

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

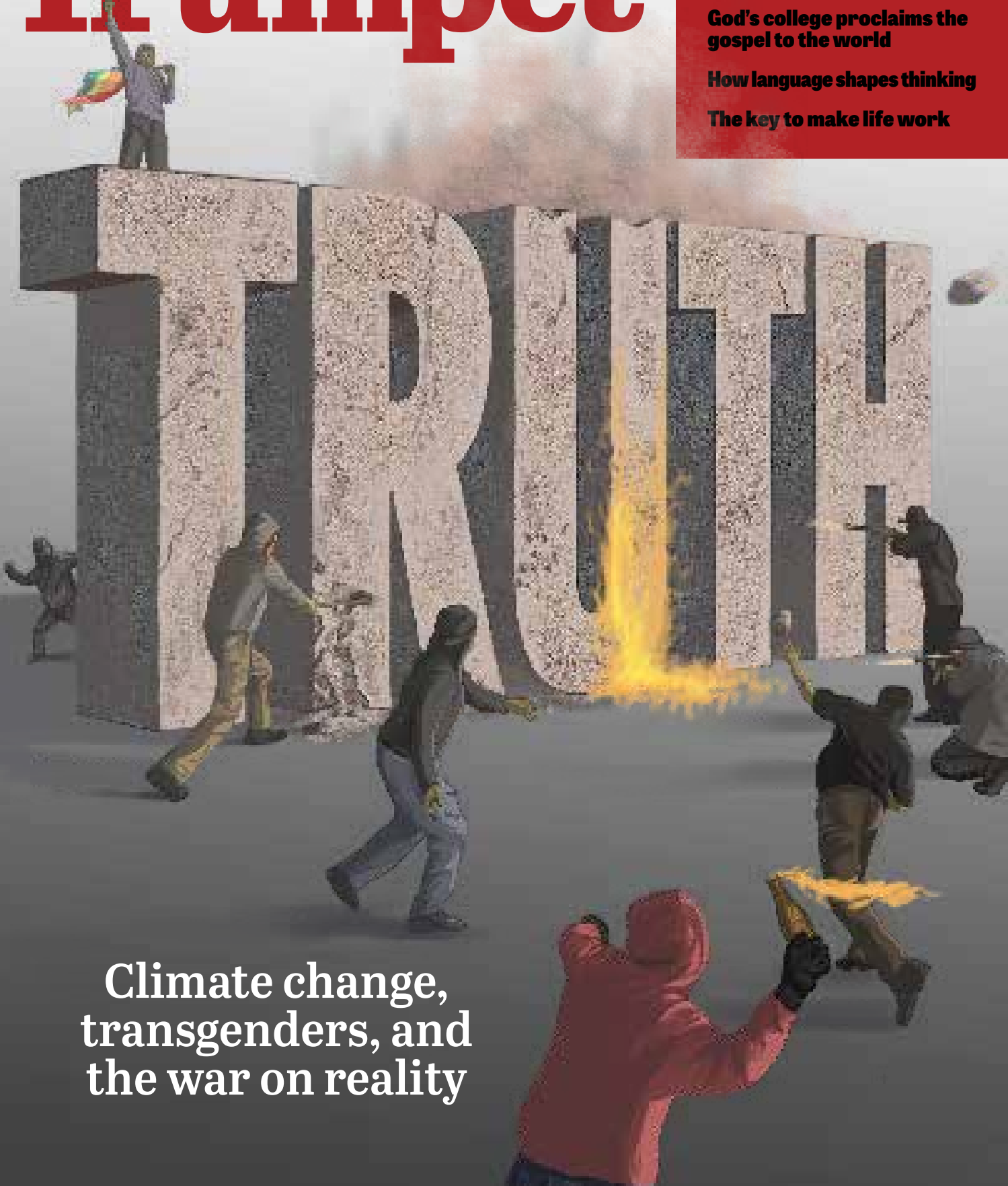
**European unity: be careful
what you wish for**

When will the dollar collapse?

**God's college proclaims the
gospel to the world**

How language shapes thinking

The key to make life work



**Climate change,
transgenders, and
the war on reality**

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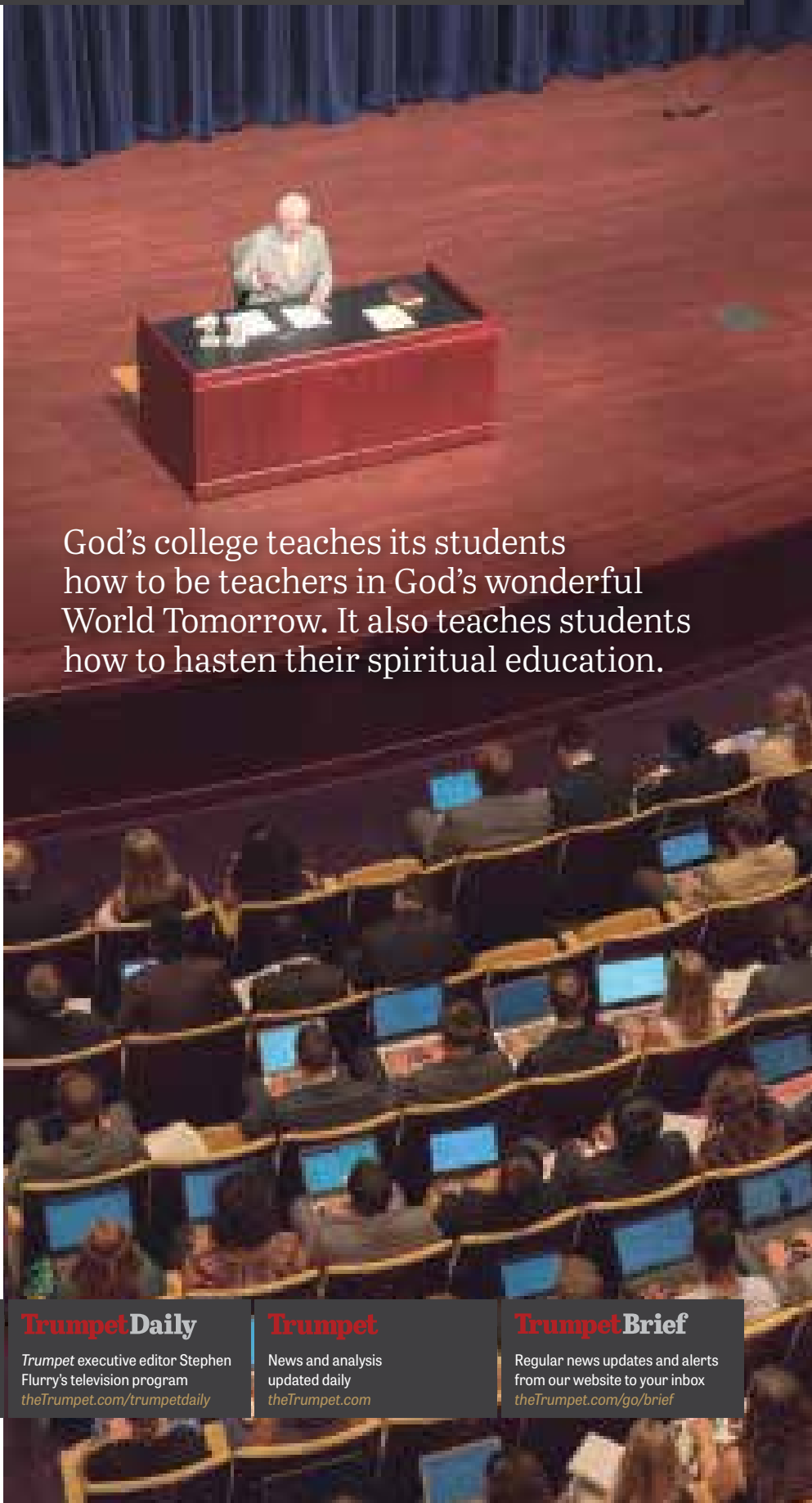
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God's college teaches its students how to be teachers in God's wonderful World Tomorrow. It also teaches students how to hasten their spiritual education.

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OF DAVID**

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry's weekly television program
theTrumpet.com/keyofdavid

TrumpetDaily

Trumpet executive editor Stephen Flurry's television program
theTrumpet.com/trumpetdaily

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News and analysis updated daily
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God's College Proclaims the Gospel to the World

God is an Educator. He is preparing people today to help Him establish schools all over the Earth!

GOD PUTS A HIGH VALUE ON EDUCATION. DID YOU KNOW that His people on Earth have often founded schools and colleges?

In fact, three of God's prophets each raised up three colleges. These men—Samuel, Elijah and Elisha—are all discussed in the biblical books called the former prophets. That means at least *nine colleges* are mentioned in these books, and the former prophets are *mainly PROPHECY FOR THIS END TIME*. They were written by prophets, and most of it is intended for our day. (I discuss this extensively in my book *The Former Prophets*. We will gladly send you a free copy.)



GERALD FLURRY

That these colleges feature so heavily in these prophetically significant books is actually a *prophecy* that there would be *colleges* in this end time, during the last two eras of God's Church.

Why is God so focused on education? There is an important reason why.

What do you know about godly education, and specifically God's college?

What is God's college like? It teaches its students how to be teachers in God's wonderful World Tomorrow. It also teaches students how to hasten their spiritual education.

To learn more about God's colleges, let's look first at the Gospel of Matthew.

An End-time 'Elijah'

In Matthew 16:28, Jesus Christ told His disciples, "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." He was about to show them a vision of His Kingdom.

That vision is described in the very next verse: "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him" (Matthew 17:1-3).

Then a voice came from heaven that struck fear in the disciples, and they fell on their faces (verses 5-6). "And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead" (verses 7-9).

Christ showed His disciples an unparalleled vision of His Second Coming. Then He told them a *sign* that would occur in this end time, *just before* that greatest event in the universe,

when He will establish His Kingdom on Earth: "And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, ELIAS TRULY SHALL FIRST COME, AND RESTORE ALL THINGS" (verses 10-11).

Just prior to Christ's return, Elijah would come and "RESTORE ALL THINGS."

Anciently, the Prophet Elijah founded three colleges, probably in Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho (e.g., 2 Kings 2:1-7). The work of restoration performed by the *end-time* Elijah *includes* his ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S COLLEGES. You cannot "restore all things" if you don't restore God's colleges!

Christ's statement points back to the prophecy of Malachi 4:5: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." This is an *end-time* event! Once this end-time Elijah has come, the stage is set for the Day of the Lord, the time that leads directly into Christ's return.

Malachi's prophecy continues, "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (verse 6). This Elijah would proclaim a family message, turning fathers' hearts to their children, and children's hearts to their fathers, so there would be family unity. And that unity within physical families would be restored in God's Church as well, as they learn about God Family unity. God wants unity in His Church.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THIS END-TIME ELIJAH HAS ALREADY COME, RESTORED ALL THINGS, AND DIED?

God is talking about a man, a human being, who would come on the scene and restore all things. If you really know your Bible, you will be able to recognize this. The sign of His return that Jesus Christ gave His disciples has already occurred!

The role of this end-time type of Elijah was fulfilled by Herbert W. Armstrong, and you can prove it. This is a truth that needs to be proved! (To do so, request our booklet *A Pivotal Sign of the End Time*. For a more in-depth explanation, request my book *Malachi's Message*, which explains it all. We will send you these materials free of charge.)

Mr. Armstrong fulfilled this prophecy *mainly through the colleges he raised up*. He founded three colleges, just as the ancient Elijah did. This end-time type of Elijah accomplished the same basic work the original Elijah had to do!

Mr. Armstrong said, "It was the development of the college in Pasadena that made possible the growth of the whole gospel work!" (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*). He had a great work: His television program aired on over 400 stations worldwide, his *Plain Truth* newsmagazine had a circulation of 8 million copies (a greater subscription list than *Time* and *Newsweek* combined at that time), and the accumulated income for the

work was \$200 million annually. THE WORK THROUGH WHICH GOD SAID HE WOULD RESTORE ALL THINGS WAS POWERFUL AND GREAT!

It is a worldwide sign of Christ's imminent return.

And it was made possible by the college.

Elijah's Colleges

The name Elijah means "My God is God." He represented the REAL God—the true, living God—not a phony deity.

Anciently in Israel, evil King Ahab followed the sins of Jeroboam and committed terrible atrocities against God and against the people. A prophecy in Amos 7 explains how people are making the same mistake today. (This is explained in my free booklet *Great Again*.)

God commanded Elijah to confront the king, and Elijah obeyed. He was a courageous man; he walked right into the king's palace. The nation was being cursed, and Ahab tried to pin the blame on Elijah (1 Kings 18:17). But Elijah told Ahab about his sins and warned what God would do to punish Israel if the Israelites didn't repent.

God's work today must deliver a warning about that just as the ancient Elijah did. OFTENTIMES, YOU MUST HAVE GREAT COURAGE TO DO THE JOB GOD HAS COMMISSIONED YOU TO DO. It takes COURAGE to do God's work. It takes COURAGE to get this message out to the world. But if you do that, and assist God in finishing His work, GOD WILL REWARD YOU IN WONDERFUL WAYS!

In order to do that work, Elijah needed help. That is why he raised up schools. He was educating students to teach the whole world. That is what the Elijah work—including this end-time Elijah work—is all about: preparing teachers now to teach and lead the whole world in the future!

Like the ancient Elijah, Mr. Armstrong had to have help to do the work of God. For years, the church remained relatively small. Then he started the colleges. This provided much-needed ministerial and administrative help, and the work grew at a phenomenal pace! For 35 years, it averaged 30 percent annual growth. That is unparalleled in the business world.

Following Elijah

The students at Elijah's colleges were called "the sons of the prophets" (1 Kings 20:35; 2 Kings 2:3). It was a *family*-oriented work.

When Elijah was making his last visit to each of those colleges, Elisha pleaded to join him (2 Kings 2:4-6). He told Elijah that he would never leave him.

Elijah had said that he was about to be taken away, and that Elisha would take over the work. He asked what Elisha would like done for him. Elisha responded, "[L]et a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And [Elijah] said, Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so" (verses 9-10).

Then Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire, and he went up in a whirlwind. (The King James Version says "into heaven," but that is just referring to Earth's atmosphere. Other scriptures show that he was simply transported to another place on Earth.)

When Elijah was taken up, Elisha saw him and cried, "*My father! My father!*" (verse 12). Elisha looked upon Elijah as his spiritual father. He had a marvelous attitude. This is how it should be in the "Elijah work." We should cling to it and say, "*My father, my father! I will not leave these teachings!*"

Elisha ended up following Elijah's example. He also had three colleges. He saw that, ultimately, all Israel would be governed by the foundational teachings of Elijah.

This is all recorded in the former prophets, which is *prophecy* for this end time. By clinging to Elijah, Elisha showed us that even in this end time we have to cling to the teachings and example of God's end-time Elijah. This is critical for our spiritual well-being.

We have done this. Mr. Armstrong had three college campuses. Now, we have two—one in Edmond, Oklahoma, another in Edstone, England—and we often send students to Jerusalem, where they participate in archaeological digs and take classes online from our headquarters campus. We also fully sponsored one of those digs. In a sense, you could say we have 2½ colleges. Maybe that third one will be fully realized shortly.



ELIJAH AND ELISHA TEACH US THAT ONLY THE ELIJAH WORK WILL CARRY THE NATIONS OF ISRAEL FORWARD! There is only one spiritual chariot of God, and if you want to move forward, you must get on that chariot (verse 12, last part). It alone has all the wonderful truth that God gives to His people to inspire them and stir them. We must cling to the teaching of Elijah!

This is prophecy from your Bible, and it must be fulfilled!

Elijah wasn't the first man to establish three colleges; Samuel did the same. When he came along, Israel's priesthood was so polluted that he had to push it all aside and raise up a whole new priesthood. He used the colleges to do that! That is also in the former prophets, which means it too is end-time prophecy.

Whom Will God Teach?

Isaiah 28:9 says, "Whom shall he teach knowledge?" To whom will God teach knowledge? Everybody needs to answer this—IT IS THE BIGGEST QUESTION ABOUT EDUCATION IN THE BIBLE! Whom shall God teach? What must we do to receive God's knowledge?

The verse continues: "... and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." That is an interesting statement. To answer this crucial question, the Prophet Isaiah uses the example of a nursing child.

Most people were taught the religion they keep today from an early age. Like nursing children, we pick up ideas from the very beginning of our lives. Much of the time, most of those ideas

are wrong, because Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). God says, *If it's the wrong religion*—and it is, most of the time—*then you must be prepared to get it out of your system and unlearn all that!* If you have a tree of wrong ideas, it must be **RIPPED UP** by the roots if God is going to be able to teach you. Only then can you fill your mind with God's knowledge.

God wants to teach us His world-changing knowledge. However, that's not easy for God to do. He has only a *little flock* today (Luke 12:32). Most people simply will not get rid of their false ideas and their false religion.

Matthew 11:25 says, "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Think about this: God only reveals His truth "unto babes"—those with a teachable attitude. So we must go from unthinkingly accepting wrong ideas, having a wrong "babe" understanding—what you understood from infancy all the way to adulthood—and become a "babe" toward God and let Him teach you!



God will not teach the wise and the prudent of this world, because they will not become as babes and let Him teach them. They're too arrogant, too self-willed or just too selfish. But if we have the right attitude, God will fill our minds with His wonderful truth and understanding—the very doctrines that God's end-time Elijah restored and taught.

Jesus Christ said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). He was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, pointing us back to Moses's writings and tying the Old Testament into the New Testament. *You must LIVE by EVERY WORD God utters!* He said. That means both the Old and New Testaments!

Not every single word is accurate, because men have translated it—but if you really know the whole Bible and are learning what Elijah taught, you will quickly discern that error, throw it out, and let God teach you. The blessings this will

bring into your life are almost beyond description! I wish more people would strive to understand this.

Eternal Education!

Notice this truth in the first verse of the book of Revelation: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him ..." (Revelation 1:1). This is where this revealed prophecy originated: God the Father gave this truth to His Son—Jesus Christ.

Notice what He says: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. John to the seven churches which are in Asia; Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne" (verses 3-4).

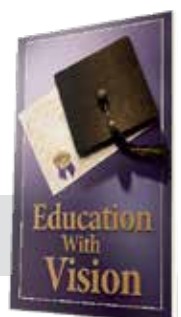
These "seven churches" are prophetic. They were seven physical congregations in Asia in the first century, and they represent seven successive eras of God's true Church throughout its 2,000-year history since that time. This book is addressed to those seven Church eras from the time of Christ's first coming until His Second Coming!

Notice verses 5-6: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." This is all prophecy before the Second Coming of Christ! And here He is saying that He will make those people who declare His message and publicize the Elijah message to this world **KINGS AND PRIESTS**, rulers over church and state of the whole world! That will continue throughout all eternity, because they will sit on David's throne, sharing it with Jesus Christ Himself! They will rule with Him from that throne in Jerusalem for all eternity, and will bring peace, happiness and joy to the world.

This passage says God will give them real authority; they will rule with a rod of iron. Mankind will no longer be able to wander around in self-willed ignorance and miseducation as they have for 6,000 years. They will receive a godly education and come to understand *God's* religion.

Survey the terrifying troubles plaguing this world: man's hatred against fellow man, poverty and deprivation, nations making aggressive, militaristic moves, weapons of mass destruction, nuclear proliferation. Events are truly sobering and frightening! But if we understand God's plan, we do not fear these problems at all. We understand the causes and have faith in God's solutions.

The history of Samuel, Elijah and Elisha is truly inspiring. Look at the wonderful truth they were able to institutionalize in the colleges they raised up. **THIS IS PROPHECY THAT SHOWS US HOW GOD IS ABOUT TO REVOLUTIONIZE THIS WHOLE WORLD!** We can see the kind of colleges that we should have on Earth today and will have, shortly, in the World Tomorrow! The colleges that Samuel, Elijah and Elisha raised up are a blueprint for the colleges that are about to fill this Earth with God's truth. What spectacular, inspiringly wonderful news! ■



True education isn't about degrees, caps and gowns.

