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THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**The Islamic State and Iran
are on the same team**

**The battle for the
Mediterranean**

**Falling in love
with socialism**

Misspent military dollars

Cross-train your brain

China's Conquest of the Sea

Why the world
should be alarmed



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DREDGING UP TROUBLE
Chinese dredging boats create an artificial island
on Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands chain.
(CSIS ASIA MARITIME TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE/DIGITALGLOBE)



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China Is Steering the World Toward War

Satellite imagery shows China taking over the South China Sea, as it is with other trade routes globally. Both history and biblical prophecy show why this is extremely dangerous.

TENSIONS ARE RISING BETWEEN CHINA AND AMERICA.

Ever since Xi Jinping took over as general secretary of the Communist Party of China, his administration has been militarizing the South China Sea and working to push the United States out of East Asia. In two island chains, the Paracels and the Spratlys, China is building a series of man-made islands, 800 miles from China's shore. These islands are being installed with anti-aircraft batteries and fighter jets are stationed on them.



GERALD FLURRY

The Spratly Islands are claimed by the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. China is ignoring these nations' territorial claims. China is being aggressive and provocative.

These militarized islands now function as forward bases for Beijing to challenge seven decades of American naval dominance in the Pacific Rim. **THIS SHOULD ALARM THE WORLD!**

EACH YEAR, \$5.3 TRILLION OF TRADE PASSES THROUGH THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THAT IS ROUGHLY ONE THIRD OF THE WORLD'S MARITIME COMMERCE! Since Japan's defeat in World War II, America has protected this VITAL TRADE ROUTE and brought peace to this part of the world. Now the American military is retreating, and other great powers are coming in to fill the vacuum. **THIS IS GOING TO DRAMATICALLY AFFECT TRADE AROUND THE WORLD, AND U.S. TRADE ESPECIALLY.**

A trade war often precedes a shooting war. That is what happened just before World War II—especially so in Asia.

Since before the Korean War, China has had a strategy to establish a security buffer extending far from its coast and engulfing the entire South China Sea. Its current military buildup in the Paracels and the Spratlys is bringing China closer to realizing this strategy.

"China wants a bathtub," said Marc Lanteigne, a senior research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. "China wants waters that are theirs, that they can operate military and police vessels in, without having to worry about the presence of the U.S. or the Philippines or Vietnamese or Indian naval forces."

China is intimidating the nations of Southeast Asia into submission to its will. It is forcing these countries to do what it wants.

EVERYTHING IS HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF WAR.

Seizing Sea Gates

What is happening today is very much like what happened in Southeast Asia in the 1940s under Imperial Japan. Emperor Hirohito and Prime Minister Hideki Tojo tried to draw the nations of Southeast Asia into a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere so they could force Western influence out of Asia.

Between 1930 and 1941, Japan established a shadow empire of economic alliances and intelligence networks across Southeast Asia. This shadow empire was to be the foundation of Tokyo's planned Greater East Asian Co-Prosperty Sphere. Japan's next move was the establishment of an actual Asian empire—using military force!

Once World War II started, the Japanese empire claimed the entire South China Sea and built military bases in some of the very same archipelagos China is militarizing today. A Japanese submarine base on the isle of Itu Aba, in the Spratly Islands, served as a staging base for Japanese invasions of the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) and Malaya (now part of Malaysia). This base was instrumental in Japan's strategy to cut off Allied shipping in the region.

THE ALLIED VICTORY OVER NAZI GERMANY AND IMPERIAL JAPAN IN WORLD WAR II WAS GREATLY AIDED BY THE FACT THAT THEY CONTROLLED THE WORLD'S MOST STRATEGIC SEA GATES, LIKE PANAMA, GIBRALTAR AND SINGAPORE. In the decades since, however, China and the European Union have come to possess most of the world's sea gates.

TIME WILL PROVE THAT THIS IS A DEADLY DANGEROUS CHANGE!

Before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the only thing standing between Japan and complete domination of Southeast Asia was the United Kingdom. The British completed building the massive Sembawang Naval Base in Singapore in 1939. This base was meant to serve as a staging ground for the defense of India and the strategic Strait of Malacca in the event of a Japanese invasion.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called Singapore the "GIBRALTAR OF THE EAST." It was supposed to be an impregnable fortress used to keep the peace in East Asia.

Two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese were able to conquer Singapore.

This marked the start of a period of near-apocalyptic violence in Southeast Asia. Many historians consider the fall of Singapore as the beginning of the end of the British Empire. The Japanese empire was eventually defeated by the United States, but Britain's influence in the region was

Fiery Cross Reef

This is one of the islands China is building in the South China Sea. In mere months, 680 acres of land has been reclaimed from the sea and turned into a permanent aircraft carrier. The reef now accommodates a 2-mile runway for China's largest military planes. To learn about its geographic significance, see **page 18**.



WHAT YOU CAN FIND THERE 2.74 million square meters reclaimed • 3,110 meter airstrip (under construction) • Harbor large enough to receive tankers and major surface combatants • Multiple cement plants • Multiple support buildings • 9 temporary loading piers

greatly diminished. America gradually assumed the mantle of the British Empire by taking control of the vital trade routes passing through Southeast Asia.

In 1965 when Singapore withdrew from the British-backed Malaysian Federation to declare independence, Britain voluntarily gave up the Sembawang naval base for good. Now *China* is reaching out to Singapore, trying to cement control of the strait.

Britain actually gave the South China Sea prize of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China in 1997. Now that U.S. military presence in the area has been drastically reduced, CHINA IS CLAIMING THE ENTIRE SOUTH CHINA SEA AS ITS OWN!

By building artificial islands atop coral reefs in the Spratlys, and installing surface-to-air missile batteries in the Paracels, China is building a *new strategic sea gate*. After passing through the Strait of Malacca, oil tankers and other ships pass between the Spratly and Paracel Islands on the way through the South China Sea.

WHOEVER CONTROLS THESE VITAL SEA GATES CONTROLS ONE THIRD OF THE WORLD'S MARITIME COMMERCE.

What Prophecy Foretells

To really understand the significance of what is happening, you must understand the prophecies of the Bible.

God delivered a sobering warning to the nation of Israel in Deuteronomy 28. If the people disobeyed Him and turned to sin, He would give the strategic sea gates of the world over to their enemies. THESE ENEMIES WOULD USE THESE SEA GATES TO BESIEGE AND ENSLAVE BIBLICAL ISRAEL: "And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trusted, throughout all thy land; and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (verse 52).

This warning is not just for an ancient nation. It is a prophecy for the *modern-day descendants* of Israel! Two nations in particular represent Israel in this end time: America and Britain. Don't believe me—you need to prove this truth for yourself. We will be happy to send you a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, which contains abundant proof.

These nations are full of terrible sins today, and God is going to CORRECT THEM for that! This prophecy and several others show that He will send foreign enemies to *punish* America and Britain!

You can already see this prophecy moving toward its fulfillment: The European Union is moving into South America, making trade agreements that are taking business away from the United States. Russia and China are militarizing the most important trade routes traversing the Asian continent.

THIS PROPHECY IS BEING FULFILLED BEFORE OUR EYES! America's enemies are securing shipping lanes and creating economic alliances that will very soon enable them to choke off America's supply lines. SOON AMERICA WILL FIND IT

THE GREAT 'MART OF NA

BY BRAD MACDONALD AND RON FRASER

This is a slightly updated version of an article that originally appeared in 2012.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE PREDICTIVE POWER OF BIBLE prophecy?

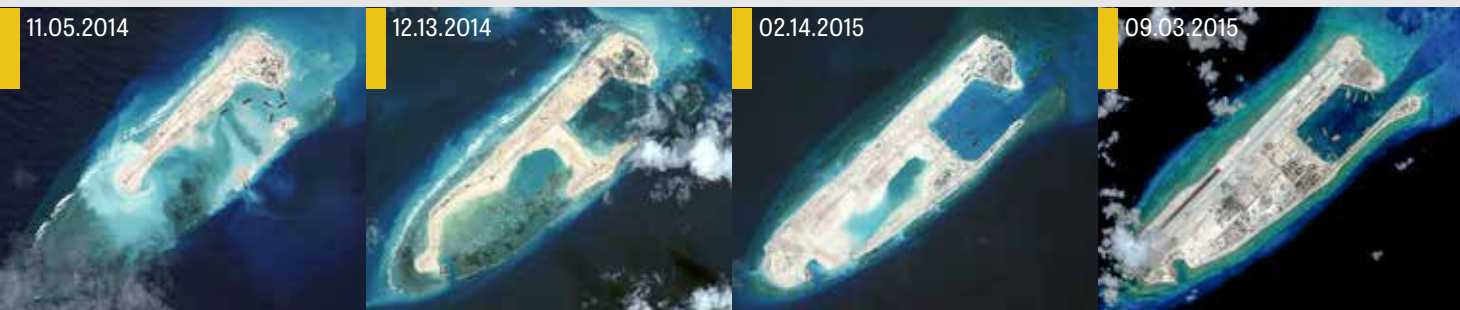
Seven years ago, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry forecast the formation of a brief alliance between a German-led European Union and major Asian powers, based primarily on trade and commerce. Mr. Flurry's forecast was based on a prophecy in the biblical book of Isaiah.

Last year, China proposed the launch of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)—a new, Chinese-run international bank specifically designed to challenge U.S. global economic leadership. America tried to convince other nations not to join. But it failed—even with its closest allies. Germany is now set to become the fourth-largest shareholder in the AIIB. Germany is also being offered one of the bank's five vice president positions, according to a list of proposed nominees.

What is now unfolding is just the scenario the Prophet Isaiah described would happen in the end time. This demonstrates yet again the pinpoint accuracy of the Bible's forecasts, as well as God's power to bring those prophecies to pass—and the urgency of our times.

Strategically, China welcomes a strong Europe to counter America. And unlike America, a German-led Europe has no military bases or direct military interest in Asia, so China doesn't consider a militarized, politically strong Europe a threat.

Isaiah's prophecy is marching toward fulfillment. It links with parallel prophecies in Ezekiel and Revelation to clearly



- Air-defense guns • Anti-frogmen defenses • Communications equipment • Greenhouse • 2 helipads • Military facility
- Multilevel administrative facility • 2 lighthouses • Possible radar tower under construction • Possible gun emplacements (8)
- Possible satellite communication antennas (10)

IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPORT OIL AND OTHER NECESSITIES.

Britain and the Jews in the Mideast will suffer a similar fate.

Start of Great Tribulation

Bible prophecy describes a time of “great tribulation”—an end-time period of suffering on a scale never experienced in human history (Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1). Many other scriptures show that the nations devastated the most will be America, Britain and the Jewish state of Israel.

In the past, we believed this Tribulation would begin when these three nations were attacked militarily. Ezekiel 4, however, describes the Tribulation as beginning with an *economic siege* against these nations.

Notice the specifics: “Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and pourtray [or engrave] upon it the city, even Jerusalem: And LAY SIEGE AGAINST IT, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about.

TIONS'

depict the interdependent relationship developing between Germany and China. And it reveals the startling outcome.

Chapters 22 and 23 of Isaiah identify these two great markets in a few different ways. In Isaiah 23:1, China is called by its ancient name, *Chittim*. The same verse calls the German-dominated European Union by the term used to describe a major economic power extant at the time the prophecy was written: ancient Tyre.

In this prophecy, the great northern trading power of today (of which Tyre is used as a type) is shown in relationship to China, the sea (verses 2, 4, 11), oceans (“great waters,” verse 3) and ships (verses 1 and 14) and mentioned in relation to sea-borne merchant traffic (verse 8)—all within the context of a great international market.

Isaiah 23:13 mentions “the Chaldeans” and “the Assyrian.” Prophetically, these terms refer to a great end-time European power, a union of church and state, led by Germany, whose biblical identity is Assyria, or Asshur.

An associated prophecy in Ezekiel 27:1-6 again uses maritime terms in association with merchants enacting trade via the sea between Tyrus (called “the king of the north” in Daniel 11) and the Ashurites (Germany) in association with Chittim (China). The theme continues in relation to the main subject, Tyrus, a type of the prophesied king of the north, in verses 8-9, 12 and 22-25.

Nations mentioned in verse 21 are in the context of trade with Tyrus. Still others, especially Greece (Javan), now a virtual vassal state of the German-led EU, and Russia (Meshech and Tubal), hugely exposed to EU debt and greatly dependent

on German exports, are also mentioned in verses 13 and 15. Japan and Southeast Asia (Togarmah) are also brought into the equation in verse 14.

This all bespeaks a massive trading power having open access to sea gates for global trade and a powerful linkage with China at the prophesied “latter days” (Daniel 10:14).

Taken in context, the prophecies of Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 27 align perfectly with those of Revelation 13:16-17 and Revelation 18. These all point specifically to the current interdependence of the world’s two major trading blocs: the German-dominated EU and China.

Look at how this prophecy is being fulfilled today. The facts are astonishing. From 2005 to 2015, total EU exports to China climbed from \$59 billion up to \$193 billion. During the same period, EU imports from China more than doubled, soaring from \$182 billion to \$395 billion. And Germany accounted for 45 percent of Europe’s exports to China, and 28 percent of EU imports from China. In 2014, China opened its first European chamber of commerce in Berlin, in hopes of further promoting economic relations and investment in Europe. In 2015, Germany’s trade with China totaled \$177 billion. If current trends persist, China will become the biggest single destination for German exports by 2020.

Perhaps some mock us for letting Bible prophecy inform our analysis of world events. But it’s getting harder and harder to deny the facts: Germany is the unchecked leader of Europe; Europe is transforming into a German-designed creation; and relations between Germany, China and Russia are getting healthier and stronger!

Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 4:1-3).

The “house of Israel” primarily refers not to the Jews, but to the modern descendants of Israel, specifically the United States and Britain. Here is pictured a siege against the house of Israel. It is a prophecy that ONE THIRD of these nations will be destroyed *economically* and socially by a siege! Other prophecies show that this siege will cause an economic cataclysm that will develop into race wars and fighting for food and survival!

A ‘Mart of Nations’

Isaiah 23 discusses a powerful “mart of nations” that includes both European and Asian nations, including Russia, China and Japan (sidebar: “The Great ‘Mart of Nations,’” page 2).

Events are moving toward the fulfillment of this prophecy. In recent years, the European Union’s economic powerhouse overtook the U.S. and Japan to become China’s biggest trad-



TERRITORIAL Chinese soldiers stand guard in the Spratly Islands.

These militarized islands now function as forward bases for Beijing to challenge seven decades of American naval dominance in the Pacific Rim.

ing partner. China and Europe have undertaken many joint ventures in recent years, including a 2015 landmark deal between Germany’s largest exchange and China’s Foreign Exchange Trade System, which is significantly strengthening financial links between the two sides.

A top German banker, Folker Hellmeyer, chief economist at Bremer Landesbank, predicts that the Moscow-Beijing economic axis will prevail against the United States. He also warns that economic damage for Germany and the European Union will be significant if they continue to follow U.S. policy in opposition to the BRICS alliance (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Germany has already joined the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Financial analysts like Jim Willie are warning that Germany may already be planning to ditch the dollar and join the BRICS nations!

The relationship we see developing between the “king of the north” and the “kings of the east” is exactly what Isaiah prophesied over 2,700 years ago!

Think about the role that this alliance will likely play in the economic besiegement of America.

Herbert W. Armstrong long prophesied that the alliance between Europe and South America will grow extremely strong. The most significant factors that will cement this connection are religion and language: Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion of Latin America; and after Chinese and English, Spanish is the next-most spoken language in the world. But it will not be a union of equals: The Latin American countries will become vassal states of Europe!

With a German-led Europe (referred to in prophecy as “the king of the north”) possessing great maritime power, North America will be flanked on the east by Europe and on the south by Latin America.

The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America. This is where China and the other giants of Asia enter the picture. Considering that China now possesses most of the world’s strategic sea gates (at one time held by Britain and America), the German-led Holy Roman Empire will need to form a brief alliance with the Asian powers identified in Isaiah 23 (Russia, China, Japan—the “kings of the east”).

If Europe finds a way to take advantage of key resources and strategic holdings of China, Russia and Japan—even for a short period—then it would have more than enough power to besiege the Anglo-Saxon nations.

This is why China’s moves to militarize the South China Sea should be so concerning.

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN ARE GOING TO BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD AS TWO GIGANTIC TRADE BLOCS, EUROPE AND ASIA, MESH TOGETHER AND BEGIN CALLING THE SHOTS IN WORLD COMMERCE. THESE NATIONS OF ISRAEL ARE GOING TO BE LITERALLY BESIEGED—ECONOMICALLY FROZEN OUT OF WORLD TRADE!

This is all building toward the Great Tribulation siege that Ezekiel prophesied. It will usher in THE CRISIS OF CRISES—THE WORST EVER ON EARTH! (Please request my book *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*. I am just finishing a significant update of this book that includes the information in this article. It contains a lot more never-before-printed material about the prophecies you are reading here.)

God thunders to Britain and America, “I AM AGAINST YOU” (Ezekiel 13:8). THESE ARE THE MOST TERRIFYING WORDS A NATION COULD HEAR!

Time is extremely short. Do we dare scoff at the living God?

God promises to correct these nations for their disobedience—because they have given Him no alternative. “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for WHY WILL YE DIE, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

Will we repent of our sins so America and Britain won’t die? Or is it already too late? (Request a free copy of my booklet *Lamentations: The Point of No Return* for more on this subject.) We have been proclaiming this warning message for over 70 years!



EXERCISING BENEFITS YOUR BODY—that is obvious. But here’s something that isn’t. Recent studies confirm what scientists have believed for decades: Exercise also keeps your *brain* fit.

If you do not safeguard your brain, its overall physical structure can actually deteriorate with underusage and age. Shrinkage, death of nerve cells, and other factors contribute to annual reductions of as much as 0.5 to 1 percent of the cerebral cortex, the outermost layer of the brain.

