

SPECIAL REPORT

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THE  
MODERN  
ROMANS





SPECIAL REPORT

## THE MODERN ROMANS

COVER | FROM THE EDITOR 1

**Mighty Rome Fell—America Is on Its Deathbed**

**When Family Falls, Society Falls 4**

**The Party and the Crash 7**

**Fallen Superpower, Superpower Falling 9**

**'These Violent Delights' 12**

**When an Empire Has an Identity Crisis 16**

INFOGRAPHIC

**Rise and Fall of Empires 18**

**Why God Is Punishing America 21**

COMMENTARY 35

**The Fall Is Near**

### FEATURES

**Dark Truths Exposed 23**

The Most Epic Fraud in History 24

**China's Strongest Protests in a Generation 28**

### DEPARTMENTS

PRINCIPLES OF LIVING 31

**What Is Sin?**

WORLDWATCH 32

THE KEY OF DAVID TELEVISION LOG 36

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# MIGHTY ROME FELL—

*Destruction*—part four of Thomas Cole's painting series, *The Course of Empire*—depicts the rapid fall of a once great empire.



FROM THE EDITOR  
GERALD FLURRY

# AMERICA IS ON ITS DEATHBED

Why studying ancient history gives  
piercing insight into our deadly future

**W**HY DO GREAT NATIONS OR EMPIRES fall? Why do superpowers fall? It is a fact of history that all world-ruling empires have collapsed. But *why*?

Many people are deeply concerned about the state of the American superpower today. But it is easy to assume America could never fall. It is such a mighty country, with vast resources, superb technology and a peerless military. Many Americans seem to believe the country can indefinitely survive endless abuse, rampant corruption and radical transformation of foundational institutions.

This is false. History teaches us much about America's fate.

There is a cause for every effect. The great historian Edward Gibbon wrote about the fall of the Roman Empire, the greatest of all the world-ruling empires. If you study Gibbon's work, it is obvious that America is headed in the same direction! You could say that Britain—at one time an empire even greater than America—has already traveled even further down that road.

In his masterpiece, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Gibbon identified five major causes that contributed to the fall of the Roman Empire: first, the breakdown of the family; second, increased taxation; third, an insatiable craving for pleasure; fourth, an unsustainable buildup of armaments; fifth, the decay of religion. This *Trumpet* issue examines all five of these causes.

One of the greatest historians of all time explained *how* and *why* ancient Rome fell. Don't the conditions surrounding Rome's fall sound eerily similar to conditions prevalent in the United States and British Commonwealth today?

The story of Rome—its dramatic rise and mastery of the world, and then its long decline and eventual collapse—is one of the most gripping in world history! But it isn't merely a historical curiosity. When you study the problems the Romans grappled with and succumbed to, you recognize *so many* of the exact crises facing America and Britain today.

## How Great Was Rome?

There are many arguments about all the factors that caused Rome's fall and how relevant the lessons from that history are. Here is a factor that adds significant weight to this study:

The truth is that God *prophesied* the rise and fall of Rome—AND GOD PROPHESED THE RISE AND FALL OF AMERICA AND BRITAIN.

Yes, God foretold the Roman Empire's epic ascent centuries in advance. In the closing years of the seventh century B.C., God gave King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire a prophetic vision that foretold millenniums of events that would follow. Interpreted by the Prophet Daniel and recorded in the second chapter of his biblical book, the vision was of a statue representing four successive world-ruling Gentile empires: beginning with the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar, followed by Medo-Persia, then Greco-Macedonia, and finally Rome.

The Roman Empire was symbolized by the statue's iron legs. This empire, Daniel explained, "shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" (Daniel 2:40). At the time, Rome was a monarchy of little influence, governed by Tarquin the Elder. There was little indication that it would grow to become the military juggernaut spoken of by Daniel, a power that would "break in pieces and subdue all things."

This chilling prophecy was amplified by another that Daniel later spoke, recorded in Daniel 7. Here the same Roman Empire is depicted as "a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it ..." (verse 7). Rome was still in its infancy, waiting in the wings. The Persian and Greek empires would dominate the world before Rome would burst into its full, frightful military vigor.

By the time the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation at the end of the first century A.D., the Roman Empire was fulfilling Daniel's descriptions with stunning accuracy, bestriding the world with imposing force and brutality. John described it in these symbolic terms: "a beast ... having seven heads and ten horns .... And the beast ... was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion ..." (Revelation 13:1-2). With skilled leadership, brilliant tactics, impressive innovation, well-trained and well-armed soldiers and ruthless efficacy, Rome's military was able to overwhelm its foes and extend the empire's borders wider than any power that preceded it. It has been said that not until some 15 centuries later under Napoleon Bonaparte did the world produce an army rivaling that of Imperial Rome.

Besides its military and territorial achievements, Rome attained staggering wealth, unmatched architecture and technology, and profound and broad cultural influence. And its domination went on for century after century.

Understandably, the Romans thought themselves invincible. "Proud Romans became lulled by the belief in the seeming 'eternity' and superiority of their system, in their long chain of rarely broken military and economic successes, as if fate had determined they should always come out on top despite repeated challenges to their existence," reads *The Modern Romans*, a booklet produced by Ambassador College Press in 1971 under Herbert W. Armstrong's watchful eye.

But as you will read in the articles that follow, there were warning signs. Those with eyes to see could recognize weakness and rot—economically, militarily, culturally, morally. Yet the great majority of Romans were unconcerned, complacent, self-absorbed, distracted, gluttoned on luxury, blind to what was truly happening.

"When Seneca, the Roman statesman, warned that Rome would fall, the people snickered. 'Rome fall?' It could lose a few battles, but not the empire. 'Rome,' mused the average citizen basking in the height of world power, 'is impregnable.' Rome *was* the world—and the world was Rome" (ibid).

But then, the unthinkable DID HAPPEN!



American prosperity, like Rome's before it, can lull people into a sense of invincibility.

## God Raises and Brings Down Empires

As I have said, there is a cause for every effect. The crash of an empire furnishes specific lessons that we can learn from and apply. The errors that weakened the mighty Roman Empire would compromise *any* great power.

Many analysts have studied the cycles of birth and death of empires, and they all note a similar sequence playing out repeatedly throughout history.

Sir John Glubb, who served in World War I and was awarded the Military Cross, argued that empires pass through six stages, usually within the span of about 250 years: 1) *pioneers* bear deprivation and overcome tremendous obstacles, then go on to 2) *conquests*—military victory and expansion, which lead to 3) *commerce*—great enterprise and wealth building, which creates 4) *affluence*—an impressive facade, behind which greed begins replacing duty and public service; meanwhile, military readiness is denounced and neglected as attention shifts to 5) *intellect*—priority is put on debate and argument, thought rather than action, resulting in division and 6) *decadence*—characterized by materialism, frivolity, government welfare, unrestrained immigration and a weakening of religion. At that point, the empire is victimized and dies at the hands of a new race of *pioneers*.

As you will read in this *Trumpet* issue, this cycle played out on a spectacular scale in ancient Rome.

ITS LATTER STAGES ARE UNFOLDING IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD TODAY.

“A great civilization is not conquered from without,” wrote historian Will Durant, “until it has destroyed itself within.”

Returning to the prophecy of Revelation 13, John foretold what would become of this Roman “beast”: “And I saw one of his heads as it were *wounded to death ...*” (verse 3). This prophecy was not fulfilled until nearly four centuries later when, in A.D. 476, the Germanic warlord Odoacer deposed Romulus Augustus, ending the empire.