What is wrong with modern education? What is true education? Request **Education With Vision** to learn the answers.



Archaeology unearths historical fact—
and proves the biblical record at the same time.

BY CHRISTOPHER EAMES

SO MUCH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH today is done under the relatively modern assumption that *God does not exist*—that science is incompatible with God and with the Bible. Even those scientists who *do* harbor some belief in God cast those beliefs aside once they enter the office at work.

Is science incompatible with God? Is the Bible really just a handful of made-up stories set against a backdrop of real-life places? You ought to know!

Over the past several years, I have been privileged to participate in the field of archaeology. And I can tell you that this corner of science alone—this unearthing of *historical fact*—absolutely proves the biblical record. It shows that the Bible can be counted on more than any other history book to shed light on the *true events* of history.

Of course, this is not the only field of science that proves God's existence, but it is one that continues to demonstrate

the perfect record of the Holy Bible and its authority as a reliable and inspired document.

Let's examine several examples of how archaeology *proves the Bible*.

Evidence of Individuals

You have probably heard the names of many of Israel's and Judah's biblical kings. Do you know *just how many* have had their existence proved, independently, through archaeology? These are the names of kings that have turned up in early, original contexts: David, Omri, Ahab, Jehu, Joash, Jeroboam II, Uzziah, Menahem, Ahaz, Pekah, Hoshea, Hezekiah, Manasseh and Jehoiachin. The existence of these kings has been verified through scientific discovery by the most stringent of analytical standards.

Several years ago, the personal seal impression of King Hezekiah was found during excavations on Jerusalem's Ophel mound. The tiny stamped clay



HEZEKIAH BULLA

piece reads: "Belonging to Hezekiah, [son of] Ahaz, king of Judah." This impressive find is one of many that refer to King Hezekiah. His name also turns up in inscriptions belonging to his arch-nemesis, Assyria's King Sennacherib.

King David has been a sticking point for critics. They suppose that he was only a mythical king, yet when the Tel Dan Stele, called the "victory stone," was found in 1993, their skepticism collapsed. The ninth-century B.C. stele inscription contains a phrase that reads: "I killed [Ahaz]yahu son of [Joram kin]g of the *house of David*." This was not only a reference to David, but an *established kingly line that descended from him*. (This inscription also depicted the events of 2 Kings 8, which led to the

deaths of kings Ahaziah and Joram.)

The artifact faced intense scrutiny, more than just about any other, in order to ascertain its legitimacy. Its legitimacy was proved. And now we have *two* further near-certain references to King David: One on the Mesha Stele (a ninth-century B.C. large stone inscription that parallels a biblical story in 2 Kings 3) and the other on an Egyptian Negev inscription (10th century B.C.). Beyond just finding the *name* of King David, we have also found several constructions that the Bible attributes to him.

These Israelite kings were the contemporaries of many leaders in other regions described accurately in the Bible, likewise verified through archaeology. Among them are the pharaohs Shishak, So, Tirhakah, Necho and Hophra. There are the Syrian kings Hadadezer, Ben-hadad, Hazael and Rezin. Also, the Moabite King Mesha. Assyrian kings Tiglath-Pileser, Shalmaneser, Sargon, Sennacherib and Esarhaddon. Babylonian kings Merodach-Baladan, Nebuchadnezzar, Evil-Merodach and Belshazzar. Persian kings Cyrus, Darius I, Xerxes, Artaxerxes and Darius II. Not only were these kings described accurately in the Bible, but their *accomplishments* were also described. That is a lot for a supposedly “fallacious” book to get *right*.

And it’s not just the kings. Archaeology has shed light on biblical princes such as Jehu and Gedaliah. There is also evidence of the Prophet Isaiah, the false prophet Balaam and even a tantalizing artifact that may well refer to the Prophet Elisha.

While the ancient titles of kings, princes and prophets are quite clearly understood, the Bible describes some



DIGGING FOR PROOF
AC students participate in archaeological digs with Dr. Eilat Mazar in Jerusalem.

other, unusual ranks. One is *governor of the city* (Jerusalem). It seems odd this position would even be necessary when there was a king reigning over the city. Nevertheless, the title was confirmed in 2017 during archaeological excavations just outside Jerusalem’s Wailing Wall. A small seal impression was found with the inscription “Belonging to the governor of the city.” The seal dates to the eighth century B.C.—perhaps it even belonged to Joshua, who was governor during the reign of Josiah (2 Kings 23:8).

Then there is the unusual, specific description of the sixth-century B.C. individual named Tatnai: “governor on this side the river” (Ezra 6:13). This man and his office have likewise been confirmed through a number of inscriptions, recorded as “Tattenai, Governor of Across-the-River.” An unusual title—yet extraordinary archaeological corroboration of the biblical account.

Or *is it* so extraordinary, if the Bible really is a legitimate, factual document?

Evidence of Cities

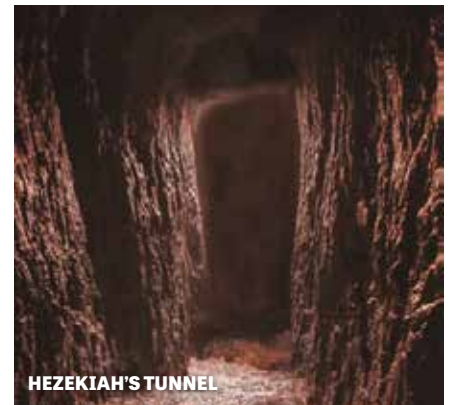
What about biblical cities: The Bible contains many descriptions of towns and cities where the individuals listed above lived, along with the events that happened there. Just how accurate are these descriptions? Over the last century, archaeology has had much to say.

Remember the walls of Jericho that “came tumbling down”? The remains of those crumbled city walls have been discovered. They litter the base of the ancient site of Jericho, providing remarkable insight into the beginning of Joshua’s conquests. (You can read more about Joshua’s attack against Jericho at watchJerusalem.co.il/30).

The great city of Jerusalem has been known for millennia and documented in many historical sources. But the

Bible’s description of the city, and what happened there, has been confirmed repeatedly through archaeology.

There is the famous tunnel of Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 32:3-4, 30; 2 Kings 20:20). This impressive tunnel has been found, snaking 1,750 feet deep in the bedrock of Jerusalem. There is the palace of David, a structure that has also been found. Jerusalem’s wall, built by King Solomon



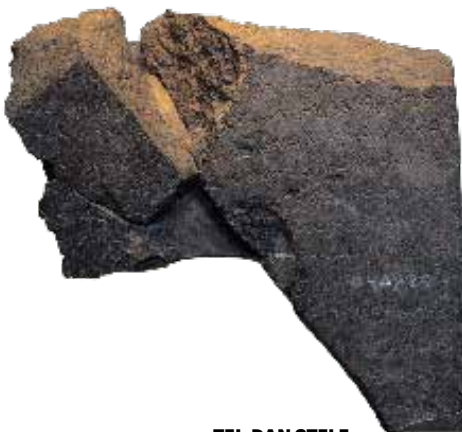
HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL



RESOURCE
A copper mine shaft in Timna Valley, Israel

(1 Kings 3:1): found. The wall Nehemiah constructed in the fifth century B.C.: found. Along with many other features.

The Bible describes Solomon’s nationwide building projects. 1 Kings 9:15 states that Solomon built “the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer.” Uncannily (or is it?), at the sites of Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer,



TEL-DAN STELE

construction has been found dating to Solomon's period showing *exactly the same building patterns*. These architectural features are known as "Solomon's Gates" or "Six-Chambered Gates." They help confirm that during this early Solomonic period in the 10th century B.C., there was a *strong, centralized government* regulating the building programs over the wider region of Israel.

Then there is the Timna mines. This is an amazing biblical site, though not directly mentioned in the Bible. The Timna mines were situated in the southern kingdom of Edom. They are the world's oldest copper mines. Strangely, during the 10th century B.C., copper production *peaked*. Why? The Bible tells us that during that period, Israel's temple and royal buildings were being built, for which Solomon used *immense* quantities of copper. Not only that, Scripture reveals that by that time, Israel had *conquered and controlled* all of Edom (2 Samuel 8:13-14).



IMMENSE PROOF
The discovery of the ancient city of Hattusha in modern-day Turkey verified the existence of the Hittite civilization.

In 2017, petrified donkey manure discovered at Timna was analyzed. The scientists discovered that the donkeys' feed had originated from the *Jerusalem* area! Timna is just one example of a city not even mentioned in the Bible that still proves the accuracy of the biblical record.

The Bible describes many cities that have been found and confirmed through archaeology. Israelite cities such as Samaria, Megiddo, Hazor, Shechem, Dan, Beth Shean, Jericho, Gezer and Shiloh. Judean cities like Jerusalem, Hebron, Lachish and Beersheba. The five Philistine cities of Gath, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron and Gaza. Egyptian cities. Assyrian cities. Babylonian cities. Persian cities. There are literally *dozens* more biblical cities that have been discovered archaeologically—along with an accurate representation of what happened in them.

Evidence of Civilizations

Zooming out even further, there are the *civilizations*. And likewise, we find accurate depictions in the Bible of the civilizations extant at the time various events were recorded. There are numerous examples. We will highlight just one.

The Hittite civilization is mentioned often in the Bible. Scripture describes Abraham burying his wife in land purchased from Hittite merchants. The Hittites were allied with the king of Israel in fending off the Syrian Empire. Yet until the 20th century, no evidence of the Hittite civilization had been uncovered. Historians said it probably never existed, and even if it did, it couldn't have been a very strong regional power.

In 1906, however, an immense, sprawling fortified city found in modern-day Turkey was confirmed to have been the Hittite capital, Hattusha. A royal library of around 10,000 tablets helped prove to archaeologists that these people were

indeed the people of the *land of Hatti*, the kingdom of *Kheta* in the Egyptian texts, and the *Hittites* of the Bible. This massive empire controlled what became modern-day Turkey, and its power and influence expanded as far south as Syria and around parts of northern Canaan, just as described in the Bible.

It is one thing for historians to criticize the existence of a biblical figure. It is another for them to dismiss the existence of an entire *empire*.

Archaeology has confirmed the

accuracy of many of the Bible's descriptions of civilizations, cultures and their customs. Beside the Hittites, there are the Canaanites, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, Ammonites, Syrians and more that have been corroborated by archaeology. Again—that is a lot to get right.

It Just Keeps Coming!

The Bible has received more criticism than any history book known to man. Yet no other book is like it: having been written so long ago, by so many different authors, in so many different locations, and being proved accurate time and again. Truly, the Bible is a magnificent historical record, matching perfectly with scientific discoveries. As much as people try to discredit the Bible through science, *nothing* has proved it false. The skeptics are either proved sorely wrong, or they have merely disproved preconceived *misbeliefs* about what the Bible really says.

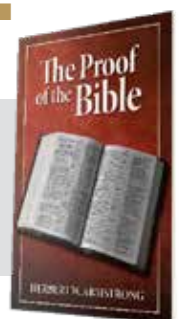
And if some biblical event, place or person hasn't yet been confirmed through archaeology, just wait! Arguments from "silence"—the absence of evidence—are a classic pitfall of overzealous skeptics. New discoveries are being made constantly. The veracity of the Bible has been—and *is still being*—dramatically revealed!

Consider what this means for your life. The Bible is true, and you can prove it. It is right about all these historical, geographical and cultural details. This is undeniable evidence that it is *also* accurate and trustworthy regarding the plans, expectations and commands of its Author, and our Creator.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God," says 2 Timothy 3:16, "and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Believe that doctrine. Accept that reproof and correction. Apply that instruction in righteousness! You can prove the Bible true. Ought you now to *live by it*? ■

Have you ever proved the Bible?

Do you believe the Bible is true? Do you believe it is false? Either way, have you simply assumed, from what you have heard, read or been taught? Prove the truth for yourself. Start by requesting your free copy of **The Proof of the Bible**, by Herbert W. Armstrong.



Climate, Gender and the **FIGHT** Over



Will the truth survive our ‘rational’ scientific age? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

WE LIVE IN THE GOLDEN age of truth. No more myths, no more superstitions. We are rational. We are scientific. We submit subjective opinion to provable fact. We insist on the truth.

Well—that is certainly the view promoted by a prominent segment of mainstream society, anyway.

Here is one example: “Ninety-seven percent of scientists agree: #climate change is real, man-made and dangerous.” United States President Barack Obama tweeted that in 2013.

This view of scientific consensus over man-made climate change motivated Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is running for president, to say this in February of this year: “It is really a disgrace and an embarrassment that we have a

president who REJECTS SCIENCE, who does not even understand that climate change is real and caused by human activity, who does not understand what this planet will look like in years to come if we do not go forward boldly and transform our energy system away from fossil fuels” (emphasis added throughout).

Science is irrefutably clear on this point, he says, and anyone who disagrees is a dying holdover from a less-enlightened past. This argument is driving the “Green New Deal” and much thinking in the Democratic Party. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said last November, “People are going to die if we don’t start addressing climate change ASAP. It’s not enough to think it’s ‘important.’ We must make it urgent.”

These politicians and the vast majority of smart, fact-driven scientists

all agree: Only dangerously ignorant simpletons don’t believe in man-made climate change. And the electorate is catching on: A new Yale Program on Climate Change Communication poll says 74 percent of registered voters think global warming is happening, and 67 percent are worried about it. Granted, among conservative Republicans that number is only 42 percent, but that’s five percentage points higher than results from a 2017 poll. So—progress, right?

Unsurprisingly then, a number of Republicans who once doubted the global warming–climate change agenda are now holding hearings, making promises and casting votes in favor of it. Why, exactly? Congressman John Shimkus, a Republican from Illinois, told Bloomberg, “It’s JUST NOT WORTH THE FIGHT ANYMORE. Let’s just see what



“People are going to die if we don’t start addressing climate change ASAP.”

It’s not enough to think it’s ‘important.’ We must make it urgent.”

—ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

we can do to address it and not hurt the economy.”

So, it’s not that Shimkus is convinced it is true. But he has surrendered to the pressure. He can see he is fighting a losing battle. So he and others are trying to appease the growing number of politicians and voters who are crusading in the name of “science.”

And once the crusaders can steamroll enough of their uninformed opposition, they and the scientists can finally deal with this existential threat and save the world. Or so the narrative goes.

At the same time the climate change ideologues march to chants of “Science! Science! Science!”, another social trend is advancing that is *unscientific in the extreme*. In fact, this trend *single-handedly undermines* the notion that ours is an age of rationality. Because it **REJECTS SCIENCE** just as categorically as the claim that the Earth is flat.

A Profoundly Unscientific Trend

Tennis star Martina Navratilova was one of the first high-profile athletes to announce that she is a lesbian, and has been an icon among homosexuals and transgenders. But recently she did something that soured the LGBTQ community’s opinion of her: She spoke out against men “changing their gender”



BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES
New Zealand weightlifter Gavin Hubbard, who had a sex change in 2014, dominated the women’s final at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games as Laurel Hubbard.

and competing in women’s sports.

Consider some recent examples: In February, two male transgender high school athletes finished first and second in the girls 55-yard dash at the Connecticut state championship meet—meaning the girl who would have won came in third instead. In October, a transgender male who competed as a female in the track cycling world championship in Los Angeles won the event (and some bitterness from the women competitors). In 2017, a transgender male weightlifter competed in the Australian International weightlifting event as a female and dominated, prompting other athletes to complain that he had an unfair advantage. Such incidents are becoming more and more common.

Science easily proves that biological differences in men enable them to sprint faster, lift more and endure longer than women—both on average and at the elite level. The average woman is almost 5 inches shorter and more than 30 pounds

lighter than the average man. She has nearly 40 pounds less muscle, less than half the upper-body strength, and 20 percent less aerobic capacity. This is why the record for 14-year-old boys 800-meter run is faster than the women’s world record. This is why in 2016, Australia’s national women’s soccer team (ranked fifth in the world at the time) fared poorly when they scrimmaged an under-15 boys’ team: They lost 0-7. This is why men’s and women’s sports are segregated.

And the obvious *truth* is that these biological discrepancies remain even if a man decides in his mind that he is actually a woman.

However, state this scientific fact and you will be labeled a transphobe. Even Navratilova was not immune. When she complained about incidents of transgendered men competing against biological women, the LGBTQ organization Athlete Ally kicked her off its advisory board and severed ties with her. “Well, I certainly stumbled into a hornets’ nest,” she wrote on her blog. “The support I normally get from ‘my people,’ the LGBTQ community, was replaced by a barrage of

quite nasty personal attacks and I was dropped [jettisoned is a better word] as an ambassador for Athlete Ally.”

Is this not irrational? It certainly reflects no love of the truth. Yet who in the world would dare say *this organization* “REJECTS SCIENCE”?

It is a scientific fact that people are biologically male or female. It is a scientific fact that biological sex comes with physiological and even mental and emotional predispositions. But science can tell you *nothing* about a man feeling that he is actually a woman. There is **NO** scientific explanation for that.

Contradictions in the transgender view are rife. Transgenders say gender is an “artificial construct”—yet at the same time, they encourage people to express their “authentic gender identity” (especially if it is different from their actual, scientific gender identity) through stereotypical or even cartoonish behavior and activity (like boys layering on make-up and costume jewelry). They

say a person's "real self" is separate from their physical body—but then, contrarily, they say a person's physical body needs to be transformed to make the person "whole." So they advocate that even children receive puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgery—to match the physical body to the idea in the mind.

This is all a deviant kind of make-believe, fairy-tale thinking. Scientifically it has *no basis in reality at all*.

Yet in society today, you are increasingly branded as a bigot if you simply point to science. As if the very *facts themselves* are intolerant and discriminatory.

This exaltation of the *will* over truth, including basic scientific facts, is beginning to have far more serious consequences than unfair losses at athletic events. In December, a man serving a 10-year prison sentence for burglary in Illinois convinced a penal board that he should be treated as a woman, and was moved to a women's prison. In March, a woman in Hertfordshire, England, refused to call a transgender man a "woman" online, and seven hours later was arrested by police in her home in front of her children. Hertfordshire Police explained to the *Daily Mail*, "We take all reports of malicious communication seriously." (Is this what British police are focusing their attention on as crime increases, and only 4 percent of robberies and 3 percent of burglaries in England and Wales in 2017 were solved?)

Such stories, which are filling our headlines, have troubling and far-ranging ramifications. More and more, transgenderism is *reshaping society*. And it is doing so based solely on the profoundly unfactual, antiscientific feelings of an infinitesimal minority of people.

In one sense, the climate change dogma and the transgender dogma seem contradictory. One is wrapping itself in the cloak of science, and the other isn't even trying. But in fact, *these are two aspects of the same story*.

The truth is, this is NOT the age of rationality. This is an age of astonishing IRRATIONALITY! Society today is openly *assaulting the truth*.

'Scientific Consensus'?

That "97 percent scientific consensus" Mr. Obama referenced is not a fact. It is a terribly misleading figure. It derives

from a survey of peer-reviewed science papers conducted by John Cook, an assistant professor at George Mason University. But only 34 percent of the papers Cook examined *took a position* on the *cause* of global warming. He reckoned that 33 percent (97 percent of 34 percent) blamed humans as a cause. By that reckoning, it would be more accurate to claim that one third of scientists say humans are causing climate change, and *two thirds* of them are not taking a position.

However, when University of Delaware Prof. David Legates reexamined Cook's study, he found that even the 33 percent figure may be inflated. By his assessment, only about 0.3 percent of the abstracts Cook examined dogmatically state that humans cause climate change.

