past. We need to learn about Joshua and Samuel. We should understand why Saul failed even though he had such a great opportunity. We must learn about David, who has the greatest, longest biography in the Bible. We need to know about Elijah and Elisha.

What were these powerful leaders all about? All this incredible history is recorded in the former prophets. It is ready for us to study and learn from. Of all people on Earth, the Jewish people ought to be intensely interested in these biblical books!

But the former prophets are far more valuable than if they were only history. These books contain many direct *prophecies*—pivotal prophecies that are especially for this end time. Throughout these books we read about the promised Messiah, for example. But the former prophets also give us *indirect* prophecies. Of course they record history, but it is history that in most cases also becomes prophecy. Consider for example how the state of religion in ancient Israel revealed the state of the nation. If we have the same or similar religious problems today, this is an indirect prophecy of what is happening to the modern *descendants* of Israel and Judah—the *end-time* nations of Israel and Judah, which are primarily America, Britain and the Jewish state. (If you have not proved this important truth, study our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

These books show that if we live the same lifestyles our forefathers did, we will attain virtually the same results—good or bad. If we live like the people did during the time of Joshua, we will experience the same beautiful results. If we live like people lived during the period of the judges, we will experience the same horrific results! History becomes prophecy. Not all prophecy is history, but a lot of history becomes prophecy. *History prophesies the fate of nations*—whether they will thrive or collapse!

## Thoroughly Researched

Some commentaries say that the former prophets descended partly from “oral tradition.” This is provably false, and it is Bible criticism aimed at discrediting these inspired scriptures and weakening people's faith!

In this case “oral tradition” could be almost anything. Only God's Word, documented by the prophets of God, can be fully relied upon.

God ensured that the material in the former prophets was recorded and preserved *mainly* so we could understand it during the time that leads directly into the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

It took much *intensive study* by these biblical writers to collect this invaluable instruction for our education! This history isn't simply oral tradition. In discussing the book of Kings, the Cambridge Bible explains: “The compiler specifies three sources from which his narrative is drawn: 1) The Book of the Acts of Solomon (1 Kings 11:41) as the authority for Solomon's reign. 2) The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah, which is mentioned 15 times .... 3) The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel, quoted 17 times” in Kings. *The writers and compilers of the former prophets had many written sources*—not just oral tradition. They had to deeply study the prophetic books and the history of the prophets in order to put it all together in the manner God wanted.

The compiler of Chronicles lists his sources in 2 Chronicles 9:29: “Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat?” In other words, the book about Solomon that he used consisted of the writings of these three prophets: Nathan, Ahijah and Iddo.

“The Book of the Acts of Solomon' comprised three works written by *prophets* contemporary with Solomon and which embracing the whole period of his reign were naturally soon gathered into one treatise and called by one collective name” (ibid; emphasis mine). Note that carefully: The sources used by the compiler of the

former prophets included The Book of the Acts of Solomon, which relied on source material written by prophets who were right there *with* Solomon! God-inspired men gathered all this material together to make a bigger book. That was then consulted in composing the former prophets.

This process was much more thorough and meticulous than just “oral tradition.” This history was recorded in much the same way our historians write history today. But there was one vital difference: *Their work was also inspired by God!*

These men labored over these writings, building on previous records and manuscripts, because of how important this history is! Clearly it was extremely critical and meaningful to the righteous scholars of ancient Israel! If only modern Israel valued it so highly!

### **History Recorded by Prophets**

King David created offices to ensure this invaluable history was recorded and preserved. “Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer” (1 Chronicles 29:29). The men who wrote the former prophets and Chronicles were highly educated. They knew the scriptures, and they knew God’s history and prophecy. These prophets all recorded the history of David. They kept the flame of David’s throne shining brightly for any followers of God!

Education was of *great importance* in these former prophets. Samuel, Elijah and Elisha were *educated!* They all founded schools to educate others and to disseminate that invaluable knowledge. Their schools were small because most of the nation wasn’t following the godly education. Still, that history—and even these men’s regard for godly education—was recorded for us today.

I believe the Prophet Jeremiah was the editor whom God inspired to integrate the former prophets all together. But we are not looking for Jeremiah in these books—we are looking for *God* all the way through. *God* put this history together! Yet faithless scholars

label it with names like “Hebrew history.” Yes, it contains history of the Hebrews—but that is hardly all it is. Such a title waters down the truth of God. It isn’t merely history of the Hebrews—it’s the history of God and of what He is doing on Earth! This history was arranged and inspired by God Himself!