The heights it had attained were truly staggering—yet the mighty, “impregnable” Rome DID FALL!

(Notice that this verse goes on to say that “his deadly wound was *healed.*” This refers to the Imperial Restoration of Justinian less than a century later. You can read about this in our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy.*)

God prophesied Rome’s ascent, and He prophesied its downfall. He did the same in the pages of your Bible regarding the rise and fall of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greco-Macedonia and many more powerful nations and empires. This is an astonishing truth you really need to prove to yourself! FULFILLED PROPHECY IS INSPIRING PROOF OF GOD’S POWER AND OF HIS GUIDING HAND IN WORLD EVENTS.

While pondering Nebuchadnezzar’s vision, Daniel mused, “Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: HE REMOVETH KINGS, AND SETTETH UP KINGS ...” (Daniel

2:20-21). He foretells and then directs the course of empires!

God Himself says through the Prophet Isaiah, “... I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and *from ancient times* the things that are NOT YET DONE, saying, *My counsel shall stand ...*” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

This same omnipotent God foretold the rise in recent centuries of the great British Empire and of the United States, the most powerful single nation in history. You can read this gripping story—explained from history and from your Bible—in Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, which we will happily send you at no cost.

Further, the same God who prophesied *Rome’s fall* forecast THE COLLAPSE OF BOTH BRITAIN AND AMERICA! Mr. Armstrong’s book explains this in great detail. These are sure prophecies of God!

### The Painful Death of Empires

God does have power over these great movements of history. Yet He does not direct the rise and fall of kings, and the

establishment and collapse of empires, arbitrarily. He watches and responds to decisions of the people, and He rewards or punishes based on the uprightness or wickedness of their actions.

As you will read in this *Trumpet* issue, America and Britain are in the twilight of their power BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF OUR PEOPLES.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote an article on this subject in the February 1956 *Plain Truth*. “Five major vices are combining to bring America to *total collapse*,” he wrote, “to a fall *greater* than that of ancient Rome, because we are now *more WEALTHY, more POWERFUL* than ancient Rome—and the bigger they come, the harder they fall” (emphasis mine throughout).

Mr. Armstrong wrote that, in a sense, these vices were “undercover”—but explained: “These gigantic fatal vices are *not* hidden, actually, and yet, we don’t see them, because WE DON’T RECOGNIZE THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE. We are totally *oblivious* to what they are *doing* to us.”

In this special *Trumpet* issue, we examine each of these causes in detail. We dig into the specifics of Roman history to see what contributed to the collapse of this mighty empire. Then we look at how history is repeating itself in this end time.

It is difficult to imagine America collapsing as a world power. But we truly are going the way of Rome. We must have the humility, perspective and vision to recognize our problems for what they are, and awaken to what they are doing to us and how they are leading to our catastrophic downfall.

History shows that the fall of empires has proved not only inevitable but also agonizing. In his 2010 book *Dismantling America*, Thomas Sowell wrote this about the troubles then facing America: “No one issue and no one administration in Washington has been enough to create a perfect storm for a great nation that has weathered many storms in its more than two centuries of existence. But the Roman Empire lasted many times longer and weathered many storms in its turbulent times—and yet it ultimately collapsed completely. It has been estimated that a thousand years passed before the standard of living in Europe rose again to the level it had achieved in Roman times. The collapse of a civilization is not just a replacement of rulers or institutions with new rulers and new institutions. It is the destruction of a whole way of life and the painful and sometimes pathetic attempts to begin rebuilding amid the ruins.”

Thankfully, though, the rebuilding project that will begin after America’s collapse is unlike any before it. Read it in Daniel’s prophecy about Nebuchadnezzar’s image: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44). ■



## Don’t believe history repeats?

Then you must not know your Bible. It proves and foretells how family breakdown is central to the rise and fall of nations. Get the biblical perspective on family. Request your free copies of *Redefining Family* and *God Is a Family*.



# WHEN FAMILY FALLS, SOCIETY FALLS



The Romans thrived as long as they cherished marriage and family, and degenerated when they stopped. We are following their path to ruin. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**H**ISTORY SHOWS THAT THE strength of any nation depends on the strength of its families. Family is the rock-solid foundation on which a country's superstructure is erected. That was the case for both America and Britain in their rise to greatness.

Rome in its heyday was affluent and had the mightiest army on Earth, just like America today. Back then, when people talked about Rome falling, they were scoffed at and scorned. When Seneca, the famous statesman and philosopher who served the early Roman Empire, warned that Rome would fall—even telling people *why* it would fall—people ignored him.

In the words of Seneca, one of the foundational reasons Rome would fall was the fact that “*they divorce in order to remarry. They marry in order to divorce*” (emphasis mine throughout).

Seneca warned that family breakdown would destroy the empire!

This warning could just as easily apply to America and Britain today! Strong marriages have grown all too rare. Fewer people are even marrying at all. Same-sex “marriage” is now federally mandated in America—redefining the very definition of this fundamental institution (article,

page 21). Four in 10 children are born outside of marriage. Many more grow up in neglectful homes. Family disintegration is rampant in these nations.

The decline of the family in our society is clearly having the same devastating effect on us that it did in ancient Rome.

## Father-Led Families

Under the direction of *Plain Truth* publisher Herbert W. Armstrong, Ambassador College Press published a booklet in 1971 called *The Modern Romans*. Drawing upon the parallels between ancient Roman civilization and the modern powers of America and Britain, this booklet devoted a chapter to “The Home: Foundation of Greatness or Decadence.” That chapter said: “Largely forgotten today is the fact that the home is the basic foundation of any society. *It is the most influential element in national character.* It lays the first groundwork for learning individual character, values, goals, morality, self-control and loyalty.

“The *early* Romans basically understood this. And it was a force that helped Rome grow in power and stature.”

In his book *Rome: Its Rise and Fall*, Philip Van Ness Myers wrote, “First, at the bottom as it were of Roman society and forming its ultimate unit, was the

family. ... The most important feature or element of this family group was the authority of the father.”

Rome, like the United States, was built on a foundation of strong, stable families in which the father was embraced as the chief authority!

The father was the nucleus of the early Roman family. He led his sons and daughters and was an example of the virtues they were to develop.

Myers continued, “It would be difficult to overestimate the influence of this group [father-led family] upon the history and destiny of Rome. It was the cradle of at least some of those splendid virtues of the early Romans that contributed so much to the strength and greatness of Rome, and that helped to give her dominion of the world.”

Children who grow up in strong families learn respect for authority and obedience. This naturally produces law-abiding, productive citizens, and nurtures virtues of leadership in that upcoming generation. This was certainly the case in early Rome. Myers wrote, “[*T*he exercise of the parental authority in the family taught the Roman how to command as well as how to obey—how to exercise authority with wisdom, moderation and justice.”

Yes, family provides training in leadership and in how to work fruitfully within larger groups such as a church, a company and society. It is easy to see how STRONG NATIONS ARE UNDERPINNED BY STRONG FAMILIES.

In his 1961 book *Ancient Education and Today*, E. B. Castle wrote about the change in educational standards over the course of Roman history. “The [early Roman] boy’s upbringing was founded on a profound conviction of the power of example, *first of the father himself* as a representative of virtues peculiarly Roman, but also of the great prototypes of Roman valor in the boy’s family and national history who were presented to him as men worthy of admiration,” he wrote.

What a difference it makes in the life of a young person to have an involved father who provides a strong personal example of virtue! A youth who grows up in a home with a man who exemplifies manliness, valor and courage is far likelier to take on these qualities himself.