In the peer-reviewed *Organization Studies*, a 2012 survey of 1,077 professional engineers and geoscientists (or earth scientists) showed that *36 percent* believed humans are creating a global warming crisis. The large remaining majority, however, were skeptical of this claim. They said they believe changes to the climate are natural, normal Earth

Norman Duke William the Conquer had his knights planted vineyards in balmy southern England. This indicates that Earth's temperature was much warmer during these periods than it is today, yet none of the predictions of catastrophe that result from global warming occurred.

Climate scientists say the world is about 2.1 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than when the Little Ice Age ended in 1850. But even if industrial emissions have partially contributed to this warming, there is no proof that such emissions will continue to have much of an effect; in fact, there is evidence to the contrary. It is well established that the first 20 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere produces more warming than the next 400 parts per million. Additional carbon emissions will have a very limited effect, especially considering that rising carbon dioxide levels promote plant growth, which reduces carbon dioxide levels and balances the atmosphere.

The fact is, there is no provable link between carbon emissions and higher atmospheric temperatures. The fact is, Antarctic ice is increasing and the polar

The truth is, this is not the age of rationality. This is an age of astonishing irrationality.

cycles (global warming is what brought the world out of the Ice Age, for example)—or that future global warming will not cause a very serious problem.

So, somewhere between 0.3 percent and 36 percent of climate scientist believe that climate change is definitely caused by humans. That is hardly a "scientific consensus." There seems to be a far greater "consensus" among scientists that *we simply don't know*. This is because of a profusion of facts that *contradict* the man-made climate change thesis. The fact is, for example, the Earth has warmed and cooled before—and that it is not as warm today as it was centuries before people started using fossil fuels on a mass scale.

Reams of data from ice cores, dripstones, tree rings and ocean sediment cores indicate that Earth naturally alternates between warm and cold phases in a thousand-year cycle. During the Roman Warm Period, the Carthaginian general Hannibal crossed the Alps with elephants. During the Medieval Warm Period, the

bear population is growing. The fact is, the computer models formulating these apocalyptic scenarios cannot possibly account for all the factors affecting something as complex as Earth's climate. And on top of that, the fact is, even scientists and their peer reviewers are subject to those most unscientific of forces: ideology and peer pressure.

Yet the left would have you believe that not only do scientists think they know *exactly what* is happening, but also that they think they know *exactly why*, AND *exactly how* they can *fix it* by limiting specific human behaviors (and, as the case might be, cow behaviors).

Actually, it's not so much *scientists* who think they know these things—it is *politicians*! It is people like Ocasio-Cortez, a 29-year-old who majored in international relations and economics at Boston University. She is *supremely confident* she knows how to fix this, and certain that unless her policies are adopted immediately, people are going to die!

IS THIS RATIONAL? Do Republican lawmakers really think they will be able to address this issue in a way that will satisfy those who are pushing to overhaul our national and global economic system?

In February 2015, 11 months before the Paris climate change accords were adopted, this is how United Nations climate official Christiana Figueres articulated the accords' goal: "This is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of intentionally, within a defined period of time, to CHANGE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODEL that has been reigning for at least 150 years, since the Industrial Revolution."

This is what they are really after! It isn't about science—it's about REMAKING SOCIETY. That is why the people who are push-

ing for this are not so much scientists as socialists, like Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez. Remaking society in this way will undermine America's free market economy and representative government—while giving the government far more power.



"A new age of magic interpretation of the world is coming, of interpretation in terms of the will and not of intelligence. There is no such thing as truth either in the moral or the scientific sense."

a receptive state of fanatic devotion will remain. Words received under a hypnotic influence are *radical* and *impervious to every reasonable explanation*. A new age of *magic interpretation* of the world is coming, of INTERPRETATION IN TERMS OF THE WILL and NOT OF INTELLIGENCE. There is no such thing as truth either in the moral or the scientific sense."

Modern America proves Hitler correct. People are holding on to radical ideas that are *impervious to reason*. They see the world in terms not of intelligence, logic or objective facts, but in a *magic interpretation* of the world in terms of THE WILL.

"It is by this illogic that the family is being attacked," Mr. Flurry wrote in his July 2017 *Trumpet* cover story. "In spite of all evidence to the contrary, people

insist that sexual license has no consequences—that divorce is liberating—that children are better off without both their biological parents—that a child can be raised by a man and his homosexual lover just as well—that marriage is oppressive, unless it is between two people of the same sex—that biological sex isn't reality—that 'gender' is whatever a person thinks in his mind, and that anyone who won't play along is a hateful bigot—and many other bizarre fantasies.

"We are being told that we should enthusiastically dismantle the traditional family—the ENTIRE FOUNDATION OF CIVILIZATION—and that we will be stronger as a society for doing so!

"That is an abominable LIE! It is DEADLY DECEIT! It is *satanic propaganda* that will destroy our nations and our civilization!

"Can you recognize how the radical left is leading the West into a world ruled by the WILL and not by intelligence? And many others follow along or do nothing to oppose this satanic, nation-destroying evil."

Our age is ruled not by reason and rationality—not by science, not by truth—but by *will*.

More and more of our leaders believe that truth itself does not exist. President Obama wrote that there is no such thing

as "absolute truth." When that is gone, all that remains is *asserting your will over others*. People with such illogical, irrational, unscientific, untruthful beliefs and ideologies cannot convince others through rational arguments. The only way they can enforce their will on others is through deceit, lies, intolerance, bullying, coercion and wresting control of the politicians and the courts.

And soon you have the tyranny of the minority.

Who People Are Really Worshiping

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels [this should read *fallen angels*, or *demons*], intruding into those things which he hath not [it should read *has*] seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in WILL WORSHIP ..." (Colossians 2:18, 23).

Paul warned about people worshipping their own WILL. Why is will worship so dangerous? Because, as Mr. Flurry wrote, "When a person worships *will* instead of God, the devil can lead that person into anything!" (ibid). This is the point we must understand.

John Keats, an English Romantic poet in the early 1800s, wrote, "I am certain of nothing but of the *holiness of the heart's affections* and *the truth of imagination*." This is essentially what society has come to believe. People have lost faith in everything except their own hearts and minds.

Jeremiah 17:9 gives a biblical perspective that is the *opposite* of "the holiness of the heart's affections and the truth of imagination." It says the human heart is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

If you do not worship God, then something else becomes your "higher authority," and ultimately it will trace back to that authority being a *human will*—either your own or someone else's. It is, in fact, *will WORSHIP*.

And the reality is, the human will is susceptible to influence by "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). The human will is easily overpowered and taken over by Satan. When you worship it, the devil, "the god of this world," is very much in the picture (2 Corinthians 4:4).

'Will Worship'

Recognize what is really taking place. Do not be distracted by the terminology of the left—*justice, tolerance, rights, fairness, equality*. As they gain power, their methods are increasingly exposed: DECEIT, LIES, INJUSTICE, INTOLERANCE, INEQUALITY, BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, COERCION.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has pinpointed the real spirit of this age. It is a spirit, not of rationality, facts or truth, but of "WILL WORSHIP."

Mr. Flurry often quotes what Adolf Hitler said on Aug. 31, 1944, as relayed by Hermann Rauschning. Think about this: "What you tell people in the mass in

In Colossians, “*wisdom in will worship*” is actually better translated “forced worship of demons.” At first it sounds extreme to say that Satan is leading people, especially those who exalt their own opinions and their own wills. But this is, in fact, the *real* explanation for the world we see around us. Satan is leading more and more people into increasingly open and bizarre immorality. People are indulging in, pushing and celebrating increasingly twisted sins. And Satan is working in more subtle, deceptive ways among far more people than just those at the extremes.

What is happening shows how real, how deceptive and how powerful Satan is! This assault on truth—this rejection of reality—is not just coming from human beings. It is being inspired by an evil being with twisted thinking who wants to *destroy* human beings!

Watching the liberal left gives tremendous insight into how the devil thinks. They are **FORCING** people to obey their will! You don’t agree with homosexuality, transgenderism? Too bad—they’ll teach your children in primary school and won’t even tell you. Resist their thinking, and they’ll insult you, shout at you, chase you out of restaurants, bully you online, threaten you, and condemn you. They will make life so uncomfortable that you are *forced* to surrender and say, “It’s just not worth the fight anymore.”

The Devil’s Lusts ‘You Will to Do’

Jesus Christ was preaching a powerful sermon. “As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And *ye shall know the truth*, and **THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE**” (John 8:30-32).

In a world plagued by lies, intolerance, coercion and force, fake news and fake science, don’t you crave *freedom* from all that?

And what will make you free? *The truth!*

Truth comes from God. It smashes deceit. It protects you from deception. If you *lose* the truth—if you abandon absolute truth and embrace concepts like “relative truth” or “personal truth”—then you become subject to deception, and get tossed around by human reasoning, which is heavily influenced by evil

spiritual influences. And you become *enslaved* to that.

Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin” (verse 34). Sin *enslaves* you! America has been embracing many sins for many years. And it has become enslaved by them.

Notice this profound statement from Christ to the Pharisees: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (verse 44).

There is a lot packed into that verse. But focus on His statement: “the lusts of your father *ye will do*.” Those last three words should be “you will”—or “you **WILL** to do”! “Christ was telling those religious people, *You WILL to do what Satan does!*” Mr. Flurry writes. “Those men actually had **THE WILL OF THE DEVIL!** After all, they were trying to kill Christ!” (*How to Be an Overcomer*).

This is an example of “will worship.” If you cast aside God’s will and don’t worship God, then you will *always* end up worshiping the human will, and *that will ALWAYS* fall under the influence of **SATAN’S WILL**. The trap that these Pharisees fell into is far easier to fall into than people think, and far more common than people realize.

This is why society is taking such a radical turn to the left today. The left is coming under the influence of the devil. They are not governed by any absolute sense of morality. They will say or do anything to accomplish their goals. In one situation, they will say science is unimpeachable authority, and in the next, they will say science is discriminatory. They will rise up in moral indignation to destroy a man for his sins, while justifying even greater sins of their own. They live unapologetically by double standards—while viciously attacking

any hint of hypocrisy in their enemies.

Like the devil himself, their only guiding principle—as occultist Aleister Crowley articulated it—is this: “*Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.*”

How bold of this man to be so up front about it: *Do what you WILL*. This guiding principle always ends up turning into *will WORSHIP*—human beings, led around by the nose by the devil!

This is **WHY** there is such alignment between the left’s thinking and Satan’s thinking. Satan holds people captive because of their sin—and he is drawing them into his world, his thinking—extending his influence into their lives and into society!

You really need to recognize this influence. Read the profound chapter by Gerald Flurry on this subject: Chapter 5 of his booklet *How to Be an Overcomer*, titled “The War of the Wills.” It provides critical understanding on the spiritual dimension to this trend in society.

What is happening in America today shows the inevitable *disaster* that occurs when you **LOSE** this war of the wills! God’s Word *exposes* Satan’s influence so we can recognize it and defend ourselves against it.

We do not want to be worshiping the human will; we want to be worshiping **GOD!** And we want to be submitting our will to the **WILL OF GOD**.

God is a benevolent ruler—Satan is a tyrant. Worshiping a satanically inspired human will leads to tyranny, and to the assault on truth and to the sorts of perversions like those proliferating in the world today. Worshiping the true God is the path to freedom—and to peace.

God is the God of truth: absolute, beautiful, factual, constant truth—the truth that makes you free. When you come to *accept* that truth—whatever it is, whether or not it agrees with your opinions, hurts your pride, or conflicts with your will—and obey it, then you will begin to understand and enjoy *true freedom*. ■

Do you want the truth?

Why do you exist? Why is there male and female? Is there a God? Is there a devil? Life’s big questions need answers—and the Bible has them. Herbert W. Armstrong’s most important book, ***Mystery of the Ages***, will guide you to those answers. Request your free copy.





European Unity? Be Careful What You Wish For

Europe's character will shape its future. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

A EUROPEAN ARMY. A SUPERSTATE. A new European government. European Union leaders are constantly calling for these things. In March, French President Emmanuel Macron wrote an article for publication in newspapers across all 28 EU member states calling for more Europe.

"Never, since World War II, has Europe been as essential," he wrote. "Yet never has Europe been in so much danger."

More Europe means more power. If successfully combined, the EU would have the world's second-largest economy and second-largest military budget.

But would this be a good thing? Would the EU be a force for good in this world?

To many, the answer is an obvious yes. A renewed, reinvigorated Europe could be a powerful United States ally, upholding Western values like freedom, the rule of law and democracy. If Europe stopped kowtowing to the world's dictators, and if it began standing up for itself against radical Islam, the world would be a much better place.

Hand in hand with this rosy view of Europe's future is a rosy picture of Europe's past. The Greeks invented democracy, we tell ourselves. Rome invented the rule of law. The Roman Empire ushered in peace, prosperity and progress. Life was good—until Rome fell. Then we reached the Dark Ages, a time of violence and barbarity. Human progress stopped. The world was only illuminated for brief periods when European rulers attempted to resurrect the Roman Empire.

Then came the Enlightenment. Free thinkers across Europe invented freedom as we know it today. Britain developed those ideas, America put them into

practice with a radical new government based on these ideals.

With that perspective on the past, it seems obvious that a united, self-confident Europe, built on historical values would be a force for good in the world.

But what if this view of history is horribly, horribly wrong? Supporters of European unity should be careful what they wish for.

The True Character of Rome

There are a lot of admirable things in Europe's history: great men, wonderful works of art, and other political and cultural accomplishments. But this standard view of history overlooks a lot of darkness.

Take Rome. America's Founding Fathers admired the Roman Republic. They named the Capitol and the Senate after their Roman predecessors. Around half of these men understood Latin and drew heavily from Roman history.

But all this hides a darkness in Rome's heart. This was a society where humans watched other humans fight to the death as entertainment. Where a baby didn't count as human until accepted by his father. If rejected, the parents would "expose him," leaving the baby to die of exposure in a rubbish dump. Archaeological excavations confirm that this practice was chillingly common.

If the baby was lucky, he would be rescued—by slave traders, eager to profit from the republic's insatiable demand for captive labor. The number of slaves in Italy by the first century B.C. is estimated at 20 to 40 percent of the population (at least 1.5 million people). In later times, the empire was supported by a workforce of around 5 million slaves.

When it treated its children and its slaves like this, it is no wonder that Rome was brutal to its enemies.

The Roman Republic became a superpower in the second century B.C. with two acts of shocking brutality.

Carthage had been Rome's great rival for rule of the Mediterranean. In 216 B.C. the Carthaginian Hannibal defeated the Romans at Cannae, leaving the entire republic vulnerable. Rome barely survived, but over the course of the 17-year-long war, it ultimately beat Carthage.

By 146 B.C., this was old history. Carthage was no longer a threat. But Rome decided that Carthage had to be destroyed. The legions were ordered to leave no building standing and leave no person alive. It took nearly a year, but the once-great Carthage was systematically, carefully, literally wiped off the map.

Carthage was not the only major Mediterranean city Rome destroyed that year. Greece at the time was *under the protection* of Rome. Corinth continued to squabble with other Greek cities as it had always done. To Rome, this was defiance.

Corinth was the richest city in Greece at the time. It was famous across the Med-



iterranean for its art and culture, as well as its seedier entertainments. In 146 B.C., Rome wiped it out. Every man was killed. In a city famed for its prostitutes, the women were not killed, but enslaved, as were the children. The story of Corinth's destruction echoed around the world.

This became a foundational doctrine of Roman power: punishment through citywide destruction. If the Romans had had nuclear weapons, they would have used them, achieving the same effect with much less manpower.

Historian Tom Holland writes in his book *Rubicon: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Roman Empire*, “The obliteration of not one but two of the greatest cities of the Mediterranean was a stunning outrage. ... Even the Romans themselves felt a little queasy. No longer could it be pretended that they were conquering the world in self-defense. ... Cowed and obsequious, states far beyond the shores of Greece also redoubled their efforts to second-guess the republic’s will. Throughout the monarchies of the East, assorted royal poodles would jump whenever the Romans snapped their fingers, perfectly aware that even a hint of independence might result in the hamstringing of their war elephants, or the sudden promotion of rivals to their thrones.”

This was all *before* Rome even became an empire.

Some of the most detailed accounts of the brutality of Rome’s expansion come from Julius Caesar’s conquest of Gaul a century later. Caesar expanded the borders of Rome, refounding both Carthage and Corinth and eventually helping transform Rome into an empire. But as he conquered the land that is now France during the Gallic Wars, about a million Gauls were killed and another million taken as slaves.

When anyone defied or upset Rome, the response was crushing force. When the Jews rebelled, the Romans massacred tens of thousands of them in A.D. 70. Eventually they wiped the very names of “Jerusalem” and “Judea” off the map. Josephus put the death toll at a million, with another 97,000 carried off as slaves.

None of this erases the achievements of Rome. But it gives them their proper context. Pax Romana—peace under Rome—certainly existed. But it was enforced by brutality.

The Romans themselves were well aware of this. As Scipio Aemilianus watched his soldiers destroy Carthage, he wept. Roman historian Publius Cornelius Tacitus wrote that his people “make a desert and call it peace.”

Wannabe Romans

The western Roman Empire fell in the fifth century. In the east, it lingered as the Byzantine Empire.

In A.D. 527, this flagging empire received a breath of new life under

Emperor Justinian.

Generally, the Roman Empire cared little for the religion of its subjects, with the exception of periodically persecuting Jews and Christians. Emperor Constantine had converted to Catholicism 200 years earlier and begun Rome on the path to a theocratic state. But under Justinian, the Roman Empire fully embraced the state religion—and the persecution of dissenters.

Byzantine law stated that Christians who did not conform to the Catholic Church should be “driven outside the



walls of the city with relentless violence.” Non-Catholic places of worship were eradicated as far away as North Africa.

Encyclopedia Britannica wrote of Justinian, “As no preceding sovereign has been so much interested in church affairs, so none seems to have shown so much activity as a persecutor both of pagans and of heretics.”

Religion also became a major part of the empire’s external goals. “For the first time in Roman history, the conversion of pagan kings became enshrined as a priority of state,” writes Tom Holland in his book *In the Shadow of the Sword*. “The church, of course, had been ambitious to plant the cross on the furthest reaches of the world ... That the Roman state had a duty to contribute to this mission was, however, a more radical presumption.”

As part of this mission, Justinian reconquered Rome, restoring the empire in the West. But he could not hold on to it for long. After his death, the empire shrank back.

The next to revive Rome was Charlemagne. Charlemagne ascended to the

Frankish throne in A.D. 768 and quickly formed a partnership with the Catholic Church. The pope legitimized his rule by preaching that he was the rightful king of the Franks, and later, Holy Roman emperor. In return, Charlemagne supported the pope with his military.

This empire had the same warrior spirit. Charlemagne spent most of his life fighting, but his longest war was against the Saxons. His own biographer and loyal servant, Einhard, wrote, “Never was there a war more prolonged or crueller than this, nor one that required greater efforts on the part of the Frankish peoples.”

Holland describes the general pattern of destruction in his book *Millennium*: “Warfare had long been the activity of choice among the Franks. ... Leaders who failed to provide their followers with the spoils of pillage rarely endured for long. No sooner had winter thawed into spring than the Frankish people, dusting down their spears, would prepare to follow their king out on campaign. Charlemagne, whose hunger for booty was insatiable, had inherited to the full the appetites of a primordial line of warrior-chiefs.”

Charlemagne was born a warrior. Holland discusses Charlemagne’s view of himself as a new David, the head of a new chosen people with the sanction of God: “It was in the perfect consciousness of this that Charlemagne made the wastes of Saxony to flow with pagan blood; that he spread even among the barbarous Slavs who swarmed on the outer reaches of the world awful rumors of the wrath and terror of his name; that he returned every autumn from his campaigns with lumbering wagon trains of booty, spoils with which to strengthen the Christian order throughout his vast domains” (ibid).

The blood that flowed was not only spilled in battle. After one rebellion, Charlemagne executed thousands of prisoners. Entire tribes were forcibly relocated. Even some of Charlemagne’s advisers questioned the degree of bloodshed he inflicted.