If you and I aren’t studying this history, we are missing out on an incredible, even life-saving opportunity!

I encourage you to take time to really study the history recorded in the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings. Some of the history is wonderful and positive. It is deeply inspiring to read about the joy and prosperity Israel experienced during the time of Joshua, Samuel’s devotion to true education, King David’s astonishing accomplishments and beautiful example of humility and repentance, Elijah’s faith-filled service to God, Elisha’s miracle-filled prophetic work, and many others. The history of these awesome biblical figures teaches us how to be happy and successful today!

The former prophets also flow with much tragic history. These books recount a lot of suffering, conflict and depression. The book of Judges describes some of the most heinous, gruesome behavior in the Bible. The life of Saul is a sobering warning against vanity and self-reliance. The example of Jeroboam and the civil war he incited shows what happens when we depart from the true religion established in Jerusalem by King David.

Knowing this history will help us avoid repeating the same mistakes!

The history in these books could actually save your life. Spiritually, it will lead you into a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God. It will reveal how you can be protected by God when trials strike and how you can achieve your incredible human potential. Learning the lessons of these books will even help you physically. These lessons will help you grow as a leader and as a mother or father, husband or wife. They will reveal the path to material prosperity. This history will show how you can be content and at peace—with yourself, your family and all those with whom you come into



contact.

This history occurred thousands of years ago, these writings are ancient and venerable,

but their lessons are even more relevant and important today than they were three millennia ago! They will change your life! ■

# The Real Rift Caused by the Royal Couple

All the Harry and Meghan coverage is missing the point. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**I**N MARCH, CBS AIRED AN INTERVIEW THAT Oprah Winfrey held with Harry, the duke of Sussex who has quit his royal duties, and his wife, Meghan Markle. A storm of media coverage followed, but almost everyone overlooked one of the most important effects of this interview: It drove a wedge in the middle of one of the greatest partnerships in history.

Britain and America have done great things by working together. Winston Churchill dedicated much of his life to building a special relationship between America and Britain. They fought together in World War I and won the war. The same occurred in World War II. Had Britain been left to itself, it could not have won!

When these nations are divided, both are less secure. The Oprah interview contributed to that.

Harry and Meghan hurled explosive accusations at the British monarchy, including that the royal family is racist. Meghan heavily implied that the only reason her son, Archie, was not a prince, was that she was part black. She said she was distressed by the “idea of the first member of color in this family not being titled in the same way that other grandchildren would be.” In addition to this bold claim, both of them implied that the royal family killed Princess Diana.

Of course, Britain and its monarchy have faults. The *Trumpet* writes about them often. But the accusations made by Meghan and

Harry were lies. We do need to address the sins in our societies, but let’s not lie about it! Neither Britain nor America are horribly racist countries. After all, people of all kinds of races are working hard to *get in* to both of these countries. And people of various races enjoy tremendous *success* in these countries, including Meghan and Oprah.

Many in Britain were appalled by the interview. The popularity of Harry and Meghan fell to an all-time low. Meghan’s popularity dropped more than 10 percent; only 31 percent of Britons view her positively and 58 percent view her negatively. Polls before the interview indicated more than half of Britons still viewed Harry favorably; afterward, that number dipped under half.

It was a different story in America. One poll of Americans who watched the interview indicated that favorability toward both Meghan and Harry increased. The U.S. media, which has exalted Meghan Markle, quickly sided with her. “Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle: How Two Black Women Took Down Whatever Fantasies Remained About the British Monarchy” was the *Washington Post*’s take. “Markle laid bare her own traumas to illuminate dark truths about Britain, the royals—but also more generally about life in a predominantly white institution with a racist past,” it wrote. “Racism continues to seep through every facet of British royal life” (March 8). The *New York Times* boldly targeted the royal family. On

March 9, it published “Meghan and Harry’s Interview Shows the Monarchy Must Go.” This article claimed the interview showed “that the British monarchy is a toxic den of backbiting and racism” and compared it to “a bottle of poison.”

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki praised the “courage” of Harry and Meghan. Hillary Clinton characterized the British press’s treatment of Meghan as “cruel” and “outrageous.” The *Telegraph’s* U.S. editor, Nick Allen, claimed the interview “set off a wave of anti-Britishness” and that the British “haven’t been this unpopular in America since they burned down the White House in the War of 1812.”