Tacitus, a Roman historian of the early empire, wrote, “In the good old days [of the Roman Republic], *every man’s son, born in wedlock*, was brought up not in the chamber of some hireling nurse, but in his mother’s lap and at her knee. And that mother could have no higher praise than that she managed the house and gave herself to her children ...” These are the words of a Roman historian on the woman’s role. Note that: Society *valued* women for *rearing, educating and loving the children*, and giving those young people the time and tender care they needed.

“Religiously and with the utmost delicacy she regulated not only the serious tasks of her youthful charges, but their recreations also and their games,” Tacitus continued (*Dialogue on Oratory*).

“The idea of entrusting the training of a future Roman citizen to the incompetent guidance of a slave was repellent to the Roman mind at this time,” Castle wrote.

God says that is the way it ought to be: Families need to stick together (Matthew 19:4-5). Husbands and wives must work to *bind* their marriages together. God said they ought to *cleave* to one another and become *one flesh*.

### Fracturing Families

Rome never had a biblical family model near as strong as early America’s biblical

family model. But the family was the self-sufficient unit that undergirded society. The republic grew in power when fathers fed and educated their own children.

Sadly, however, the Romans, like Americans today, began to turn to a new morality that no longer valued marriage and the family. This caused them to neglect and disrespect this institution that had undergirded the Republic at its peak in the second century B.C.

That was when Rome successfully destroyed its commercial competitor, Carthage, in a 17-year war. After that war, the Roman Republic controlled a strongly united Italy and gained mastery of the western Mediterranean, which provided it funds to conquer the Greeks in the east. Historian Will Durant wrote about the long-lasting consequences of that victory: “It began the transforma-



tion of Roman life and morals by hurting agriculture and helping trade; by taking men from the countryside and teaching them the violence of battle and the promiscuity of the camp. ... It was a pivotal event for almost every phase of Roman history.” The breakdown in family continued unabated after the Republic was transformed into Empire.

In Rome, divorce grew increasingly common. E.B. Castle wrote how burgeoning trade, wealth and prosperity pulled husbands out of the home on business trips for long periods. “Added to this initial cause of family disruption,” he wrote, “was the consequent easy attitude to the marriage tie, *the increasing frequency of divorce, and growing freedom and laxity in women’s morals, all of which ended in a loosening of the old*

*family unit in which the best in Roman character had its roots*” (op cit).

History shows clearly that this was a foundational reason for the end of the Republic and the later fall of the mighty Roman Empire. We ignore this history at our peril.

Today, divorces are stunningly easy to get. Yet most people have rejected the law of cause and effect. We think we can discard marriage and family and suffer no consequences. The history of Rome ought to be a shrill warning about the inevitable fruits of such family breakdown!

In Rome, as marriage fell out of favor, prostitution and homosexuality became more widely practiced. Affluence and materialism made people less interested in even *having* children. Starting with the educated classes, who saw the young as a burden, more and more people couldn’t be bothered with family life. Motherhood became devalued; women wanted independence.

Leaders tried to reverse the trend. Caesar Augustus passed a set of laws encouraging marriage and punishing celibacy and adultery. In A.D. 9, he asked the forum, “How can the commonwealth be preserved if we neither marry nor produce children?” Yet the people were too attached to their hedonistic lifestyles to want children getting in their way. Thus, Tacitus wrote in his *Annals*, “Childlessness prevailed.”

Throughout human history, declining fertility has been a glaring sign of cultural collapse. If people lack purpose in life, they have no motivation to perpetuate it by creating more life.

Rome also became well known for how cheaply it valued the life of its little ones. A society coarsened by violence widely practiced abortion, even infanticide. Sadly, this has become a rallying cry for the left in America: People demand the right to kill their own unwanted babies—even after birth! In America’s 2022 midterm elections, after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, many states passed laws guaranteeing legal abortion. Voters in Montana even *rejected* a bill that, in the words of the state representative who introduced it, was intended “to protect infants who have survived abortions from being denied medical care and being left to die.” Daily Wire senior editor Cabot Phillips wrote,

“Montana has voted to let babies die on operating tables if they survive an abortion attempt. WE DESERVE THE JUDGMENT WE WILL FACE FOR OUR WICKEDNESS.”

In Rome, those families that did have children stopped rearing them. In his book *Daily Life in Ancient Rome*, Jérôme Carcopino wrote that by the beginning of the second century A.D., Roman fathers had “yielded to the impulse to become far too complaisant. Having given up the habit of controlling their children, they let the children govern them, and took pleasure in bleeding themselves white [financially] to gratify the expensive whims of their offspring. The result was that they were succeeded by a generation of idlers and wastrels.” It is no surprise then that the Roman Empire peaked in power and might in the second century A.D.

Look honestly at Western societies today: Our parenting is exactly the same!

In Isaiah 3, the ancient prophet warned that family breakdown would be a defining feature in America and Britain before the return of Christ. He also explained how this would come about: “For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour ...” (Isaiah 3:1-5).

God said strong leaders, including strong fathers, would be rare, and that children and teenagers would rule the family and dominate the culture. Does that sound like America and Britain today?

“[T]he child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable” (verse 5). Look around you! Is there any doubt children and teenagers rule over adults and dominate society and culture?

“As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause

thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths” (verse 12).

This is a towering lesson of history: A NATION’S SUCCESS OR FAILURE HINGES ON THE STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS OF ITS FAMILIES. That is what ancient Rome teaches us, and that is what God is telling us in Isaiah 3.

In Isaiah’s prophecy, the family is so upside down and the father is so anemic that he’s not even *mentioned*. Where are the fathers that God says should be leading their families—the type of fathers that helped make Rome great? In this prophecy, the women are ruling, although even they are being oppressed by the children. In reality, the CHILDREN are leading, just as they were in ancient Rome before its monstrous collapse!

The history of Rome confirms what the Bible teaches about marriage and family!



### The Need for Fathers

God created human reproduction so that every child has a *father* and a *mother*. Both roles are crucial, and they are different. The two-parent household—children growing up in a home with their own two biological parents, who are married—has been the best way to rear children ALL OVER THE WORLD, FOR ALL OF MAN’S HISTORY! This is irrefutable.

But in our “enlightened” thinking today, people want to pretend that this isn’t true. They insist that divorce doesn’t hurt children, or that it’s perfectly normal to have two mommies or two daddies. The transgender movement talks about “pregnant people” rather than mothers, because they insist women who think they are men *are in fact men!* Some birth certificates now

read “Parent 1” and “Parent 2” rather than *father* and *mother!* This is how insane our thinking has become.

We live in a culture that constantly undermines the role of the father. (You can learn more about the attack on fatherhood by requesting a free copy of *Conspiracy Against Fatherhood*.) Throughout history, mankind understood that children need fathers—but now psychologists are trying to tell us that the father is unnecessary for rearing healthy children. The history of Rome teaches that these people have no idea what they’re talking about!

ACTUALLY WHAT THESE STUDIES AND THE PERVASIVE ANTI-FATHER MOVEMENT ARE TELLING YOU IS HOW TO DESTROY FAMILIES AND DESTROY NATIONS.

What does the Bible say about the critical role of the father? “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, *God dealeth with you as with sons*; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” (Hebrews 12:5-9).

That passage, among many others, tells us that God is a FATHER!

In fact, one of the greatest truths taught in the Bible is that GOD IS A FAMILY! The Bible teaches that marriage and family are God-ordained institutions, created for a divine and spectacular purpose. Some people understand the importance of family, but even they (in almost all cases) don’t really understand the incredible human potential of a person to be born into the very Family of God!