He imposed Catholicism on all he could reach. Refusal to be baptized meant death. So did following the old pagan religions, holding unauthorized religious meetings, and eating meat during Lent. “Not since the age of the

Caesars had atrocities been committed on quite so imperious a scale—and never before with the goal of *imposing the love of Christ*” (ibid; emphasis added).

The empire fell apart after Charlemagne died. But in 955, Rome was again resurrected. This time it was the Saxons themselves, now thoroughly converted to Catholicism, who provided the emperor, Otto the Great. In Otto’s empire, “it was taken for granted that warfare might be a Christian’s ultimate duty,” writes Holland. And the character of the empire remained the same. Catholic enemies of the empire could expect some clemency. But when he defeated the pagan Magyars at the Battle of Lechfeld in 955, Otto took no prisoners except high-ranking nobles. It was custom in those days to ransom and return captured princes; instead, Otto publicly executed them. Shortly afterward, Otto defeated the pagan Slavs at the Battle of Recknitz. He executed all the prisoners. These two savage battles cemented Otto’s rule.

During the reign of Otto’s descendants, the Catholic Church launched the Crusades, a series of bloody wars designed to retake the Holy Land. Millions of people died. Although they are perhaps the best-known examples of Catholic bloodshed, the Crusades were just part of a much longer, larger, bloodier pattern over the past two millennia.

The Habsburg Dynasty succeeded Otto’s dynasty to lead the Holy Roman Empire. Under the Habsburgs, the Holy Roman Empire reached its largest territorial extent. Maximilian I was one of the first of these rulers to reach prominence. Under his son, Philip, Spain conquered most of the New World.

The Catholic Church poured into the newly conquered territories. Though they are impossible to verify, contemporary reports claim the Franciscans alone baptized 5 million people—roughly 1 percent of the world population at the time.

Newly introduced diseases wiped out large numbers of the conquered, but the Spanish and Portuguese conquerors also committed massacres—and documented them. “Through a combination of ruthlessness that stands comparison with the great Mongol invasions across Asia, [Hernán] Cortés and his men seized the Aztec treasures, pillaging ‘like little beasts ... each man utterly possessed by

greed,’ according to an account compiled in the 16th century from eyewitness testimonies” (*The Silk Roads*).

Of course, the Aztecs do not make sympathetic victims. The Spanish were wiping out a civilization built on slavery and human sacrifice. But the point is, the pattern of European butchery continued.

Meanwhile, there was plenty more Catholic butchery back home. The Protestant Reformation had begun, and the Habsburgs took the lead in combating it. The empire killed or drove out Protestants, Jews and Muslims from Spain. Wars of religion broke out repeatedly. The persecutions and wars of this period killed an estimated 50 million people.

Napoleon was the next to try to resurrect the Roman Empire. His armies marched under standards depicting Roman eagles. He consciously modeled himself after Julius Caesar. After initially



opposing the Catholic Church, he cut a deal with it. He brought Catholicism back to secular, post-revolution France and restored many of its privileges, as well as the church’s role in education. In return, he received the church’s support.

In his bid to take over Europe, Napoleon launched war after war. Credible estimates of the total death toll put it around 5 million. Napoleon was callous about death, even the deaths of his own countrymen. After the Battle of Austerlitz, when one general lamented the number of French dead, Napoleon replied that “the women of Paris can replace those men in one night.” In 1813, when Austrian Foreign Minister Klemens von Metternich warned Napoleon about the human cost of continuing to fight, Napoleon said he would gladly sacrifice a

million Frenchmen to gain his ambition.

At Waterloo in 1815, Napoleon faced another battle with a terrible death toll—and it was his last.

The next attempt to resurrect Rome needs little explanation. Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini modeled their rule after the Roman Empire, and both signed the same kind of deals with the Catholic Church. The death toll resulting from this adventurism was some 60 million.

World War II may seem like an aberration in European history, but in truth, it was the continuation of 2,000 years of European history.

A Beast

The history of Europe is a history of a church allying with a military power, lifetime after lifetime, century after century.

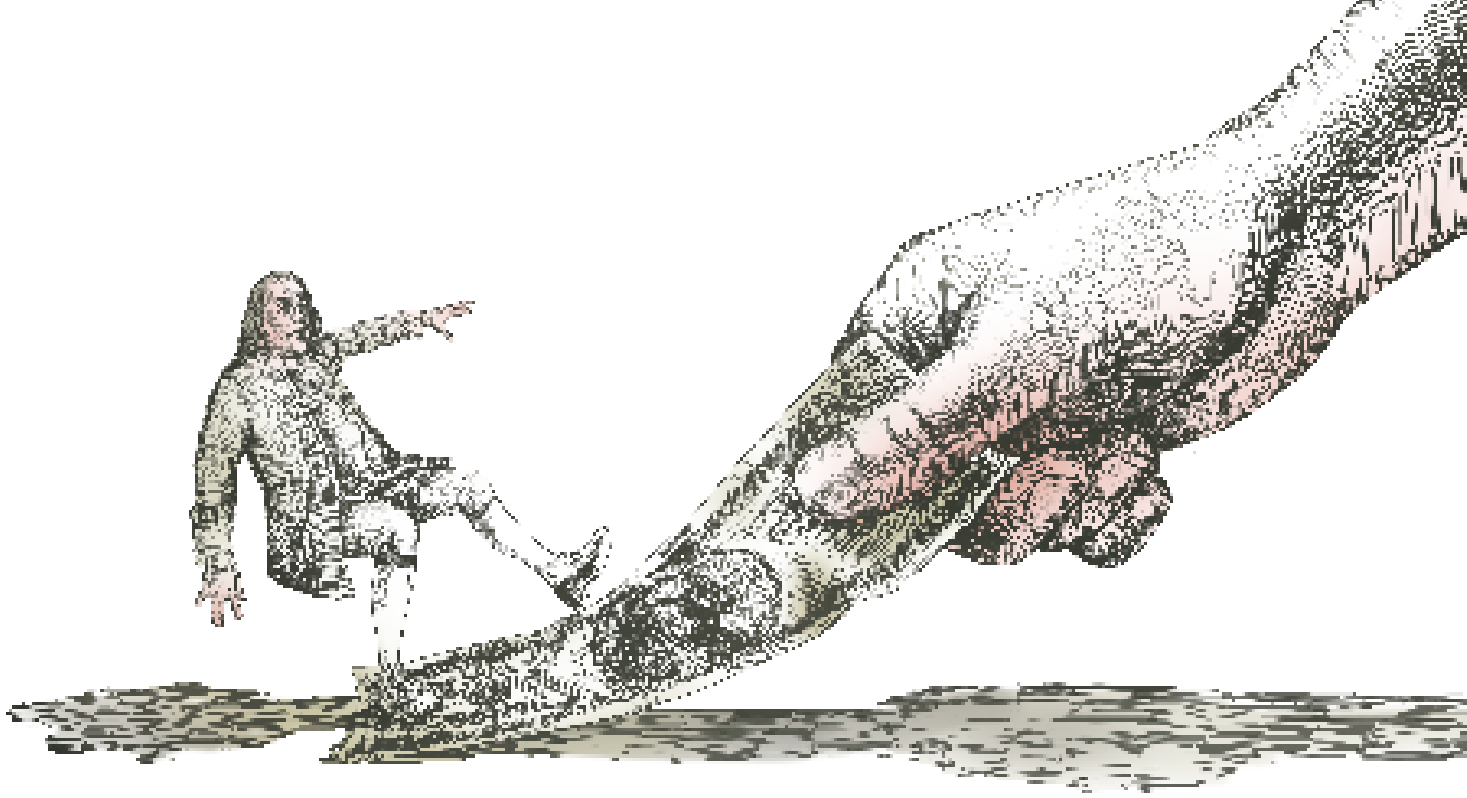
So what does *the Bible* have to say about this? The Bible actually contains specific prophecies about the rise of this power and the role of this church.

In the book of Daniel, God gives an overview of thousands of years of world history. These prophecies describe historical figures like Alexander the Great; prophecies so accurate and clear that critics insist they must have been written after the events occurred.

But the book also describes the empire that *followed* Alexander. Daniel 7:7 describes a symbolic beast that is “terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet” (New Living Translation). This is an excellent description of a power that defeated Carthage, then returned 50 years later to grind its last remains into dust. Verse 23 states that this beast will “devour the whole world, trampling and crushing everything in its path” (NLT). This is a prophecy of the Roman Empire.

Describing the world powers listed in Daniel 7, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes, “These are dreadful beasts that conquer and enslave entire nations. It’s what these beasts do.” However, he continues, Britain and America like “to think of them as harmless wild animals. ... They fear to face the extremely unpleasant truth” (*Daniel Unlocks Revelation*).

This fourth beast, the Roman Empire, is emphasized in Daniel 7 for its strength and destructive power. “The



When Will the Dollar Collapse?

The U.S. dollar: The world's worst reserve currency, except for all the others—for now. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

DARK CLOUDS LOOM FOR THE WORLD'S dominant currency. Despite some positive financial news in the United States, nations are reducing their reliance on the U.S. dollar. In its stead, they are filling their vaults with gold, euros, yuan and other currencies.

The Central Bank of Russia accelerated its dedollarization efforts last year and dumped 98 percent of its dollar reserves. It then moved \$44 billion into euros, \$44 billion into yuan, and almost \$13 billion into 274 tons of gold bullion.

And Russia is far from the only nation turning away from the greenback. Kazakhstan and Turkey cut their dollar reserves in half last year and loaded up on 51 tons of gold bullion apiece. China sold 5 percent of its dollar reserves, and bought 10 tons of gold. Ireland dumped 14 percent of its dollar reserves, Switzerland dumped 6 percent of its dollar reserves, and Japan dumped 2 percent of its dollar reserves. Altogether, around 60 nations reduced their central bank's dollar holdings last year, while over two dozen nations boosted their gold reserves.

Demand for gold has soared to its highest level since U.S. President Richard

Nixon killed what was left of the gold standard in 1971. This is a sign that nations are losing faith in the American currency.

The world economy is propped up by the U.S. economy, but the U.S. economy is a house built on a bad foundation. The U.S. government collected \$3.3 trillion in taxes last year, but spent \$4.1 trillion. It had to borrow \$779 billion just to meet expenses. The national debt rose more than \$1.2 trillion to an unbelievable \$21.5 trillion. And net *interest* on this debt rose to *\$371 billion*. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that America will be spending more on interest than national defense within a decade.

These statistics are hard to fathom. For perspective, compare the government to a household. Slash seven zeros from the official figures, and it is like a well-to-do family that earns \$330,000 a year—yet spends \$410,000 a year. This family put a staggering \$78,000 on its credit card last year, even though it already had \$2,150,000 in credit card debt. It pays \$37,000 a year *in interest*, and it no longer pretends to have a plan to pay off its debts. No well-managed

bank would lend this family more money.

The U.S. government has spent like this for decades, and nations keep lending it all the money it wants at historically low interest rates. Why?

Banks keep lending America money because the dollar is the world's dominant reserve currency. Nearly 45 percent of the world's debt is denominated in dollars, and about 52 percent of international trade is conducted in dollars. Since banks around the world need a lot of dollars to conduct business, almost 62 percent of foreign exchange reserves are held in dollars.

The high demand for dollars keeps the interest rate on America's debt low. Because many people want to own dollars, they want to buy dollars. Purchasing U.S. debt in the form of U.S. Treasury bonds is an easy way to do that. And since so many people want to buy these bonds, America's government can sell them at incredibly low interest rates.

But as nations lose faith in the U.S. financial system and sell off their dollar reserves, the situation is changing. The dollar is losing its reserve currency

status. Its value is decreasing, and the interest rate that banks charge America for loans is rising. The only reason the dollar has not collapsed is that the world's other major currencies are in even worse shape than the dollar. Since there is currently no viable alternative reserve currency, banks grudgingly continue to use the dollar—despite its flaws.

This will change—and soon!

Millennia ago, the Bible foretold that the U.S. would be plagued by debt in the end time, and it strongly indicates that the dollar will lose its reserve currency status to a European superpower.

Almighty Dollar

The U.S. dollar was not always a reserve currency. Before World War I, the British pound sterling was the dominant currency, and the dollar was barely used outside the borders of America. But the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 centralized the U.S. banking system as nations around the world began abandoning the gold standard so they could pay for their

dollar became the new gold standard.

During the 1950s, over 90 percent of the world's debt was denominated in dollars. An economic downturn in the early 1970s, however, caused nations to lose faith in the dollar's stability. So they started demanding gold for the dollars they held in reserve. Rather than watch American gold reserves deplete, President Richard Nixon abandoned what was left of the gold standard. To ensure that the dollar remained the world's dominant reserve currency, he negotiated a deal with the Saudis. He promised to arm and protect Saudi Arabia if the Saudi royals would denominate all future oil sales in dollars. The Saudis agreed, and the dollar became an oil-backed currency.

The fact that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries uses dollars in all its oil transactions creates a massive demand for U.S. currency. It is partially due to this demand that the average interest rate on a 10-year loan to the U.S. government fell from 7.56 percent in 1974 to 2.69 percent today.

When the dollar is no longer in global demand, the U.S. will lose its ability to borrow cheap money, and interest payments on the national debt will consume a burgeoning portion of America's gross domestic product.

military expenses with borrowed paper currency. America then became a lender of choice as nations bought U.S. bonds denominated in Federal Reserve Notes.

When Britain finally abandoned the gold standard in 1919, banks started reducing their dependency on the British pound and turned to the U.S. dollar.

The dollar's position as the world's dominant reserve currency grew stronger during World War II. America sold weapons, supplies and other goods to the Allied powers in return for gold. By the war's end, the U.S. owned the majority of the world's gold reserves. Since no other nation could establish a gold-backed currency, the world's biggest economies fixed the exchange rate of their currencies to the dollar. In 1944, at a conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, America promised that any dollar could be redeemed for its value in gold. So the

Since nations need dollars to buy oil and other goods, they buy dollars in the form of U.S. Treasury Bonds (which are like an IOU from the U.S. government). Since demand for Treasury Bonds is high, interest rates are low. This means the U.S. can continue racking up debt by selling IOUs around the world without having to worry too much about the costs of servicing its expanding debt.

Former French Finance Minister Valéry Giscard d'Estaing called America's ability to borrow at low interest because of the dollar's reserve currency status an "exorbitant privilege." This privilege is based on a high demand for U.S. Treasury Bonds. When the dollar is no longer in international demand, the U.S. will lose its ability to borrow cheap money, and interest payments on the national debt will consume a burgeoning portion of America's gross domestic product.

New System

No currency reigns forever. The same pressures that unseated the French franc in the 19th century and the British pound in the 20th century will unseat the dollar in the 21st century.

What caused national banks to stop using the British pound for their transactions in 1919? It was primarily Britain's debt. Governments looked at how much Britain owed, its economic output and the fact that its currency was backed not by gold but by the belief that it was valuable—and they stopped believing.

Today, America has a far worse debt, and it continues to borrow. Nations are losing faith in the dollar's stability; they just have no other option—yet.

Many European leaders want the euro to replace the dollar as the world's dominant reserve currency, but worries that the EU may fall apart have prevented central banks from wholeheartedly embracing the euro. Likewise, many Chinese government officials want the yuan to replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency, but China's lack of currency transparency has been a stumbling block.

"There is no alternative to the dollar," British political economist Mark Blyth told the *New York Times*. "We're stuck with the dollar, which gives the United States astonishing structural power" (February 22).

Until a good alternative emerges, nations worried about America's debt must move slowly: They can only *gradually* decrease their dollar holdings as they reluctantly buy euros and yuan.

But the status quo is ripe for change if the eurozone truly unites into a German-run superstate, or if China relaxes the yuan's peg to the dollar. Many nations and individuals desperately want these changes. But if history is any guide, it will take a shock to overturn the world's financial system.

The shock that catapulted the dollar to dominant reserve currency status between 1913 and 1919 was a banking crisis in Europe that prompted central banks to load up on American currency. Ironically, it may be a banking crisis in America that prompts central banks to load up on European currency.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong predicted that a financial crisis in America would likely be a catalyst prompting

Europe to unite. Specifically, he warned in 1984 that a massive banking crisis in America “could suddenly result in triggering European nations to UNITE AS A NEW WORLD POWER larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.” (co-worker letter, July 22, 1984).

In other words, a banking crisis could scare European nations into surrendering control to a central authority. Once the euro is supported by a central government strong enough to regulate its member states’ tax and spending policies, the dollar’s day as the dominant reserve currency will be over. The greenback will be a co-regent with the euro at best, an isolated North American currency at worst.

Economic Siege

This shocking forecast is not just based on present financial conditions. It is also based on Bible prophecy. In his landmark book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Mr. Armstrong explained that the Anglo-Saxon peoples who settled Britain and the United States are actually descendants of the ancient Israelites. This astonishing truth means that all end-time prophecies in the Bible concerning Israel are primarily directed at the United States and Britain. A series of prophecies in Deuteronomy reveals the specific curses that will descend on end-time Israel after it turns from God’s law.

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee. ... The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. ... The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee” (Deuteronomy 28:15, 43-44, 49, 52).

This passage predicts debt problems when it says, “He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him.” It also indicates trade war and crippling economic sanctions when it says, “[H]e shall besiege thee in all thy gates.”

Other prophecies reveal that Assyria will be “the rod” of God’s anger and “the staff” of His indignation against America (Isaiah 10:5; Lamentations 5:6; Ezekiel 23:9). *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains how the ancient Assyrians settled in modern-day Germany. So, it will ultimately be *Germany* that partners with nine other nations in Europe to besiege and invade the U.S. (Revelation 17:12-13). This is a shocking prophecy that can only be fulfilled if a European superstate surpasses America in economic and military might.

How will this come to pass?

Every indication is that a global financial crisis is about to drop the U.S. from its present dizzying heights, allowing Europe and its allies to usurp its economic dominance.

Currency Collapse

If a massive financial crisis centered in America is the catalyst that sparks the rise of the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, as Mr. Armstrong predicted, then the world is in for another change in reserve currencies. And with modern technology, it will be even swifter than the last time.

When investors start dumping dollars and rushing to other currencies, demand for U.S. Treasury Bonds will plummet and interest rates will spike. The U.S. is already spending 11 percent of its total tax revenue just to pay the interest on its debt. But if interest rates returned to the level they were at just four decades ago, during the 1981-82 recession, America would have to spend 44 percent of its tax revenue on interest.

It would struggle to finance both an army and a massive welfare state.

Under such conditions, it would be almost impossible for the government to borrow money. The nation would be forced to either slash spending or start printing money instead of borrowing. That would mean printing over \$2 trillion every year just to pay *interest* on the debt and keep the government running. Money printing on such a scale cannot go on indefinitely without causing hyperinflation. The value of each individual dollar would decline as the nation pumped out more and more dollars.

Once the dollar loses its reserve currency status, economic collapse will follow hard!

For insight into what happens when a financially isolated nation has to print massive amounts of money to remain financially solvent, look at Venezuela. When this nation entered an economic crisis in 2013, its government responded by printing 500 million bolívares. This expanded the nation’s broad money supply by 70 percent—and caused the bolívar’s value to plummet 44 percent. In the five years since, the nation has printed another 80 trillion bolívares, and their value has dropped to the point where you literally have to be a millionaire to buy a cup of coffee.

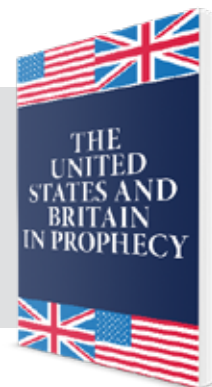
Similar conditions are coming to America after the dollar is dethroned and the nation is economically besieged.

It is time to heed the warning and understand that God will allow economic calamity to come upon America for a reason: to correct people for turning away from His commandments and statutes.