Historian Andrew Roberts wrote that the accusation of royal racism “is deeply damaging for British soft-power abroad, especially in the United States. Americans cannot be expected to know the minutiae of royal protocol, but they have been left believing that prejudice has prevented Archie from both becoming a royal and receiving royal security, which is untrue.”

## No Helper

The duke and duchess aren’t the only ones doing the dividing. After Barack Obama took office, he famously got rid of the bust of Winston Churchill in the White House, which the British government had lent at the outset of the war on terror. This was a major insult to Britain. Obama has often and openly expressed contempt for the British Empire. He showed a lack of respect to the British prime minister and even the Queen. A key theme of his time in office was alienating America’s allies. The Obama administration repeatedly targeted Britain with diplomatic snubs. One State Department official reportedly said, “There’s nothing special about Britain. You’re just the same as the other 190 countries in the world. You shouldn’t expect special treatment.” Obama himself threatened that if Britain voted to leave the European Union, the U.S. would put it at the “back of the queue” for trade relationships.

President Donald Trump brought the

Churchill bust back into the White House. He spoke warmly of relations with Britain and was a vocal supporter of Brexit. But now the pendulum has swung back again. One of Joe Biden’s first actions after moving into the White House was to kick the Churchill bust out again. And Harry and Meghan, like Biden, are strongly connected to Obama. The two reportedly took advice from the Obamas when considering their split from the royal family.

The division developing between our nations is a deadly weakness. It’s a weakness the radical left and especially Barack Obama have spent years creating and exploiting. Now these former royals are joining in.

In our April *Trumpet* issue, I wrote to you about a crucial scripture in 2 Kings 14:26, which states: “For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel” (“America Has No Helper,” [theTrumpet.com/23615](https://www.thetrumpet.com/23615)). Prophetically, “Israel” refers to the modern descendants of ancient Israel, mainly the British and the Americans (request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong). There are people working to blot out the very name of Israel (verse 27). Tragically, many of them are within America and Britain!

These verses are prophecy of a time when there would be no one to help these nations. People are creating and aggravating divisions within America and Britain—regarding race, class, politics and anything else they can think of. Now they are sowing divisions between these two nations. Splitting Britain and America apart from one another means that they cannot help each other.

Threats in the world are increasing. Other nations are betraying and attacking America and Britain and Israel. Many Bible prophecies show these trends will intensify. In a world this hostile, Britain, America and the Jewish nation of Israel need to stick together and to turn toward God. But they are splitting from God and from each other. There will be no helper for Israel—not even from other modern Israelite nations.

It is shameful that we are causing so much of

this division and bringing it upon ourselves. It is going to lead to some dark times for Britain and America. But Bible prophecy also shows

that God is letting it happen for a spectacular reason. ■

## Worldwatch

### France Holds First Military Space Exercise

France conducted its first military space exercise from March 8–11. Along with the space commands of Germany and the United States, the French Air Force's space command simulated 18 threats against its satellites and assets, including missile launches, jamming attacks, solar radiation storms and debris falling to Earth.

The only other powers with military space programs are Russia and China. In large part due to the threat of these powers militarizing space, France is aiming to become the world's third-largest space power and has shown plans to arm its satellites with machine-guns and lasers. The French government has said it hopes to avoid an arms race in space, but it may have already begun. ■

### Fringe Right Wins Again in Netherlands

During March 15–17 parliamentary elections in the Netherlands, center-right incumbent Prime Minister Mark Rutte won reelection. But its three hard-right parties also fared well, winning a historic-high 29 total seats.

Geert Wilders's Party for Freedom won third place with 11 percent of the vote, the even more extreme Forum for Democracy won 5 percent of the vote, and the JA21 party received enough votes (2.4 percent) to send a representative to parliament for the first time. Together, the three parties earned 29 seats—the best results the hard right has ever had. During his election campaign, Wilders said he wants to see the Netherlands as “a country without headscarves.” His hard-line stance against Muslim immigration has pushed mainstream Dutch politics to the right so much that Politico describes it as “the Wilders effect.”

The Forum for Democracy has previously called for a ban on the Koran. Its leader, Thierry Baudet, once spoke of the Netherlands belonging to the “boreal world,” equivalent to the “Nordic” and “Aryan” race ideals once advocated by the Nazis. ■

### Denmark Wants Muslims Out

Denmark became the first European country to revoke the residency permits of Syrian refugees on March 1. This is part of a series of related events across Europe to restrict Muslim migrants.