Although a lot of this is said to be age-related, physiologists and neuroscientists have evidence showing that exercise seems to actually slow or reverse the brain’s physical decay. It has even been proved that exercise can contribute to neurogenesis—the creation of *new brain cells*. Just like with muscles or the heart, exercise also bulks up the brain!

The science is pretty solid. The benefits are exciting. But how many people are aware that fitness benefits your brain?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adults get at least 2½ hours of moderate cardio exercise and two muscle-strengthening workouts every week. Yet only 20 percent of adults meet the guidelines for both these exercises.

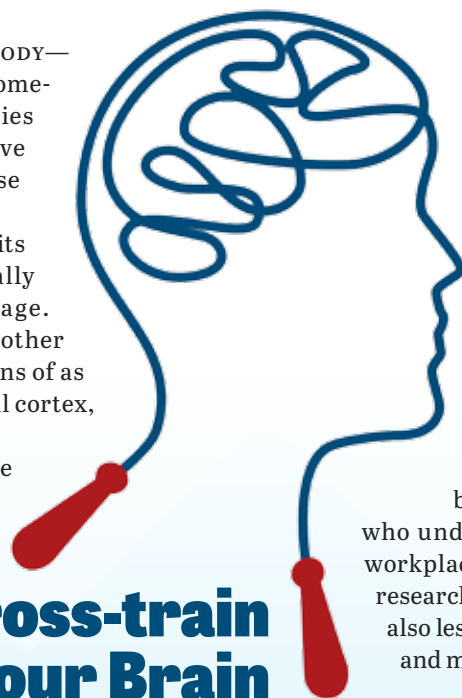
The fact that exercise is so beneficial to the brain suggests a correlation between our sedentary lifestyle and the rise in brain-related disease. Alzheimer’s disease, the most well-known form of cognitive impairment, currently affects over 5 million people in the United States, and the number is expected to continue rising. The Alzheimer’s Association reported that nearly 85,000 people died from this brain disease in 2013. Globally, one new case of dementia is detected every four seconds.

Exercise Your Brain Into Health

Your brain is capable of growing new cells throughout your lifetime. But you have to give it what it needs. In January 2011, *Scientific American* reported on research that says exercise is a cognitive superstar. The research states that exercise actually boosts the size of the hippocampus, the part of the brain responsible for memory and learning.

Specifically this happens because endurance exercise elevates a molecule in the brain called FNDC5 and its by-product, irisin. This causes the molecule to cross the blood brain barrier, increasing the brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and activating genes involved in cognition.

In plain English, exercise starts a chain reaction that improves brain health for all ages. In fact, new research from the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center and the University of Pittsburgh shows that virtually any type of physical activity can improve brain structure



Cross-train Your Brain

BY JORG MARDIAN

and reduce Alzheimer’s risk by a whopping 50 to 60 percent.

Evidence of cognitive gains produced by exercise is strong across a range of ages. The University of Illinois found that elementary schoolchildren exercising just 40 minutes a day scored an average IQ increase of 3.8 points. College students who worked out before class also benefited, improving test scores by 17 percent on average. People 50 years and older scored 20 percent higher on cognitive tests after a six-month workout regimen.

Increased job performance is also a benefit of better brain health. Employees who undertake regular exercise can boost overall workplace productivity by 15 percent, according to research by Leeds Metropolitan University. They are also less likely to call in sick, have better attendance and more focus while at work.

What Type of Exercise Is Best?

Researchers at the University of British Columbia rate aerobic exercise as best for brain health. For participants in their study, it took only 20 minutes of aerobic exercise to improve long-term memory. If you only exercise with weights, throw in an occasional run or bike ride to receive the best of both worlds: a healthier body and brain.

Interestingly, activities such as ballroom dancing that incorporate both physical and mental demands have the highest impact on cognitive function. This indicates that the best brain activities are those involving coordination, rhythm and strategy (BrainHQ.com). If that’s not your taste, vary your workout by incorporating circuits with speed, jumps and weights to gain these benefits by constantly redirecting your muscles’ attention.

The recent studies have focused on aerobic activities, so getting your heart rate up through brisk walking or jogging will definitely help your brain.

Your Brain Loves Balance

People tend to think that if a little is good, a lot must be better. But we should be careful. Justin Rhodes, Ph.D., a neuroscientist at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, found that BDNF concentrations can increase dramatically after excessive amounts of exercise, meaning their benefits can actually max out and backfire.

Good health comes about when we do the things the body requires in a balanced, consistent manner. Research shows that moderate amounts of endurance exercise is perfect to gain maximum brain benefits.

To prevent brain stagnation and deterioration, you need physical exercise, continual learning, and regular cognitive stimulation. So go ahead and exercise—not only to improve your body, but also as one of the most effective means for preserving and enhancing cognitive function at any age. ■

Jorg Mardian is a certified personal trainer.



THE ISLAMIC STATE AND IRAN

ON THE SAME TEAM

The West considers Iran an ally in the war on terror. This mistake will prove fatal. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

TO MANY PEOPLE TODAY, THE Islamic State has become the face of radical Islamist terrorism, thanks largely to its flair for drama. From its bases in Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State is sowing trouble and chaos throughout the Middle East and North Africa, and, increasingly, throughout Europe and the wider Western world.

Its handiwork is so ubiquitous and so horrific that many in the West now consider the Islamic State the number one global terrorist threat and believe defeating the group is the solution to

global Islamic terrorism. For many Western governments, confronting the terrorist group widely known as ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is the focal point in their foreign policy toward radical Islam.

One can understand the impulse to focus on the Islamic State. Reading about ISIS fighters wedging a 4-year-old child into an oil drum and setting it ablaze stirs the emotions. But fighting the war on radical Islam by focusing on the Islamic State has led to some unwise assumptions, and to the West making some risky decisions.

Courting Iran

In Western capitals across the world, the Islamic Republic of Iran is increasingly seen and embraced as a logical ally in the war against the Islamic State. If you consider ISIS the primary enemy, then courting Iran seems rational: *Shia Iran despises Sunni ISIS and wants to see the terrorist organization eradicated just as much as we do, so let's join forces and fight.* Recruiting Iran's assistance makes sense practically and tactically too, considering Tehran's proximity to the fight.

We see this logic used regularly by Western journalists and politicians. In April, *Newsweek* produced an article titled "Why We Should Let Iran Fight Islamic State." The author wrote: "The way to offset Sunni ISIS is to let Shia Iran do the fighting in the Middle East's sectarian war, via forces almost as vicious including Hezbollah and the Revolutionary Guard. And by supporting Shia movements fighting Sunni radicals as Iran is already doing in Yemen" (April 19).

The *National Interest* argued, "While a threat to U.S. interests, the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) presents us with a unique opportunity to 'reset' the Middle East equation—to actively transform regional relations, to abate the cold war between Iran and Saudi Arabia and to forge a new working relationship with Iran. As the United States moves to escalate its war against ISIS and forge a coalition against the terrorist group, it is important that Iran be included in the process. After all, U.S. and Iranian interests have increasingly converged in the Middle East with the emergence of a common enemy, and no power in the region is better suited to taking on ISIS than Iran and its affiliated Shia militias in Iraq" (Oct. 6, 2014; emphasis added throughout).

Again, allying with Iran seems logical if you consider ISIS the supreme threat. **BUT THIS IGNORES THE FACT THAT FOR NEARLY FOUR DECADES IRAN HAS BEEN THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE STATE SPONSOR OF ISLAMIC TERRORISM.**

Tehran, of course, is quite happy to play along. Iran's leaders make routine statements condemning the Islamic State and expressing alarm at the group's vigorous growth. They make

gestures that augment the widespread belief in the West that Shiite Iran and Sunni ISIS are mortal enemies, incapable of ever cooperating. The West listens naively and rewards Iran for showing itself supportive and cooperative. Iran smiles and enjoys the political, financial and strategic benefits won with a few simple lies.

The strategy of defeating the Islamic State by working with Iran, or at least empowering Iran to fight the terrorists, has broader implications for the America-Iran relationship. The more dependent America is on Iran to fight the Islamic State, the more careful Washington must be not to make decisions or pursue policies that could upset Tehran. This gives Iran leverage in the broader relationship.

The premise behind America recruiting Iran to fight the Islamic State is the belief that Iran and ISIS are archenemies. But what if this assumption is incorrect?

The Iran-Islamic State Relationship

Like most national, tribal, ethical and religious relationships in the Middle East, the relationship between the Islamic State and Iran is not nearly as simple as many Westerners believe. Evidence proves that Iran and the Islamic State are not archenemies. In fact, *Iran is at least partly responsible for the Islamic State's creation!*

In his article "Iran Is More Deeply Tied to ISIS Than You Think," Benjamin Decker provides a detailed explanation of Iran's involvement in the creation of various *Sunni* terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda. He writes, "As the West continues to partner with Iran to 'degrade and ultimately destroy' the Islamic State, *it is worth remembering that one of Iran's highest-ranking terrorists was instrumental in founding al Qaeda, and that the split between Shia and Sunni jihadis is murky at best*" (Tower, December 2015).

The Islamic State emerged from al Qaeda in Iraq. Decker continues: "Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and the rise of al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), the predecessor to the Islamic State, has been well documented; comparably little attention has been given to the group's global reach. *While the Islamic State was born out of*

Osama bin Laden's global jihad against the West, many overlook the importance of another player in the equation—Iran.

"This may seem surprising given that Iran, the stalwart of the Shia Crescent, is currently embroiled in a regional war against the Islamic State in both Syria and Iraq. However, Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security, described as one of the 'largest and most dynamic intelligence agencies in the Middle East' by the Pentagon's Irregular Warfare Support Program, has, **OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, PROVIDED FINANCIAL, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES TO AQI.**" This article explains in detail Iran's history with grooming and training key Sunni terrorist leaders, and financing and supplying weapons and tactical assistance to various Sunni terrorist groups.

An article from the Tower's website, "The Different Stages of Iranian Support for ISIS," said, "Recent reports that Iran is supporting ISIS through its funding of Hamas are a reminder that the Islamic Republic has long backed the powerful jihadist group and its predecessors in a variety of ways.

"In 2012, the United States Treasury Department exposed the extensive financial ties between Iran and al Qaeda in Iraq" (Dec. 16, 2015). Again,

"Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security ... has, over the past 20 years, provided financial, material, technological and other support services to AQI (al Qaeda in Iraq, predecessor to the Islamic State)."

BENJAMIN DECKER

this is the terrorist organization that evolved into the Islamic State!

Iran wasn't alone in supporting and exploiting the rise of al Qaeda in Iraq. For example, a Pentagon report from August 2012 revealed that *the U.S. and the West* once supported the "major forces driving the insurgency in Syria" in an effort to dislodge the regime of President Bashar Assad. That opposition movement comprised of "the Salafist [movement], the Muslim Brotherhood and AQI." But that support was brief and much less than Iran's.

Another fact that has been

Iran and the Islamic State are not archenemies. In fact, Iran is at least partly responsible for the Islamic State's creation.

exaggerated in the West is the belief that Iran and Syria are sincerely trying to destroy the Islamic State. The Tower.org explained: "As AQI metastasized across Iraq and eventually became ISIS, Iran sought to position itself at the vanguard of the global effort against the terrorist group, claiming that it was dedicated to beating back its advances. **HOWEVER, IRAN AND ITS CLIENTS, PARTICULARLY SYRIAN PRESIDENT BASHAR ASSAD, HAVE NOTABLY FAILED TO DISLODGE ISIS FROM ANY SIGNIFICANT TERRITORY**" (ibid).

The article quotes Michael Pregent, a former U.S. military intelligence officer, warning in May 2015 that Iran and its allies were not actively engaged in sustained battles with the Islamic State. In fact, he stated, "Iran needs the

threat of ISIS and Sunni jihadist groups to stay in Syria and Iraq in order to become further entrenched in Damascus and Baghdad." In June 2015, U.S. officials "charged Syria with bombing non-Islamist rebels 'in support of [the Islamic State's] advance on Aleppo,' which helped the terror group push back Syrian opposition factions that were fighting Assad's regime."

The April 2016 issue of *Tablet* contains an interesting interview with Abdul Halim Khaddam, former vice president and foreign minister of Syria. This man understands the way the

Middle East works, and he understands Iran. In the interview, Khaddam revealed that Syrian strongman Assad—who is an Iranian proxy—and the Islamic State are partners. “It is a fact that Daesh [an Arabic name for the Islamic State] does not fight the government in Damascus any more than the government in Damascus bombs Daesh,” he explained. “ALTHOUGH IT IS SUNNI, DAESH’S ROOTS ARE IN IRAN—in

deliver statements promising to defend the persecuted from the Islamic State and bring stability to Iraq and the broader region. Tehran is exploiting the violence and instability created by ISIS to cast itself as the region’s savior. Iran’s leaders have promised to rescue Iraq, as well as Christians and other ISIS victims. Compared to the Islamic State, Iran seems like a picture of moderation.

Third, the rise of the Islamic State has provided Iran with the opportunity to bolster its military presence in Iraq and Syria. Iranian officials, soldiers and intelligence personnel are setting up offices all over Iraq and Syria, all under the guise of fighting the Islamic State. If ISIS’s presence in Iraq and Syria diminishes, keep an eye on who

doesn’t affect Iran’s aspirations.

Iran has no interest in eliminating the Islamic State from the Middle East, and certainly not from Europe or the West! Iran has two basic ambitions. First, it wants to be the dominant power in the Middle East. Second, it wants to *undermine* and *destroy* Israel, America and the West. RIGHT NOW THE PRESENCE OF THE ISLAMIC STATE IS HELPING IRAN ACHIEVE THOSE AMBITIONS!

Finally, consider what Bible prophecy has to say about the relationship between Iran and the Islamic State. The key prophecy is Daniel 11:40-43. Verse 40 says, “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

Notice the time setting: These events are happening at “the time of the end.”

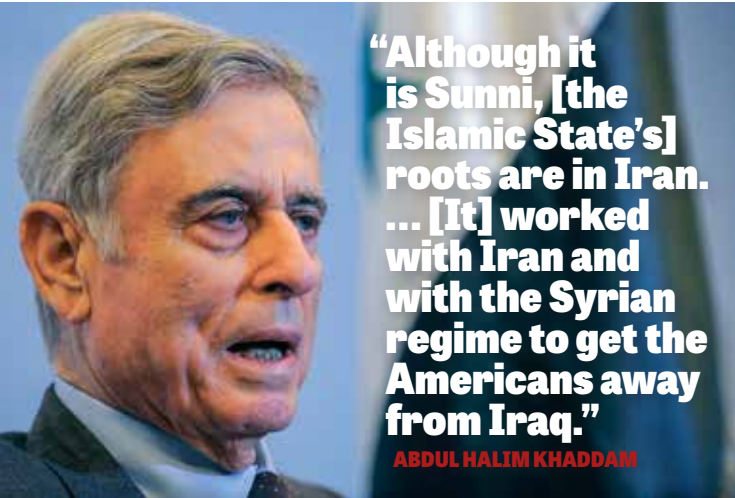
Next, it’s obvious that the “king of the south” comes from the Middle East. These verses describe the king of the north invading the Middle East and North Africa in order to confront the “king of the south.” Who is this king?

Gerald Flurry explains the answer in detail in his free booklet *The King of the South*. This booklet was written over 20 years ago, when it was much harder to see from events that the king of the south would be comprised of Iran and radical Islam. Nevertheless, Mr. Flurry wrote, “Iran will undoubtedly lead the king of the south. This power will be comprised of the radical Islamic movement. Iran is working fiercely to lead this radically militant religion. ... This king of the south is undoubtedly the Iran-led radical Muslims. They are strong and are pushing others around in the Middle East.”

The king of the south is radical Islam, operating out of the Middle East and North Africa, *with Iran at the head!*

Today this prophecy is being fulfilled openly and dramatically. Even a child can observe Middle East politics and see that Iran and radical Islam are the biblically prophesied king of the south.

Prophetically, the Islamic State and Iran are on the same team, and both are working successfully for the destruction of the West! ■



“Although it is Sunni, [the Islamic State’s] roots are in Iran. ... [It] worked with Iran and with the Syrian regime to get the Americans away from Iraq.”

ABDUL HALIM KHADDAM

a group of ex-officers of the Iraqi Presidential Guard that went to train in Iran and that Iran accepted because they thought they could use them later—and their calculation proved right. Daesh worked with Iran and with the Syrian regime to get the Americans away from Iraq. The idea was to then share the territory between Sunnis and Shiites, an arrangement which the Iranians refused once the U.S. were gone.”

IRAN AND THE ISLAMIC STATE ARE NOT THE MORTAL ENEMIES WE THINK THEY ARE!

It is dangerous to assume that Iran thinks the same way about the Islamic State as the West does. The truth is, the Islamic State’s rise has proven *enormously beneficial* to Iran, the world’s top state sponsor of terrorism.

First, the Islamic State has distracted America and the West from Iran’s terrorist activities. Thanks to ISIS, Iran is no longer on the West’s radar as a terrorist threat.

Second, the presence of the Islamic State gives Iran an opportunity to refashion its reputation in the region and globally. Iran’s leaders regularly

fills the power vacuum. It will be Iran!

When you consider all the facts, it is obvious that the rise of the Islamic State has actually made Iran stronger. The ISIS threat has boosted Iran’s reputation in the international community. It has enabled Iran to extract concessions from America and the West. It has improved Iran’s strategic position in Iraq and throughout the Middle East. And it is undermining, both directly and indirectly, Iran’s primary opponents in the region, most notably Saudi Arabia.

Same Team

Don’t buy the narrative that Iran is terrified by the rise of the Islamic State. Don’t be deceived by the lie that these two are mortal enemies, and that Iran is willing to join the West in defeating the terrorist group. When it comes to ISIS, Iran seeks to manage its activities, *not eliminate its presence*.