You can learn about the spiritual dimension of marriage and family by requesting free copies of *The Missing Dimension in Sex* and *God Is a Family*.

Family and marriage have such inspiring meaning. We must understand it if we are ever to have strong families and strong nations! ■



# THE PARTY

THE MODERN ROMANS 

# AND THE CRASH



**Empires fail when people sacrifice character for free stuff.**

**BY ANDREW MILLER**

**M**ASSIVE PUBLIC WORKS. Bureaucratic institutions. Government dysfunction. Rampant corruption. Bloated budgets. Trade deficits. Runaway inflation. Crushing tax burdens. Economic inequality. Political violence.

These phrases describe the last days of the Roman Empire as much as they describe America today. So it is imperative that every citizen wake up and take a look at them. America's founders were deeply inspired by the ancient Roman Republic. After studying the writings of Livy, Plutarch, Polybius, Sallust, Tacitus, Thucydides and, above all, Cicero, they established an economy based upon free trade, property rights and private enterprise. But just as Americans tried to duplicate Rome's success, they are also repeating Rome's failure.

Alexander Hamilton, America's first treasury secretary, was likely inspired by Rome's fixed exchange rates between the gold aureus, the silver denarius and the bronze sesterce when he established a bimetallic standard for the United States dollar. And Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the architect who designed Washington, D.C., was unquestionably inspired by Roman infrastructure when he drew up plans for the new U.S. capitol city.

Yet more than exchange rates or infrastructure, America's founders were inspired by Roman civic virtue. In the days of Rome's greatness, the Romans regarded themselves as their chief source of income. They worked hard to provide for themselves and their relatives because they knew that self-sufficient family units were the basic building blocks of any stable society. The Romans rose to

greatness when they provided for their own, and fell into ruin when they abandoned self-responsibility and started looking to the government to provide.

One of the most important lessons of history is that no people who have lost their character can keep their liberties. Rome learned this lesson the hard way, and so will America if it doesn't learn from Rome's fall!

## **Entitlement Addiction**

In the days of the Roman Republic, the government sporadically intervened to distribute subsidized grain to Rome's more impoverished citizens. During the constant wars of the republic, many farming families became impoverished while their breadwinner was away on campaign, so they sold their land to rich and powerful landowners in the Senate. Everyone knew there was a problem, but the Senate would not vote against their own interests. They kept buying farms and distributing grain to keep the poor on their side.

This grain dole became institutionalized when a demagogue named Publius Clodius Pulcher became tribune of the plebs in 59 B.C. He bribed Rome's electorate with promises of free grain at taxpayer expense and won office. People from the surrounding countryside flooded into Rome to receive free grain, and politicians tried to one-up each other by spending huge sums of money to win public favor. By the time Julius Caesar became dictator, roughly one third of the city of Rome's population was receiving free grain, according to the Cato Institute.

Caesar Augustus reduced the number of people on the dole from 320,000 to 200,000 by instituting a means test before handing over the grain, but the practice of distributing free food continued until the Roman Empire collapsed 500 years later. A series of emperors based their power on their huge handouts to the people, who became addicted to them. Henry Haskell described this tragic turn of ideas in his insightful book *The New Deal in Old Rome: How Government in the Ancient World Tried to Deal With Modern Problems*. "Less than a century after the republic had faded into the autocracy of the empire, the people had lost all taste for democratic institutions," he wrote. "On the death of an emperor the

Senate debated the question of restoring the republic. But the commons preferred the rule of an extravagant despot who would continue the dole and furnish them free shows. The mob outside clamored for 'one ruler' of the world."

Emperor Aurelian, who reigned during a time of protracted crises in the third century, bolstered his popularity by giving people government-baked bread instead of giving them grain to make their own bread. He declared government relief payments a hereditary right and handed out free salt and pork to the masses.

Other cities followed Rome's example, and the citizens of Alexandria, Antioch and Constantinople also became dependent on government largesse. People were schooled to expect something for nothing, so they shirked work and sought leisure. It was the abandonment of the old Roman virtues of self-reliance and initiative that caused the Roman Republic to give way to the Roman Empire. And it was the absence of these same old Roman virtues that eventually caused the Roman Empire to fall into decay and ruin.

As the late theologian Herbert W. Armstrong put it, "When any nation begins to look to its government to provide, that nation is on a greased toboggan-slide to decay and to oblivion. It brought about the fall of Rome. It brought about the fall of proud Babylon long before. *And it's bringing about the fall of America today*" (*Plain Truth*, February 1956).

### Runaway Inflation

In the early days of the Roman Empire, a denarius was worth about a day's wages for a skilled laborer or craftsman. These coins were of high purity, holding about 4.5 grams of silver. But as Roman emperors began spending more on wars, government relief payments and gladiatorial games, they found they did not have enough silver to pay for all their pet projects. But they soon found a way around this problem.

Rather than raise taxes, Emperor Nero reduced the amount of silver in a denarius to 3.4 grams so he could mint more coins with less silver. Of course, this made each denarius less valuable, and merchants soon wanted more denarii for the same goods and services. This cycle continued under Nero's successors.

Emperor Trajan (A.D. 98–117) reduced the denarius's silver content to 85 percent. Then Emperor Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161–180) reduced it to 75 percent. Septimius Severus (A.D. 193–211) reduced it to 50 percent, and his succes-



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen testifies on government relief for coronavirus.

## AMERICA'S FOUNDERS BELIEVED THEY COULD REPLICATE WHAT ROME DID RIGHT. IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR AMERICANS TO ALSO LEARN FROM WHAT ROME DID WRONG.

sors reduced it more. By the time of Gallienus (A.D. 253–268), the newly named antoninianus was a bronze coin with a veneer of thin silver that quickly wore off to reveal the poor quality beneath.

Barbarian mercenaries were paid in gold because they would not accept worthless Roman currency, but native Roman soldiers had to cope with the hyperinflation. Ancient records indicate that soldiers' annual wages increased from 223 denarii in the time of Caesar Augustus to 675 antoninianus in the time of Gallienus. Yet the silver content

in an antoninianus had plummeted from 98 percent to 5 percent over this same time period.

As Mikhail Rostovtzeff put it in *A History of the Ancient World: Rome*, "To crown all these calamities, the emperors in their need for money issued a vast quantity of coin. Not possessing enough of the precious metals for these issues, they alloyed the gold with silver, the silver with copper, and the copper with lead, thus debasing the coinage and ruining in the end men who had once been rich. This measure cut at the root of trade and industry. The government mint in the third century became a vast manufactory of base coin. ... It is no wonder that a social and economic crisis of extreme severity was brought about by these conditions."

With the survival of the empire at stake, Diocletian (A.D. 284–305) attempted to halt runaway inflation with price controls. But his plan backfired. Rather than fix inflation, his edicts made merchants afraid to sell merchandise lest they suffer devastating financial losses. Therefore, demand for merchandise skyrocketed and so did prices. Diocletian's price-fixing decree was soon abandoned while the emperor looked for a way to restore order without restoring the civic virtue and sound fiscal policy that had made the Roman Republic great.

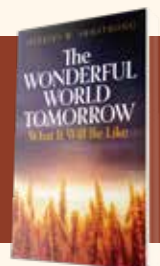
### Heavy Taxes

After the crisis of the third century, emperors were no longer able to obtain sufficient resources by debasing the currency to raise revenue. Yet Diocletian had already implemented a series of tax hikes so rigid and unwavering that many were driven to starvation and bankruptcy. Since money was worthless, the new system collected taxes in the form of goods and services. After calculating how much cloth, grain, oil, weapons and other goods it took to sustain a Roman soldier, bureaucrats figured out how much each family owed the empire.