Denmark claimed that Syria is now safe enough for the 94 refugees to return. This despite the decade-long, multi-sided conflict being nowhere near resolution and the Syrian government recently shelling a hospital in the rebel-held city of Aleppo.

The government is also planning a bill to limit the population of “non-Western” residents in its cities (those who are not originally from the European Union or the Schengen Area). The cap will likely be 30 percent. The original wording of the bill included the term “ghetto,” which in Danish law is defined as any neighborhood of more than 1,000 people with certain employment education, crime and income characteristics that is majority “non-Western” and that meets other criteria regarding employment, education, crime and income. Fifteen neighborhoods in Denmark currently meet the criteria.

These measures are being taken not in a right-wing nation by a right-wing government but in a Nordic-model Scandinavian state known for its welfare and other left-wing policies, and currently ruled by its center-left Social Democratic Party.

This is a sign that Europe as a whole is

becoming much more right wing regarding immigration, especially Islamic immigration. Europe may be ending its experiment in multiculturalism.

Your Bible prophesies that Europe will soon embrace its historic culture, Catholicism—and clash culturally, politically, religiously and militarily with the Muslim Middle East. ■

“*The Whirlwind Prophecy*,” ([theTrumpet.com/go/whirl](http://theTrumpet.com/go/whirl)).

## French Generals Call For Military to Deal with Islamism

“The hour is grave; France is in jeopardy threatened by several mortal dangers,” an open letter addressed to French President Emmanuel Macron and his government begins. This letter, signed on April 21 by 20 former French generals and more than 1,500 members of the military, police and gendarmerie, calls on France’s leaders to “safeguard the nation” from Islamic threats.

“We can see that there is no more time to procrastinate,” it continues, “otherwise civil war will tomorrow put an end to this growing chaos, and the deaths, for which you will be responsible, will amount to thousands.”

Time is working against the government, and every incident adds pressure. Just days after the letter was signed, another terrorist fatally stabbed a woman in a police station in France.

Pushed by these radical Islamists, something of a medieval Holy Roman Empire mentality is rising in France. More and more people are ready for military conflict to safeguard their continent and historic roots. Just a few years ago, such a turn of events would have been unthinkable. Yet, the Bible prophesied of it millennia ago. Read *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy* to understand why. ■

## Germany Offers Cash for Change in Syria and Lebanon

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas pledged \$2 billion in aid to Syria at a March 30 donor conference in Brussels, the largest sum Germany has pledged in four years. In return for the loan, Germany is requiring Syria to undergo “a substantial political process,” he

said.

On April 7, Germany published a plan to rebuild downtown Beirut, the Lebanese port city devastated by an explosion in August 2020. The plan involves up to \$3.6 billion in financing from the European Investment Bank and International Monetary Fund, the generation of 50,000 jobs, and private German companies rebuilding the port and its surroundings.

“This plan is not going to come without strings attached,” reported Euractiv, citing European diplomatic sources. “Germany and France want first to see a government in place committed to implementing reforms. There is no other way around it ....”

“For Germany, Syria’s revolution isn’t about a humanitarian crisis at all,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained in “How the Syrian Crisis Will End.” “It’s about geopolitics and how Berlin can aggressively advance its strategic interests in the Middle East!” (*Trumpet*, September 2012).

Germany and Europe are making a move to draw Syria and Lebanon out of Iran’s orbit.

Psalm 83 and Daniel 11:40 prophesy that Germany will form a Middle Eastern alliance against Iran. Both Lebanon and Syria will be part of it. ■

Request *The King of the South*, by Gerald Flurry ([theTrumpet.com/go/kos](http://theTrumpet.com/go/kos)).

## Iranian commander visits Iraq

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Brig. Gen. Esmail Qa’ani took a two-day trip to Iraq in early April, meeting with Iraqi officials and senior leaders of political parties and movements. The visit took place on the eve of negotiations between Iraq and the United States, including discussions about the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq.

Late IRGC Quds Force Commander Qassem Suleimani’s main goal was to drive the U.S. out of the region. Qa’ani, his successor, has pledged to follow the same path. Since 2018, the U.S. has withdrawn from eight bases in Iraq and consolidated its forces to better protect itself from ongoing attacks.