This means ensuring ISIS isn’t allowed territorial gains too close to Iran’s border. It means making sure the Islamic State doesn’t establish total control over Iraq or any key assets. It means keeping the Islamic State in check so it

ON JAN. 11, 1996, BARACK OBAMA signed a contract promising to publicly support and associate himself with the New Party. The New Party was a socialist organization in Chicago, Illinois, that was deeply hostile to the idea of American capitalism. When journalist Stanley Kurtz reported this signing to the public in 2008, the Obama presidential campaign sharply denied the claim as a “crackpot smear.”

In 2012, records from the Wisconsin Historical Society definitively established the truth of the matter. It turns out that Mr. Obama *did* sign the New Party contract.

America has had a socialist-leaning—or simply socialist—president for nearly eight years, and it has the European-style socialist principles strenuously pushed by the Obama administration to prove it.

Now it is 2016, and America once again has a presidential candidate with a radical socialist past. This time, the truth is even more blatantly obvious.

Bernie Sanders and his wife traveled to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for their honeymoon in May 1988. The trip was apparently undertaken as part of Sanders’s official duties as mayor of Burlington, Vermont. Sanders later wrote a commentary for the *Harvard Crimson* praising the perestroika reforms of Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachev. Instead of heralding “the end of history” like other politicians, Sanders *called on Americans to take the revolutions of 1989 as a model*. He called for the implementation of an American *glasnost*.

While attending the University of Chicago in the 1960s, Sanders became a member of the Young People’s Socialist League. He backed the People’s Party in the 1972 presidential election, which famously demanded that any income higher than \$55,000 must be outlawed. Sanders also served as a presidential elector for the Socialist Workers’ Party in 1980. This party traces its origins back to the Communist League of America, an organization that propagated the ideals of infamous Marxist revolutionary Leon Trotsky.

But this election year, Sanders has felt that the Democratic Party is now

socialist enough that he is running for its presidential nomination. And judging by the huge, enthusiastic crowds at his rallies and his strong performance against the more-traditional frontrunner, it appears he was dead right about the Democrats’ socialist leanings.

While President Obama obtained office by covering up his radical past, Sanders has proudly embraced the fact that he is a democratic socialist. The most shocking part of this narrative is that America has changed so much in the past generation that Sanders is now the preferred candidate for office by almost half the Democratic Party.

By the end of April, almost 2 million people under age 30 had voted for Senator Sanders, nearly three times more than for any other candidate in either party. An Iowa caucus entrance poll found that Sanders received an overwhelming 84 percent of the vote from the millennial generation.

Though Sanders is unlikely to receive the Democratic Party nomination for president, his socialist ideology has taken root in the

Falling in Love With Socialism

Strong support among youth for Bernie Sanders reveals the nation’s immediate future.

BY ANDREW MILLER



next generation of American voters. Unless something drastically changes, the future of the United States lies in the hands of a *new majority*—one agitating for socialism over the free market.

Defining Socialism

Forty-three percent of Americans under age 30 now view socialism favorably, compared to only 32 percent who think well of capitalism. This is according to a national YouGov survey from last January.

In related news, only 16 percent of Millennials accurately defined socialism as *government ownership of the means of production*, according to a 2010 *New York Times* survey.

Stop and think about that. *Socialism is more popular than capitalism* among young Americans, but fewer than one in five of these Americans *actually know what socialism is!*

When respondents who viewed socialism favorably were asked to define socialism in their own words in a Reason-Rupe survey, they defined it with phrases such as “being kind” or “being together.” Others defined it as a system where “the government pays for our needs.” In short, when these Millennials hear *socialism*, they think *free education*, *free health care* and *subsidized childcare*.

Millennials love Sanders’s message about a political revolution that will break up the big banks, free students from oppressive student loans, and bring free health care to all. Yet most of them haven’t thought about and certainly cannot explain *how* to accomplish this. Sanders’s proposals would increase total federal spending by about 30 percent, a projected \$68 trillion over the next decade. So far, his tax proposals only include increases for those who earn over \$250,000 per year. His proposed

budgets, as should be mathematically obvious, contain massive deficits.

Sooner or later, socialists have to accept the facts: If you want a Scandinavian-style welfare state, you get Scandinavian-level taxes. Denmark has a top marginal tax rate of 60 percent, and it applies to any income that is higher than 20 percent above the average. Translated to America, this means that all incomes over \$60,000 would be taxed 60 percent.

Most Millennials don’t actually support tax hikes on the lower middle class, yet they haven’t done the math to determine how to pay for Sanders’s proposals. Eileen F. Toplansky, a social commentator and adjunct English instructor, recounts the example of an emotion-driven English student. The student heard Dr. Thomas Sowell’s explanation of how the minimum wage hurts the poor by driving up unemployment. She could not logically or statistically refute

Capitalist or Communist? ‘Pick What Works’

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA STOKED CONTROVERSY in March when he suggested to an audience of Argentine youth that they shouldn’t get caught up in ideological disputes between capitalism and communism. Instead, he urged the next generation of Argentine leaders to pursue a mixed economy that uses the best bits of both Communist and capitalist theory.

At a Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative town hall in Buenos Aires, the U.S. president advised: “So often in the past there’s been a sharp division between left and right, between capitalist and Communist or socialist. And especially in the Americas, that’s been a big debate, right? Oh, you know, you’re a capitalist Yankee dog, and oh, you know, you’re some crazy Communist that’s going to take away everybody’s property. And I mean, those are interesting intellectual arguments, but I think for your generation, you should be practical and just choose from what works. You don’t have to worry about whether it neatly fits into socialist theory or capitalist theory—you should just decide what works.”

President Obama further elaborated on what he meant by saying that Cuba’s Communist system under dictator Raúl Castro has made “great progress” in providing all citizens with free access to basic education and health care. He said the Cubans “should be congratulated” for this “huge achievement.” He added that he believed the “most successful economies are rooted in a market-based system,” so an ideal economy should have a private sector subject to community (i.e. government) oversight.

Two days earlier, President Obama held a press conference alongside Castro in Havana. There he promised never to impose American ideals on the Cuban people. Instead, he hoped

America and Cuba could learn from each other’s example on human rights! He cited freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion as important American values. He also said he agreed with Castro that government-provided education, health care and pensions are also human rights.

As President Obama nears the end of his second term, he is becoming more honest about his radical worldview. For most of his presidency, Mr. Obama has refrained from openly admitting his disdain for constitutionally limited government. Now he is starting to openly admit that he thinks Communist economic theory has some good points.

As President Obama suggested in Argentina, he may be in the process of using Communist theory to circumvent and supersede America’s traditional constitutionally limited government and its system of checks and balances and separation of powers.

Once the federal government has the power to regulate the educational system, the health-care system and the private sector, the only guarantor of liberty is the benevolence of the leader. President Obama’s description of a nation with a state-run educational system, a state-run health-care sector and a state-supervised private sector doesn’t fit Adam Smith-style capitalism or Karl Marx-style communism. It fits the mixed socialist market economy of a Chinese-style authoritarian bureaucracy!

ANDREW MILLER



PRESIDENTIAL ADVICE President Obama speaks to Argentine youth in March.

his argument; she could only sputter and yell that the current minimum wage was due to the “greed, greed, greed” of the companies. In another example, a reporter asked attendees at the Democratic National Convention if they would support a complete ban on all corporate profits. Many said yes.

This is anecdotal evidence, but it sure is piling up!

Failing Civics

As Americans prepare to choose their next president this November, a disturbing study from Xavier University finds that approximately one in three U.S. citizens would fail the civics portion of an immigration naturalization test.

Key findings from this study show that 85 percent of respondents could not define “rule of law.” Seventy-one percent couldn’t identify the Constitution as the “supreme law of the land.” Seventy-five percent did not know the function of the judicial branch, and 57 percent could not define “amendment.”

Another survey of recent college graduates in the U.S. found that 43 percent could not identify freedom of speech as a First Amendment right, and 10 percent thought television personality Judge Judy was on the Supreme Court.

Former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson said, “If a nation expects to be *ignorant and free* in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be” (emphasis added throughout).

A great number of Americans no longer seem to understand that the democratic socialist proposals of Bernie Sanders require more than just accepting tax increases. Such proposals require expanding the already behemoth federal bureaucracy in order to administer this massive expansion of the welfare state.

America’s gigantic federal bureaucracy is an unknown and unknowable mystery to average Americans. U.S. Constitution drafter and former U.S. President James Madison once wrote that the laws of the land must not be so voluminous and complex that the average citizen cannot know them. Yet that is exactly what America has today. The enormous executive branch and its myriad agencies already have the power to pass laws (as regulations),

enforce them and even judge whether it was in their right. Yet for true socialists, this powerful administrative state is still *not massive enough*.

The Road to Authoritarianism

Socialists like Bernie Sanders rarely call for full-blown government ownership of the means of production. They call for policies that *amount to* government management of the means of production. Such policies calling for extensive federal intervention into local affairs stand in direct violation of the limits placed on federal power by the U.S. Constitution. Yet, when people express concern about the dangers of a centrally planned economy, Sanders tries to assuage such fears by saying, “The government, in a democratic society, *is* the people.”

Yet, America’s founders understood that an individual’s rights could be trampled by an out-of-control majority just as easily as by an autocratic dictator or king. That’s why former President Madison wrote in the *Federalist Papers* that unchecked democracies are “incompatible with personal security or the rights of property.” Without the checks and balances of a constitutional republic to limit federal power, a majority of people can simply vote to take away the rights of a minority.

Approximately one in three U.S. citizens would fail the civics portion of an immigration naturalization test.

That’s why it has been said that the difference between democratic socialism and authoritarian socialism is the difference between a mob voting for the seizure of private property, and a dictator—elected by that mob—ordering the seizure of private property!

The election of Hugo Chávez as president of Venezuela in 1998 is a classic example of how democratic socialism leads to authoritarian socialism. Although Chávez came to power with the legitimate support of a majority of Venezuelans, he was able to reinvent himself as an authoritarian dictator once the levers of power were in his hands. When a nation isn’t grounded in the rule of law, it’s not hard for the fickle

will of the majority to be subverted by the willpower of a dictatorial autocrat!

Ideological Subversion

The socialist supporters of Bernie Sanders are the ideological—in some cases literal—grandchildren of 1960s student radicals. Inspired by the writings of Communist philosophers like Antonio Gramsci and Herbert Marcuse, these student radicals of the New Left movement believed economic revolution had to be preceded by *cultural* revolution. While this radical movement definitely favored socialist economic reforms, its supporters focused more on matters of sex, gender and race than on who owns the means of production.

Gramsci theorized that the radical left never gained control of America and Western Europe as it did over czarist Russia because faith in God, family loyalties and lawful limits on government power were thoroughly represented in cultural institutions. He concluded that one must therefore capture the culture of a nation before he can capture the power of the state. By culture, Gramsci meant churches, unions, political parties, universities, educational centers and myriad other non-government institutions.

As the passions of the 1960s cooled,

many Gramsci-inspired student radicals flooded into two professions in particular: community organizing and academia. As professors, they taught that the classic American narrative about individual liberty and constitutional checks and balances was a mask for the power of wealthy, white, European males. They touted alternative histories such as Howard Zinn’s Marxist-inspired textbook *People’s History of the United States*. As recently as 2006, a nationally representative survey of American professors revealed that roughly 18 percent of social scientists in American universities self-identified as Marxists!

Tragically, the first generation in American history that could afford

mass higher education was taught that traditional American principles like personal responsibility, individual liberty, free markets and limited government were racist and elitist. They were taught that democratic socialism was the only way to create utopia on Earth.

Many people look at the generations educated in this ideology, sigh and say, “Kids will be kids.” They don’t realize

movements are rooted in utopian thought. Generally speaking, they believe that 99 percent of humanity is basically good, but they are being restrained by a corrupt upper class. If the 99 percent can overthrow their oppressors, the reasoning goes, then out of their goodness, they can establish a government that will abolish poverty, racism, sexism and income inequality.

Most of history’s democratic socialist revolutions progress to authoritarianism. Many have become full-blown dictatorships.

that this state of American education and culture was an explicit socialist objective. And it has been achieved!

Utopian Dangers

Sanders’s popularity with young voters isn’t just some shallow fad. After four decades of socialist influence in America’s institutions of higher learning, Millennials are taking socialist ideas to heart.

“He’s not moving a party to the left. He’s moving a generation to the left,” Harvard University researcher Della Volpe said of Sanders. “Whether or not he’s winning or losing, it’s really that he’s impacting the way in which a generation—the largest generation in the history of America—thinks about politics.”

There is a great danger here. Remember, the line between democratic socialism and authoritarian socialism is thin. Most democratic socialist revolutions throughout history progress to authoritarianism. Many of those have become full-blown dictatorships!

Late *Trumpet* columnist Ron Fraser taught in his Herbert W. Armstrong College International Relations course that there are two broad theories of political thought: realism and utopianism. A realist accepts the biblical truth that human nature is basically evil, whereas a utopian believes that human nature is basically good.

America’s founders were realists. Recognizing that human nature is evil, they devised a system of checks and balances intended to limit the power possessed by any single branch of government.

The world’s socialist and Marxist

To accomplish this, you do not need to limit government and maximize personal responsibility and freedom—you need to reduce personal responsibility and freedom, and empower government. You need an administrative state!

Millennials seem to view the current crop of Washington politicians as part of the corrupt upper class. They reason that things will be different if they can get a political outsider like Sanders into office—a man who can reform the bureaucratic apparatus of the U.S. government to be for the people.

What they don’t realize is that the young people who supported the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia or the Communist Revolution in Cuba thought the same way!

Dictators will always try to hijack governments—that is, until the day all human beings develop righteous character. And because that righteousness comes only from God, humanity is much better off having a constitutional system of checks and balances that prevents the concentration of power in the hands of the state.

No Freedom Without Law

The framers of the Constitution went to great lengths to ensure the power of the federal government was limited. They divided the federal government into legislative, executive and judicial branches, designing each branch to check the power of the others.

Legislators and presidents were still elected via democratic means, and the supreme law of the land was enshrined in the text of the Constitution.

In an article titled “No Law Without Order, No Freedom Without Law,” British historian Paul Johnson wrote, “[B]oth in Virginia and in New England to the north, the colonists were determined, God-fearing men, often in search of a religious toleration denied them at home, who brought their families and were anxious to farm and establish permanent settlements. They put political and religious freedom before riches Thus took shape the economic dynamo that eventually became the United States—an experiment designed to establish the rule of God on Earth ...” (*Sunday Telegraph*, Dec. 26, 1999).

America’s founders authored a document to protect Americans from the extremes of human reason. To a great extent, the Constitution was based on God’s law. Tyrants, unjust judges, biased leaders and even the American people themselves were restrained from unlawful actions by the principles of this noble document.

“The Constitution is the foundation of our republic,” writes the *Trumpet*’s editor in chief Gerald Flurry in *No Freedom Without Law*. “And the Ten Commandments were, in many ways, the foundation of the Constitution. Our forefathers believed that if we didn’t keep God’s Ten Commandments, our republic would collapse! We can’t afford to take the words of our founders lightly, if we want to see our nation stand. It was much harder for our Founding Fathers to spill streams of blood winning our freedom, and to create and establish our constitutional law, than it is for us just to maintain it!”

It is easy to blame President Barack Obama or Sen. Bernie Sanders for America’s precipitous decline. Yet they are only able to fundamentally transform American society because the great majority of America’s people have stopped loving the Bible-based principles America was founded upon. The spirit of lawlessness that has taken hold in America can only end in the erosion of our freedoms. ■

Do you understand the truth about human nature?

To learn more about this truth from the Bible, request our free booklet **Human Nature: What Is It?**



Is God a Socialist?

What the Bible says might surprise you. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

THE 2008 GREAT RECESSION changed the world in ways we are only just beginning to understand. Perhaps one of the most underappreciated is the discrediting of limited government and free markets. With the foundations of capitalism shaken, many people are trying to understand what went wrong—and wondering if socialism is the answer. Some even claim it is what the Bible teaches.

For many people, achieving a moral economy means raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy to make sure they pay their “fair share.” To students and supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, it means student loan forgiveness, free college and free national health care.

To the hundreds of homeless people who turned out to hear Pope Francis speak at the Archdiocese of Washington’s Catholic Charities offices, it meant free houses. “The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was to start life without a roof over his head,” the pope

said. There is “no social or moral justification, ... whatsoever, for lack of housing.”

But for most, the common feeling is that the system is broken and that the power of the government is needed to *redistribute the wealth from those who have it to those who don’t*.

Unfettered capitalism is the “dung of the devil,” says Pope Francis. Working for economic justice, however, is a Christian “commandment.” *It is the moral and fair thing to do.*

Is he right?

Socialism in the Bible?

Is socialism really the biblical system? Socialists point to several scriptures.

“He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none ...” (Luke 3:11). And 1 John 3:17 says, “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”

Some people conclude from these verses that the Bible supports

government-enforced wealth redistribution. But what these verses really show is that the Bible advocates *generosity*. These are two very different concepts.

Generosity springs from free will. The motivation to give and share originates in compassion, as 1 John 3:17 indicates—but there is choice involved. With socialism, it is the opposite. Redistribution of wealth is *always* by *force* of government. The government simply uses its overwhelming power to take what it thinks is “fair” from the “givers.”