In the 50 years after Diocletian's reforms, the Roman tax burden roughly doubled. Many abandoned their lands in order to avoid taxes and to receive public entitlements instead. This created a circumstance where, according to anthropologist and historian Joseph Tainter, "those who lived off the

## At last—an economy that will not fail

An economy is coming that will not be inflated, deflated, recessed or depressed. Get a sneak peek by reading Herbert W. Armstrong's *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



treasury were more numerous than those paying into it.”

Tax riots and rebellion among those few who continued to work for a living grew commonplace, but this did not stop Valentinian III (A.D. 425–455) from imposing an additional 4 percent sales tax. Under such debilitating circumstances, many lamented that they actually wanted Germanic barbarians to deliver them from the fearful load of taxes. One late-fifth-century writer, Zosimus, quipped that “as a result of this exaction of taxes, city and countryside were full of laments and complaints, and all ... sought the help of the barbarians.”

This is why Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, listed increased taxation as one of the five major causes that contributed to the fall of the Roman Empire, alongside the breakdown of the family, an insatiable craving for pleasure, an unsustainable buildup of armaments, and the decay of religion.

“The economic oppression of the later empire increasingly ate the spirit, loyalty and pride out of the citizenry, high and low, and fostered a rash of other ills,” reports the booklet *The Modern Romans*, published by Ambassador College Press in 1971. “It tore away at community and national spirit. The costs of running a gigantic empire were massive. They caused a perpetual administrative struggle to maintain a stable economy. The ever burgeoning government bureaucracy became horribly expensive. ... It took a veritable army of officials to man and work the complicated dual supply and demands of both the government services and the military. This necessitated laying still heavier burdens of taxation upon already overburdened people.”

The Prophet Amos foretold that burdensome taxes would be a key reason for the collapse of end-time America (Amos 5:11), but the American people are not paying attention. Soul-crushing taxes ravaged Rome’s shrinking private economy and made it easy pickings for the Germanic leader Odoacer in A.D. 476, when the empire finally collapsed completely.

America’s founders believed they could create a stable society by looking back on what Rome did right, so it is imperative for Americans to also learn from what Rome did wrong. ■

# FALLEN SUPERPOWER, SUPERPOWER, FALLING

THE MODERN ROMANS 

What causes the demise of a military juggernaut?  
BY ABRAHAM BLONDEAU



**F**LAMES CONSUMED THE CITY OF Carthage. After months of bitter siege and six days of bloody combat, the Romans had finally conquered the citadel of the proud city. The 50,000 survivors were taken as slaves. Surveying the destruction, the Roman commander, Scipio the Younger, grabbed the hand of Polybius and in tears said, “It is glorious, but I have a dread foreboding that some time, the same doom will be pronounced upon my own country.”

At the time of this keen insight, 146 B.C., such a demise for Rome seemed unthinkable. Indeed, for the next five centuries, Rome dominated the known world. The nations trembled before the might of the Roman army. But in the end, Rome became a cemetery of past glory.

The ruins of Rome inspired Edward

Gibbon to write his exhaustive *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. When the first volume was published in 1776, the lessons of the Roman Empire loomed large for Britain, an island nation that was about to become the greatest empire of all time, and its newly independent brother nation, America, which would eclipse all others in military power.

These lessons are even more relevant, in today’s era of imperial decline: that of the American superpower.

Among the five causes for Rome’s fall that Gibbon identified, one was unsustainable military spending and an erosion of the Roman military. Long-term decay resulted in eventual defeat. This same process is now playing out in modern Rome: the United States of America.

## Prophesied Juggernaut

From the sixth century B.C., the city-state of Rome used military conquest to expand its territory over the entire Italian Peninsula. The Romans at first adopted the phalanx tactics of Alexander the Great—tightly packed formations of troops bristling with long spears. The Romans later created a more fluid military unit that became the legion.

The Roman legion combined rigid discipline, impressive tactics and engineering expertise to form the ancient world's most formidable army. Under effectual organization and good generalship, Roman legions proved nearly unbeatable for five centuries.

Effective warfare was central to Rome's rise to greatness. As historian Ramon Jiménez writes in *Caesar Against the Celts*, Rome was “a country bred to war and conquest, and nurtured on political intrigue.” The Romans worshiped military glory. Their legacy of military achievement was mingled with a legacy of cruelty.

This characteristic was prophesied in the Bible centuries before Rome rose to power. As Gerald Flurry writes (article, page 1), God gave the Prophet Daniel two prophetic visions in the sixth century B.C., at the same time Rome was beginning to rise. Recorded in Daniel 2 and 7, these visions revealed the sequence of world empires for the next 2,500 years. Four successive empires would rise: Babylon, Persian, the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, and then another power of note.

Daniel 7 uses the images of wild animals to depict the unique characteristics of each empire: a lion for Babylon, a bear for Persia, and Alexander's Greek Empire as a four-headed leopard with wings. The fourth empire was represented by a unique beast that combined the strongest part of each of the three previous beasts.

This fourth great empire was Rome.

Herbert W. Armstrong explained this prophecy: “And the FOURTH KINGDOM, which, developing from Rome, spread out and gradually absorbed one after another of these four divisions—‘dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly,’

was the ROMAN EMPIRE (31 B.C. to A.D. 476)” (*Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*). The Roman Empire possessed the strengths of the previous three: the splendor of Babylon, the numerical superiority of the Persians, and the swiftness and cruelty of Alexander the Great's war tactics. Mr. Armstrong continued: “It was the greatest war-making machine the world had ever seen .... It was stronger, greater, more terrible, than any.”

The Roman Empire—the most potent war machine in history—is described in the Bible as this dreadful, terrible beast!

The United States does not share the same legacy of cruelty and ferocity as the Roman military machine, but the “shock and awe” of the American superpower made its enemies tremble.



## The Costs of Empire

The subjugation of Carthage in the Punic Wars, then of the Greek factions, the Persians, Parthians and Celts, brought about a period of peace and stability.

“If a man were called to fix the period in the history of the world during which the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous, he would, without hesitation, name that which elapsed from the death of Domitian to the accession of Commodus,” Gibbon wrote. Pax Romana (“Roman peace”) spanned nearly 200 years. Trade flourished, strong military outposts maintained order, and infrastructure expanded. Behind this golden peace was a military juggernaut as strong as iron, forged in a blast furnace of cruelty.

There are few recorded periods of peace in the violent history of man. One is Pax Romana. Another is Pax Britannica,

which ended in World War I. The last is Pax Americana, which began with an Allied victory in World War II. For both Rome and America, military spending gradually grew to astronomical levels.

By the end of the reign of Caesar Augustus in A.D. 14, the Roman army stood at 250,000 men, consisting of 25 legions and 250 auxiliaries (militias). The legionaries were paid 225 denarii a year. Higher-ranking officers received more; auxiliaries less. This pay remained consistent until A.D. 81, when Emperor Domitian raised the yearly pay to 300 denarii. Thus began a bidding war by subsequent emperors to keep the army's loyalty. Severus (A.D. 193–211) raised the pay to 450 denarii, and Caracalla (A.D. 198–217) to an estimated 650 denarii.

As pay increased, so did the number of legions. Emperor Trajan increased it from 25 to 30. In the third and fourth centuries, the Romans experienced a recruitment crisis and began grafting in barbarian tribes. This swelled the number of legions from 33 under Severus (A.D. 211) to 64 under Constantine (A.D. 337).