Perhaps the main purpose of Qa’ani’s trip was to send a message highlighting Iran’s

power in Iraq and threatening the U.S. Iran intends to control Iraq, and with the U.S. considering withdrawing its remaining troops, fulfillment of Iran's goals in Iraq appear to be only one executive order away. ■

## Russia pulls Venezuela and Cuba deeper into its orbit

A high-level Russian delegation toured the Caribbean in March and April, signing a rash of cooperation agreements with Venezuela and Cuba, a sign of Russia's deepening influence in the periphery of the United States.

On March 30, the delegation met with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and signed 12 major energy, finance, military and strategic agreements, as well as a plan for Russia to supply Venezuela with more coronavirus vaccine doses. The next day, the delegation conducted the 18th Session of the Cuba-Russia Intergovernmental Commission with the Cuban government in Havana and agreed to a plan to increase cooperation in energy, trade, agriculture, health, defense and communications.

In recent years, the Kremlin has docked its warships in Havana's harbor and given Cuba \$50 million to buy Russian military equipment and modernize Cuban defense firms. It has also flown nuclear-capable bombers, a squadron of Russian soldiers and 38 tons of military equipment to Venezuela. And it has sold numerous tanks, patrol boats, missile corvettes and light fighters to Nicaragua. Watch for Russia to continue deepening its relationships with unstable, anti-U.S. countries led by socialist governments close to the U.S. mainland.

"The Bible contains many prophecies of [a] European power attacking America—and many other prophecies of America being *besieged*," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *Isaiah's End-Time Vision*. He explains that Europe will carry out this besiegement in cooperation with Russia and China. "All of them are going to besiege America, Britain and the Jewish nation." ■

Request your free copy of *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* ([theTrumpet.com/go/ISA](http://theTrumpet.com/go/ISA)).

## Putin to have longest rule since Peter the Great?

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law on April 5 that formally gives him the option to remain in power until 2036.

His second successive and fourth overall presidential term concludes in 2024. Under the previous constitution, he would have been required to step down at that time. But new legislation permits Putin, who turns 69 this year, to run for two more six-year terms, enabling him to remain in power for a total of 36 years, longer than Joseph Stalin or any Russian leader since Peter the Great in the 18th century.

"This world has a lot of authoritarian rulers. But Vladimir Putin is one we need to keep a particularly close eye on," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in his 2017 booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'* "His track record, his nationality and his ideology show that he is fulfilling a linchpin Bible prophecy. The time frame of his rule also shows that nobody else could be fulfilling the Ezekiel 38 and 39 prophecy." ■

Order your free copy of *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia'* ([theTrumpet.com/go/prince](http://theTrumpet.com/go/prince)).

## Biden's Message to the Taliban: 'You Won'

On April 14, Joe Biden announced that he will withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan by September 11, the 20th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks. Following the news from Washington, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization stated that all NATO troops will leave this year.

The withdrawal was announced last year under the Trump administration: It was scheduled to take place in June, pending the Taliban's meeting certain conditions. Biden's unilateral September withdrawal is apparently unconditional.

The U.S. currently has 2,500 troops in Afghanistan, in addition to counterterrorism forces. After spending more than \$1.5 trillion, suffering more than 20,000 wounded, losing 2,400 servicemembers, and fighting for two decades in a war that has killed more than

100,000 people, the Americans are now leaving—with the Taliban still in control of half the country, the internationally recognized government controlling little more than the capital city, and the nation still poverty-stricken.

“It is not the right time to withdraw their troops,” Saifuddin Azizi, an Afghan commander, told the *New York Times*. “It is unreasonable, hasty and a betrayal to us. It pushes Afghanistan into another civil war. Afghanistan’s destiny will look like it did two decades ago.”

From Cuba to Vietnam to Iraq and beyond, America has been fighting wars against small Third World countries for decades and has won none of them.

News forecaster Herbert W. Armstrong knew this would be the case based on Bible prophecies like Leviticus 26:19-20: “And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.” The losing battle in Afghanistan is a stark fulfillment of this prophecy. ■

Read “America Has Won Its Last War” ([theTrumpet.com/15709](http://theTrumpet.com/15709)).

## **Venezuela-Style Inflation May be Coming to America**

Venezuela’s economy is in a free fall. The Central Bank of Venezuela introduced a million-bolívar bill on March 5: It is only worth 53 United States cents.