These prophecies are alarming—but if you are moved to action and stirred to seek out God and His protection, then there is nothing more exciting on this planet! ■

What is prophesied for America?

The West would be stunned if it knew. Governments all over the world would set gigantic crash programs in motion—if they knew! But they do not. You, however, can know! You can prove it from your own Bible. To learn the key to understanding biblical prophecy, order your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s crucial book: ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy***.



WHY THE DOLLAR'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED

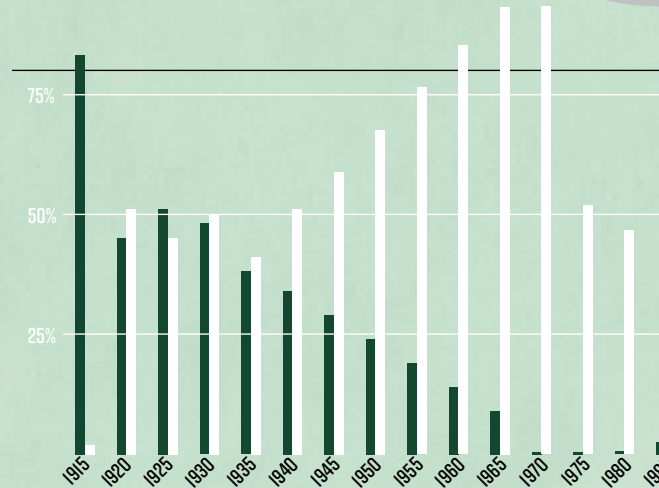
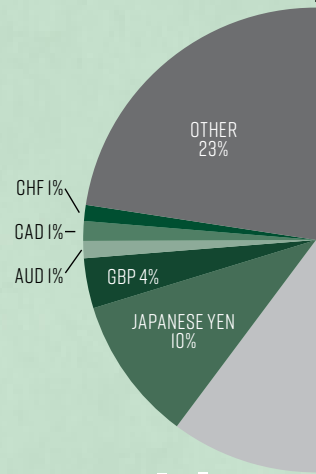
One of the richest and wisest men to ever live wrote a proverb preserved in the Bible, which says, "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverb 22:7). When the United States became the world's leading creditor after World War I, the U.S. dollar became the world's ruling currency. But now that the U.S. has become the world's leading debtor, the situation is about to change. Nations are starting to dump their dollar holdings and buy gold, euros, yuan and other currencies. A coming currency collapse is about to leave America destitute.

"IN A NUTSHELL, A CATASTROPHIC COLLAPSE IS COMING, PROBABLY SOONER THAN LATER, AND THE RESULT WILL BE AN ENTIRELY NEW INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM IN WHICH THE DOLLAR IS DETHRONED AS THE WORLD'S LEADING RESERVE CURRENCY AND SOMETHING NEW IS PUT IN ITS PLACE."

—JAMES G. RICKARDS, CURRENCY WARS: THE MAKING OF THE NEXT GLOBAL CRISIS

1. A LOT OF THE WORLD'S MONEY IS IN U.S. DOLLARS

The dollar is a global currency. Roughly 16 percent of all the money in the world is dollars, and over half of these dollars are used outside America's borders. This includes over \$1 trillion in foreign markets and over \$6 trillion in foreign banks. This high demand for dollars keeps interest rates on America's debt low.

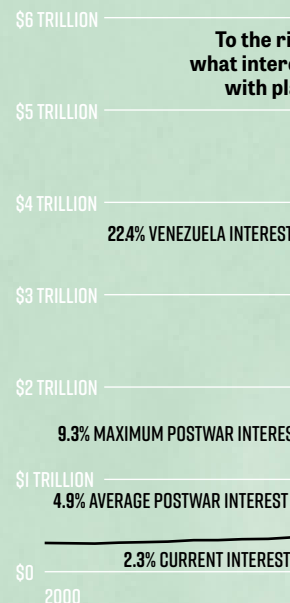


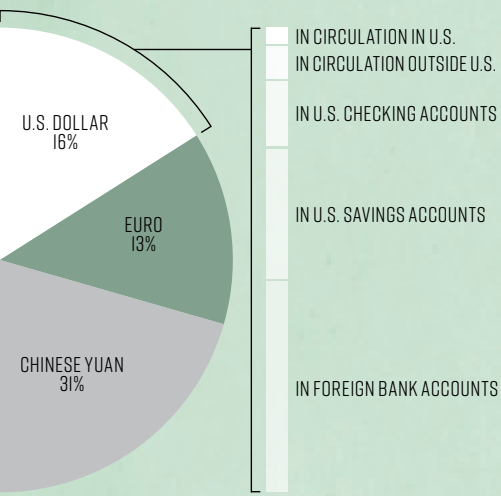
3. FOREIGN NATIONS ARE STARTING TO BORROW MONEY

When nations borrow money, they usually choose to borrow it in dollars. In 1915, 75 percent of the world's debt was issued in British pounds. But after Britain kept their debt in dollars instead. Today, many nations prefer

5. AS THE DEMAND FOR U.S. DOLLARS DECLINES, THE INTEREST ON AMERICA'S DEBT WILL RISE

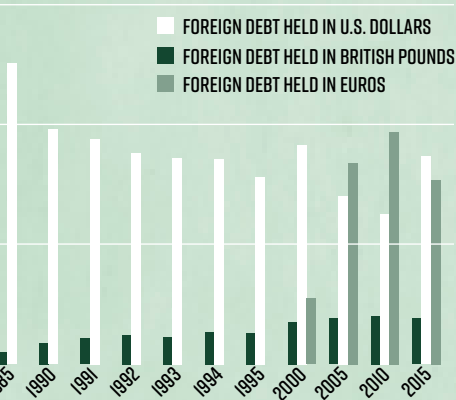
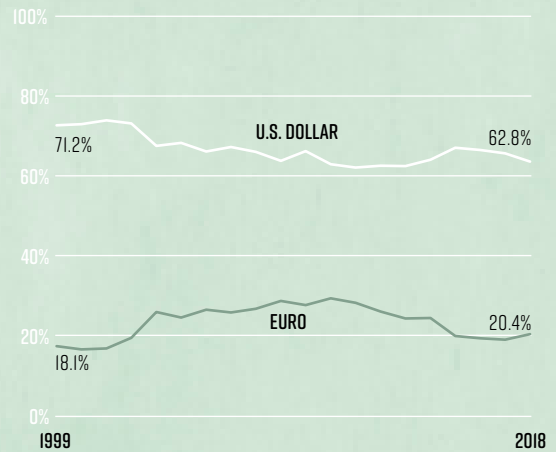
The U.S. government pays 2.3 percent of its national debt in net interest, meaning that 11 percent of tax revenue is spent paying interest on the debt. If the dollar loses its reserve currency status, U.S. creditors will demand a higher interest rate. If rates spike to the level that socialist Venezuela currently pays, America will have to set aside all its tax revenue just to service its burgeoning \$22 trillion debt.





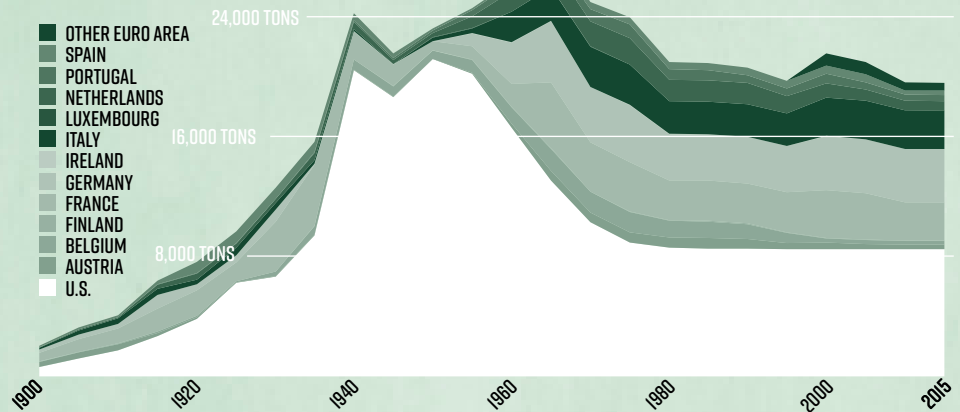
2. BUT CENTRAL BANKS ARE STARTING TO GET RID OF THEIR U.S. DOLLARS

Before the euro was launched in 1999, 71 percent of currency held in foreign central banks was U.S. dollars. But nations worried about America's debt are dumping dollars to buy euros, yuan and other currencies. The dollar's share of the world's foreign exchange reserves is down almost 10 percent from its peak in 2000.



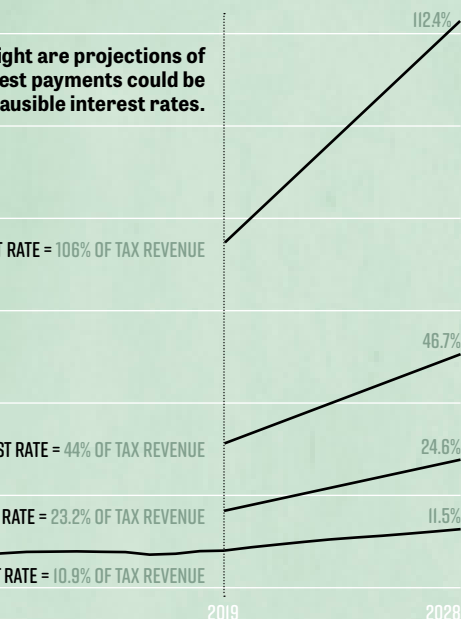
3. MOVING DEBT IN EUROS INSTEAD OF U.S. DOLLARS

As a stable currency. Before World War I, most nations abandoned the gold standard, nations started to denominate their debt in euros.



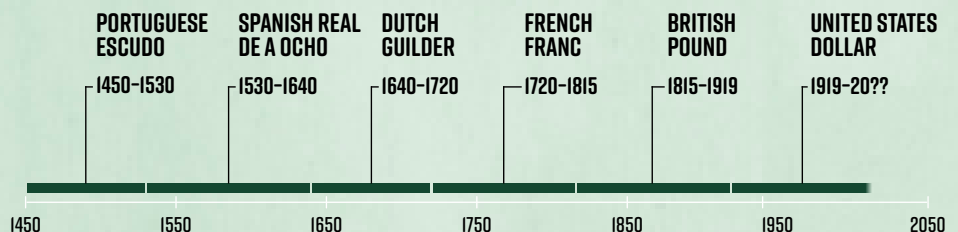
4. AND AMERICA'S GOLD RESERVES ARE DRAINING AWAY

The dollar became the world's dominant currency because the U.S. possessed most of the world's gold reserves. But in the decades since World War II, most of its gold reserves have been sold to European nations. The euro area now has 10,778 metric tons of gold, compared to America's 8,134.



6. RESERVE CURRENCY STATUS DOES NOT LAST FOREVER

2019 is the 100th anniversary of the dollar's reign as a reserve currency. But history shows that no currency reigns forever. On average, the first five examples below each lasted 94 years. When the dollar is finally replaced, decades of budgetary mismanagement will catch up with America, allowing other nations to usurp its position of economic dominance.





Language doesn't just express thought, it can also influence it. Purify the language, and you can help purify thoughts and actions.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

WHEN ONE PERSON SPEAKS TO another, the process generally goes like this: The speaker thinks a thought. He then moves his tongue and lips in certain ways while exhaling and resonating his vocal chords. This produces vibrations passing through the air as huffs, pops, bursts, hisses, pitches and tones. The listener's ear detects these sound waves, and his brain converts them into a thought very similar to the thought of the speaker.

We take this for granted, but it is an astonishing thing. By making hisses, tones and pops, human beings can transmit intricate ideas to one another.

You could say to your friend, "Abraham Lincoln atop the Great Pyramid." Your friend's mind will create an image of that concept, probably for the first time in his or her life.

An air traffic controller can tell a pilot during a low-fuel emergency: "I can offer you Runway 08 at Victoria Airport, eight miles to your east." And all souls on board can be saved.

A man can say three words to his wife, and she understands that she is cherished.

This is the miracle of language.

Human beings speak about 6,700 different languages, each with its unique traits, vocabulary choices, patterns, sentence structures and sounds.

Here is what is fascinating: The language that a person speaks determines more than just the sounds he makes to refer to certain things. Linguists have discovered that the specific language a

person speaks actually influences the way he sees the world, how he thinks, and what he does.

Language Gives Superhuman Ability?

Kuuk Thaayorre is a language spoken by a small community in northern Australia. One remarkable characteristic of this language is the way it describes space and direction.

Kuuk Thaayorre doesn't have any words like "left," "right," "forward" and "backward." These are relative words; they define direction relative to the observer's position. Speakers of Kuuk Thaayorre instead have only absolute terms: north, south, east and west. They say, "I injured my northwest foot," or "Move that table a little to the south-southeast."

Speakers of other languages would find it difficult to use only cardinal directions and not relative directions, because we often do not know where we are on the compass. But for speakers of Kuuk Thaayorre, it is second nature. They are always firmly oriented, because their language requires it.

"The result is a profound difference in navigational ability and spatial knowledge," wrote Lera Boroditsky, a cognitive scientist. "Simply put, speakers of languages like Kuuk Thaayorre are much better than English speakers at staying oriented and keeping track of where they are, even in unfamiliar landscapes or inside unfamiliar buildings. ... What enables them—in fact, forces them—to do this is their language" ("How Does Our Language Shape the Way We Think?" *Edge*, June 11, 2009).

During a 2017 lecture, Boroditsky explained that Kuuk Thaayorre speakers remain oriented more firmly than experts thought human beings were capable of doing. She said: "We used to think that humans were worse than other creatures because of some biological excuse. 'Oh, we don't have magnets in our beaks or in our scales.' No. If your language and your culture train you to do it, actually, you can do it."

In this way, the thinking and ability of Kuuk Thaayorre speakers has been shaped by *their language*.

But not all traits of a language benefit those who speak it.

Orange You Grateful for Language?

In the 1950s, Eric Lenneberg and John Roberts from the Linguistic Society of America studied the language of the Zuni tribe of Native Americans in New Mexico. They noticed that the Zuni language had just one word that covered both yellow and orange.

What surprised the researchers was that after monolingual speakers of Zuni were taught the difference between the two colors and some time passed, they had considerable difficulty remembering it. Lenneberg and Roberts wrote that even after being shown the difference, "not a single monolingual Zuni recognized correctly either orange or yellow." These Zuni-speakers saw color exactly as speakers of other languages do. But they had lived their whole lives without any words to distinguish between these two colors, so they couldn't remember the difference.

This example shows how language can *limit* our thinking. Words can be missing from our vocabularies and our comprehension, whose absence we are not even aware of. Our thoughts affect our languages, and our languages affect our thoughts. How we use our languages not only limits us but also corrupts us.

"Today, all languages are corrupt. ... All languages have peculiarities of expression and grammatical oddities," the late educator Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. "They are literally filled with pagan, heathen terms—superstition—misnomers—exceptions to rules—peculiar idioms."

As Mr. Armstrong wrote, this leads to worse things than just oddities

that make languages hard to learn. It entrenches false concepts, and it causes misunderstandings. Most misunderstandings and linguistic hindrances are unintentional. But sometimes language impurities are intentionally exploited.

Dangerous Language Ambiguities

In July of 1945, as World War II ended in Europe, the war in the Pacific raged on. The United States was closing in on Japan and demanded its surrender. The response of Japanese Prime Minister Kantarō Suzuki's government centered on one word: *mokustatsu*.

Mokustatsu can convey, "We remain silent about this for now and need more time," or it can convey, "We treat your message with contempt."

These are stark differences for a word appearing in a crucial message. Some analysts believe the Japanese intentionally used this ambiguous answer to stall as they tried to broker a last-chance deal with the Soviet Union while continuing to inflict as many casualties on the U.S. as possible. Naval historian James Hornfischer wrote: "*Mokustatsu* was an evasive term used advisedly" by Prime Minister Suzuki "in order to buy time that his nation, it turned out, did not have" (*The Fleet at Flood Tide: America at Total War in the Pacific, 1944-1945*).

Language researcher Matthew Coslett writes that Japanese nationalists and militarists "could take the harshest meaning and imagine a strong prime minister contemptibly brushing aside the foreign bully boys; while the more peace-loving politicians [in the U.S.] could assume that the statement indicated that surrender wasn't off the cards" ("The Japanese Art of Silence," *Gaijin Pot*).

To some degree, this worked, but not on U.S. President Harry Truman. In response to Suzuki's "*mokustatsu*," he authorized the atomic attacks that finally brought the fanatical Japanese war machine to a halt.

Language can affect thinking and behavior when the stakes are incredibly high.

So how did language originate, and why are there so many languages, each with so many flaws?

Origin of Language and Its Corruption

The Creator of human beings is the Creator of human languages.

God gave the first man not only the ability to understand and speak a language, but also the ability to create new words. Genesis 2:19 says that God brought the animals He had created to Adam "to see what he would call them." And whatever Adam called each one, "that was the name thereof." This expandable God-given language was pure.

But after Adam and Eve chose to reject God and yield to Satan's influence instead, as shown in Genesis 3, they not only continued expanding the language's vocabulary but they also began corrupting it.

And they were far from alone in this corruption. The Bible makes clear that Satan the devil is "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). And Ephesians 2:2 describes him as "the prince of the power of the air." This powerful spirit being is the original perverter of human thought and language. He infects people's thinking with his own toxicity by "broadcasting" it wordlessly

Generation after generation, mankind corrupted languages more, bringing us to the present with each one filled with perversions, vagaries and impurities.

to us. "Satan transmits through the air—broadcasts—attitudes, impulses, desires of vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition, rebellion against authority," Mr. Armstrong wrote (op cit).

Jeremiah 17:9 shows that since mankind yields to Satan's attitudes, the human heart—or intellect—is "deceitful" and "wicked." And since the human heart is wicked, the thoughts and words that people speak are evil (Matthew 12:34-35).

The Division of Languages

For the next 1,700 years after Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's corrosive influence, all of humanity continued to speak and to increasingly corrupt this same original language. Genesis 11:1 notes that at the end of that era, "the whole earth was [still] of one language." Everyone was still speaking the language God had given Adam, but it had become rife with corruption, reflecting evils in thought and action.

The main population gathered at this time somewhere in the area that is now Iraq, and began collaborating on a huge

project motivated by an evil purpose. Two generations earlier, a global flood had punished the world's population for its sins. But now they began to build a tower in which they thought they could survive such a punishment. They could live their lives as they pleased, rejecting God's authority and law just as Adam and Eve had, and still avoid the punishment (verses 2-4). The tower of Babel was a type of humanity's attitude toward God throughout our history.

In response, God did something ingenious. He took the gift of language, the ability to share and unify thoughts, and abruptly divided it. This immediately divided the people into separate groups.

That day, God created perhaps dozens of language groups as He "confound[ed] their language" so they were unable to "understand one another's speech" (verse 7). This was the origin of the parent languages that have resulted in the 6,700 different languages spoken today.

This did not result in people repenting toward God. But it did slow their project of open rebellion toward God that would have quickly led to self-destruction.

Generation after generation, mankind corrupted those languages more and more, bringing us to the present with each one filled with perversions, vagaries and impurities.

But the Bible shows that there is a time on the horizon when language will be purified and unified once again!

A Pure Tongue

The Bible is clear that Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth and use God's Holy Spirit and His government to reeducate mankind to love His law, His truth and His way of life. This will convert mankind and the Earth into the "wonderful World Tomorrow" that Mr. Armstrong's booklet discusses in depth. "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11; see also Revelation 12:5; 19:15-16).

Mr. Armstrong stressed that this global reeducation and conversion will happen because God will impart His Holy Spirit to mankind and teach them. “All this is made possible only through the Holy Spirit, providing *spiritual comprehension*,” he wrote. “[W]e shall never have real utopia on Earth until human nature is changed [and] man can’t change his human nature” (ibid).