God has created laws that govern human action and that work automatically, like the laws of physics. A principle of the Bible is that there are blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. God is not forcing people to obey His law. Blessings are the natural result of obeying His laws and principles. Generosity and sharing with those in need are biblical commands. Yet under God’s system—aside from tithes, which we will look at shortly—it is up to the giver to *decide* to give and how much he

\$44,000,000

F-35 Jets (Lot of 2,457)



economy-class warplanes in stock, with more on the way. Modest performance, some mechanical issues with radar, electronic warfare, helmet displays, sensor data, ejection seat, fuel tank, weapons, etc. Also working on patching an unintended "remote disable" feature. \$162.8 million each (\$400 billion for all).
Posted by: U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

\$1,500,000,000

New 2013 Submarine (Parts)



One of the newest subs in our Virginia-class fleet. Huntington Ingalls fast attack sub. Some issues with propulsion system: trying to fix fake pipe(s) connecting steam propulsion with nuclear reactor. Has been mostly in port, so crew quarters, control room, etc. are all still in pristine condition. \$2.7 billion
Posted by: United States Navy

\$2,700,000,000

Air Conditioning



The U.S. military needs qualified professionals to service, repair and install thousands of industrial air conditioning units across this southern Asian country. The contract for keeping our troops and computers comfortable here is worth \$20 million per year. Contact us today!
Posted by: The Pentagon

\$20,000,000,000

Afghanistan Military Base



Get away from it all in rustic Helmand Province at this luxurious 64k sf. command facility. Brand-new, never used. Completed after Marines left. Now belongs to Afghans (they only use a couple of rooms). Can sublet from them, or buy for \$1 and assume the operating costs (\$108,000/month).
Posted by: United States Army

\$36,000,000

Coast Guard Cutter For Sale



Huntington Ingalls 418-foot national security cutter. When finished, she will hold a crew of 110. Coast Guard says it doesn't need this ship, but government is currently building it anyway. Paid \$640 million; asking \$640 million, or trade for something that is useful.
Posted by: United States Coast Guard

\$640,000,000

Lot of 16 Cargo Planes (C-27J)



Barely used; only 234 hours of flight time for the whole fleet (some have never been used). Currently mothballed in the Arizona desert. Would be a steal for any military able to track down spare parts and to take on the total operating cost: \$308 million each. Our loss is your gain. Make offer.
Posted by: United States Air Force

\$500,000,000

Government Classifieds

HOW SAFE IS THE UNITED States? Could it be defeated by a foreign nation?

Many would immediately answer "No." The world's top military spender, America accounts for over a third of global military expenditure—spending more than the next seven nations combined.

But does big spending buy invincibility? America is great at throwing money at problems, from health care to education. The question is, *how is that money being spent?*

A shocking amount of it is simply wasted. Exactly *how much* is unknown because the Pentagon has never been audited, but it is at least tens of billions.

However, the amount of money squandered is not the most dangerous part of the story. Instead, it is what this huge waste reveals about the people in charge of America's security. A study of this waste reveals that a casual reliance on America's massive defense establishment is *dangerously flawed*.

'The System Is Broken'

The U.S. 7th Fleet is the most powerful naval group at sea. Its 50 to 70 ships and submarines, 140 aircraft and 20,000 Navy and Marine personnel protect America's interests in the Pacific.

It was also all but hijacked by one foreign national.

That man is Leonard Glenn Francis, known as "Fat Leonard." He ran Glenn Defense Marine Asia, and used it to

steal tens of millions from the U.S. Navy.

GDMA has supplied husbanding services to the 7th Fleet for years. When warships dock, they need fuel, supplies and maintenance; they often need towing into dock and have to pay for the parking space. GDMA provided these services—at vastly inflated prices. In just five port visits in Thailand by U.S. ships, Francis *overbilled* the Navy \$3 million for fuel alone.

The worst part of the "Fat Leonard scandal," as it is known, is how Francis evaded detection. He bribed the commander of a destroyer and the deputy logistics officer for the fleet with gifts, money and prostitutes. They passed on classified information on U.S. ship movements. They even rerouted ships to stop at ports where Francis could overcharge the Navy.

Francis bribed a supervisory agent

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NOT MUCH HANGING FOR THE BUCK

America has the most expensive military in the world. That doesn't necessarily mean it has the strongest. Here's why.

BY RICHARD PALMER

at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, who helped thwart any investigations into his dealings.

If Francis had been working for a foreign power, instead of merely for money, this could have been not only a financial disaster but also a deadly tactical one.

Francis was arrested in September 2013, but the scandal's fallout continues. Both the director of Naval Intelligence and the director of Intelligence Operations have had their access to classified material suspended. This has left America in the farcical situation where the man running the Navy's secret operations isn't trusted to read any secret material. In 2015, three other admirals were censured and retired.

"Managing the command structure at the top of the Navy has become a nightmare since the Justice Department began the investigation," wrote Matthew Gault, cohost of Reuters' military podcasts. "No one knows who will stay, who will retire, and who will go to jail" (April 13, 2015).

This affair is just one of several scandals the U.S. military has suffered in the past decade. "For generations the Pentagon has run the world's mightiest armed forces with inadequate budgetary oversight. The system is broken," Gault wrote in 2013. "Something needs to change, and it needs to change *yesterday*. If it doesn't, the Fat Leonard debacle—with its self-serving commanders, misspent millions and compromised military secrets—could become the norm" (Nov. 18, 2013).

Investigations and lawsuits are ongoing regarding Fat Leonard-like cases in the 5th and 6th Fleets (responsible for the Middle East and Europe). In 2013, the U.S. government began investigating three Navy intelligence officers who charged \$1.6 million for silencers that should have cost \$8,000. Twin sisters reportedly collected \$20 million over the course of six years, largely by fraud and abusing the system, through their company, C&D Distributors, which in one case charged half a million dollars to ship three screws to marines in Iraq.

This goes further than a few dodgy individuals: Giants of the U.S. defense establishment are involved. In 2003, an Air Force undersecretary overpaid Boeing for a set of tanker planes. She soon quit her job and went to Boeing, with a six-figure salary. The company

had already given jobs to her daughter and her daughter's fiancé. She pleaded guilty to corruption and was sentenced to nine months in jail. Boeing's chief financial officer at the time also went to jail.

Beyond the money wasted, what does it mean that the U.S. military's procurement system is "broken"? What else about the military is "broken"? If "self-serving commanders" could become the norm, how else will America be harmed?

'We're Going About This All Wrong'

The U.S. spent a vast amount of money in Iraq and Afghanistan—the Congressional Research Service estimated \$1.6 trillion. *Time* magazine estimated the long-term cost between \$4 and \$6 trillion. In these two countries, America was spending \$20 billion a year just on air conditioning. That is larger than Italy's entire defense budget for 2015.

The fact that Afghanistan is sliding back toward the Taliban and Iran is taking over Iraq raises the overarching question of just what those trillions of dollars purchased. But the figures on just the straight-up waste are also huge. The bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan reported in 2011 that "[a]t least \$31 billion, and possibly as much as \$60 billion, has been lost to contract waste and fraud"—just one narrow type of waste—in Afghanistan and Iraq.

One of the most notorious examples of waste was \$36 million spent on a command facility in Afghanistan for 1,500 personnel that was never used. Three generals requested the project to be canceled, saying it was unnecessary, but they were overruled. When investigators looked into it, commanders told subordinates to obstruct the inquiry.

There's plenty of Fat Leonard-style corruption too. Authorities identified \$1 million in overpayments for fuel in a two-month period in Afghanistan. In 2014, \$45.5 million went missing from salaries meant to be paid to Afghan police.

Besides the money spent directly on the invasion, the U.S. poured \$100 billion into reconstructing Afghanistan. That's more than America spent on the Marshall Plan to rebuild Western Europe after World War II. Propublica

Lost and Found

Have you seen a pile of \$230 million worth of spare vehicle parts? Lost somewhere in Afghanistan. If found, please contact the International Security Assistance Force office in Norfolk, Virginia. We are in the process of delivering another \$130 million of the same parts and would like to save a few dollars if possible.
Posted by NATO

\$230,000,000

Contractor needed

Need a renovation/demolition contractor to fix or replace buildings that were built in recent years. We spent \$1.5 billion on buildings that include insulation that turns out to be a fire hazard. Contact us with your details; offering a generous government contract.
Posted by: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

\$1,500,000,000

Lawyer Needed

The Army knowingly purchased nonfunctional incinerators for \$11.5 million. So soldiers just burned refuse in open-air pits. Now soldiers are suing the Army, saying fumes from the pits damaged their lungs. Lawyer needed to defend the Army.
Posted by United States Army

\$11,500,000

Free Prison

In northern Baghdad? Contact us for a free prison. This \$40 million modern detention facility includes cell blocks, offices, educational and vocational training spaces, watch-towers and walls. It needs some finishing touches and retrofitting for concrete that cracks easily, but is almost completely brand-new and unused.
Posted by: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

\$40,000,000

estimated that \$17 billion of that was wasted. This includes a base that was never used, roads that quickly fell apart, and payments to nonexistent soldiers. Half a billion dollars went to cargo planes that were hardly used and then scrapped; \$8 billion was spent on combating the drug trade, with no result.

In Iraq, the U.S. spent \$50 billion on reconstruction. The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction estimated at least \$8 billion of it was wasted.

John F. Sopko has worked hard to expose waste of these funds as the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). In a speech last September, he talked about schools built with American money that were “literally crumbling and falling apart” and hospitals that “actually became unsafe because their electrical and water supply systems failed.”

One problem was investing in projects that would have been great in America but just didn’t work in Afghanistan. The U.S. spent millions on hospitals that were too expensive for the Afghans to keep running. “This sort of thing happens in Afghanistan all the time,” he said.

“You would think after 13 years of these types of occurrences, and hundreds of cases of SIGAR pointing these problems out, that someone would wake up, look around, and say ‘You know what, folks? Maybe we’re going about this all wrong,’” Sopko continued.

He described how he had to work hard to persuade one military official not to build high-tech solar-powered lighting at bus stops. How’s that for a metaphor for Afghanistan: America’s generals want to build high-tech lighting for bus stops while the Taliban retake the country.

“[A]ll I am seeing is a modus operandi that is woefully out of touch at best, and delusional at worst,” Sopko warned. “We simply must be smarter.”

Again there is a hint of a deeper problem. If America’s chain of command is “delusional” about money, how effective is its decision-making in other areas?

‘Made-up Numbers’

The Defense Logistics Agency is responsible for buying supplies and ammunition. The DLA was recently

exposed spending \$7 billion on things it did not need. “How do you buy \$7 billion of stuff you don’t need?” asked Maj. Gen. Arnold Punaro (Ret.), who oversees a special task force on logistics for the Pentagon. “If a company did that, they’d be out of business. Even Walmart.”

Punaro said this wastage is common. “It has no sense of value or time,” he said. “No one in the Pentagon is looking for a bargain on most days. It’s a cultural thing. These are people that will ship a pallet of water on a C-17.”

Waste is epidemic in the military’s central bureaucracy. Between 2003 and 2011, for example, it managed to lose track of \$6 billion worth of supplies. A 2013 Reuters special report stated, “Reuters has found that the Pentagon is largely incapable of keeping track of its vast stores of weapons, ammunition and other supplies; thus it continues to spend money on new supplies it doesn’t need and on storing others long out of date. It has amassed a backlog of more than half a trillion dollars in unaudited contracts with outside vendors; how much of that money paid for actual goods and services delivered isn’t known. And it repeatedly falls prey to fraud and theft that can go undiscovered for years, often eventually detected by external law enforcement agencies” (Nov. 18, 2013).

In a private company, the Department of Defense method of accounting would be illegal. “Former military service officials say record keeping at the operational level throughout the services is rife with made-up numbers to cover lost or missing information,” wrote Reuters.

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in May 2011, “My staff and I learned that it was nearly impossible to get accurate information and answers to questions such as ‘How much money did you spend?’ and ‘How many people do you have?’”

In February this year, the Center for International Policy published a report by William D. Hartung outlining more than \$33 billion in waste in just 27 instances since President Barack Obama took office.

The report is focused narrowly on waste. It doesn’t include expenses like the \$360 million spent on weight-loss

surgery for servicemen's families, which would hardly seem to enhance the nation's fighting ability.

Contract Killers

The U.S. military has major problems with the way it pays for weapons. For example, the government will often pay companies to fix their own manufacturing defects. As the Government Accountability Office put it, in one investigation into naval contracts, the Navy is "essentially rewarding the shipbuilder for delivering a ship that needed additional work."

David W. Wise wrote on War Is Boring, "The Navy, like the other services, has proven itself incapable of running an effective weapons acquisition program in recent decades. Instead, the services

pay increasingly more money for progressively fewer units that often fail to meet original specifications" (May 27).

In just about every project, costs rise while capabilities decrease. One notorious example is the Littoral Combat Ship. It was meant to cost \$220 million per ship. The first cost triple that. The ships have almost universally bad reviews. They are lightly armored and lose to Chinese ships in just about every simulation.

Meanwhile, other firms are building useless weapons. For example, the Army spends around \$200 million a year on M1 Abrams tanks that it doesn't need and that go straight into storage. Why? The tank factory is in the district of the chairman of a key congressional subcommittee.

This isn't an isolated example. Last

December, the *New York Times* wrote that "[l]anguage inserted into the federal budget ... directed the Coast Guard to build a \$640 million national security cutter in Mississippi that the Coast Guard says it does not need" (Dec. 20, 2015). "I guess that is how it goes," a spokesman for the Coast Guard said. "But we are good [without it]."

One senator wanted the cutter built in his state. In the same budget, another senator pushed for the Navy to be given \$1 billion for a destroyer it didn't ask for because the vessel was likely to be built in her state.

Worse, there is strong evidence that America's weapons are designed primarily to be job creators, not war winners.

Franklin C. Spinney is famed for his criticism of U.S. defense procurement. In an essay written back in 1990, he forecast, "The power politics practiced by the Pentagon and Congress continue to drag our nation deeper into a quagmire of spiraling weapons costs, shrinking forces, and high defense budgets." Now that his predictions have come to pass, it's clear he is worth listening to.

Spinney warned that "the needs of a coherent defense policy have been preempted by the selfish desires of its individual components." This selfishness is at the heart of his critique. The Pentagon and defense companies engage in what he calls "political engineering." "Political engineering is the strategy of spreading dollars, jobs and profits to as many important congressional districts as possible," he wrote. "By designing overly complex weapons, then spreading subcontracts, jobs and profits all over the country, the political engineers in the Defense Department deliberately magnify the power of these forces to punish Congress should it subsequently try to reduce defense spending by terminating major procurement programs."

This seems to explain the problems with the F-35 fighter jet. With a price tag around \$1.5 trillion, it is the most expensive weapons system in history. It is also the future of U.S. airpower: If all goes to plan, the majority of the U.S. military's planes will be F-35s. Yet the F-35 is commonly criticized for being



IT EMERGED ON MARCH 29 THAT THE USS MINNESOTA NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINE is stuck in port as workers try to make it seaworthy. The \$2.7 billion vessel is only three years old.

When the Minnesota was delivered in 2013, it was hailed as a great success for military procurement since it was delivered almost one year ahead of schedule. But it was delivered with known manufacturing defects.

According to the *Navy Times*, some of the Minnesota's vital engine components were not manufactured and installed to specification. Evidence has emerged that manufacturers used fraudulent welding and other counterfeit additions to pass inspection. A \$10,000 pipe failed examination, and it was discovered that the pipe had been fraudulently fabricated to appear sound.

Discovery of this defective pipe prompted investigation into other parts delivered by the U.S.-based contractor. Two subsequently constructed multibillion-dollar subs were also discovered to have the same defective pipes installed.

After investing more than \$6 billion, the U.S. Navy has three new nuclear submarines that pose a known risk to their crews if deployed.

U.S. submarines form a third of the military's nuclear triad and are essential for deterrence and war-fighting capability. The revelation of these fraudulent practices has frustrated and demoralized many service personnel. Had they gone undiscovered, sailors' lives and national security would have been at grave risk.

CHINA'S CHOKE HOLD

The People's Republic of China has created almost 3,000 acres of new land by piling sand atop submerged reefs in the Paracel and Spratly Islands. These man-made islands are altering the strategic balance in the South China Sea. By militarizing these islands, China is effectively creating a new strategic sea gate. Each year, \$5.3 trillion of trade passes through the South China Sea. According to estimates by U.S. Navy Adm. Robert Willard, nearly \$1.2 trillion of this trade is linked to the United States. Beijing's control over these vital sea-lanes will dramatically affect trade around the world.

-  IMPORTANT PORTS
-  CHINESE-BUILT ISLANDS
-  CHINESE-OCCUPIED ISLANDS
-  MAJOR SHIPPING LANES
-  CHINESE AIRSTRIPS

KEY STRAIT

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT SEA GATES

The Strait of Malacca is the world's second-busiest commercial shipping lane. An average of 200 ships pass through daily. According to United Nations estimates, almost half of the world's annual seaborne trade tonnage passed through the Strait of Malacca and the nearby straits of Sunda and Lombok in 2010.



LOST PORTS

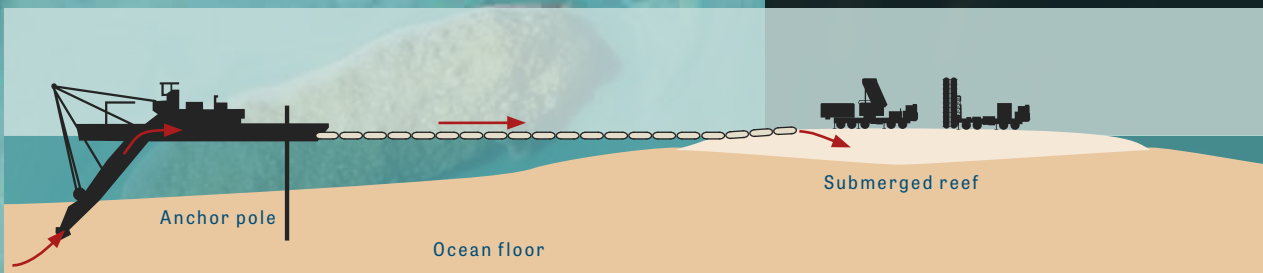
HONG KONG Great Britain obtained a 99-year lease of Lantau Island and adjacent northern lands in 1898. Despite a Communist coup in 1949, the UK still gave this sea gate back to Beijing in 1997.

SUBIC BAY Along with Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base once formed the largest overseas military installation of the U.S. Armed Forces. That presence has been drastically reduced, and China is claiming the South China Sea as its own.

SINGAPORE Called the “Gibraltar of the East” by Winston Churchill, Sembawang Naval Base in Singapore was vital to Britain’s defense of East Asia in World War II. The British gave up this sea gate in 1965 when Singapore declared independence.