Shortly after the U.S. Senate passed a \$1.9 trillion spending measure ostensibly to combat coronavirus, Sen. Rand Paul noted Venezuela’s hyperinflation crisis and warned that the U.S. is on the same path. Citing the million-bolívar bill, he wrote, “Will U.S. be the next Venezuela with Congress borrowing over \$6 trillion in one year?”

The late President Hugo Chávez’s socialist policies ruined Venezuela’s economy, prompting the government to raise revenue by printing banknotes. This caused the nation’s current hyperinflation crisis, and it is a warning to the rest of the world. Yet other governments are making the same mistakes, citing coronavirus

as an extenuating circumstance.

Since the World Health Organization first declared COVID-19 a health emergency, the U.S. Congress has approved over \$4 trillion in coronavirus-relief packages and the Federal Reserve has pumped almost \$6 trillion into the economy.

If Americans continue gorging themselves on debt, they will suffer the same outcome as Venezuelans are suffering now, Zimbabweans suffered in 2008, Yugoslavians suffered in 1994, Germans suffered in 1923, and has been suffered by all societies who reject a crucial biblical financial principle: “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7). Soon, Americans may be using million-dollar bills that buy a sixth of a gallon of gasoline. ■

## **Record coal plant closures in U.S., EU offset by record openings in China**

Global Energy Monitor published a report in April showing that a record number of coal-fired power plants in the United States and Europe were retired in 2020, but were more than offset by massive coal increases by China.

Even while Chinese leader Xi Jinping was calling for nations to pursue a “green recovery of the world economy” from the COVID-induced global recession, his government commissioned 38.4 gigawatts of new coal plants throughout the year, 76 percent of the global total. New Chinese coal plants offset the record decreases in the rest of the world (37.8 gigawatts) and meant that the worldwide total amount of coal plant construction projects has actually increased over last year. Almost 9 out of every 10 new coal plant proposals globally come from China, completely ignoring its pledge under the 2016 Paris Agreement.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry discussed the Paris climate accord in 2017, writing: “What is happening here is not about the environment. It is about destroying the United States. The regulations this accord binds America to abide by, and the funding it obligates America to provide, accomplish that purpose very nicely.” ■

# SOCIETYWATCH

## 2020: Deadliest year for U.S. gun violence in decades

More Americans died from gun violence last year than in any other year in the last two decades, according to a March 27 report from the Gun Violence Archive. Despite the unprecedented lockdowns, almost 20,000 Americans were killed in gun violence, and an additional 24,000 used a gun to commit suicide.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this was the first time firearm deaths exceeded 40,000 since 1981. In a bid to push through more gun control measures, former President Barack Obama said the “pandemic cannot be the only thing that slows mass shootings in this country.” But the data shows that the pandemic actually increased the number of victims.

These shootings highlight much bigger issues than the possession of firearms: depression, mental illness, gang membership and contempt for law and authority. These triggers of violence can only be solved by obeying the moral laws of the Bible. ■

## Sexualization of British teens is finally a scandal

The National Police Chiefs’ Council lead for child protection said, “I think that there is a huge societal problem with what young men are viewing online, the sexualization of women, and the complete blurring of those lines in terms of what is a healthy relationship.”

In *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision*, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes: “Anciently the Israelites sometimes physically sacrificed their own children. Today we sacrifice our youth *spiritually* when we give them no uplifting vision. We sacrifice them to sexual lust and fornication. The Internet alone does \$10 billion to \$13 billion worth of business in pornography every year *just in America!* It is the most profitable online business. We also sacrifice our children to demoniac music, drugs and greed.” ■

## U.S. military manufactures maternity jumpsuits

“We need the young women just beginning their careers in the military service to see it and know that no door will be closed to them,” Joe Biden said during a Women’s Day speech on March 8. “We’re making good progress designing body armor that fits women properly; tailoring combat uniforms for women; creating maternity flight suits; updating requirements for their hairstyles.”

The United States spends more on its military than the next 10 nations combined, but it is also softening it. On January 25, Biden signed an executive order repealing a ban on transgenders in the military; he also announced that taxpayers would fund surgeries for men who want to become women or women who want to become men while they are in the military.