Man cannot fix his wicked heart, but “God can—and will,” Mr. Armstrong wrote.

Scripture also specifically mentions a revolution in *language* that will occur in the future. Zephaniah 3:9 quotes God as saying: “For then will I turn to the people a pure language”

This is when God will undo the language divisions. With His Holy Spirit, He will undo the evils that human beings have embedded in their communications. God will give all human beings one unifying language, and it will be pure.

If the language is pure, what will that mean for those who speak it? Much more than just convenience.

Considering how Kuuk Thaayorre affects the thinking and enhances some abilities of its speakers, and considering how the Zuni language puts some limits on its speakers, and considering that God highlights this specific issue in His inspiring prophecy about our future, we can infer that the pure language will play a part in purifying the peoples’ thinking.

Mr. Armstrong made clear that people’s hearts and thinking will be cleansed by the power of God’s Spirit. And he wrote that the pure language will also play a role in building that utopia. “A different language means a different culture, different music, different habits, different education, different values and standards, and a whole different approach to life,” he wrote (ibid).

People will use the Holy Spirit and the pure language to understand the beauty of God’s way and the world around them and to share that understanding with others in vivid color, in precise detail, and in truth. This will be a new era of brilliant music and art, rich literature, scintillating conversation and tightly knit families and societies. It will be an age of radiant health—physically, mentally and spiritually.

Learning to speak—and think—the universal pure language will help people

be upright, highly capable individuals. It will help men and women mature into deep thinkers who are stable, understanding and joyous. It will help them remain law-loving individuals living lives of peace, accomplishment and fulfillment.

Mr. Armstrong continued: “What an age it will be, when all the world becomes truly educated—and speaks the same language.”

Learning the Pure Language

Changing the language will require thorough reeducation not only of vocabulary and grammar, but of thought itself. “Yes, indeed, the educating and reeducating of the world will be one of the most important tasks the Kingdom of God will face, after Christ returns to rule,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “Their entire thinking will require a reorientation—a change of direction” (ibid).

Part of this reeducation and reorientation may be helping old corrupt languages fade as people learn the pure one.

A Japanese person learning the pure language might ask: “What is the new word for *mokustatsu*?” And the answer may be something like this: “There isn’t an equivalent word, and there’s no reason to think in those kinds of terms.” There will presumably be one term for “please wait while we deliberate” and a distinctly separate term (or maybe none at all) for “we scorn you.”

An Arabic speaker might ask: “What is the term in this new language for *taqiya*—the word meaning it is permissible to lie to someone as long as that person is an infidel?” This individual would be shown that this concept is false. He will be taught that the thinking that led to the coining of that word was polluted, and that there is no equivalent for it in the pure language.

An English speaker might ask what the new language’s equivalent is for *peccadillo*—the word describing a sin, but a sin that is so small that it is mostly

harmless and doesn’t much matter. The answer once again would be that there is no such word in the pure language because that is a false concept.

There are millions of polluted words like these. Soon they will disappear because the *thinking* that led to their creation will eventually disappear.

If a *human dictator* were to force an Orwellian type of language and thought control on mankind, it would create a terrifying and dark world. But the benevolent God is no human. Christ is “filled with outgoing concern for the governed—their welfare and salvation,” Mr. Armstrong wrote, and He will use his “total power” to “enforce God’s law—God’s government on Earth” (ibid).

Mr. Armstrong explained that with the use of God’s Spirit and government to keep His law, and partly because of the pure language, mankind will have “a whole different approach to life”! The Bible shows people will use that “different approach” to help, encourage, inspire and love each other—and to serve God.

The complete verse in Zephaniah 3:9 states: “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.”

A pure purpose for a pure language!

In the present world, full of linguistic corruption and confusion and with so many language traits that twist our thoughts, it is difficult to imagine that pure language being universally spoken around the world. But the Bible makes clear that the dawning of that age of pure speech and of “a whole different approach to life” is very near.

Mankind’s transition to that one language of purity will be dramatic. It will be a major change. And it will affect more than just the words people use. That world of tomorrow—when God blesses mankind with a pure language that helps purify them—will truly be wonderful. ■

See into the future.

Imagine a better world: pure language, true education, good music, rich culture, abundant wealth, right standards, strong families, just government, real peace. Herbert W. Armstrong described that world in ***The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like***, based on Bible prophecies of the soon-coming reality! Request your free copy today.





Iraq Is Conquered— On to Jerusalem

After 40 years of struggle, Iran has finally subdued Iraq. Now it sets its sights on the greater prize. **BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL**

“NOW THE IRANIAN NATION eagerly awaits the establishment of the Jerusalem Army.” This provocative statement lies within the first official charter of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), written in December 1981.

It was just one year after Iraq’s Saddam Hussein attacked Iran, seeking to capitalize on the instability following Iran’s revolution a year earlier. Iran was deeply focused on repelling an Iraqi attack.

Why, then, establish a Jerusalem army? Because in the hearts of many of Iran’s revolutionaries, fighting an offensive war against Iraq was a necessary step toward the real prize: taking Jerusalem.

“The IRGC argued that the ‘greater victory’ of delivering Jerusalem from Israeli occupation could be achieved only after the ‘lesser victory’ of defeating Saddam Hussein,” writes Afshon Ostovar in his 2016 book *Vanguard of the Imam: Religion, Politics and Iran’s Revolutionary Guards*. “Iraq became seen as both the literal and figurative gateway to Jerusalem and the first step toward the emancipation of Muslim societies.” A popular slogan during the war on Iraq was “the path to Jerusalem runs through Karbala,” the location of Shiite holy places just south of Baghdad.

This was the cause that burned in Iranian hearts as they waged war on Iraq for eight long years during the 1980s. Even after something like a million souls perished and the war ended inconclusively, that ambition did not die: *Iraq, then Jerusalem*.

It has taken decades, but recent events show Iran is finally realizing the first part of this long-held mission—and proceeding to the next.

Signs of Victory

In early March, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and a huge delegation began a three-day state visit to Baghdad. This was Rouhani’s first trip to Iraq’s capital since he became president in 2013. It signaled Iran’s victory over the United States for influence in post-Saddam Iraq.

Photos of Rouhani’s trip showed a long table in meetings with Iraqi officials, at least 16 men present on each side. They were signing a batch of agreements aimed at cementing an alliance.

The visit came precisely as the U.S. was working to punish the Iranian regime with strict financial sanctions. By cutting off funds, Washington aims to force Tehran to soften its warlike posture in the region. It hoped Iraq would support at

least some of these sanctions. Rouhani’s Baghdad visit wounded that hope.

“We consider this trip a new start in our relations with Iraq,” Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said. He discussed “joint interests” and “regional cooperation.” He thanked Iraq for having “refused the unjust and illegal sanctions imposed on the Iranian people.”

At the same time, Iraqi lawmakers are pressuring the U.S. to evacuate its remaining forces from their country.

Currently, America stations about 5,000 forces at an Iraqi airbase—a critical post in the fight against the remnants of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. But America’s presence there is not solely about the terrorist group. In a February interview with CBS’s *Face the Nation*, U.S. President Donald Trump made an off-the-cuff comment revealing that part of the rationale in remaining at the base is to keep an eye on Iran.

Iraq’s reaction to that statement was negative and emphatic. “Don’t overburden Iraq with your own issues,” Iraqi President Barham Salih responded. “The U.S. is a major power ... but do not pursue your own policy priorities. We live here.” The Fatah Alliance, the Iraqi parliament’s second-largest party, is now pushing for U.S. troops to leave. As such pressure increases, America’s complete evacuation seems only a matter of time.

Suleimani—Conqueror of Karbala

The same weekend as Rouhani's visit to Baghdad, yet another portentous event took place. Just as Rouhani was preparing to depart on his trip, the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was at an official function—the first of its kind since the Islamic Republic was established in 1979. Khamenei awarded the prestigious Order of Zulfaqr, Iran's highest military honor, to Gen. Qassem Suleimani—the only Iranian military official to receive it in the last 40 years.

Why decorate Suleimani now? One cannot help but recognize the connection to the meetings Rouhani was to hold in Baghdad.

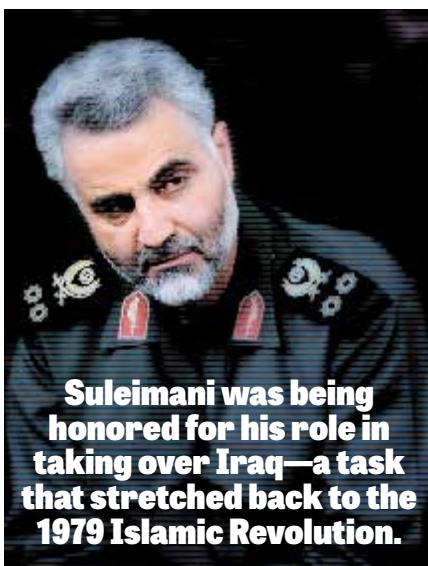
Suleimani was, in fact, being honored for his critical role in *taking over Iraq*—a task that stretched clear back to the days of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Suleimani had just turned 22 years old. He volunteered for the newly established Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. This military force was separate from Iran's official military, which could not be trusted to ensure the continuation of the revolution. At first, the IRGC was used to tamp down internal dissent, but when the Iraq-Iran War began, it was called on to defend against Saddam Hussein's invasion.

During the eight bloody years that followed, Suleimani proved his mettle on the battlefield. He rose through the ranks, eventually becoming a division commander while still in his 20s. After the war, he remained an IRGC commander.

In late 1997, Suleimani assumed leadership of the IRGC Quds Force, a special expeditionary unit that orchestrates Iranian action in foreign domains. *Quds* is the Arabic term for Jerusalem, which betrays the force's ultimate goal. Under Suleimani, the Quds Force oversaw the training and decision-making of Iran's proxies: It directed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza; it conducted missions in Afghanistan—and, of course, Iraq.

Inside Iraq, Suleimani won the affection of several Shiite movements that chafed against Saddam's Sunni governance. Then, in 2003, the United States invaded to remove Hussein. For a moment, a temporary, informal alliance budded between U.S. armed forces and Suleimani's assets.



When Saddam Hussein fell, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote this in the June 2003 issue: “Saddam Hussein was the only leader that Iran feared. Now the U.S. has taken him out of the way. But does America have the will or strength to guard the spoils of war? Prophecy states that it does not.

“Have we now cleared the way for Shiite Iran to rule over Shiite Iraq?”

Earlier in the article he wrote, “It may seem shocking, given the U.S. presence in the region right now, but prophecy indicates that in pursuit of its goal, Iran will probably TAKE OVER IRAQ.”

TODAY, 16 YEARS LATER, THAT PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

Shadow War on America

Soon after American and coalition forces expelled Hussein's regime, Iran initiated a long-term shadow war against the U.S. in Iraq. Who helmed that war? None other than Qassem Suleimani.

In 2004, the Quds Force began flooding Iraq with lethal roadside bombs that Americans referred to as EFPS—“explosively formed projectiles.” These warheads, which fire a molten copper slug able to penetrate armor, wreaked havoc on coalition forces. EFPS could be made only by skilled technicians, and they were often triggered by sophisticated motion sensors. “There was zero question where they were coming from,” Gen. Stanley McChrystal, head of the Joint Special Operations Command at the time, told the *New Yorker* in 2013. “We knew where all the factories were in Iran.”

In 2008, sensing the success of America's troop surge, Suleimani reached out to the U.S. general in command, saying, “Dear General Petraeus, You should know that I, Qassem Suleimani, control the policy for Iran with respect to Iraq, Lebanon, Gaza and Afghanistan. And indeed, the ambassador in Baghdad is a Quds Force member. The individual who's going to replace him is a Quds Force member.”

Petraeus refused to negotiate with this man, whose hands were stained with so much American blood. At the time, the U.S. seemed to be winning in Iraq.

Soon, though, a new administration took over Washington. President Barack Obama decided it was time to draw down forces in Iraq.

After that drawdown, in America's absence the Sunni Islamic State rose up to fight against virtually everyone in the region—especially the Shiites of Iraq. Iraq and the Kurds in northern Iraq received welcome help from Suleimani in the form of weapons and leadership. The main ground forces in Iraq were not the Iraqi Army, but the very Shiite militias, numbering over 100,000 soldiers, that had allied with Suleimani years before. And they were still answering to Suleimani.

Again America was called in to provide air cover to free Iraq, this time from the brutal Islamic State. Thus the U.S. actually found itself *working with Iran*.

Mr. Flurry wrote about the folly of the situation in the January 2018 *Trumpet*: “When you see what Iran is doing, it is dumbfounding that the U.S. has followed an anti-terrorism strategy that involves FIGHTING ALONGSIDE IRAN, the number one state sponsor of terrorism! For America to be fighting *alongside Iran*, something is TERRIBLY WRONG! We have fallen into a deadly trap! ...

“America is not actually fighting alongside Iran—WE ARE EMPOWERING IT! Iran now looks like an *effective and useful partner* in the war against terrorism. AMERICA HAS HELPED TO MAKE IRAN APPEAR TO BE THE SAVIOR IN IRAQ AND SYRIA!”

This shortsighted strategy is what created the conditions that culminated in the events of March. To recap: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was in Baghdad cementing a new relationship with Iraq. And Gen. Qassem Suleimani was in Tehran receiving the highest military honor Iran has to offer.

Certainly, the timing of the award was not lost on Iranians—not those with a sense of history. It acknowledged that for 40 years, Suleimani has fought for the revolution, a revolution whose first mission was to conquer Iraq. Suleimani was there in the 1980s on the front lines against Saddam Hussein. After America overthrew Saddam in 2003, Suleimani led the long shadow war against the U.S. in Iraq. From 2014 to now, he has mobilized and then commanded the Shiite militias to fight the Islamic State.

Now, in 2019, with the Islamic State all but vanquished and the U.S. preparing to vacate, Suleimani is being recognized as the conqueror of Karbala.

What is next? Simply look to the IRGC creed: The path that cuts through Karbala ends in Jerusalem.

‘Toward Jerusalem’

Almost on cue, mere days after Suleimani was decorated, Iran announced a new offensive exercise involving the mass use of drones. These were not simple drones designed for reconnaissance flights, but attack drones that can fly great distances and carry massive loads of explosives.

This aerial exercise over the Persian Gulf on March 14 was the first large-scale drill using offensive drones, the *Washington Post* reported. The 50 Iranian-made Shahed 171 drones were copies of the U.S.-built RQ-170 Sentinel stealth drone that fell into Iranian territory in 2011. At the time, President Obama decided against retrieving or destroying the drone, lest Iran perceive it as an act of war.

With this military drill, it appears the Iranians have successfully copied the American technology. In the exercise, the drones flew over 620 miles before successfully striking their intended target on an island in the Persian Gulf located within Iran’s territorial waters.

However, more important than the success of the exercises is the name the IRGC gave it: “TOWARD JERUSALEM 1.”

The connection with the events earlier the same week is unmistakable. Just as the IRGC announced nearly 40 years ago, Iran conquered Karbala—and now it is advancing toward the real prize.

What Prophecy Says

While it is impressive to witness Iran’s long-term commitment to its strategy

in the Middle East, there is something far more extraordinary at play with Iran’s rise, its conquest of Iraq, and its play for Jerusalem.

Over 2,500 years ago—just three years after the ancient Babylonians were conquered by the ancestors of the Iranians, the Persians—the Prophet Daniel recorded a stunning prophecy. This longest single prophecy in the Bible, recorded in Daniel 11, details the rise and fall of kingdoms in the years following the Persian Empire’s fall. Most of the chapter deals with two of those kingdoms, “the king of the south,” based in Egypt, and “the king of the north,” based in Mesopotamia. The chapter’s first verses were fulfilled by the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Kingdoms, respectively.

However, not all of this prophecy was fulfilled anciently! The latter part of the chapter is for “the time of the end.”

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.”

The Ptolemies and the Seleucids have long disappeared. Who, then, are the modern counterparts of the king of the south and king of the north? Please consider the following long-standing forecast of the *Trumpet*.

Our September-October 1990 issue featured an article titled “King of the South—Is He Now on the World Scene?” Mr. Flurry identified this “king” as a Middle Eastern power bloc, possibly led by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, that would violently clash with “the king of the north.”

In 1992, he told *Trumpet* readers that he believed *Iran* would be the king of radical Islam. Then in December 1994—while Saddam Hussein was still in power—Mr. Flurry asked, “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” In the July 1998 *Trumpet* he wrote, “The stage is being set for an Islamic group of nations to be led by Iran as the prophesied king of the south Iran has a foreign policy with a lot of ‘push.’”

In the February 1995 *Trumpet*, Mr. Flurry berated the West for being “spellbound by peace treaties” and thus

suffering willful blindness to “Iran’s massive plot to control the Middle East.” Then he wrote: “*The most precious jewel of Iran’s plan is to conquer Jerusalem.* This would then galvanize the Islamic world behind Iran” (emphasis added).

What does all this mean? It means that 2,500 years ago God gave the Prophet Daniel a vision for the time of the end—our time today. Based on that prophecy, Mr. Flurry wrote 25 years ago that Iran would head the king of the south, that Iraq would fall to Iran, and that Iran would initiate a plan to conquer Jerusalem.

In 2019, we see it all happening.

This confirms the accuracy of biblical prophecy and validates the *Trumpet’s* warning message.

Now that it has taken over Iraq, watch for Iran to become more vocal and pushy against Israel. Its “Toward Jerusalem 1” exercises are only the start.

Iran intends not only to take Jerusalem from the Jews, but also to use the Palestinian cause to galvanize its leadership over the Islamic world. As the 1981 IRGC charter also relates, “[I]f the Islamic Republic through radio and television propagates the establishment of the Jerusalem army throughout the Islamic world—in spite of Zionist plots—millions of Muslims will be ready to liberate Jerusalem.”

The Bible does indeed indicate that millions of Muslims will rise up against Jerusalem. However, it also reveals that the Iranian-led king of the south will not succeed! That prize will fall into the hands of the other king in Daniel’s prophecy: the king of the north.

But even then, the “victory” will be short-lived.

You need not be oblivious to the future of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Iran’s strategy to conquer Jerusalem is laid out in Daniel 11 and other prophecies and is explained in Mr. Flurry’s booklet *The King of the South*.

All this fighting over Jerusalem is not without hope. The rise of Iran as the king of the south is a step that hails the soon-coming return of the true King of Jerusalem, Jesus Christ. He will, finally, put an end to the incessant warfare over the city in the name of religion, and will establish His own government of peace from that holy city. ■



Learn the Lesson of the ‘Great Multitude’

It could protect you from a world of suffering. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

THE BOOK OF REVELATION TALKS about a group of people called the “great multitude.” This group is so numerous no man can number it. And it holds a powerful lesson that we must understand today. Your very life depends on it!

This critical message at the very heart of the book of Revelation relates directly to the civilization-threatening problems facing our world today—and shows what *you, individually*, must do to be protected from them.

This message is twofold. First, it is a warning. If you heed the warning, you will not even have to experience the kind of tribulation that the great multitude will experience! Second, this is also a message with magnificent hope. In this world full of troubles, at a very urgent time, we all need to see this hope!

An Example of God’s Mercy

Here is the description of this group: “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all

nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands” (Revelation 7:9). This mass of people, speaking different languages, is clothed in white robes. This indicates that these people had heard God’s truth and repented. How would they know to repent unless they heard God’s message of repentance?

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN WE SEE THE REAL FRUITS OF OUR LABOR TODAY!

The context shows that their repentance takes place during the Great Tribulation, a 2½-year period of suffering unlike anything this world has ever experienced. As a result of their repentance during the Tribulation, they will escape the Day of the Lord—the yearlong time of God’s wrath that follows the Tribulation.