DIY ISLANDS

- 1 • Find a preexisting reef crest, coral structure or other sub-surface mass.
- 2 • Bring in dredging barges to pull up sand and rock from the surrounding sea floor.
- 3 • Pump the dredged-up sand on top of the reef crest until an above-surface island is formed.
- 4 • Optional: Install air strip and 100-km-range HQ-9 missile system to convert island into military base.



Mediterranean Battle Escalating Into World War III!

German advances in the Mediterranean echo Berlin's World War II vision for Africa. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

IN THE HEAT OF WORLD WAR II—Feb. 12, 1941—German Gen. Erwin Rommel arrived in Libya on the Mediterranean coast to lead the Axis advance across North Africa. Germany's ally, Italy, had been trying for a year to conquer the territory up to the Suez Canal but had been defeated handily by Allied forces. Now, Hitler turned to Rommel.

In blitzkrieg fashion, Rommel's German Africa Corps sped eastward across the desert. They reached the Egyptian border in two months. The German high command actually worried that Rommel was moving *too fast*. It sent a delegation to check Rommel's advance and take stock of his supply levels. The report back to Berlin indicated that

Rommel was in danger of shortages of ammunition and fuel.

The British intercepted this cable, and Winston Churchill then ordered an immediate attack on Rommel's forces. Rommel, the "desert fox," was ready for the attack and responded aggressively. For the next year and a half, the battle for North Africa raged. It was only through superior numbers and new material from the Americans that Rommel's Africa Corps was sent into full retreat in mid-November 1942.

Many historians realize that had Churchill not been able to halt Rommel's advance to control the Suez Canal, the entire Mediterranean theater would have been lost to the Nazis and could have changed the outcome of the

war! Germany needed to dominate the Mediterranean in order to win. Since the Allies were able to control the Mediterranean and eventually drive Rommel out of Africa, the tide of the entire war changed in 1942.

Now, 70 years later, times are different. Instead of the World War II Allied powers being in control, North Africa and the land around the Red Sea are governed by unstable dictatorships and radical Islamic terrorist groups that seek to bring the fight to Europe!

But this time around, Germany has learned its lesson.

It will not allow Europe's soft underbelly to be controlled by its enemy. For this reason, GERMANY IS MOVING ONCE AGAIN TO CONQUER THE MEDITERRANEAN.



Radical Islam's Push

Germany isn't the only rising power that understands the strategic value of the Mediterranean Sea. The forces of radical Islam, headed by the regime in Iran, have a design to dominate the sea-lane as well.

I first wrote about this in 2011. Since that time, we have seen a wave of radical Islam spread across North Africa, toppling governments in Libya, Egypt and Yemen. These jihadists want to take down and destroy the West.

Astute observers in Europe, especially Germany, see what is happening in North Africa. This is motivating European leaders to accelerate their own strategy to counter the Islamist tide.

This exact scenario was prophesied 2,500 years ago in the biblical book of Daniel!

As I wrote in 2011, Daniel 11:40-43 unlock the strategy of the radical Muslims headed by Iran, referred to here as "the king of the south." (For proof of the prophetic identity of this power, request our free booklet *The King of the South*.)

These scriptures describe the time just ahead of us. Notice it: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (verse 40).

This verse shows a pushy foreign policy from the south being countered and destroyed by a far superior power from the north. But pay close attention to the verses that follow: They indicate the *specific nations* that will be part of this Iranian-led Islamic bloc and be conquered by the king of the north.

"He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape" (verse 42). As we have said for 20 years, this indicates that Egypt

will join in an alliance with Iran. But notice who else will be in that alliance.

"But he [the king of the north] shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the LIBYANS and the ETHIOPIANS shall be at his steps." "At his steps" means they will join his army or be under his authority. Why would Libya and Ethiopia be subjugated like this by the king of the north? They too were allied with the king of the south.

But why would Iran want an alliance with Libya and Ethiopia?

All you need to do is get a good map of the Middle East with the emphasis on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, and then you can see why. THESE TWO COUNTRIES BORDER THE TWO SEAS THAT

COMPRISE THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADE ROUTE IN THE WORLD.

Iran already dominates the Persian Gulf. Now it is working to take over the Red Sea—you can see this by how involved it is in Yemen. Iran also has a heavy influence

in Somalia. It has had a long-standing relationship with Sudan, and prophecy tells us it will gain control of Ethiopia and Egypt. Egypt controls the Suez Canal, which is the gateway to the Mediterranean Sea.

Putting this together, you can see that Iran seeks to control the greatest trade route in the world!

This is leading to a major clash between the king of the south and the king of the north.

An Accelerated Timetable

Discussing Iran's moves to take over Yemen, notice what Michael Segall wrote for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs: "If the Shia rebels gain control of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Iran can attain a foothold in this sensitive region, giving access to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, a cause of concern not only for its sworn rivals Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf states, but also for Israel and European countries along the Mediterranean. Arab

commentators in the Gulf have warned in recent years about this *Iranian push*" (Nov. 3, 2014; emphasis mine throughout). He actually used the same terminology that the Prophet Daniel used.

I think there are visionaries in Europe who see the *beginning* of this prophecy about Ethiopia, Libya and Egypt allying with or falling to radical Islam. Using a little imagination, they realize that Iran could gain control of these unstable nations. If that happened, it would be a *real* problem for Europe, because Iran could block European trade through the Suez Canal at will!

While the world is mostly blind to it, some in Europe are waking up to Iran's plan to capture the Mediterranean. The Europeans see the king of the south pushing through this policy! It is creating a sense of urgency in them to counter this push.

AGAIN, MANY GERMANS FEEL THE REASON THEY LOST WORLD WAR II WAS THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE CONTROL OF THAT SEA. AND SINCE THE EARLY 1990S, A GERMAN-LED EUROPE HAS BEEN SLOWLY WORKING TO ENSURE THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

The current push by the radical Islamist camp across North Africa has *accelerated* Germany's timetable for its own plans to dominate the Mediterranean.

Already, Germany has positioned itself to take over the region far more effectively than it did in World War II. And this time, it won't be seen as the aggressor.

Access to the Adriatic

Germany's renewed drive to control the Mediterranean was first visible when Berlin recognized the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia in the early 1990s.

These two nations were Germany's old World War II allies. Germany fought to promote their independence in order to gain access to the Adriatic Sea, which leads into the Mediterranean. Virtually the whole world was against the breakup of Yugoslavia, but most eventually gave in when Germany and the Vatican refused to budge.



IRAN IS TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.



PROPHECY SHOWS IRAN WILL GAIN POWER OVER EGYPT. THIS WILL GIVE IT CONTROL OF THE SUEZ CANAL.



IRAN IS ALREADY INFLUENCING SOMALIA.



IRAN NEEDS TO CONTROL YEMEN SO IT CAN DOMINATE THE RED SEA.

The *New York Times* reported at the time, “The Security Council backed away from a confrontation with Germany over Yugoslavia today after Germany’s European allies on the council decided that THEY DID NOT WANT A MAJOR CLASH WITH BONN”—West Germany’s capital at the time (Dec. 16, 1991). The UN backed down because it didn’t want to oppose Germany!

The *Times* article continued, “The incident underscored Germany’s *growing political power* in the 12-nation European Community, diplomats said. Some added that it marked THE SINGLE-MOST VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THAT POWER since reunification of the two Germans more than a year ago [in 1990].”

Germany’s “single-most visible demonstration of that power” had everything to do with its strategy to control the Mediterranean.

“Moreover, in its unusual assertiveness in moving ahead with a plan to extend diplomatic recognition to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Germany has STIRRED TROUBLING HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS,” the article continued.

“Nazi Germany DOMINATED the two Yugoslav regions during World War II, absorbing Slovenia into the Third Reich and CREATING A PUPPET REGIME IN CROATIA.”

Look at any map and you can see the strategic value of these two nations. The Adriatic Sea is an arm of the Mediterranean extending north to Croatia. However, it seems only *Germany* fully realizes the significance of these areas. The Germans are willing to fight the

whole world to gain control of them. And NOBODY HAS ASKED WHY THESE AREAS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO GERMANY!

Malta and Cyprus

During World War II, one obstacle to Rommel’s advancement across North Africa was the Allied base on the island of Malta, between Italy and Tunisia. German forces tried extremely hard to take the island. Historian Andrew Roberts wrote that it was “the most heavily bombed place on Earth” during Germany’s Africa campaign. Yet Germany never succeeded. So Malta remained a valuable depot for supplying Allied forces in fighting Rommel.

Europe has ensured that scenario doesn’t repeat itself the next time.

Back in March 2000, former EU Commission President Romano Prodi was in Malta for a conference discussing Malta’s future entry into the Union. He stated, “Malta is the southern pillar of Europe I want to see Malta in the EU.” At the same conference, Gunter Verheugen, then European commissioner for enlargement, said that if Malta

joined the EU it would “become a gateway. ... For Europe, Malta has been described as a SPRINGBOARD TO THE WHOLE MEDITERRANEAN REGION, and especially to the African and Middle Eastern shores.”

In 2004, Malta became a member of the EU.

Again, looking at a map, it is easy to see why the European Union wanted the tiny island of Malta to be a member. It was a strategic move that gave the EU a permanent presence right in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

MALTA WASN’T THE ONLY COUNTRY TO JOIN THE EU IN 2004. ON THE SAME DAY, CYPRUS—ANOTHER IMPORTANT ISLAND STATE, THIS TIME IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN—ALSO

JOINED. Again, this was done for purely strategic reasons.

When Germany led the United Nations Interim Task Force in Lebanon, its ships were based out of Cyprus. Even now, Germany regularly has ships patrolling Lebanon’s coast, and they use Cyprus as a base. As Stratfor wrote on June 28, 2012, “Cyprus’s location makes it an essential part of any security dynamic in the region.” Indeed it does!

IT’S ALL ABOUT CONTROLLING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. CYPRUS HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN A LAUNCHING PAD FOR ARMIES INTO THE MIDDLE EAST. AND IT WILL BE SO AGAIN!

Confrontation Over Libya

Since dictator Muammar Qadhafi was ousted by a Western bombing campaign in 2011, the northern African nation of Libya has been taken over by dueling militant factions and jihadist fighters. When Qadhafi was removed, I warned that what would take his place would be thousands of times worse.

Look at what has happened since! The resulting chaos has provoked hundreds of thousands of refugees to get on boats and head to Malta and southern Italy. Over 170,000 migrants landed in Italy in 2014! In 2015, the number of immigrants moving into Europe from Syria surpassed those from Libya. But now that the path to Europe through Turkey has been virtually closed, Europeans are once again seeing refugees move *through Libya*. Italian officials fear that as many as 270,000 migrants will try to get to Italy this year.

This is a major problem for Europe. The EU knows it needs to act! The situation in Libya is a good pretext for the Europeans to move down to secure this area so critical to controlling the Mediterranean.

Earlier this year, the United Nations Security Council backed a national unity government in Libya called the



GERMANY IS VYING FOR CONTROL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

ness in moving ahead with a plan to extend diplomatic recognition to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Germany has STIRRED TROUBLING HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS,” the article continued.



SLOVENIA AND CROATIA GIVE GERMANY ACCESS TO THE MEDITERRANEAN VIA THE ADRIATIC SEA.



ON PATROL German antisubmarine frigates join French vessels during a multinational exercise.

Government of National Accord (GNA). German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen told *Bild* magazine that such a unity government will "quickly need help to establish justice and order in this huge state and at the same time fight against Islamic terror" (January 18). She also said, "GERMANY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DUCK ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION"—hinting of deploying German troops as part of a European military force.

Soon after, there were reports of a European mission to train Libyan soldiers in Tunisia. BUT GERMANY'S LEFT PARTY'S FOREIGN-POLICY SPOKESMAN JAN VAN AKEN SAID THAT THE PLANS FOR LIBYA "GO WAY BEYOND TRAINING LIBYAN SOLDIERS."

However, many Libyans have rejected the GNA; they feel it has been forced upon them by the West. Indeed, in mid-March the EU began to sanction Libyans who would not accept the GNA.

Still, with a Western-backed unity government having made it to the Libyan capital of Tripoli, will we begin to see Europeans once again land on the shores of Libya?

Already, German ships are just outside Libyan waters implementing Operation Sophia, a three-phased European plan to stop people smuggling out of Libya. So far 83 smuggler boats have been destroyed or impounded when found outside Libyan territorial waters on the way to Italy or Malta.

However, that is just phase one of the plan. According to a classified report obtained by Wikileaks earlier this year, Operation Sophia's last two phases will see EU military operations *inside* Libyan territorial waters—and then, finally, European boots on the ground in Libya.

The classified document also urges EU authorities to speed up the process of forming a "reliable" government in Libya, which would be expected to give permission to extend the EU military operations onshore. Maybe the GNA—a virtual creation of the EU and the international community—will

serve that purpose.

Roderich Kiesewetter, president of the association of the Bundeswehr reservists and foreign-policy expert for Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, stated firmly that "the Bundeswehr will send more than 1,200 soldiers in the anti-[Islamic State] fight." NATO will have to send ground troops into Libya, he explained, noting that "the German Air Force, Navy and German police officers can help to stabilize Jordan, Lebanon and Libya." Already Germany has a strong presence in Mali, which many military leaders see as a launching pad for Libya.

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS WESTERN ALLIES HAVE CREATED A SITUATION WHERE GERMAN TROOPS WILL ONCE AGAIN SET FOOT IN LIBYA.

Once those troops get there, *radical Islam will be there to confront them.* Already, the Libyan Grand Mufti Sadiq al-Gheriani has called for "jihad against the GNA." Also, UN experts reported in March that the Islamic State "has been spreading a nationalistic narrative, portraying itself as the most important bulwark against foreign intervention," reported Reuters (March 10).

Providing the perfect cover for German ambition, the European peacekeeping force will help Germany move CLOSER TO REALIZING ROMMEL'S GOAL OF COMPLETE DOMINANCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN!

It will also set up the titanic clash of Daniel 11:40. However, the clash with the king of the south will not end with Libya. As the prophecies in Daniel reveal, more nations will fall in the whirlwind created by this king of the north.

The Mediterranean Dream

May 12, 1943, marked the end of Axis resistance in North Africa. *Encyclopedia Britannica* says, "The British and United States forces got possession of the whole North African coast, and the threat to Egypt and the Suez Canal was ended, and the Italian dream of a great African



CLEAN-UP Service personnel and civilians clear debris in Valetta, Malta, in May 1941.

empire had proved a costly failure."

ITALY AND GERMANY HAD A DREAM OF A GREAT AFRICAN EMPIRE AND WORLD EMPIRE. Their advance toward the Nile was part of it. Though most might not even think about it, GERMANY AND MANY EUROPEANS STILL HAVE THAT DREAM TODAY!

However, this time there will be no Allied victory in El Alamein to push back the German advance. Instead, Germany will be able to conquer all of North Africa and the Middle East, eventually making its way to Jerusalem (e.g. Daniel 8:9).

Watch the Mediterranean! BIBLE PROPHECY SHOWS THAT IT WILL BE A MAJOR STAGING GROUND FOR BATTLES THAT WILL ESCALATE INTO WORLD WAR!

However, prophecy also shows that this is ultimately very good news. As other passages in Daniel tell us, Germany's dominance of the Middle East will end just as quickly as it began. This king of the north is destined to fall—because he will dare to fight Jesus Christ Himself! "[A]nd he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many; he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but HE SHALL BE BROKEN WITHOUT HAND" (Daniel 8:25).

With the armies of man defeated, Jesus Christ will reign supreme, ensuring that no man-made dreams of dominance will again threaten the peace of the Earth! ■



GERMANY IS TRAINING LIBYAN SOLDIERS IN TUNISIA.

What will trigger World War III?

Who will fight and who will win?

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Alexander the Great Was Prophesied in the Bible— and He Knew It!

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

THE CIVILIZATION-ALTERING life of Alexander the Great is well known to most students of history. But there is one chapter of his saga that is as seldom discussed as it is fascinating: Alexander's reign was predicted in the Old Testament long before he was born, and when he visited Jerusalem, the high priest showed him those Bible prophecies about his reign.

If you're not familiar with this intriguing chapter of history, you may be astounded to learn how Alexander reacted to being told that those scriptures were written about him.

An Unusual Upbringing

Alexander was born in 356 B.C. in the city of Pella, the ancient capital of Macedonia. His parents were Philip II and Olympias of Epirus. From his father, Alexander learned the art and science of warfare, but historians agree that his mother was far more influential in his life. From her, Alexander inherited a profound love for learning, and also a fiery, sometimes ruthless nature.

During his early years, Alexander's mother constantly told him that he was part god. Her family had long claimed to be descendants of Achilles the demigod. At one point she even told him that his true father was Zeus—the king of the Greek gods.

Of course, Achilles was a myth, Zeus was fiction, and Alexander was a mortal man like any other. But nonetheless, these teachings affected young Alexander.

He believed he was the descendant of Achilles. This prompted him to study everything he could about the mythological demigod, his supposed ancestor. In his adult years, Alexander even carried a copy of Homer's *Iliad*, which chronicles Achilles's conquests. He slept with the book under his pillow every night, and he carried it with him into every battle.

Another important detail of Alexander's upbringing is that he was personally taught by the famous Aristotle. And among the subjects Aristotle taught him was the Hebrew language.

Campaigns of Conquest

In 336, Philip II was assassinated. Alexander ascended the throne of Macedonia at the age of 20 and took command of the massive army his father had spent his life assembling and training.

Almost immediately, Alexander embarked on the great military crusade that his father had spent years preparing for: the conquest of the Persian Empire.

For several generations before Alexander, the Persians had dominated much of the known world—including some Greek cities. Many in Greece and Macedonia felt that it threatened the very existence of the Greek way of life.