These rising costs in the army bankrupted the Roman Empire. While it is difficult for historians to estimate Roman finances, the military budget was by far the largest

expense: at least \$1 billion a year. In the third century, emperors caused an inflation crisis and hiked taxes to pay the legions' salaries (article, page 7). Eventually, the military budget became a millstone around the neck of this dreadful, terrible beast.

As the Roman army grew costlier, it became less effective. Cultural conflicts and declining morale destroyed the esprit de corps of the legions.

The United States is following this same pattern, but in an accelerated time frame. From the end of World War II until the year 2000, the U.S. military budget varied between \$100 and \$300 billion (purchasing power changing with inflation over time). It has since increased to over \$770 billion. *Scientific American* wrote, “By the Department of Defense's own accounting, taxpayers spent \$13.34 trillion on the U.S. military from 2000

through fiscal year 2019 in inflation-adjusted 2020 dollars.” Weapons and research are becoming more expensive.

Despite spending far more than any other nation on Earth, *the United States has not won a single war during this period.* Mr. Armstrong declared after the Korean War that the United States had won its last war! And he was right.

Rome declined militarily and began losing battles at its peak of military spending in the third and fourth centuries. So has America in the 21st century. The Bible prophesied that the pride in America’s power would be broken (Leviticus 26:19) and “your strength shall be spent in vain” (verse 20). Despite its resources and power, the U.S. military will be unable to spare the nation from defeat.

## ROME FELL PREY TO GERMANIC TRIBES. PROPHECY SHOWS THAT AMERICA WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE.

### The Praetorian ‘Deep State’

By the third century, the military, primarily the Praetorian Guard, was politicized to the point that it interfered with and even dictated at the point of a sword who would rule the state. Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery wrote in his book *A History of Warfare*, “To maintain his power, every emperor in the third century had to bribe and pamper the soldiers .... In the 60 years following the death of Commodus, no less than 21 emperors rose and fell. It was a period of anarchy and misery, during which the army terrorized the civil life of the empire while becoming demoralized and inefficient, and the security of the frontiers was lost forever. A disastrous inflation was largely caused by the continual increases in pay which the emperors had to give the army if they were to keep their thrones.”

The Praetorians were the emperor’s personal bodyguards and eventually controlled the ascension to power. The empire was auctioned off several times to the highest bidder: Whoever promised

the most financial benefit usually became emperor. This component of the army decided who would hold executive office. They were essentially Rome’s “deep state.”

The U.S. currently has its own Praetorian “deep state.” The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security and other intelligence agencies have interfered in the 2016, 2020 and 2022 elections to place their preferred candidates into office. They were successful in the last two elections.

In both Rome and America, the rise of the deep state coincided with a decline in political leadership. Isaiah 3 prophesies that America will suffer a dearth of leadership in the highest offices. This has opened the door for fraud, corruption and strife.



Rome saw civil war between rivals with the military intervening in the transfer of power between leaders. The Bible prophesies a war over the succession of power in America (2 Kings 14:26-28). At the heart of this conflict is a deep state, a king and the usurper. (Read *America Under Attack* for the full explanation.)

While Rome was consumed with economic problems and internal division, security on the frontiers collapsed. Rome’s final act was betrayal by a military ally during a time of internal instability. America is prophesied to suffer the same fate.

### Danger From the North

For all the Roman Empire’s military successes, there was one people it never conquered: the Germanic tribes. The shocking defeat at the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in A.D. 9 established the

Rhine as the Roman border, leaving Rome wary to invest in a full-scale invasion against the tribes. As the empire declined, its border security became jeopardized.

As the population decreased in Italy, the Romans were forced to recruit Germanic tribes into their legions. By the second century, Italian Romans made up fewer than 1 percent of the legions. The western Roman Empire entered into a military alliance with various tribes to protect its northern border. Despite each tribe’s habitual switching of loyalties, Rome still pursued this policy. The leading tribes of the Visigoths, Ostrogoths and Vandals fielded powerful armies of marauding horsemen who ransacked outlying provinces annually unless Rome paid large ransoms for their loyalty.

In the end, these Germanic tribes betrayed Rome. They delivered the killing blow to the western empire. In A.D. 434 the Huns, led by Attila, invaded Eastern Europe and began pushing the Germanic tribes into the bounds of the Roman Empire. Montgomery wrote, “The key events in the military collapse of Rome were the defeat of the emperor Valens by the Goths at Adrianople in 378, the first sack of Rome by Alaric the Visigoth in 410, the second sack by the Vandals

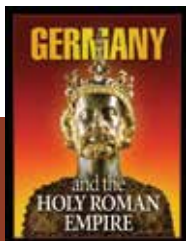
under Geiseric in 455, and the deposition of the last western Roman emperor, Romulus Augustulus, in 476 by the Herul chieftain Odoacar. ... As the different barbarian peoples (primarily Goths and Vandals) overran the provinces of the empire, lured by the civilization and wealth of Rome and driven from behind by the Huns, it became clear that the military power of Rome, upon which all else depended, was at an end—at any rate in the west.”

The Bible prophesies that the modern Romans will suffer a similar betrayal and defeat by the same enemy. The Assyrians described in the Bible migrated to Europe and are today the German people! After World War II, the United States helped rebuild a defeated Germany, and they have been allies ever since. Ezekiel 23 is a warning to America that eventually their ally Assyria

will betray them: “Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted” (verse 9). Isaiah 10:5-7 warn that Germany will be used by God to correct a sinful America through military defeat. The Prophet Jeremiah also warned of a “boiling pot” in the north country that would overflow and destroy the modern nations of biblical Israel (Jeremiah 1:13-15).

Both the ancient archetypal and modern Roman empires come to their end through military defeat at the hands of Germany. They also share the same causes that contributed to their gradual decline: astronomical military spending, decline in military effectiveness, and politicization. Military decline is only one factor in the broad spectrum of a nation’s downfall. This history aligns with Bible prophecy, which explains in stunning detail events soon to unfold.

All Americans should have the same realization as Scipio the Younger, who stood weeping at the height of victory realizing that, one day, another conqueror would be razing and pillaging Rome. The vivid and tragic example is staring us in the face if we are willing to see it. Yet the ruin of the modern Romans actually leads to a future of hope. As Pax Americana comes to a violent end, the Bible prophesies that a new age of peace will begin that will never end. It is the age of *Pax Regnum Dei*—the peace of God’s Kingdom. ■



## When one falls, another always rises.

America’s fall leaves a vacuum that must be filled. See why the *Trumpet* foretells that it will be filled by a German-led European superstate. Request your free copy of Gerald Flurry’s *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

# ‘THESE VIOLENT DELIGHTS’



The entertainment-crazed Romans prove that when distractions dominate, the tough but vital business of sustaining an empire is left undone. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**W**HEN 130 MILLION AMERICANS watched the Superbowl on Jan. 30, 2000, they saw an ad for the upcoming epic historical film *Gladiator*. The spot rapidly cut between footage of colliding football players in an NFL arena and bloodied gladiators in the Roman Colosseum.

That comparison between the popular entertainment of ancient Rome and that of modern America was more apt than we may want to admit.

When Rome ruled the world, it was flush with prosperity. Pax Romana “made possible the greatest luxury, the most active commercial life the world ever saw,” wrote historian William Stearns Davis. This stoked growing public appetite for amusement. The scale of the entertainments of ancient Rome exceeded that of any prior empire and was likely unsurpassed until modern times.

Roman society transformed from a culture of ambition, industry, virtue, discipline and duty to one of pleasure, idleness, diversion, escapism and ease. As people enjoyed their wealth and the poets and politicians praised Rome as *Urbs Aeterna*, “the eternal city,” they sowed seeds of their empire’s decline and fall.