The painful truth is that these people could have *also* escaped the Tribulation, with all its suffering, had they listened and responded to God’s Word *today!*

Nevertheless, this is an example of God’s wonderful love and mercy for all of

mankind. God always sends a message to warn of an approaching calamity, giving people the opportunity to turn from their sins and repent. We all have that opportunity, but most fail to take advantage of it.

Why Palm Branches?

These repentant people, dressed in white robes, meet Christ with palm branches in their hands. What is the significance of this detail?

This detail evokes the Feast of Tabernacles, an annual sacred festival picturing the 1,000-year rule of Jesus Christ on Earth, when the whole world will experience peace, prosperity and joy.

The only other place in the New Testament with a similar occurrence is in John 12:12-13: “On the next day much people that were come to the feast [speaking of the Feast of Tabernacles], when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

These people came with palm branches to meet Christ at His first coming.

When Christ came the first time, God began harvesting His firstfruits, the small harvest that is occurring today. Those who understand God's way of life are being prepared today to help Christ rule over the whole world in the 1,000-year Millennium. God is giving these firstfruits an absolutely staggering reward.

God wants these people to flourish like palm trees (Exodus 15:27; Numbers 33:9). *Smith's Bible Dictionary* says this about palm trees: "[T]hey were renowned in the time of the gospels and Josephus. The Jewish historian mentions the luxuriance of these trees again and again, not only in allusion to the time of Moses ..., but in the account of the Roman campaign under Pompey ..., the proceedings of Antony and Cleopatra. Herod the Great did much for Jericho and took great interest in its palm groves."

There was a time when Jericho was called the city of palms (Deuteronomy 34:3; Judges 1:16). This city was flourishing in many ways! But Jericho today has no palm trees. Even the Mount of Olives once flourished with palm trees, but today there are very few. This symbolizes the degenerate state of this terrible world. Our world is not flourishing. It is plagued with problems.

Look at our financial condition. Commentators and analysts are expressing concern about the world economy. A National Association for Business Economics poll taken earlier this year said three fourths of American business economists expect a major recession to hit America by the end of 2021, and half expect it to arrive earlier. They can see that our finances are not flourishing like the palm tree. And a financial crisis in America would shake the entire world!

Many other crises threaten our world. A rising European superpower, increased aggression from Iran, division in the United States, the embarrassment of Brexit—to name a few. So many in this world turn a blind eye to these developments.

What is the cause of such problems? We have lost so much of the beauty God created for us, because we are not spiritual as we ought to be. Man continues to degenerate in character. Yes, we make advances in technology, but

we don't appreciate God's beauty—the natural world that He created—because we don't think like God.

God never intended for this world to suffer the pain and misery we see today. God gave us the option between life and death—and we chose death (Deuteronomy 30:19). It was our choice. God certainly wouldn't allow this to happen if men followed Him.

Yet God says that even amid this turmoil and upheaval, He will protect those who are submissive and obedient to Him (Revelation 3:10; 12:14). God promises to do that. And He will follow through because He will never, ever lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). But do we really believe God? If there is ever a time to truly believe His promises, it is now. God will protect those who live His way of life *today*. If we do that, He says He will never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

When you have that assurance, you don't need to fear events on the world

no man ever has, so we can have His righteousness and flourish like the palm tree. He did that for you and me. We must never take that sacrifice lightly. God in the flesh—a being without sin—was marred more than any man and then murdered (Isaiah 52 and 53). That is the price for our sins!

Those in this multitude will repent during the worst suffering in human history. But consider the lesson! Look at how *severely* God had to correct them, and what terrible calamity He had to allow, before they were willing to turn and seek Him! He does not want to have to do that. Those people will escape the Day of the Lord. But they could have completely avoided the suffering of the Tribulation had they heeded God's warning message *today*.

What depth of suffering does it take to make you change? What will it take to make you recognize God's love, and seek His way?

What depth of suffering does it take to make you change? What will it take to make you recognize God's love, and seek His way?

scene. You can have trust and faith in the great living God! (To learn about true godly repentance, request my free booklet *How to Be an Overcomer*. It will show you what God expects of you.)

Will You Repent?

We must understand the tremendous lesson wrapped up in Revelation 7: "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have WASHED THEIR ROBES, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (verses 13-14). These people had to wash their robes! They were filthy. And God wanted them to clean up. They may have thought they were clean, but they were not. In the Great Tribulation, they had to face reality.

These people washed their robes "in the blood of the Lamb." That is the precious blood of Jesus Christ. He came to Earth and died for us, suffering as

Throughout the Bible, God says He will protect His people from that terrible time because they obey Him now. The great multitude, however, didn't heed soon enough. They got to the point of nearly losing their physical lives—but repented in time.

Can you recognize when God is trying to reach you? Do you know enough about God to know where He is speaking? The Bible is Jesus Christ in print, and there is only one place on Earth where you can hear the full message He is speaking. You cannot escape the coming Tribulation unless you know where God is speaking and then heed the message being delivered by His people.

Learn the Lesson!

There are two big problems with the great multitude before they repent. First, they are not clothed with white robes, meaning they lack righteousness. They had deceived themselves into thinking they were righteous, as many

PARTY OF GRIEVANCES
Foreign ministers from
Russia and Belgium meet
during the 2019 Munich
Security Conference.

Munich Security Conference: A seething pot of resentment

The Munich Security Conference, held each February, is turning into a milestone for the rise of Germany. This year it was a powerful symbol of Germany's split from America.

The largely European audience gave German Chancellor Angela Merkel a rapturous welcome. When she finished her speech, they clapped for an entire minute—many in a standing ovation.

Compare that to United States Vice President Mike Pence's reception. At the start of one of his addresses, he said he brought greetings from President Donald Trump and paused for applause. All he got was several seconds of awkward silence.

At the heart of the conference were dueling speeches from Pence and Merkel. Pence condemned Germany (without naming it) for its Nord Stream 2 pipeline deal with Russia. He also condemned European states that

were supporting Iran and trying to get around U.S. sanctions (again, mostly implying Germany).

Ms. Merkel brought a different message. Warnings from the U.S. that it might impose tariffs on European cars are a "national security threat," she said. She pushed back against rebukes on Nord Stream 2 and Iran.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen spoke of a more muscular Europe, one that can stand without America.

Relations between Germany and Russia and China were much friendlier. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov invited the EU to join Russia in forging an economic alliance and praised plans for a European army.

Chinese politburo member Yang Jiechi played to the crowd, condemning "protectionism" and "hegemony and power politics." Both were intended, and interpreted, as attacks on

the U.S.—despite the Communist Party of China being far more protectionist.

Last autumn, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry leveled many of the same criticisms at Germany that Pence brought to Munich. "Nord Stream 2 binds Russia and Germany together in a way that undermines NATO," he wrote. "In fact, though Russia and Germany will not say so, *this pipeline project is clearly intended to wreck NATO*" (*Trumpet*, September 2018).

America has done a lot to build up Germany. But now Germany wants to step out of America's shadow. "Some powerful Germans today are thinking more and more about the Holy Roman Empire, and they want modern Germany to assume more power of its own in the spirit of that empire. They want to establish Europe as a mighty, German-led superpower" (*ibid*). Allying with Russia and China helps Germany gain that independence. ■

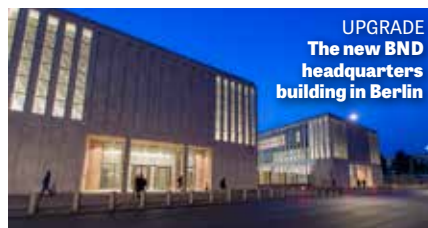
New spy headquarters highlights Germany's changing role

Germany opened a new headquarters for its national spy agency, the BND, on February 8. The opening of this new facility in the very heart of Berlin symbolizes an ongoing transformation in Germany's foreign policy.

Deutsche Welle noted, "The move signals a major symbolic change for Germany, no longer

shying away from taking a prominent role on the global stage" (February 8).

The BND headquarters was previously located in the countryside near Munich. Now that it has moved to the center of Berlin, it is close to other government offices and the former site of the Berlin Wall.



UPGRADE
The new BND
headquarters
building in Berlin

The imposing \$1.3 billion limestone-and-aluminum-faced building covers an area roughly the size of 36 soccer fields and will accommodate 4,000 intelligence workers. ■



MACRON

France's new vision for Europe

French President Emmanuel Macron addressed "citizens of Europe" on March 4, urgently calling upon them to take action in upcoming European elections.

"Citizens of Europe," Macron wrote in an article published by leading newspapers in several European countries, "if I am taking the liberty of addressing you directly, it is not only in the name of the history and values that unite us, but because time is of the essence. A few weeks from now the European elections will be decisive for the future of our continent."

Macron's message was for more Europe despite rising euroskepticism. He wrote in favor of forming an agency to defend democracy, a common EU border force, increased defense spending, an operational mutual defense agreement, a European security council, and a "conference for Europe" that would include "citizens' panels... academics, business and labor representatives" and "religious and spiritual leaders." A prophecy in Revelation 17 states that a coming European superpower will consist of 10 nations or groups of nations. Verse 3 shows that these nations will be guided by a woman, the Bible's symbol for a church, in this case the Roman Catholic Church. Not all 28 EU nations, and certainly not Britain, will be part of Macron's vision of a modern-day European empire, but we know at least 10 will. ■

Russia intensifies pressure on Georgia

Media outlets in the former Soviet nation of Georgia reported on February 7 that Russian forces have built a lookout tower in occupied South Ossetia as the latest means of intensifying pressure on the Georgian people.

"The towers, illegal barbed-wire fences and other artificial barriers are part of an everyday battle of the occupying force against locals," Georgian Reconciliation Minister Ketevan Tsikhelashvili told Agenda.ge. "The tower is a new measure to exercise higher pressure on locals" (February 7).

Russia invaded Georgia in August 2008 and exerted control over 20 percent of its territory. At the time, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote that



JOINT DRILLS
Russian and South
Ossetian servicemen
drill together in
August 2018.

Russia's attack marked the "beginning of a dangerous new era" in history.

There is abundant evidence within Georgia and beyond

showing that Mr. Flurry's forecast is accurate. "Russia's return to great-power status has tremendous prophetic importance," states our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. "Not only because of the role Russia is prophesied to fulfill in world affairs, but also because its aggressive actions are provoking alarm and urgency within *Europe*—and that is the power that we *really* must watch!"

To understand these momentous Bible prophecies, order your free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy* (theTrumpet.com/go/rcp). ■

Belarus 'ready to unite' with Russia

Belarus is prepared to merge with Russia, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said on February 15 after a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The two of us could unite tomorrow, no problem," Lukashenko said, careful to add that such a merger would only happen if the Belarusian people are "ready for it." Both nations know this is not presently the case, but Lukashenko's remarks underscore the fact that in a world of increasingly powerful authoritarians like Putin, it might not matter.

Putin not only has a tight grip on Russia but also a considerable one on Lukashenko and Belarus, a former member of the Soviet Union. Putin famously called the collapse of that Communist bloc the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the [20th] century." He has actively worked to rebuild Russian power, Editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in the September 2014 *Trumpet* issue that Putin's position is prophesied in the Bible. He



MERGER IMMINENT?
Lukashenko visits Putin
in Sochi on February 15.

highlighted Revelation 9:16, which describes an Asian force of 200 million soldiers fighting in World War III, as well as Ezekiel 38:2, which states that this force will be led by the "prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal" (Young's Literal Translation). Meshech and Tubal, he explained, are ancient names corresponding to modern Russian cities, and *Rosh* is a variation of an ancient name for Russia.

"I strongly believe Vladimir Putin is going to lead the 200 million-man army," Mr. Flurry wrote. "This much is absolutely certain: The restoring of Russia's power by Vladimir Putin—the prince of Russia—was prophesied!" To understand these Bible passages and the danger and the hope that is tied to them, order Mr. Flurry's free booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia'* (theTrumpet.com/go/putin). ■



China's Huawei stealing U.S. secrets

The United States Justice Department unveiled a list of criminal charges against the Chinese telecommunications company Huawei in January, the latest acknowledgment of China's systematic theft of American intellectual property and trade secrets.

Most of the charges were related to Huawei's theft of

intellectual property from T-Mobile's U.S.-based operations, including the firm's proprietary phone testing technology. Court documents say Huawei promised hefty bonuses to any employee who was able to gather confidential information, encouraging them to send photos and spec sheets to Huawei officials.

Huawei has used similarly unscrupulous tactics to obtain proprietary secrets on products made by Apple, Cisco, Motorola and Akhan Semiconductor. And Huawei is far from the only Chinese entity engaged in this type of theft. For more than a decade, theft of American commercial technology and intellectual property has been a

pillar of China's economic growth. Experts say that this Chinese theft costs the U.S. between \$225 billion and \$600 billion each year.

A growing number of analysts are realizing how serious this ongoing assault is. But there is something far more significant about this trend that few experts understand: It was foretold in Bible scriptures written some 2,500 years ago.

Deuteronomy 28 mentions some specific ways God promised He would bless ancient Israel and its descendants if the people obeyed Him. It also lists specific ways He would punish them if they rejected Him. (The modern descendants of ancient Israel include the British and the

Americans. Request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong, at theTrumpet.com/go/usbp.) Verse 33 records one specific curse: "The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up"

This describes what is now happening. Because of America's rejection of God's law, God is letting the fruits of U.S. labor be stolen and consumed by foreign entities. To understand more about China's role in Bible prophecy, order your free copy of *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's book *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet* (theTrumpet.com/go/ezp). ■



Palestinians gain more control of the Temple Mount

The status quo on the Temple Mount was subtly changed on February 14, when Jordan admitted several high-level Palestinian officials to the Islamic Waqf, the organization that oversees the day-to-day running of the religious compound.

Traditionally, the Waqf has been operated solely by 11 Jordan-aligned officials, as directed by the Oslo Accords and implied in the 1994 Peace Treaty with Jordan. Now, seven senior officials from the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority and local Muslim leaders have been added to the decision-making body controlling the Temple Mount, which is arguably the most politically volatile location on Earth.

Following the inaugural meeting of the new 18-member group on February 14, Waqf officials ascended to the Temple Mount and illegally entered an area known as the Bab al-Rahma in order to pray. The area, which is just inside the long-sealed Golden Gate, was closed by Israeli police in 2003 over the destruction of antiquities, illegal construction, and connections to the Hamas terrorist group.

Apparently emboldened by the new Waqf, Palestinians have since scuffled with Israeli authorities, demanding them to reopen the site indefinitely.

Palestinian-Israeli violence, particularly on the Temple Mount, presages the chaos prophesied in Zechariah 14. That chaos, thankfully, will culminate in the return of Jesus Christ! ■

30 THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

'Second phase of the Revolution'

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, characterized the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, celebrated by Iranians on February 11, as the "second phase" of an ongoing revolution.

"Today, just like the first days after the revolution, sovereign Iran faces challenges from the arrogant imperialist powers," Khamenei said, calling primarily on Iran's youth to pick up the mantle and push the Islamic Revolution forward.

"[Y]et," he continued, "there is a meaningful difference. If the challenges posed by the United States those days involved ending the intrusion by foreign agents or closing down the embassy of the Zionist regime in Tehran, or exposing the spy den [the former U.S. embassy in Tehran], today, the challenges concern Iran's strong presence near the

borders of the Zionist regime, putting an end to the United States' unlawful infiltration in West Asia, the Islamic Republic's support for the Palestinian people's resistance at the heart of the Occupied Territories, as well as defending the high-flying flag of Hezbollah and the resistance throughout this region.

"If, then, the West's concern was to prevent Iran from buying basic weaponry, today, their concern is to prevent the transfer of advanced Iranian weapons to the resistance forces."

Vice Adm. James Malloy, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, told CNN on February 13 that Iran has a "growing capability in cruise missiles, they have a growing capability in ballistic missiles, they have a growing capability in unmanned surfaced systems; all these things that we watch that are offensive, and destabilizing in nature." Another U.S. defense official told CNN that the Iranian



KHAMENEI

military "possesses advanced sea mines, including acoustic and magnetic variants."

Bible prophecy indicates that Iran's increasingly advanced weapons, its growing inclination to use them, and its incessant willingness to share those weapons with terrorists, will rouse a sleeping superpower that will eventually wage total war with Iran, one that will permanently end its revolution. Our free booklet *The King of the South (theTrumpet.com/go/kos)* explains these prophecies in greater detail. ■

UN: Britain must surrender Chagos Islands

On February 25, the United Nations' highest court ruled that Britain must give up the Chagos Islands.

"The United Kingdom has an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible," Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, president of the UN's International Court of Justice, said in an official statement.

The U.S. and Britain operate a joint military base on the Chagos Islands, which has been used during Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Fox, Operation Enduring Freedom and other conflicts.

Britain may not immediately capitulate to UN pressure, but Bible prophecy discusses "gates," such as the Chagos Islands, and



shows that Britain and the U.S. will likely soon lose their foothold there.

Before World War II, Britain and America controlled many of the world's maritime choke points, contributing to British and American dominance and decades of relative global stability.

Genesis 22:17 records that the descendants of Abraham would control the gates of their enemies. The Bible also records

that if those descendants did not believe and obey God as their patriarch did, they would later lose possession of these gates (Deuteronomy 28:52).

Britain still controls a handful of foreign sea gates, including the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and the Chagos Archipelago. But the UN's February 25 ruling shows that the pressure on Britain to surrender more strategic "gates" is intensifying. ■

Democrats weaponize racist rhetoric

KEEPING COMPANY
Sen. Kamala Harris
and Al Sharpton

United States Sen. Kamala Harris accused President Donald Trump of racism in an interview published in *The Root* on February 26. She was asked, "So you definitely agree that he's a racist?" She replied, "I do, yes. Yes."

Other 2020 Democratic presidential candidates also agree that he is a racist. Sen. Bernie Sanders called the president "a racist, a sexist, a xenophobe and someone who is undermining American democracy as he leads us in an authoritarian direction." Sen. Sherrod Brown told NBC's *Meet the Press*, "We have a president who's a racist." Sen. Cory Booker was slightly more circumspect, saying, "I don't know the heart of anybody," then said the president uses "bigoted language."

In spite of these accusations, the president's approval rating among black and Hispanic voters continues to climb. One poll indicates that President Trump may receive 20 percent of the black vote on Election Day 2020—almost three times the share he received during the 2016 presidential election. Another poll shows that his support among Hispanic adults jumped from 31 percent to 51 percent after he ramped up his push to get funding for a border wall.

If President Trump gets 20 percent of the black vote and 50 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2020, there is almost no way for the Democrats to win the election. This is why Democrats are vociferously condemning President Trump as a racist.

Race is a crucial issue for the Democratic Party, which sometimes refers to itself as the "rainbow coalition." This coalition is full of conflicts and paradoxes. Feminists vote alongside Islamists. Hispanic Catholics vote alongside atheistic abortionists. Working-class blacks vote alongside open-borders activists. Many people selecting "Democrat" at the ballot box actually vote against their own values and interests because they regard the Republican Party as the greater (racist) evil. Now that an increasing number of blacks and Hispanics are abandoning the Democratic Party, party leaders are doubling down on their message that "the Republican president is a racist."

But doubling down on accusations of racism will have devastating consequences.

Bible prophecies make clear that violent riots are going to erupt in the cities of end-time Israel (the United States and Britain primarily). Isaiah 1:7 states: "Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers."

The racially charged rhetoric hurled by politicians is stirring up negative emotions and anger. This rhetoric may be intended as a vote-getting play, but it is already starting to boil over into riots and protests.

Suicide, alcohol, drug deaths reach all-time high

The number of deaths caused by suicide, alcohol and drugs is rising, according to a report from the Trust for America's Health and the Well Being Trust, released March 5. Since data collection began in 1999, national rates for all three causes of death had doubled by 2017.

From 2016 to 2017, the number of deaths rose 6 percent from 43.9 to 46.6 deaths per 100,000 people. Suicides rose 4 percent from 13.9 to 14.5 deaths per 100,000, doubling the annual average over the previous decade.