After entering Asia Minor, Alexander first conquered the city of Baalbek, which he renamed Heliopolis. He then liberated Ephesus from Persian rule and defeated the Persian army's main force at the Battle of Issus. Next he sacked the cities of Sidon and Aleppo, besieged Tyre and razed Gaza to the ground.

At 24 years old, Alexander was undefeated. His notional invincibility

appeared to prove that his mother had always been right: Divine blood *was* coursing through his veins.

Around this time, Alexander set his sights on the city of Jerusalem.

Josephus, the Jewish historian who lived in the first century A.D., said that when Alexander was just about to enter Jerusalem, the Jewish high priest at that time, Jaddua, met him on the outskirts of the city. Jaddua led a procession of affluent residents of Jerusalem. They hoped to convince Alexander not to make Jerusalem the next city he destroyed. The sight gave Alexander pause. Josephus records that Alexander had had a dream of this high priest and took this as a sign from God. He entered the city peacefully.

Once inside, Jaddua brought Alexander to the temple and showed him passages from the book of Daniel.

'This Ancient Prophecy Is About You!'

About 180 years before Alexander was born, the Prophet Daniel wrote his book, canonized in the Bible. Daniel 10:1 states that he wrote it in the third year of the reign of Cyrus the Great, which historians agree was around 535 B.C.

Jaddua would have showed Alexander such passages as Daniel 11:2-3, describing the Persian Empire pushing against Greece and eventually being conquered by a powerful Greek ruler: "Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will."



Jaddua also likely showed Alexander the passages in Daniel 8 that give more details about this “mighty king” of Greece who would defeat the Persians. These passages truly are about Alexander the Great, and they were written around 200 years before his reign began!

You can imagine Alexander standing in the temple next to the priest. You can imagine him being shown an ancient scroll of Daniel’s words. Thanks to the education he had received from Aristotle, he could read the Hebrew Daniel had written. He needed no translation.

He had also been told by his mother his whole life that he was no ordinary man, but someone of divine blood and origin. This passage in Daniel, of course, did not say he was divine in any way. But Jaddua would have explained to Alexander that the book had the true God’s fingerprints all over it.

We can only speculate about what Alexander thought after reading for himself the words of God recorded by Daniel. But it may be that his mother’s words made him more open to believing that these ancient, holy Scriptures were about him. Or maybe he was just compelled by the clear language about a “mighty king” from Greece overthrowing the Persian Empire—especially since he had already made such stunning progress toward that end before his visit to Jerusalem.

Whatever the reasoning, Alexander the Great believed that he himself was the man being discussed in these passages. He believed that it was a true prophecy, and that he was in the process of fulfilling it!

Josephus wrote about Alexander’s reaction to Jaddua in *Antiquities of the Jews*: “And when the book of Daniel was showed him wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that himself was the person intended. And as he was then glad, he dismissed the multitude for the present; but the next day he called them to him, and bid them ask what favors they pleased of him; whereupon the high priest desired that they might enjoy the laws of their forefathers, and might pay no tribute on the seventh year. He granted all they desired. And when they entreated him that he would permit the Jews in Babylon and Media to enjoy their own laws also, he willingly promised to do hereafter what they desired” (Book 11, Chap. 8, Sec. 5; William Whiston translation, 1981).

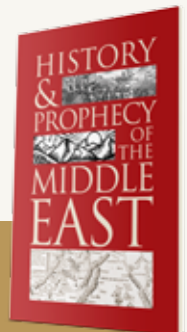
(Hecataeus of Abdera, a contemporary of Alexander, is also said to have written about Alexander’s visit to Jerusalem, but his writings on the topic did not survive into the modern era.)

Alexander had pillaged and plundered many cities, often renaming

them and requiring them to adopt the Greco-Macedonian culture. But not so for the city of Jerusalem. Alexander not only believed the prophecies in Daniel were about himself, but because of that belief, he granted great favor to the Jews. He allowed them to keep their own laws and culture, and gave them a massive break from paying tribute.

This glimpse back into a seldom-discussed chapter of Alexander’s life shows how prophecy and history intersected in a dramatic way. It also adds a layer of authenticity to the biblical record.

Many scholars have tried to discredit Daniel’s writings because if he wrote his book when he said he did in the sixth century B.C., then the Bible would have to have been divinely inspired. The scholars who reject this argue that the book of Daniel was written after Alexander died. But Josephus was a meticulous and well-respected historian, thorough in his efforts to separate fiction from fact, and to only record the latter. His detailed record of Alexander reading the prophecies about himself by Daniel adds powerful support to the sixth century date Daniel gave to his book. It shows that, as Daniel wrote, “[T]here is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets”—and can bring them to pass! ■



Alexander is only one of the kings the Bible foretold.

Request our free booklet *History and Prophecy of the Middle East* to see what else the Bible accurately prophesied.

or she can afford to give, and, in many cases, whether he or she will give at all! God allows free choice. In fact, free will is essential to true Christianity.

Had God wanted to create robots that flawlessly keep His law, He could have. If He wanted to use the overwhelming force of government to impose His will on people, He could have. But God is concerned about people developing *character*, and this only happens through free choice.

Generosity and sharing with those in need are biblical commands. Yet it is up to the giver to decide to give and how much.

Perhaps the single most commonly cited “proof” that socialism is biblical is the claim that the early New Testament Church was socialistic or even communistic. Acts 2:44-45 read, “The believers all kept together; they shared all they had with one another, they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds among all, as anyone might be in need” (Moffatt translation). The phrase “they shared all they had” or “had all things common,” as it reads in the King James Version, supposedly proves that these people sold all their earthly possessions and put the money into one pot, and everyone took what they needed. But consider what this verse actually says and what was actually happening in Jerusalem at that time.

The preceding verses in Acts show that the time setting is the annual festival of Pentecost. On this day, thousands of Jews from all over the world were gathered in Jerusalem. This was an exciting event, the start of the New Testament Church. It was the day the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples. Three thousand people were baptized and converted that day.

Most of these Christians were Jews who lived in places scattered all over Judea and Asia. In their excitement of finding God’s truth, conversing with God’s apostles and people of like mind, many remained in Jerusalem longer than they had planned and ran short of food and money. As Herbert W. Armstrong explained, “Consequently,

of necessity, they formed a sort of community for the time being only. And, whenever some in poorer circumstances had need because of these unexpected conditions, others in better circumstances would from time to time sell part of their goods or land and share with the less fortunate” (*Plain Truth*, January-February 1949).

These people were not socialists or Communists. But *they were generous, giving and compassionate!* Many of the local Church members sold their prop-

erty *as needed* to help fellow brothers meet their expenses in Jerusalem during this exciting time in Church history and to help those who had been ostracized and cut off from the synagogues and their means of employment by the Jews of the day (John 9:22; 12:42).

These Church members who generously stepped in to fulfill a need were able to do it because they were wealthy property owners. “They did not all sell everything they owned at once, but they sold property only *when*, or ‘*as anyone might be in need.*’ ... But an absolute community of goods never was practiced by the Church at Jerusalem or any other Christian church” (ibid).

The Fenton translation says, “[N]o one who possessed property claimed it as exclusively his own: but it was for the use of all. ... For *some* who were *possessors* of lands and houses *sold them*; and bringing the price of the sales, and presenting the same at the feet of the apostles, a distribution was made to each according to his need” (Acts 4:32, 35).

Not *all* sold their property. Only *some* of the property owners sold their possessions. “This selling of property was wholly *voluntary*,” wrote Mr. Armstrong. Later on, the Apostle Peter said to Ananias, “was the money not *yours to do as you pleased* about it?” (Acts 5:4; Moffatt). Some of the members had more assets than others from their occupations. “Here was *private enterprise* and *private initiative* and *private ownership*,” noted Mr. Armstrong.

So in reality, the account in Acts 2 actually proves that the Church did not practice socialism, which is a theory that advocates that the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned or regulated by the government or community as a whole.

The last major argument claiming that the Bible advocates socialism usually revolves around tithing.

The Bible described three types of tithes in ancient Israel. The first tithe (10 percent of a person’s increase) was paid to God and used by the priests and Levites. After the founding of the New Testament Church, this tithe was used by the Church for proclaiming the gospel (Hebrews 7). The second tithe was to be saved and kept by individuals so they would have money to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

But the Bible also talks about a third tithe, and *this third tithe does play an important role as a welfare program!*

But consider how *different* God’s welfare system is compared to socialist welfare.

God’s Welfare System

First, this tithe—10 percent of any increase—was collected twice in a seven-year cycle, in the third and sixth years. This works out to less than 4 percent of a person’s yearly income, and less than 4 percent of the national income—a tiny fraction of what is spent on bloated welfare programs today. It was also an unchangeable, set percentage and was not subject to the whims of government bureaucrats arbitrarily deciding who should pay and how much their “fair share” should be. The wealthy paid the same percentage as the less advantaged.

More importantly, notice what the money was spent on. “At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied ...” (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; New King James Version).

Third tithe is not for the poor! It is for specific individuals who could not provide for themselves because of specific

circumstances. This “welfare” was for the Levites, because they did not own any land; for foreigners who temporarily needed aid while in the nation; for the fatherless, who were too young to provide for themselves and did not have family to take care of them; and for widows who likewise were too old to work or had no family to support them.

The third tithe was *not* given to able-bodied men and women who were capable of working. For able-bodied people, God’s welfare system is—*work*. How different from modern social welfare programs!

In fact, the Bible is clear that people should be rewarded by what they contribute to society.

Rewarding Increase

In the parable of the talents, for example, the unfaithful servant who did not add to the money he was given had his talent taken away from him, and it was given to the servant who had gained the most. The ruler did not say, *You are poor, so you may keep the money you failed to put to good use*. This poor servant had the least money of all. Wouldn’t letting him keep some have been the morally compassionate thing to do? At the very least, wouldn’t it have been *fairer* to give his talent to the servant who had only four talents? (Matthew 25:14-30). In this biblical instance, wealth was actually redistributed to the wealthier servant.

The Bible is specific about what God expects of able-bodied members of society. In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, Paul said, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat” (NKJV). This was a principle he took seriously. Paul commanded people to follow his example in how he worked Sunday through Friday to earn a living (as a tentmaker, Acts 18:1-4). In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul describes how he did not take tithes from the brethren to live on even though it was within his right, and instead worked to support himself so as not to put any spiritual stumbling blocks in front of new converts.

The Bible is filled with many such admonitions to work and provide for your family. “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Timothy 5:8).

Yet God understood that even with

hard work, people sometimes make bad decisions; in addition, as King Solomon said, “time and chance hap-peneth to them all” (Ecclesiastes 9:11). Circumstances do bring people to poverty sometimes. Consider some other economic principles God outlined in order to address this fact of life.

God instructed that arable land be divided up among families and, if sold, returned to the original family at the end of 50 years (Leviticus 25). Think of how far this would go to reduce generational poverty. No government-sanctioned theft (wealth redistribution) here. Just transactions governed by clearly understood law.

Every seventh year, all consumer debts are to be abolished (Deuteronomy 15:1-2). Today, debt is one of the primary causes of bankruptcy and entrenched poverty.

In God’s system, all loans are to be non-interest bearing (Leviticus 25:36-37). Lending is a voluntary action to help people, and is to be done knowing that God promises to bless that action. No longer can people get rich due to others’ debt servitude.

True, the Bible does not advocate the crony capitalism practiced by America today. In fact, it explicitly condemns it.

Ungleaned fields are left for the poor (Leviticus 19:10). Wealthy people are not to harvest every last bit of their crops—and poor people are required to work to collect their food.

A Better Way

Think about how these laws, including the third tithe, would work to naturally keep the more vile tendencies of human nature in check *and* at the same time preserve private incentive. No need for government-enforced wealth redistribution. No need for bureaucrats to decide how much wealth is one’s “fair share.”

But even as the Bible does not advocate socialism, it does not advocate the type of crony capitalism practiced by America today either. In fact, it explicitly condemns it.

1 Timothy 5:18 says, “The labourer is worthy of his reward.” How many

of today’s social problems result from employers trying to exploit their workers? Although unions today do not work for the interest of their members as much as they do for the best interests of union leaders and politicians, the existence of unions arose from gluttonous business leaders in the past imposing excessively poor working conditions.

Looking at America today, far too often you see selfish, greedy men of excessive vanity, ambitious in their lust for power, scheming to get their hands on the throttle of power for personal aggrandizement and monetary gain. Such greedy businessmen actually *want* the government involved in the economy—to write advantages for *them* into law. You find graft, immorality, deception and dishonesty running rampant in virtually all high places, including the halls of government.

No wonder so many people are looking at a radical new economic system.

But here is the key. These evils are common to all systems—Communist, socialist or capitalist.

Evils are endemic to all economic systems because *human nature* is evil.

Those people hoping socialism will solve economic ills will be sadly disappointed.

Economic breakdown is a result of *moral* breakdown—the Bible is clear on that! Only by turning to the God of the Bible and by obeying His laws will nations and people truly begin to prosper again. ■

There is hope for the world’s poor! A new world economy is coming. It will be neither a socialist nor a capitalist paradise, but an economy that will produce true, lasting and equitable prosperity. Your Bible describes this coming utopia. Learn more about it in our free booklet ***The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*** by Herbert W. Armstrong.



POLITICAL SHIFT Supporters of the Freedom Party of Austria demonstrate against a refugee home in Vienna on April 18.

Austria moving right

During Austria's presidential elections on April 24, its two dominant mainstream parties plunged into fourth and fifth place. Since World War II, every Austrian president has come from either the Social Democrats (SPO) or the People's Party (ÖVP), until now. The upheaval has already brought down Austria's chancellor and could propel a far-right candidate into the presidency.

Six years ago, the SPO and ÖVP won a combined 80 percent of the vote. This year they won a little over 20 percent—a sign of widespread discontent among Austrian voters.

Norbert Hofer, who won 35.3 percent of the presidential vote, is the candidate for the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ), a right-wing fringe party usually described as “far right.” Hofer now faces off against the Green Party's Alexander Van der Bellen, who won 21.3 percent.

The country has now “entered a new phase in its history,” Andreas Koller wrote in the *Salzburger Nachrichten*. “The consequences of Sunday's

election are nowhere close to becoming clear.”

Chancellor Werner Faymann resigned on May 9, saying Austria needs a chancellor whose party stands behind him.

Politico described Austria's troubled history with the far right, saying this election result “will reawaken memories abroad of the country's long flirtation with right-wing politics” (April 25). In the 1980s, the Austrians elected former United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim as president, even as he failed to address questions about his activities as a Wehrmacht officer in World War II. The U.S. placed Waldheim on a watch list, barring him from entering America. The 1990s witnessed the meteoric rise of right-wing populist Jörg Haider. “In 2000, the Freedom Party joined a coalition with the People's Party, breaking a taboo against populist parties in the European Union and earning Austria international censure” (ibid).

Austria's recent election result exposes the instability in Europe caused by the migrant crisis, fear of Islamic terrorism,

and the slow-rolling economic crisis. And it threatens to make those crises worse.

Spurred by the rise of the fringe right, Austria's center-right leadership is desperate to solve the migrant crisis. Earlier this year, it slowed the stream of migrants into the EU from Greece by persuading Greece's northern neighbors to seal their borders. Now the EU is threatening to shut the Brenner Pass, the only major road through the Alps from Italy into Austria. Austria is building a fence across the pass and looks ready to reintroduce border controls. Closing that border would divide Europe further and place a major strain on Italy's economy.

Austria's response to the rise of the fringe right will only make the crisis worse—further fueling the rise of the right.

The last time far-right groups rose this dramatically, things spiraled out of control and they ended up taking over countries across Europe shortly before World War II. Austria's presidency is largely a ceremonial role, though it does have some power. But if the FPÖ's support holds up, it could take the chancellorship too. ■



Islamic State's next target: Germany

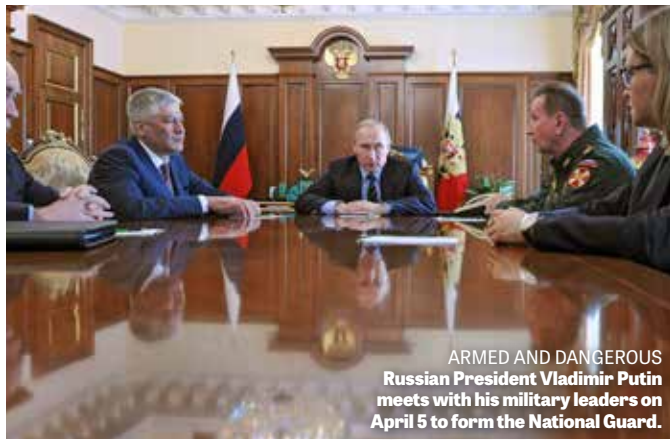
On March 31, the Islamic State uploaded images on the Internet bearing a call to German Muslims to execute Brussels-style attacks on Chancellor Angela Merkel's offices and the Cologne-Bonn airport.

“It is clear that Germany is the focus of international terrorism and that attacks could happen,” said a spokeswoman of Germany's BKA federal police. Former German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg condemned Europe's leadership for not acting decisively enough against radical Islam. The more Europe (and especially Germany) is a focus of Islamic terrorism, the closer it gets to fighting back—and fulfilling the prophecy in Daniel 11:40. ■



Germany to build military base in Turkey

Germany plans to build a \$75 million military base in Turkey, *Spiegel* newsmagazine reported April 25, citing a leaked report. Berlin has already approved the budget, and it plans to complete the majority of the base by next summer. The base will include an air control area (\$12 million), accommodations for German soldiers (\$17 million), and a combat headquarters (\$39 million). The base indicates that Berlin has a long-term interest in Turkey. This development comes as Germany is becoming more involved in the Middle East, the Paris attacks in November having served as a springboard for its already existing plans. Germany's goal is greater than merely destroying the Islamic State. ■



ARMED AND DANGEROUS
Russian President Vladimir Putin
meets with his military leaders on
April 5 to form the National Guard.