Isaiah 3:1-3 describe what is happening in the United States armed forces: “For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.” ■

## Majority of Canadians on the Brink of Insolvency

A survey by MNP Consumer Debt Index published on April 8 found that 53 percent of Canadians are within \$200 of failing to meet their monthly bills. This number includes 30 percent who already have \$0 left at the end of the month.

Canadians have some of the highest debt-to-income levels in the world. In the fourth quarter of 2019, just prior to government lockdowns, Statistics Canada reported that the average Canadian held \$1.71 in debt for every \$1 of disposable income. In the second

quarter of 2020, many Canadians reacted to the lockdowns by paying down some of their debts, but debt levels in the third and fourth quarters has again increased past \$1.61 in debt for every \$1 of disposable income.

A survey in December 2020 found that 47

percent of Canadians felt more relaxed than usual about going into debt, and 60 percent said that since interest rates were low, they felt good about going into debt to buy things they otherwise could not afford. ■

PRINCIPLES OF LIVING **STEPHEN FLURRY**

## ‘Six Days Shall You Labor’

Are you overlooking part of the Fourth Commandment?

**“REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT holy.”** We keep this commandment by resting on the seventh day of the week. But what are we resting *from*? Examine the other side of the Fourth Commandment: “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work” (Exodus 20:8-9).

This is not a suggestion. It is a command that is just as important as the first half of the commandment. If we don’t labor, we are breaking the Fourth Commandment just as surely as if we worked on the Sabbath. This commandment points us back to creation (verse 11) and our Creator who works for a living.

The spirit or intent of this law shows that people should be doing productive work for the first six days of the week. God did the labor of creation for the first six days; we are to follow His example.

When Adam was first created, God placed him in the Garden of Eden and commanded him “to dress it and to keep it,” which required him to toil even to receive sustenance (Genesis 2:15-17).

God could have created an environment and means of sustenance that did not require labor. But He designed us to work and to work hard!

Did you know that 30 percent of your life will be spent working? If God specifically created us to do so much of it, why does work seem boring and difficult for so many people? We have to grasp the spiritual principle behind it.

The Bible contains about 900 references

to employment and work habits. It is God’s nature to work diligently, and He wants us to be just like Him. God is reproducing Himself—His character and nature, His drive and resourcefulness, and His diligent work ethic. Human nature is lazy, but a true Christian is a diligent, productive, hard worker (1 Timothy 5:8). Jesus Christ said in John 5:17, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” God forbids being slothful (Romans 12:11). He says that hard work is the only sure, godly way to avoid poverty (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). He even commands that anyone who does not work should not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Also read Ephesians 6:5-6 and Colossians 3:22, which says, “Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God.”

We are responsible not just to our boss or customers to work hard, but to God. A good employee constantly feels pressure to obey Christ. Colossians 3:23-24 indicate that even the service we give our physical bosses is considered as service rendered to God.

“God is not going to settle for a cheap, sloppy, careless, inferior bit of workmanship,” *Plain Truth* founder Herbert W. Armstrong wrote. “He commands that we shall be ‘PERFECT, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.’ A careless workman once complained to me, ‘The trouble with you, Mr. Armstrong, is that you are a perfectionist!’ I guess he was right. He should tell



God, ‘The trouble with you, God, is that you are a perfectionist!’ God is a perfectionist. And so am I. How about you?” (April 1965).

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). This doesn’t say “whatsoever you are good at” or “whatsoever you like to do, do with your might.” It most certainly includes our daily work.

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day,” Jesus said, “the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). The return of Jesus Christ is drawing near. But instead of taking away our motivation to work, this ought to serve as a prod to work *harder!*

Some people criticized Mr. Armstrong for continuing to expand the work of God’s true Church by constructing new buildings when they thought Jesus Christ’s return was imminent. In an Aug. 28, 1967, letter to supporters

of the Church, he wrote: “If we knew Christ should come tomorrow, and we needed a new building for His Work, and today was the day to start building it, I would break ground and start that new building on its way today! And I would be busy building it tomorrow as I would be caught up to meet Him!”

Christ said in Matthew 24:46 that His faithful servants will be the ones who are found working and building right up until His arrival! God doesn’t want us to just sit around and wait for His return. He wants us to continue working and building, physically *and* spiritually.