The parallels with pleasure-mad, distracted America today are telling—and ominous.

“Only those with an eye on the lessons of history understand the subtle dangers of careless, excessive self-indulgence, self-seeking and hedonism, while the nation faces the greatest problems in its history, demanding the greatest effort and sacrifice,” says *The Modern Romans*, published by Ambassador College Press in 1971. “However, millions would rather play, escape and indulge themselves in temporary, selfish goals.”

Ponder the decadent and doomed Romans, and take heed.

### 'Plentiful and Cheap'

At the height of Rome's affluence, entertainment was "plentiful and cheap," wrote historian Will Durant. "Recitations, lectures, concerts, mimes, plays, athletic contests, prize fights, horse races, chariot races, mortal combats of men with men or beasts, not-quite-sham naval battles on artificial lakes—never was a city more bountifully amused" (*The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 3, *Caesar and Christ*).

In the Roman Empire, there were an astounding 76 public holidays each year, on which various plays or games were held. Edward Gibbon described the scene in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*: "From the morning to the evening, careless of the sun or of the rain, the spectators, who sometimes amounted to the number of 400,000 [the capacity of Rome's Circus Maximus], remained in eager attention; their eyes fixed on the horses and charioteers, their minds agitated with hope and fear for the success of the colors which they espoused; and the happiness of Rome appeared to hang on the event of a race."

Such descriptions have a familiar ring in today's sports-crazed culture. American football generates \$17 billion a year, and it has been setting all-time viewership records this season. The biggest non-Superbowl viewership in NFL history was this past Thanksgiving Day: 138 million viewers watched three games that day—12 million more than the record set in 2016. The Dallas vs. New York game was the most-watched NFL regular-season game in history. The same day, the World Cup match between America and England drew over 15.3 million viewers, making it the most-watched men's soccer game ever in the U.S. Even the match between Michigan and Ohio State drew 17 million viewers, the largest television audience for a regular-season college football game in 11 years.

This is a tiny measure of an America, like Rome before it, crazy for sports and entertainment. People over age 65 spend about a third of their waking day, almost six hours, watching broadcast tv. Younger people prefer streaming services: Netflix (213 million subscribers), Amazon Prime (175 million), Disney+

(118 million), Peacock (54 million), Hulu (45 million) and other services like HBO Max and Paramount+ absorb *lifestyles* of human hours daily. Over a quarter of Americans watch movies several times a week. Nearly 1 in 5 adults watches movies *daily*, including one quarter of people age 18 to 29. More than half of America's population play video games at least monthly. In 2021, consumers spent \$44 billion in gaming software and services. The rise of eSports is an incredible phenomenon: competitions where spectators watch people *playing video games*. Insider Intelligence estimates 29.6 million monthly eSports viewers in the U.S. in 2022, up over 11 percent from 2021. People simply can't get enough entertainment: They are even spending hours watching *other people* entertain themselves.

The mania for spectacle imprinted deeply on Roman life. It brought celebrity and fortune to those who succeeded in the arena, and sometimes freedom. "The charioteers knew glory too—and more," wrote French historian Jérôme Carcopino. "Though they were of low-born origin, mainly slaves emancipated only after recurrent success, they were lifted out of their humble estates by the fame they acquired and the fortunes they rapidly amassed from the gifts of magistrates and emperors, and the exorbitant salaries they exacted .... At the end of the first century and in the first half of the second, Rome prided herself on the presence of her star charioteers ..." (*Daily Life in Ancient Rome*). This vividly foreshadowed today's celebrity culture and garish multimillion-dollar sports contracts.

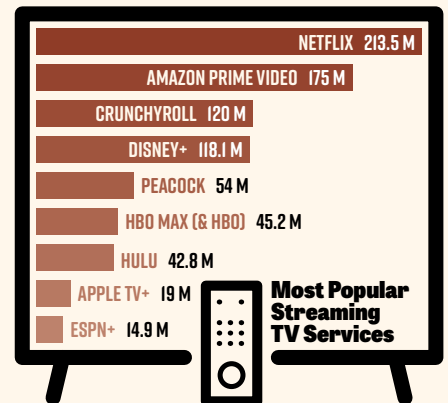
More broadly, these entertainments reflected and influenced public morals. "The games of the circus and the amphitheater absorbed the interest and coarsened the taste of the public," Durant wrote. The easy luxury, escapism and self-indulgence fed into the spread of immorality, perversion and a lust for sex and violence.

"Almost from the beginning the Roman stage was gross and immoral," wrote historian Philip Van Ness Myers in 1900. "It was one of the main agencies to which must be attributed the undermining of the originally sound moral life of Roman society" (*Rome: Its Rise and Fall*).

### Dying for Entertainment

Chariot races were perilous, but the Roman public had a growing appetite for even deadlier fare. Many public entertainments "involved wild animals killing men and women who had been sentenced to death for various offenses, including for being Christians," Rodney Stark explained. "Besides being fed to wild animals, people were executed in the arenas in a variety of sadistic ways—flogging, burning, skinning, impaling, dismemberment and even crucifixion" (*How the West Won*). Fights to the death among gladiators—most of whom were slaves, often taken as prisoners of war, a great many of whom likely died in their first match—were especially popular.

Besides the 50,000-seat Colosseum in Rome, 251 more amphitheaters dotted the Roman Empire, many of



which seated 20,000 or more; the smallest could hold 7,000. "It is credibly estimated that at least 200,000 people died in the Colosseum," Stark wrote. "It seems quite conservative to estimate that an average of at least 10,000 would have died in each of the other 251 amphitheaters, or another 2.5 million. All of this for amusement!" These bloody exhibitions had a coarsening, benumbing effect on the public. To be entertained by such brutality is truly a mark of moral sickness and satanic influence.

Yet these bygone bloodthirsty spectators would find plenty to keep them satiated today. Violence is conspicuous in modern entertainment. It is literally the point of live contests like boxing and mixed martial arts, and it features heavily in sports like football and ice hockey that fill today's coliseums and arenas. Television and movies routinely

showcase simulated brutality, and with unprecedented detail and realism. Studies show that more than 9 in 10 movies on TV contain violence, including extreme violence. Every hour of prime-time TV depicts an average of nine weapons. Horror and slasher films draw huge crowds to see gore far more graphic and up-close than anything a spectator in the Roman arena would have witnessed.

Some may minimize the comparison to live gladiatorial slaughter. But fake though most of it is, its intensity is magnified not only by its hyperrealism but also by its ubiquity. Rather than taking an occasional visit to the Colosseum, people effectively live there: The average American household has five connected devices—ultra-high-def TVs, smartphones, tablets, laptops, gaming devices and more. Teenagers average more than *seven hours a day* with entertainment screen media, the American Academy of Family Physicians reports. Before age 18, the average American youth will witness 200,000 violent acts on TV. Close to 100 percent of teenagers play video games, and about two thirds of these are action games that tend to include violence. Many are ultraviolent games that have the player committing grisly acts of mayhem and murder. The most-played, most-watched games in the world are “battle royale” style—where dozens of players thrown into a virtual environment replete with weapons, and they kill each other to the last man standing. The concept comes straight from Rome’s gladiators.