Putin's private army

Russian President Vladimir Putin is resurrecting what may become a modern Praetorian Guard—the infamous elite corps solidified by the Roman emperor that acted as bodyguard, riot police and secret service.

During an April 5 televised appearance, Putin announced that he is overhauling Russian law-enforcement operations to create a domestic army that will answer to him personally. This force, called the National Guard, will be led by former KGB agent Victor Zolotov, a judo-sparring partner of Putin's.

By poaching 170,000 riot police and counterinsurgency units from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and adding special police forces and military personnel, this will become a paramilitary force of up to 400,000 servicemen (roughly quadruple the size of the British military; about one seventh the size of the Russian military).

Putin said the new force will fight terrorism, organized crime and illicit drug trafficking. It will also cooperate with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and perform functions currently carried out by Russian riot police units. The new National Guard is also being equipped with its own intelligence service and investigative powers that would report directly to Putin,

via Zolotov. This force can make arrests without introducing themselves and fire without warning “in special cases.”

The creation of this force indicates that Putin may be skeptical of his cabinet officials' loyalty. At a time when economic stagnation is making civil unrest more likely, there are legitimate concerns that Putin's new National Guard will be even more authoritarian than the Internal Troops this force is replacing. ■

Russians want the Soviet Union resurrected

The majority of Russians say they miss the Soviet Union. An April 19 Interfax report discussed the findings from a survey by the Levada Center: “More than half of Russians believe that the Soviet Union's collapse could have been avoided (51 percent) and regret that it happened (56 percent) ... The majority of respondents (58 percent) said they would welcome the revival of the Soviet Union and the socialist

system, while 44 percent said that currently it is unrealistic. At the same time, one in three (31 percent) said they would not want to rebuild the old Soviet socialist system” (*Trumpet* translation). The study surveyed a representative nationwide sample of about 1,600 adults across 48 regions.

The government of President Vladimir Putin has said that he views the collapse of the Soviet Union as “the greatest geopolitical tragedy of the 20th century.” He has been working to reverse this tragedy in part



PAST GLORY
A Russian
Communist
Party supporter
marks the 63rd
anniversary of
Stalin's death.

by reviving many relics of the Soviet era, including the Inter-vision Song Contest, a military preparation fitness program, the “Hero of Socialist Labor” award, and by creating a cult of personality and consolidating his grip on domestic media that Comrade Joseph Stalin himself would be proud of. ■

Kremlin cracks down on religious liberty

Over two thirds of Russians now identify as Russian Orthodox Christians, double the number from 25 years ago. This marks a remarkable resurgence of Christianity in Russia since its Soviet era, when the government destroyed thousands of churches and persecuted millions of Christians.

Soviet Communist textbooks called religion “the opium of the people” and Christianity “a perverse reflection on the world,” but in the 24 years since the fall of the Soviet Union, Orthodox Christianity has made an astonishing recovery. Yet this development has not brought religious liberty to Russia. Instead, it appears that it is simply a new state apparatus for forcibly uniting Russians ideologically.

Russian citizen Viktor Krasnov is currently on trial and facing up to a year in prison for writing “There is no God” on a Russian social media network. Police raided his apartment and forced him into a month-long examination at a psychiatric ward until he was deemed fit for trial. He was then charged under a Russian law forbidding insults to

the feelings of religious believers.

In 2011, Alexey Koptev was arrested after undercover police established that he belonged to the Jehovah's Witnesses Christian denomination. In 2009, the city of Taganrog banned the Jehovah's Witnesses for propagating the exclusivity and supremacy of its religion. This denomination now shares the same legal status as the Islamic State and the National Socialist Society. Mormons, Scientologists and even Pentecostals are coming under increasing government pressure.

In return for public support from Russian Orthodox clergy, President Vladimir Putin attends church services and portrays himself as a defender of “Christian values,” using a de facto state religion to unify his empire, much like the Byzantine emperors and Russian czars did.

Post-Soviet efforts to remake Moscow into a representative government are failing. Russia has embraced an authoritarian leader driven to vault his nation back to great power status. Putin already has much of the necessary ideological apparatus firmly in place.



President Obama confirms: Special relationship is dead

United States President Barack Obama caused an uproar in the United Kingdom on April 22, when he said that if Britain quit the European Union, the nation “is going to be in the back of the queue” when it comes to making a trade deal with the U.S.

The response touched a nerve. Many pointed out the hypocrisy of an American leader encouraging Britain to remain in a union that the United States would not tolerate—allowing a foreign bureaucracy to create most of its laws, giving foreign judges jurisdiction in its territory, and submitting to foreign police forces arresting, deporting and denying constitutional rights to its citizens.

But his declaration that Britain must wait at the back of the line is what rankled the most. It confirmed to many that the long-standing U.S.-UK

special relationship is dead.

The *Spectator* said President Obama appears to consider Britain “a country that’s too small to be worth bothering with on its own. A country that might matter, as part of a massive bloc of the EU, but is too tiny for his ever-so-busy officials in the State Department to bother with” (April 22).

Xenia Wickett, head of the U.S. and the Americas Program at Chatham House, wrote that the UK is “increasingly ... just one of America’s many strategic relationships. ... What is clear is that increasingly the UK is not ‘first among equals’ in Europe but ‘one among many’ for the United States” (April 20). The breaking of this brotherhood will weaken both nations and, biblical prophecy shows, make them more vulnerable to attack by hostile foreign powers. ■

Iran’s future: Less talk, more missiles

On May 9, Iranian Brig. Gen. Ali Abdollahi announced that his nation test-fired another ballistic missile in late April. He told the semi-official Tasnim News Agency that the missiles were precision-guided with a 26-foot margin of error and a 1,240-mile range.

If authentic, it was Iran’s third ballistic missile test since the nuclear deal was implemented in January. Iran’s rhetoric indicates more are on the way.

On March 28, Iran announced that it will continue developing and testing ballistic missiles, despite sanctions from the United States. President Hassan Rouhani said Iran’s missile program was a “strategic policy.” A commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said, “Even if they build a wall around Iran, our missile program will not stop.”

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on March 30 that Iran’s future was in missiles, not negotiations. “That they say the future of the world is one of negotiation and not one of missiles, if that is said out of ignorance, well it is ignorance, but if it’s said knowingly, it is treason,” Khamenei said, seemingly targeting Iranian reformers. ■



LIFT OFF A Qadr ballistic missile is test-fired in northern Iran on March 9.

The Obama administration condemned the tests but stopped short of labeling them violations of the nuclear agreement. After Iran’s test in March, administration representatives simply called Iran’s actions “inconsistent with” the deal.

This move increased the friction between Congress and the White House. According to an April 12 *Washington Free Beacon* report, Congress censured the Obama administration and launched an inquiry into what it called its efforts to deceive lawmakers about the terms of the nuclear deal.

“[Iranian] Foreign Minister [Javad] Zarif asserted that Iran’s missile program was ‘not open to negotiation,’” Rep. Mike Pompeo noted. “While the Iranians are obstinate, the Obama administration debates semantics for weeks—ignoring the frightening reality that Iran tested ballistic missiles.” ■

Weaponizing children in Africa

The number of children used for “suicide” bombings in some African nations has increased 10-fold during the last year, according to a new UNICEF report. The children are as young as 8, and more than 75 percent are girls.

The report focused on Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad, showing that the number

of children involved in such attacks increased from four in 2014 to 44 in 2015. Cameroon had 21 such bombings; Nigeria had 17; and Chad had two.

In many cases, the children involved likely did not even realize they were carrying explosives, which are often detonated remotely. Nevertheless, the trend has caused many

people in the affected areas to fear children. UNICEF said the “calculated use of children who may have been coerced into carrying bombs has created an atmosphere of fear and suspicion that has devastating consequences.”

The primary group behind this carnage is the Sunni Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram, whose name translates to “Western education is a sin.” The

group has targeted more than 910 schools so far. Some 1,500 schools have closed as a direct result of its attacks. Children are suffering more than any other group as a result of Boko Haram’s devastating impact. Besides those that the terrorists directly target by kidnapping and weaponizing, an estimated 1 million other children have been left without education as a result of Boko Haram’s terrorism.

Sugar is like a drug

In the United States, the average person consumes more than 126 grams of sugar per day, according to data from market research

firm Euromonitor published in February. That's about five times the sugar intake recommended for adults by the World Health Organization.

Canada to legalize marijuana

Around 25,000 people attended Vancouver's annual marijuana rally on April 20 to celebrate "National Weed Day." That same day, Canadian Health Minister Jane Philpott announced new legislation intended to "keep marijuana out of the hands of children and profits out of the hands of criminals." That legislation legalizes recreational marijuana.

Many Canadians will be happy: An April 20 Angus Reid Institute poll revealed that 68 percent of Canadians support the legalization of marijuana. Yet the poll also found that 51 percent of those surveyed worried the legalization would make it "easier for children to get and use marijuana," contrary to Philpott's position that it will be "the best way to protect our youth while

enhancing public safety."

One argument for legalizing marijuana is that people will obtain it illegally anyway, so legalization keeps many people from entering the criminal justice system. However, legalizing marijuana will also inevitably make it more prevalent and accessible. According to Canada's Youth Smoking Survey 2012–2013, nearly three in four youths who smoke cigarettes report that they obtain them from family and friends who purchase cigarettes legally.

It's ironic that Canada's health minister is discussing legalization of a drug proved to be very detrimental to health. The National Institute on Drug Abuse says that solid

The U.S. diet has changed dramatically in the past two centuries. In 1822, the average American ate about 6 pounds of sugar per year. The average American now eats over 100 pounds.

A study carried out by Australia's Queensland University of Technology confirmed that excessive sugar consumption increases dopamine levels in a similar way to drugs such as cocaine.

Withdrawal symptoms from sugar addiction are similar to going "cold turkey" from drugs. These findings contradict previous research, such as a 2014 Edinburgh University study, which found that sugar addiction was a psychological addiction but not a biochemical dependency. But psychological and/or biochemical addiction to sugar is having real effects. Sugar-related ailments among Americans are soaring. ■



scientific evidence proves that teenagers who use marijuana have reduced thinking, memory and learning functions, and experience depression and anxiety. A Northwestern Medicine study found that even teens who stopped using the drug for two years showed brain abnormalities that appeared "similar to brains of schizophrenics." Usage can cause breathing problems, bronchitis and increased risk of heart attack. Heavy marijuana users also report more relationship problems and lower life satisfaction. ■



Schools must have gender-neutral bathrooms

The Obama administration took executive action May 13, ordering all public schools in America that receive federal funds to provide gender-neutral bathrooms to students. It ignited a ferocious argument over states' rights and whether the rights of trans-genders supersede the rights of students to use restrooms and locker rooms with only those of the same biological sex.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbot vowed that if pushed, Texas will reject federal funding. "Texas is fighting this," declared the governor. "Obama can't rewrite the Civil Rights Act. He's not a king."

In April, the White House began using gender-neutral restrooms. And in an April speech in Selma, Alabama, marking a civil rights struggle, President Obama saluted the struggles of homosexual Americans, declaring: "We're the gay Americans whose blood ran in the streets of San Francisco and New York, just as blood ran down this bridge."

President Obama's closest adviser, Valerie Jarrett, wrote in *Advocate* magazine, "The president is determined to lead by example. He has hired more openly LGBT Americans to serve in his administration than any other in history" (April 8).

The *New York Times* reported in May that President Obama is considering creating a national monument in tribute to the homosexual-rights movement. ■

overly complex. A single unnecessary system—one designed to make it easier to order spare parts—leaves the entire program so vulnerable to hacking that a cyberattack could ground the whole fleet. Meanwhile, experts say Congress is unlikely to kill the program because politicians are worried about the jobs that would be lost in key districts.

There may be legitimate reasons for not canceling the F-35 program. But that decision should revolve around military consequences, not jobs.

These tactics also seem to prevail for America's newest stealth bomber, the B-21. "By publicly announcing some of the program's subcontractors, officials have tied the program to specific congressional districts, making it difficult

for members of Congress with plants in their districts to oppose or criticize the program for legitimate military and budget reasons without also seeming to act against their districts' interests," reported the Project for Government Oversight in March.

For more information on the F-35's vulnerability to hacking, visit theTrumpet.com/go/13516.

The wastage and incompetence in America's defense contracts represent more than merely a financial problem. Yes, America may have spent

billions on useless roads or crumbling hospitals—but the same forces behind those purchases could have pushed the U.S. into spending \$1.5 trillion, and betting its future, on a flawed plane.

A Deadly Weakness

When decisions about the military are being made with jobs, Congressional seats and career advancements as the

top priority, America's security is dramatically undermined.

Defense wastage exposes a rot at the heart of the military. Who knows the exact reason each military official signed off on billions of useless projects in Afghanistan or bought equipment that is not needed. But the same factors that lead to these decisions—lack of thought, lack of interest, bureaucratic red tape, the inability of different departments to talk to each other—are undoubtedly behind other bad decisions. Misspending is a quantifiable symptom that points to a much deeper sickness.

American military decision-makers around the world, from Afghanistan to Congress, have taken their eye off the ball. For some, their goal is personal gain. For others, it's not rocking the boat. For others, it's reelection. Too few have defending America from potential enemies as their top priority. This is the biggest reason why the shocking military waste matters.

America used to produce cutting-edge military technology at good prices. God blessed America, but no longer. In fact, the *curse* described in Leviticus 26:20—directed to the ungodly and disobedient modern-day descendants of ancient Israel, of whom America is chief—well applies: "And your strength shall be SPENT IN VAIN."

We see this in many ways—the fruitless military missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, for example. This massive waste is both a natural result of failed leadership and also a result of this curse. The preceding verse says God "will break the pride of your power." These verses describe a nation with ample "strength" and "power," but it is incapable of using it effectively.

When America was blessed, God said He made it so that "ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword" (verse 7). One way He did that was by blessing the nation with skilled innovators and manufacturers, allowing the nation to have its technological edge. America still has an edge here. But too few in the military take the potential for a major war seriously. The result is a bloated system that hemorrhages money and leaves this apparently invincible nation dangerously insecure.



THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AVIATION WING IS SUFFERING FROM THE BURDEN of 15 years' worth of fighting and budget cuts. Fox News reported on April 17 that the vast majority of U.S. strike fighter aircraft are not airworthy. Yet it is unclear where the money to maintain and replace them will come from. Budget cuts and sequestration have reduced anticipated budgets—from \$691 billion in 2010 to \$560 billion in 2015, an inflation-adjusted 21 percent decrease in five years.

Several aging major equipment platforms need replacing. The MV-22B Osprey was to be the solution for the rotary-wing aircraft used by the corps. Yet several accidents have degraded confidence in this "upgrade." The F-18 Hornets were to be replaced with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter—but known flaws, significant budget overruns, and postponements in deployment testing have delayed F-35 adoption.

Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornets are supposed to have a shelf life of 6,000 hours, but they are being refurbished to extend that life to 8,000 hours, possibly even 10,000 hours. Pilots are being asked to remain operationally ready with aircraft that are well beyond their engineered limits. Not only has time spent refining their skills in the air been reduced, but pilots are now limited by aging aircraft that could pose safety risks even outside of combat roles.

The Secret to Successful Aging

Bring it on.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU REALLY IMPROVED AT something? That's what a 63-year-old retired editor asked in a recent *New York Times* feature. Gerald Marzorati took up tennis late in life, and he learned a valuable lesson about aging well: Find something difficult to do, immerse yourself in it, then work to get better! Marzorati says you achieve better aging through PRACTICE.



STEPHEN FLURRY

God created our bodies to slow down with age and eventually wear out (Hebrews 9:27). But that does not mean He meant for us to get sick, feeble or senile in old age. As Marzorati learned by taking up tennis at age 55, we can definitely learn new things and grow mentally and physically when we embrace challenges late in life.

"There are quantifiable benefits often associated with taking up something like tennis and getting better at it," Marzorati wrote. "Your brain, it's thought, will be recast and strengthened" (April 29). He cited a study where 200 old people improved their memories after learning a complicated new skill.

Improving with age also contains an important spiritual lesson. True Christians MUST NEVER STOP GROWING. Anyone who stops growing isn't really Christian because if you are attached to Christ, you *will* grow! (John 15:1-5).

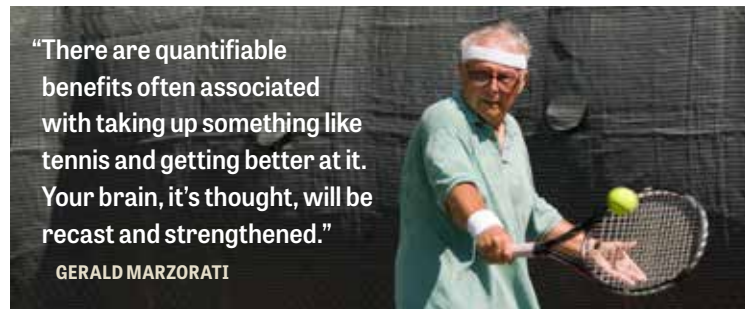
Jesus said that to be saved, you must *endure* to the end (Matthew 24:13). That means you overcoming and growing throughout life, "being *fruitful* in EVERY good work, and INCREASING in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10). We must GROW in the grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Educator Herbert W. Armstrong set an excellent example of striving for growth and development. In 1981, at age 89, he talked about how much he had learned over the past year. In 1985, he completed his largest and most important book! "With the writing of the new book *Mystery of the Ages*," he wrote, "God has helped me this year to do the BEST WORK of my 93 years of life!" (member and co-worker letter, Nov. 25, 1985). Shortly before he died, Mr. Armstrong said he had learned more in his last 10 years than in *all the previous decades put together*.

How did he do it? He credited two sources: *God's power*, and *sheer determination* and SELF-DRIVE. "Of course God expects us to do our own part," he wrote. "He does for us what we *can't* do for ourselves! But when you put BOTH together—*your own best* and add what God can do that's beyond what you can do—you've got a combination that PAYS OFF!" (*Plain Truth*, July 1975).