Imagine builders on top of their ladders, hammering away, working on a new building, and all of a sudden, Christ returns. Then they all just set down their tools and rise to meet Christ in the air. That’s the vision Matthew describes, and that’s the vision Mr. Armstrong had. He wanted to be found doing when Christ returns. And so should we. ■

COMMENTARY **JOEL HILLIKER**

## Report: Britain Is Not Racist

**This good news should have made banner headlines. The media disagree.**

**L**EFTISTS CEASELESSLY DECRY “SYSTEMIC racism.” They insist that ethnic minorities’ lower levels of education and income, and higher levels of crime, family breakdown and other problems, can all be explained by this structural disease in modern society.

Last summer the United Kingdom government tasked a group of 12 experts, all but one of whom was from an ethnic minority, to examine the facts. The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities was led by a black man: Dr. Tony Sewell, CEO of a charity that helps disadvantaged students, including minorities, study science and technology at top universities. Other members with backgrounds in broadcasting, economics, education, health, policing and science deeply studied the role of racism in crime, education, employment

and health.

In April, the commission released its findings. “Put simply we no longer see a Britain where the system is deliberately rigged against ethnic minorities,” the report said. Yes, there are racial disparities, but “very few of them are directly to do with racism. Too often ‘racism’ is the catch-all explanation, and can be simply implicitly accepted rather than explicitly examined.”

The report says accusations of “institutional racism” too often don’t follow actual evidence. And the “widening charge of racism” can have ugly consequences—such as minority groups abusing members of their ethnicity who are police officers. The report did not claim that racism does not exist in the UK, but it showed by several metrics that race relations and the

lives of ethnic minorities have significantly improved over the past 50 years. Minority students, for example, outperform white students. The pay gap has shrunk to 2.3 percent.

This is good news, isn't it? Not for leftists. Not to the media.

Much of the media condemned the commission for its findings. Dr. Sewell was branded as a “token black man,” “coon,” “coconut,” “race traitor,” “house negro” and comparable to a Ku Klux Klan member. The condemnations didn't address the *facts* of the report, cite *flaws* in it, or present evidence and reason to refute it. They relied almost completely on anger and the unassailable logic that *denying* systemic racism is *proof* of racism.

The left has no interest in significant, documented improvements in race relations. That is because their power comes from dividing people.

To address problems in society, you must correctly *identify* the problems. If you attribute every social problem to racism when every social problem is *not caused* by racism, you will never solve the problem, and people will continue to suffer.

This report found that *family background* is much more influential in a person's success than racial background. “In many areas of investigation, including educational failure and crime, we were led to family breakdown as one of the main reasons for poor outcomes. Family is also the foundation stone of success for many ethnic minorities” (ibid). Follow the *facts*, including the massive government dataset studied by the commission, and you know that to improve the lives of minorities, you must *strengthen the family*. The data proves this is the real issue—yet it is one that leftists refuse to address.

So often leftists say that society needs to have a “conversation about race.” But they dominate that conversation and fill it with accusation and grievance rather than facts and real solutions. The more they “converse,” the more divided we grow, and the more toxic race relations get.

A Spiked columnist praised Dr. Sewell for “shedding light on uncomfortable truths. He

is sticking his head above the parapet for the greater common good. He has encouraged many to exercise *personal responsibility* and *individual initiative* in order to overcome adversity and progress in life. And in doing so, he has been accused of being an establishment ‘sell-out’ and betraying the ‘racial-justice’ cause, by identitarian grievance-mongers who would like to keep all non-white people locked in a perpetual condition of miserable victimhood” (April 5, emphasis added).

This is the ugly truth behind the “systemic racism” fiction. *Everyone*, of *every race*, faces adversity. Radicals who convince people that all their problems result from society being stacked against them *trap them in failure*. Persuading people that the solutions lie in raging against the world destroys individuals and encourages them to destroy society!

“Personal responsibility and individual initiative”—these truly are keys to success for everyone of every race. God wants each of us to exercise these, with His help, to rise above adversity in life. The more that people reject victimhood, stop blaming society, and drive themselves, the better off they will be. The more they embrace the duties of family, according to the design of the Creator of family, the more they will mature and fulfill their potential.

The mainstream media bullheadedly insist that whites have built a system that holds down non-whites. This report exposes that narrative as a lie—one that ignores facts, incites emotion, accuses and divides.

Facts show there *has* been progress, and that race relations *do* provide opportunity to succeed. They point to *actual solutions* to some of society's problems. They give people the tools they need to remain aloof from those who want to control them. They show people that they need to, and have the power to, *take personal responsibility* and improve their own lives.

That really is *good news!* ■