Add to this the fact that for every suicide death, there are 25 more attempted suicides. In America, someone dies by suicide every 12.8 minutes. Across the world, someone dies by suicide every 40 seconds.

In his book *The Incredible Human Potential*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote that the most important knowledge was "the purpose for which humanity was put on Earth." What is that purpose? "Our potential is to be born into the God Family, receiving total power!" Mr. Armstrong wrote. "We are to be given jurisdiction over the entire universe!"

This living hope is the way to solve problems like suicide, alcoholism and drug abuse. For more information, read our articles "The Truth About Suicide" (theTrumpet.com/10215) and "Manage Your Stress—Substance Free" (theTrumpet.com/893).

1:25

RATIO OF SUICIDE DEATHS TO ATTEMPTS

12.8

MINUTES BETWEEN SUICIDES IN U.S.

40

SECONDS BETWEEN SUICIDES IN THE WORLD

Britain 2018: Another record year for anti-Semitism

In 2018, Britain recorded more incidents of anti-Semitism than ever before. The Community Security Trust released its 2018 Anti-Semitic Incidents Report on February 7, detailing the third year in a row of record-breaking anti-Semitic statistics. Since the Community

Security Trust began recording Britain's anti-Semitic incidents in 1984, 2016 set the record for most incidents ever reported, at 1,375. In 2017, the number reached 1,420. In 2018, the record was shattered again, rising to 1,652.

Zechariah 11:14 prophesies that God will "break the

brotherhood between Judah and Israel" due to the sins of the people. The Jews are the descendants of the tribe of Judah, and the British are the descendants of the tribe of Ephraim (one of the lost 10 tribes of Israel). Rising anti-Semitism in Britain is a result of broken brotherhood.

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN BRITAIN



► **EUROPEAN UNITY?** FROM PAGE 14

Roman Empire is the most vicious beast this world has ever known,” continues Mr. Flurry. “It is the greatest monster human beings have ever seen.”

God describes this fourth beast of Daniel 7 as having 10 horns. These, the Bible says, “are ten kings [or kingdoms] that shall arise” out of this beast (verse 24). For a time, this beast ruled the world. But then would come 10 more resurrections of that empire.

“I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another *little horn*, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things” (verse 8). This little horn “shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws...” (verses 24-25).

Mr. Flurry describes Daniel 7:8 as “the single most revealing verse in the book of Daniel.” This “little horn” refers to a great false church. The first three “horns” that resurrected the empire were the barbarian tribes that conquered Rome: the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths. But they were “plucked up” by the Catholic Church when, in A.D. 554, Justinian’s Byzantine Empire established a relationship with the Catholic Church and reconquered Rome. The subsequent resurrections of the Roman Empire followed that pattern of combining Catholicism with political and military power. That church went on to “change times and laws,” influencing empires for centuries to come, to the point that to this day we still use the calendar devised by Pope Gregory XIII.

Daniel 7 gives us this crucial overview of European history.

Justinian’s Imperial Restoration, the Frankish Kingdom, Otto the Great, the Habsburg Dynasty, Napoleon, Hitler and Mussolini: The Catholic-European empire has arisen six times.

The Bible prophesies seven.

Today, the world sees modern, sophisticated, largely secular Europe as a cultural and economic power, not a military or religious power. We certainly do not

consider it the power bloc likeliest to instigate massive bloodshed. We look on the European Union’s efforts to integrate as a curiosity with limited ramifications.

We forget.

This history sounds a warning about Europe’s modern efforts to integrate. Yes, Europe is the home of some of humanity’s greatest achievements. But it is also the home of some of humanity’s worst atrocities.

“The art of Europe, immanent and transcendent, the philosophy and the



EXTERMINATION
A German soldier
prepares to kill a Jew
in Ukraine in 1941.

politics, all have taken humanity to a place it has not been before,” George Friedman writes of 1913 Europe. “To many, it seemed as if they were at the gates of heaven No one expected this moment to be the preface to hell. In the next 31 years, Europe tore itself apart Other civilizations have undergone turmoil, war and slavery. But the unexpectedness, the intensity, the rapidity and the consequences for the entire world were distinctive [T]he connection between European high culture and death camps is surprising at the very least” (*Flashpoints: The Emerging Crisis in Europe*).

This paradox was not a one-off. The Habsburg emperors helped kill huge numbers of non-Catholics. “They did their killing while supporting artists like Mozart, Bach and Schubert,” writes Mr.

Flurry, “they were very sophisticated as they slaughtered people” (op cit).

Two thousand years of history sound a powerful warning on the future of Europe. A strong, united European power with modern technology has global implications. History teaches that modern Europe is actually a threat. The Bible prophesies it.

But the Bible also adds great hope to the warning. The God who in the 500s B.C. described the next 2,500 years of human history so accurately has a powerful mind and incredible power. And He gave His prophecies for our benefit.

Daniel 7 also details the reason God allows this church-state empire to repeatedly instigate mass bloodshed throughout history. In fact, the focus of the chapter is not on the terrible beast powers, but on what happens after they are finally gone. It says the thrones of these beasts are “cast down.” In their place, “one like the Son of man” receives “dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him” (verses 9, 13-14).

We are now living in the time of the final horn, the last king of this Holy Roman beast power. The next major event in history is the return and rule of Jesus Christ—the true Christ, not the one the false church claims to worship.

God allows this beast to crush the world one last time. But all this has a hugely positive purpose: “THESE EVENTS WERE DESIGNED TO CRUSH ALL HOPE MAN HAS IN HIMSELF—AND TURN HIM TO HOPE IN GOD,” writes Mr. Flurry (ibid).

Man’s history is not a long march of self-improvement, centered in Europe or anywhere else. Only when man’s efforts to trust in himself have proved a total and destructive failure will man willingly listen to and submit to God. Once that happens, a wonderful world, free of this kind of destruction, is coming.

This is where man’s history is leading—as foretold and brought about by Almighty God. ■

To learn more about this crucial end-time biblical prophecy, request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s booklet **Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?**



Make Life Work

Tap into this marvelous resource, and you can learn the hidden causes of troubles—and find their solutions!



“I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY might have it more abundantly.” This is the marvelous promise Jesus Christ made in John 10:10. Are you living the abundant life Jesus Christ came to Earth to provide you?



JOEL HILLIKER

The vast majority of people are not. They are suffering injustice, alienation, fracturing families, crass materialism, sexual perversion and spiritual emptiness.

There is a *cause* for these problems! Jesus came to reveal and instruct human beings on how to live the abundant life. But we have ignored and rejected that way, preferring to live life as we see fit.

God wants you to live a meaningful, fulfilling, purposeful, prosperous, happy life! He created us and *intends* us to be happy—to enjoy pleasurable, satisfying, rewarding lives. Contrary to what so many people apparently believe, God never *denies* us happiness, joy or pleasures that are truly good for us and for others.

As our Creator, He knows the way to the abundant life. And He went to extraordinary, miraculous effort to ensure that you and I can read His instructions on how to achieve that. The Bible is His guidebook for life—His instruction manual on how to make life work.

Through His Word, God explains the “more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31)—the way of *His perfect love*. This way of life builds a strong, intimate relationship with your Creator. It builds cooperation and peace with fellow man. It builds strong marriages, joyful children and happy families. It is the way of productivity and responsibility, of virtue and generosity, of moderation and contentment.

Here is another statement that has, remarkably, grown controversial in today’s world: God’s perfect way of life is spelled out in the *law* of God. Many people, including Christians, have been taught to think of God’s law as a burden or a curse. But it is actually “holy, and just, and good” (Romans 7:12). King David wrote, “The law of the Lord is perfect, *converting the soul*: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes” (Psalm 19:7-8).

That law can be summarized in one word: LOVE (Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 13:8, 10). Jesus Christ said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and

earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matthew 5:17-18).

Take a practical example. The Seventh Commandment states: “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14). God gave this law to safeguard marriage and govern man’s use of sex. Many studies have proved that individuals who keep this law have healthier, longer-lasting marriages. A husband and wife who are entirely faithful, denying their lusts and keeping this law, will have a stronger, happier relationship. Ignoring and breaking this law has resulted in tremendous cost:

mistrust and heartache, shattered families, rampant divorce, increased abortions, fatherless children, venereal disease, spiritual emptiness, and countless other problems. This is *living proof* of the relevance and priceless value of God’s law of love! Obey it and reap the rewards. Break it, and you will end up broken.

Here is another practical example. God’s Word commands *tithing*: giving a tenth of your income to God for His work (e.g. Leviticus 27:30, 32; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:1-9). God actually challenges us to *prove* that this law is still active by *keeping it*: “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,” He says, “and **PROVE ME** now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not *open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it*” (Malachi 3:10).

What a marvelous promise of God’s law being the path to the abundant life! (You can read more about this in our free booklet *The Financial Law You Can’t Afford to Ignore*, at theTrumpet.com/go/finance.)

God’s Word provides timeless, foundational understanding of how to make *every aspect* of life a success: relationships, marriage and family, work, finance, communication, health and much more. It shows how to navigate life’s challenges and trials successfully, how to maintain positive and peaceful thinking, how to manage stress, how to avoid traps of materialism, excess and addiction, how to build a good reputation, and how to lead a fulfilling life of learning, overcoming and growth. It teaches how to build a robust relationship with God through repentance, baptism, prayer and Bible study. It shows how to yield yourself to God so He can empower you with His Holy Spirit, so you begin to exhibit fruits of holy, righteous character, such as love, joy, peace and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Jesus Christ said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4). That is the formula for the abundant life Christ promised: *Live by every word of God*. Will you take advantage and follow the formula?

If you want more biblical instruction on the abundant life, join our new e-mail service, *PCG Signposts*. The *Trumpet’s* publisher, the Philadelphia Church of God, has begun this newsletter to give readers like you simple, plain, actionable insight—to help you get to know your Bible and to live the abundant life. To sign up, visit pcg.church online and type your e-mail address in the box labeled “An invitation.” It’s easy, it’s free—and it will help you start tapping this priceless resource to MAKE LIFE WORK!

I appreciate your latest articles giving us God's view on abortion and how and why our Creator values human life ("The Inspiring Truth Abortionists Should Know," April 2019, theTrumpet.com/18691). The latest approved legislation has thrust the grotesque practice of abortion into public view again. Until the *Trumpet's* recent reporting, I've admittedly pushed the enormity of this national sin from my mind. Thank God we are so near to the dawning of the wonderful World Tomorrow! It is important for us to meditate on the extent of evil in our society contrasted with the hope we have in Christ. Your writings on the subject help us do both.

MISSOURI

It's not only America that has this view on abortion! South Africa is just as bad. Last week, a scavenger going through a pile of rubbish on the edge of a main road found the partially eaten remains of an aborted fetus. A newborn baby was found in a storm drain when a passing schoolchild heard cries. A tunnel had to be dug to get her out. At least she survived. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

John Hill SOUTH AFRICA

I commend you for putting the truth out there. Everything in this world is turning upside down. What used to be so wrong is turning now to be right in the eyes of the world! The truth is so terribly hard to take, but nothing can be fixed until we all realize there is a problem! I commend you for telling the truth. I just hope that everyone will wipe the sleep out of their eyes and wake up to what is happening in the world around them. It is so unbelievable to me that humanity has turned so wicked! I pray that God would forgive us all for our sins. As

Christ said on the cross, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they are doing." This one verse stands out in my mind as a constant reminder that God will forgive us, but we have to want to change and correct our ways first. That can only be done with help from God, and a true and sincere need to repentance.

Lorna Reno SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

God's Marvelous Work and a Wonder

The greatest wonder is God's work prophesying again!

YouTube Response

Online Appearance Campaign

Thank you for this new way to view the *Trumpet* PAC. This first live program brought a lot of excitement into my Sunday morning. It is a more personal way to spend time with you, and all those involved in bringing this program into our homes. It is more real and alive when you have to be attentive and focused on the messages being presented



live; we can't just pause the program. Also, not having the ability to rewind the video feed makes the time very real, almost urgent. There is nothing like the real thing! This platform will become very fruitful.

Mark S. Bourdow MICHIGAN

Thank you for everything you do to get the message out to us. I recently received Stephen Flurry's book *Raising the Ruins* and have just started reading it. I share all the material when I am finished with others and have enjoyed each one. I also watch your television message and feel I have grown in my knowledge and understanding of the Holy Bible. I would like to send a check when I can. Do you have donation envelopes or an address for me to send the check to? Thank you again.

Betty LaVere ILLINOIS

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Teaching Children Lawlessness and Rebellion

BY BRAD MACDONALD



CHILDREN RULE
Students protest
global warming on
Churchill's statue in
Parliament Square
in Britain.

GOVERNMENT AND LAW—THESE TWO BEDROCK PRINCIPLES underpin a healthy, stable nation and basic human interaction. When one or both break down, society destabilizes.

In America on March 15, children and teenagers rejected both government and law—and were praised by adults for it. More than 100,000 youths skipped school and joined climate change protests across all 50 states. The school climate strike movement is inspired by Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish activist who, since last August, has committed truancy every Friday to protest outside the Swedish parliament. Thunberg is now a climate change rock star, traveling the world giving lectures and interviews.

In Britain, on February 15, thousands of schoolchildren cut school and fell upon cities nationwide to protest Prime Minister Theresa May's supposed inaction against climate change. In London, they gathered in Trafalgar Square and other iconic sites. They marched angrily, they screamed and shouted, they carried signs and plaques filled with vulgar smears, irrational mantras and ridiculous opinions. Some called members of Parliament "criminals"; others demanded "System change, not climate change." Rogue teenagers writhed like leeches over the Nelson Column and the Churchill sculpture, hurling vile denunciations at Theresa May in a scene of total incivility, lawlessness and rebellion.

But what was truly appalling was the response by adults. Social media exploded with messages of support, praise and admiration from members of Parliament, celebrities, journalists and media personalities. Many saluted the children as selfless, mature and brave.

"Greta Thunberg led the way," wrote *Guardian* columnist Jonathan Freedland. "Children skipping classes to take the moral lead is an indictment of adult complacency" (emphasis mine throughout). The moral lead? How is skipping math class to march with your mates in protest of a fundamentally erroneous cause taking the "moral lead"?

Thunberg believes Western governments haven't done anything to combat climate change. This is demonstrably false. Hundreds of laws and policies have been imposed to protect the environment and prevent climate change. That's why Britain's carbon emissions right now are at their lowest level since 1888. But these kids weren't interested in facts, science or evidence. They weren't interested in rational discussion or debate. They presented no solutions.

change, they are the moral authority?

"At first sight the reaction [to the protesting children] surely has to be one of UNFETTERED JOY," wrote Freedland. Um, no. All I saw was rebellion, anarchy and disrespect.

If you want to see a mature, brave teenager, ignore the rebels climbing over the base of the Nelson Column and cast your gaze upward. Horatio Nelson was 13 years old when he left his family and enlisted as a seaman in the British Navy. At sea he lived in cramped quarters on a diet that most of us would consider inedible. Now *that's* a teen displaying maturity and sacrifice.

Many praised these protests as a powerful part of these kids' education. But education in what? They learned that they can disrespect government, authority and law without consequences—and earn society's applause.

When people on a large scale reject authority and law, society fails. These protests signal the erosion of our bedrock principles and the crumbling of our nations. They are a warning of future disruption, anarchy and collapse.

They bring to mind the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 3:1-4, where God pledges to remove quality leaders from the modern Israelites (mainly Britain and America). Instead of "the mighty man, and the man of war," these nations will be led by children: "And I will give CHILDREN to be their princes, and BABES shall rule over them."

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about the dramatic influence of youth on society in his 1978 book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. "But WHY? What is the cause?" he asked. "The TRUE answer is this: Something has been *taken away* from this Earth that sorely needs to be restored! That 'something' is knowledge of, respect for and obedience to THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LAW OF GOD!"

Hear, hear. This is *precisely* what these young rebels need.

Mr. Armstrong continued: "WHY all this violence—this immorality? HERE IS THE CAUSE! HUMAN NATURE—WHICH IS VANITY—without any PURPOSE, and absence of parental training and discipline! ... Young people today are given NOTHING TO LIVE FOR! NO HOPE! NO FUTURE! They are more prosperous than ever before. THEY ARE BORED! They are *rebellious*. The spirit of REVOLT is in the air! They resent all AUTHORITY!"

Mr. Armstrong is right. Our schoolchildren don't need a day off school. They need more parental training and discipline. They need hope and purpose. They need a future. They need God's law and God's government, which means they need GOD'S LOVE! ■

professing Christians do today. Second, these people are not flourishing like a palm tree. God wants us to live with excitement and thrills. He wants us to have the abundant life! (John 10:10). That is the way that God intended everyone to live, but man has chosen not to. He has decided to go his own way.

This innumerable multitude is composed of people who remember hearing God's warning message and, because of that, turn around. The great multitude must have heard God's message before the Great Tribulation. But they didn't commit themselves to it; they didn't repent, washing their robes.

Notice a prophecy for today in Ezekiel 33: "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them" (verses 31-33). These people loved to hear God's Word, but they wouldn't *do anything* with what they heard. Again, this prophecy is for today.

Look at the terrible things happening in the world today. We are on the outer edges of the great storm of the Tribulation right now. Time is very urgent. But you must prove this for yourself.

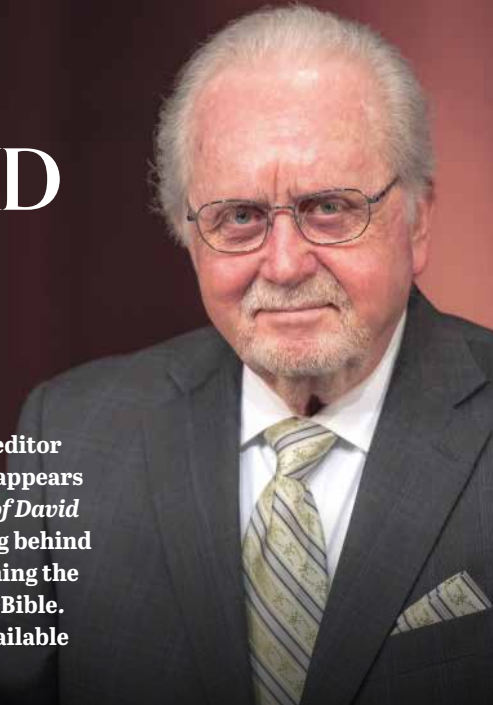
That is the message the great multitude didn't heed at the right time. But they will heed it in the Great Tribulation—and then they will come out and turn to God! They will wash their robes with the blood of Christ, and will come to understand this great and marvelous vision. And the moment they repent, God will bring them out of the Tribulation so they need not face any more suffering. This shows how wonderfully merciful God is.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2). God loves us; we are His beloved. He is a God of perfect justice and judgment. He will try us and test us. He will punish us when necessary. But above all things, He wants us to prosper and be in good health, as the Apostle John wrote. He wants us to flourish like the palm tree! He doesn't want us living in fear as the whole world does today.

The innumerable multitude will escape the worst year in this planet's history. And God is happy to protect them. But He would have done so earlier—if only they had heeded what He says now, while there is still time.

Learn this powerful lesson of the "great multitude"! YOU ARE HEARING THE MESSAGE OF GOD TODAY! DO NOT JUST FILE IT AWAY IN YOUR MEMORY AND ACT ON IT LATER. ACT NOW! Turn to God in repentance! Learn to love His way of life and to love the Bible, because there is nothing like it when you truly understand it. God is offering us a life that is full of hope! He wants to protect you and look after you *right now*—and He promises to do so if you turn and obey Him today. That is something to be excited about! ■

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 keyofdauid.com.

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DT 8:30, Sun
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Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRXP 6:00, Fri
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
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Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
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Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WACP 9:00, Sun
WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Anderson WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KLCO-DT 8:30, Sun
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Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
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Superior KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
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