Mr. Armstrong *drove* himself forward! He took on difficult new challenges, yet *totally* depended on God's awesome power. He claimed God's promise in Isaiah 40:28-31: "[T]he everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary. ... *He giveth power to the faint*; and to them that have no might he *increaseth strength*. Even the youths shall faint and be weary ... But *they that wait upon the Lord* shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

In 1982 Mr. Armstrong wrote about a growing tragedy in Western society: *people growing old before their time*. He recalled driving by a retirement home and seeing its residents sitting on the verandas, just passing the time, with despondent looks on their faces. "Plainly, they had nothing to look forward to," he wrote. "There was just a tired, uninterested, hopeless stare on their faces. They were just eking out an existence until finally death would deliver them from endless monotony. I had to wonder: Why should people believe in a myth that cheats millions out of one of the happiest times of life? Why should



the millions believe a myth that makes them old before their time and robs them of usefulness, vigor, sparkling interest in life and real accomplishment?" (*Worldwide News*, Nov. 15, 1982).

Yes, even in old age, we CAN "produce fruit" and "remain vital and green" (Psalm 92:14; New Living Translation). Consider the biblical example of Caleb. He was 40 years old when Moses sent him to spy out the land of Canaan. Forty-five years later, he was *still* embracing challenges, driving himself forward, and trusting God. He said, "As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in" (Joshua 14:11).

God kept Caleb strong and healthy. At age 85, Caleb was as ready for battle as when he was 40! Facing a group of giants, he said, "if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said" (verse 12). What an attitude! Caleb didn't retire, hand everything off to the younger generation and sit around. This senior citizen was enlisting for mountain warfare—hand-to-hand combat against giants! He had the same mind-set Mr. Armstrong had: *As long as I'm alive, I'm young enough to face new challenges!*

Like many other outstanding, dynamic elderly leaders for God, these men had two characteristics that *you* can have: *self-drive*, and *strength* that is renewed by your Creator!

If we are following God with our whole hearts, we'll never retire from spiritual labor. We'll seek out new challenges, and always work to improve and grow!

In a voting system, the people are a reflection of the government and leaders they choose (“*Rise of the Superpresident*,” theTrumpet.com/go/13711). I enjoyed the article, but it left a heavy sadness. Knowing that the amount of suffering that is coming—although righteously measured—is going to be beyond the greatest horror we can envisage. True education, real government and God’s law are needed now more than ever. Thanks for the article and a glimpse of the American system of government.

Tony Haddad NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Watch Germany!

These are troubled times (“Watch Germany!”, theTrumpet.com/go/13715). As much as I would like to consider the refugees, I cannot forget about the nation that was there first and has built a certain reputation over centuries. I am all of respect for those who open the door to the needy and for the needy to not take advantage only, but to cooperate and be thankful without imposing their point of view.

Christina Atomoaie

Don’t know that I agree with everything in this article, but then again, I never arbitrarily agree with anything. This article definitely has a factual foreboding to it!

Scott Stevens

Most of the world is asleep to how serious these changes are.

Larry S. Kenney FORT-COULONGE, QUEBEC

Light the spark

This article has relit the spark in me of my love for reading books like I had when I was younger (“Save Yourself From Screen Addiction,” theTrumpet.com/go/13718). Unfortunately this technological age does rub off on you. My greatest pastime used to be looking through our collection of *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Thank you again!

Lisa Richardson

Black Lives Matter

The Super Bowl performance by Ms. Knowles was met with some controversy.

In a fast-moving world, you can get the news, but can you explain *why* events unfold as they do? We can. World events are important, and you need to understand where they are leading. Subscribe to the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine by visiting theTrumpet.com/go/Trumpet.



(“The Real Agenda Behind Black Lives Matter,” theTrumpet.com/go/13722). People who objected to the symbols of race war were themselves labeled racist. But what’s written by Mr. Flurry in this article is so easy to prove. The office of U.S. president is being used to radicalize America, utilizing media and pop culture to pull the masses toward class war and race war.

Kofi Appiah CALIFORNIA

Beginning of the end

Excellent interview! (“A Conversation With a British Euroskeptic,” theTrumpet.com/go/13726). It’s astounding to be watching all this unfold in front of us, and as Atkinson said, regardless of the outcome of the vote, things will never be the same again. It’s the beginning of the end of the UK in the EU.

Robb Schmidt

Paid to live

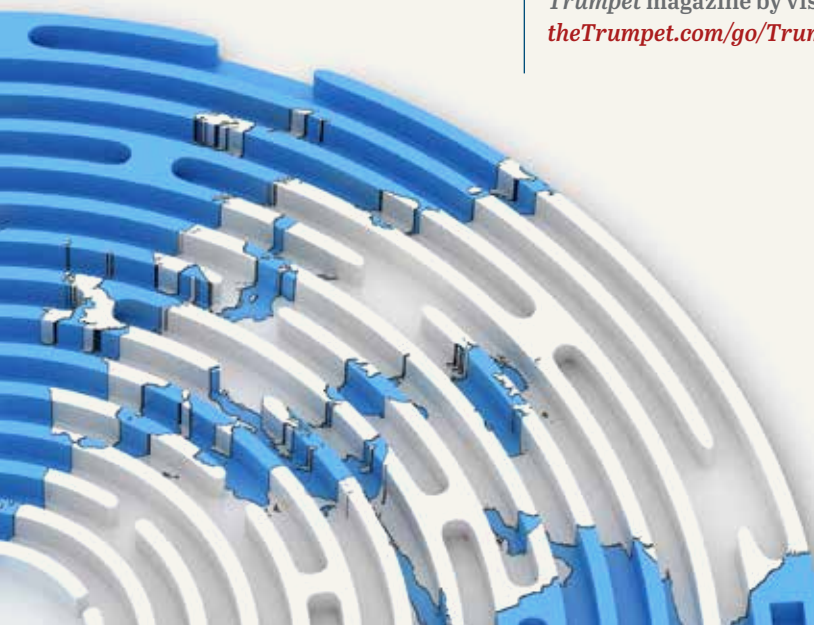
Sounds similar to the set-up in the United Arab Emirates for native Emiratis—they essentially get paid for living (“Free Money for Everyone!”, theTrumpet.com/go/13730). The result is an unearthly attitude of entitlement, which the expats who comprise the actual workforce are obliged to tolerate. You can physically see the result of years and years of pampering, leading to incompetence. Generally speaking, you can tell the work of an Emirati from the work of an expat. What happens to people’s quality of work when they have no incentive? Free money is not the answer to anything.

Joseph Hostetler OHIO

Isn’t this what the Romans did with their peace and prosperity? Nothing to do today—let’s go down to the Roman Colosseum and see the gladiator fights and the lions eat some Christians. How did all that freedom work out?

Joe WEBSITE RESPONSE

Understand your world



This Election Disaster Is Not America's 'Best Hope'

The #NeverTrump and #NeverHillary campaigns actually point to a promising lesson. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

IN NOVEMBER, IT APPEARS AMERICAN VOTERS WILL CHOOSE between two of the most *loathed* presidential candidates in the nation's history. The factor that determines the next president will likely be which one voters *hate less*.

Cynicism, pessimism, even fatalism hang like a pall over much of the electorate. Conservative website Townhall.com ran this remarkable headline: "I Am Going to Vote for Trump Though It Makes Me Want to Projectile Vomit." In the *Wall Street Journal*, former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal explained his plan to vote for Mr. Trump as "the second-worst thing we could do this November."

In both parties, many have pledged to *not* vote for their candidate. Columnist Bret Stephens wrote, "The best hope for what's left of a serious conservative movement in America is the election in November of a Democratic president, held in check by a Republican Congress. ... If the next presidency is going to be a disaster, why should the GOP want to own it?"

"For conservatives, a Democratic victory in November means the loss of another election, with all the policy reversals that entails," Stephens explained. "That may be dispiriting, but elections will come again. A Trump presidency means losing the Republican Party. Conservatives need to accept that most conservative of wisdoms—sometimes, losing is winning ..."

So even as he recognizes that there is almost nothing left of "a serious conservative movement in America," Stephens holds out hope: *This election is hopeless—but maybe we can turn things around in the next one.* Inspired yet?

Every four years, Americans get swept up in political promises of hope and change, reform, shaking things up, taking the country back, making America great again. Then we are disillusioned for another four years. Now, this time around, many people seem disillusioned even before the general election campaign has begun. The slogans are ringing hollow, even for many partisan voters.

Is hope for America just one—or two—elections away?

Look at the *even broader* picture. Every political cycle in every democracy and republic, masses of voters get swept up in political promises of change. In fact, this promise has

motivated almost *every* election, putsch, coup and revolution in history, whether it's the French in 1789, the Bolsheviks in 1917, the Iranian hardliners in 1979, the Nazis in 1933 or the Islamic State in 2016. No leader ever sets out to create a legacy of same-old, status-quo *failure*. Yet that is exactly what they achieve. Or worse. *None* of our forms of government—monarchies, despotisms, tyrannies, oligarchies, democracies or republics—have worked. *None* of the political economies—feudalism, capitalism, socialism, communism—have worked. None has brought about or sustained peace or prosperity, let alone happiness. Not one has made good on its promise.

Among these innumerable experiments in governance, the republic of the United States stands as the greatest. Yet after less than two and a half centuries, we are staring collapse in the face. We have presidential candidates who surge in the polls by addressing broad discontent and anxiety among the electorate and, like generations of politicians before them, promise *change*.

With thousands of years of failure to look on, why then do we cling to our conviction that a solution is almost in sight?

Whoever is elected, what do you really think the next four years will really bring? Perhaps you regard yourself as a cynic or a realist—yet you think that even with another bad presidency, America can turn it all around

two elections from now, or maybe *three* or *four*

By now, the political slogans should be ringing more hollow than ever. But here is a statement that rings true: "Thus saith the Lord; *Cursed* be the man that trusts in man." We have placed our trust in man, and as the Prophet Jeremiah wrote, we are suffering for it.

It's not delusional to think that this nation is cursed. In fact, it's delusional *not* to. Can you recognize it? The Bible prophesies that America is facing a cursed future, politically, economically, morally and militarily. This is how it describes America's coming days: curses befalling a nation that has turned itself completely away from the God who gave it its abundant blessings in the first place. For a thorough scriptural study of these prophecies—and to see the ultimately inspiring *reason* for which God is bringing them to pass—request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

This sequence of curses is already beginning to ravage the U.S. at an accelerating tempo. It is not difficult to imagine that, despite Mr. Stephens's hope, there won't be a "next election."

But thankfully, that is not the end of the story. *Change* is coming. *Hope* is coming. Yes, even *greatness* is coming. But not from politicians.

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). That truly is change you can believe in.

After saying you're cursed if you trust a man, Jeremiah then said, "*Blessed* is the man that trusteth in *the Lord*, and whose hope the Lord is."

In whom are you placing *your* trust?



A Way of Escape

In the lead-up to World War II, it was easy for America to dismiss Germany's domination over Europe and Japan's domination over Asia as faraway problems that didn't concern them. Yet when war broke out, the *whole world* was plunged into the worst period of violence it had ever experienced up to that time.

Yet according to biblical prophecy, WORLD WAR II WAS ONLY A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR THE GREAT TRIBULATION!

This really is heavy prophecy, and it is not an easy message to deliver. Mankind refuses to listen to God, choosing instead to do things its own way. The end result is famine, pestilence and war. It is the responsibility of God's watchman, with the help of a group of supporters, to deliver this message!

Ezekiel writes that one third of the people in end-time Israel will die in the siege and another third in the military invasion. What will happen to the last third? They will be taken as slaves to a foreign land! The time just ahead of us truly will be one of terrors too horrific to even imagine!

Yet, Ezekiel also writes about a small group of people who will be *protected*.

"Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts" (Ezekiel 5:3). Here is a little group of people that is bound "in thy skirts," where God protects them in a place of safety from the siege, the attack and the scattering mentioned in verse 2. This is the Church of God that delivered this prophecy and did His work. Only God can protect His people from all that horror! And you can stake your life on the fact that He will do it!

God says three times in Ezekiel 2:6, *Be not afraid! Don't be afraid! Be not afraid!* The people of America, Britain and Judah SHOULD be very afraid *if they refuse to repent*. But God tells those who are doing His work that they must not give in to fear. There are reasons why people fear to deliver that message, but God commands us to do it! He promises to give us all the power we need—AND to reward us for obeying Him *no matter what happens!*

Ezekiel had a difficult job, but he wasn't depressed. He had a work to do and was *happy* God gave him—a mere slave—that job.

All this prophesied destruction is what it will take for God to reach this world! After this, people will be ashamed—and THEY WILL GET TO KNOW GOD! Ezekiel repeatedly talked about that inspiring conclusion (e.g. Ezekiel 6:7; 7:4; 11:10; 12:20; 13:9; 23:48-49, etc.). Yes, there is a lot of bad news when you consider what it takes to get people to the point of knowing God. But ultimately, the outcome is SPECTACULARLY GOOD NEWS!

China's imperial dreams laid bare

You can know China's next move. Request **Russia and China in Prophecy.**



THE KEY OF DAVID



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

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Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
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CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
Discovery, Chan. 278, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, Chan. 307, 8:00 ET, Sun
- Dish Network**
Discovery, Chan. 182, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, Chan. 239, 8:00 ET, Sun
- Nationwide Cable**
CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
Discovery, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri
WGN, 8:00 ET, Sun
- Alabama, Birmingham** WPHX 5:00, Fri;
WVUA 8:30, Sun
- Dothan** WTYY-DT 8:30, Sun
- Mobile** WFGX 7:30, Sun
- Montgomery** WBMM-DT/WVCF-DT 8:30, Sun
- Alaska, Anchorage** KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun
- Fairbanks** KATN-DT 8:30, Sun
- Juneau** KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun
- Arizona, Phoenix** KPXX 5:00, Fri;
KAZT 8:00, Sun
- Yuma** KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun
- Arkansas, El Dorado** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
- Fayetteville** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Fort Smith** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun
- Rogers** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Springdale** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
- Chico** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
- El Centro** KECY-DT 8:30, Sun
- Eureka** KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Los Angeles** KPXN 6:00, Fri;
TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
- Monterey** KION 9:30, Sun
- Palm Springs** KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Redding** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;
KRCR 9:00, Sun
- Sacramento** KSPX 6:00, Fri;
TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
- Salinas** KION 9:30, Sun
- San Diego** TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
- San Francisco** KKPX 6:00, Fri
- Santa Barbara-Santa Maria** KSBY-DT
9:30, Sun
- San City-Menifee** TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
- Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00, Fri
- Grand Junction** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Montrose** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00, Fri
- Florida, Gainesville** WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun
- Jacksonville** WPXC/WPJ-LP 6:00, Fri
- Miami** WPXM 6:00, Fri
- Orlando** WOPX 6:00, Fri
- Panama City** WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Pensacola** WFGX 7:30, Sun
- Tallahassee** WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/
WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
- Tampa** WXPX 6:00, Fri
- West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00, Fri
- Georgia, Albany** WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun
- Atlanta** WPXA 6:00, Fri
- Augusta-Aiken** WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun
- Brunswick** WPXC 6:00, Fri
- Columbus** WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Macon** WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Savannah** WGSB-DT 9:30, Sun
- Thomasville** WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
- Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;
8:30, Wed
- Kaui Ho' Ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue
- Mau'i/Lanai'i/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku**
Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon
- Oahu Focus** Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat
Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri; KPXO
- Idaho, Boise** KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Idaho Falls** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Pocatello** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Twin Falls** KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Illinois, Bloomington** WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Chicago** WCUI 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30,
Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
- Peoria** WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Rockford** WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
- Quincy** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
- Indiana, Fort Wayne** WPTA-DT 21.29:30, Sun
- Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri
- Terre Haute** WBI 9:30, Sun
- Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri
- Des Moines** KFPP 5:00, Fri
- Keokuk** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
- Mason City** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
- Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30, Sun
- Sioux City** KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun
- Kansas, Topeka** KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun
- Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30, Sun
- Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun
- Lexington** WUPX 6:00, Fri
- Louisiana, Alexandria** KBAC-DT 8:30, Sun
- Monroe** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
- Lafayette** KADN 7:30, Sun; KATC-DT
8:30, Sun
- Lake Charles** KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun

New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland WPME 7:30, Sun; 7:00, Mon-Fri
Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke
 WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KWSD/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun
Helena KMTF-DT 8:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings
 KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun; WPXN 6:00, Fri
Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGXP 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 8:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMK 8:30, Sun
Fargo WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMK 8:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:00, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Toledo WMNT 8:00, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun

Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun
Medford-Klamath Falls
 KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence
 WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston
 WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City
 KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun
Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun; TVCLT-Bilingual, 9:30 Sun
Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVVY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPRX 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun
Weston WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun

Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Superior KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun
Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

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Nationwide satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Nationwide cable
 WGN 8:00 ET, Sun
 Discovery 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
 Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun
Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun
Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun
Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun
Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver
 CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun;
 KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun;
 CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun
Toronto WADL 10:00, Sun;
 WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVVY 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun;
 WUHF 8:30, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun
Bahamas Discovery Chan. 26, 6:30, Sun
 FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun
Mexico TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun;
 WGN 7:00, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

AUSTRALASIA

Australia
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed
Perth TV11 30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV49 3:00 PHT, Sun

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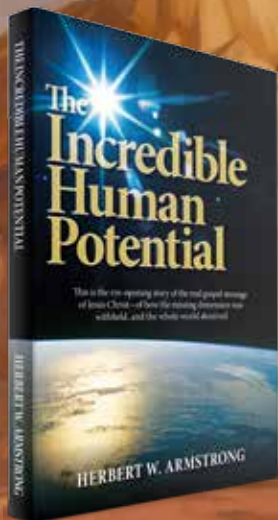
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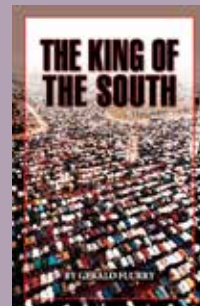
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