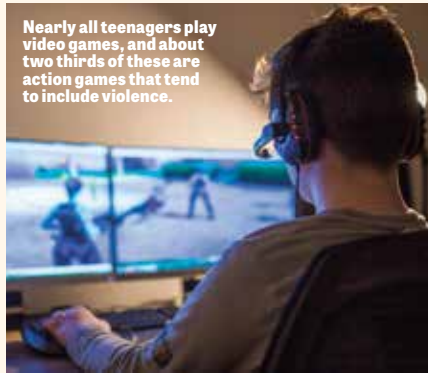
What are the effects of people’s minds being glutted on such savagery? “[V]iolence can have a demonic, pornographic appeal,” Dr. Ted Behr, publisher of *Movie Guide*, wrote. “The Roman Empire featured spectacles of live violence. Gladiators fought to the death, Christians were fed to lions, and all manner [of] horrible killing was offered as entertainment to a stadium full of spectators. This same demonic taste can be fed with movies, videos, games and online content. It is, in fact, a stage into which many people addicted to pornography sink. What may start out as simple sexual attraction devolves into darker and darker pits of hell.”

Like the Romans watching the gory spectacles in the arenas, our people are, as Carcopino wrote, “learning nothing

but contempt for human life and dignity” (op cit).

This doesn’t even address the sexuality, immorality and perversion that are also pervasive today, particularly online. Studies show around 80 percent of men and 45 percent of women watch pornography weekly. The sexualization of society is evident in countless lamentable ways: In many respects, it is turning our world upside-down (read more in “When Family Falls, Society Falls,” page 4).

“These violent delights have violent ends.” Shakespeare’s maxim applied to Rome, and it applies to America.



### Draining Public Funds

The ravaging effects of this trend on public morality were matched by the effects on the Roman Empire’s resources. Government officials were under growing pressure to provide lavish entertainments to gain public acclaim or to pacify unruly mobs. “Elaborate circuses and gladiator duels were staged to keep the people happy,” Lawrence W. Reed wrote. “One modern historian estimates that Rome poured the equivalent of \$100 million per year into the games” (*Are We Rome?*).

Interestingly, that is only about *one third* of what the U.S. government spends renovating NFL stadiums. That’s right: Federal taxpayers pay hundreds of millions of dollars annually to subsidize construction and renovation on dozens of stadiums nationwide. (So comparing Biden to Diocletian is kind of insulting to Diocletian.)

The epic scale of these ancient spectacles was staggering. To take one example, “In A.D. 108–109, Emperor Trajan employed 10,000 gladiators and 11,000 wild animals in an entertainment lasting 123 days. Such entertainments continued

until banned by Christian emperors in the fourth century,” Stark wrote.

All these attractions diverted the attention of the Roman people away from weightier issues, such as the governance and defense of the empire. “So absorbed did the people become in the indecent representations of the stage that they lost all thought and care of the affairs of real life,” Myers wrote (op cit).

“With the economic and military position of the empire too hopelessly complicated for the crowd to comprehend, they turned more and more toward the only thing that they could understand—the arena,” wrote Daniel P. Mannix. “The name of a great general or of a brilliant statesman meant no more to the Roman mob than the name of a great scientist does to us today. But the average Roman could tell you every detail of the last games, just as today the average man can tell you all about the latest football or baseball standings, but has only the foggiest idea what NATO is doing or what steps are being taken to fight inflation” (*Those About to Die*).

“Life simply became too complex for the average Roman,” Mannix continued. “But the continuous staging of games and spectacles—cleverly promoted by the caesars to keep the people’s minds occupied—was something to which he could relate. The caesars, said one historian, ‘exhausted their ingenuity to provide the public with more festivals than any people, in any country, at any time, has ever seen’—that is, one could easily argue, until *this* people, in *this* country, in *our* time.

The stupefying effects of such pervasive recreation on the public have shown themselves repeatedly in history. When people grow affluent and glutted on luxury and diversion, their character suffers and societal decline sets in.

### Ignoring Real Issues

America is following Rome’s example, not just in its addiction to entertainment but also in the fact that this craze is distracting us from nation-threatening problems.

What is particularly jarring is that right now, America faces a leftist government that is trashing our Constitution, discarding the Bill of Rights, jailing dissenters, imposing censorship, stealing elections, permitting unchecked illegal



immigration, sinking the nation in debt, sending inflation soaring, sabotaging energy production, destroying public education, trashing history—changing the nature of our republic. And those in power are getting away with these things because *nobody is holding them to account*. When the public is wrapped up in nonsense, they ignore real problems. They simply can't be bothered.

If America could get even a fraction of the people who are absorbed in a fantasy football league to devote their attention to election integrity, the course of the nation could well turn in a different direction.

The world today is bristling with dangers. You see Russia systematically crushing Ukraine; Putin deliberately freezing people to death; China chewing up territory; Xi Jinping anointing himself dictator for life; preparations to conquer Taiwan; efforts to expand global trade that locks out America; initiatives that could upend the global economy; Iran on the cusp of nuclear weapons, openly flaunting international efforts to stop it; North Korea launching cruise missiles; and many more. The enemies of America are working actively and successfully to upend the current U.S.-led world order.

Yet none of this is rousing America to real action. We are too absorbed in *House of the Dragon* and *League of Legends*.

How long can America retain its position of global power when our priorities are so misguided and self-indulgent?

The Bible is full of warnings against such individual- and nation-destroying excesses. In Amos 6, for example, God condemns those who are “at ease” during a time of great peril. These people “put far away the evil day,” assuming destruction is nothing to fear. “How terrible for you who sprawl on ivory beds and lounge on your couches, eating the meat of tender lambs from the flock and of choice calves fattened in the stall. ... You drink wine by the bowlful and perfume yourselves with fragrant lotions. *You care nothing about the ruin of your nation*” (verses 4, 6; New Living Translation). People should be *grieving* about what is happening to America and Britain today. But *we truly are the modern Romans*, enchanted with pleasures and amusements.

Such richness, such ease, such excess dulls its possessors to reality and erodes vigilance against danger and willingness

to sacrifice for a larger cause. Today, our educational system teaches only hatred toward the Constitution and American history. Forty-eight percent of Americans cannot name the three branches of government; 19 percent can't name any First Amendment rights. Over three in four 17-to-24-year-old Americans are unfit for military service.

Anciently, the actual physical defenses of Italy and of “the eternal city” itself fell into disrepair, but people inside believed their power, wealth and entertainments would last forever. When Alaric prepared to sack Rome, its

### HOW LONG CAN AMERICA RETAIN ITS GLOBAL POWER WHEN OUR PRIORITIES ARE SO MISGUIDED AND SELF-INDULGENT?

defensive walls were easy to breach, and the Romans couldn't raise a real army from among the Italians to defend the empire or even themselves. They had been dulled to the danger of collapse. To those engrossed in selfish pursuits, the fall was sudden and calamitous.

#### **‘You Have Destroyed Yourself’**

*The Modern Romans* makes an important point: It's not that there is anything inherently wrong with entertainment when used properly. “But when an entire nation seems to have nothing but the pursuit of money, gadgetry, pleasure, escape and thrills as its national goals—that nation is in serious trouble! Today, millions have no higher ideal or purpose than to get out and indulge themselves in a particular personal pleasure. So wrapped up and involved are millions in these short-range pleasures that few are willing to endure any discomfort or privation to solve national problems or threats.”

“Why has such crass materialism and pleasure become the overriding concern of millions?” it asks.

“Because the nation

has lost a sense of national purpose or higher ideals other than personal selfish ones.”

This booklet was first published more than 50 years ago. The trends it discussed regarding sports and entertainment are far more intense today.

The Apostle Paul prophesied in 2 Timothy 3:1-2: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers”—and several other characteristics that would mark these “last days.” People love themselves—more than family, community, nation! They are “without self-control,” Paul prophesied—and “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.” What an apt description of our peoples today. That is *fulfilled prophecy* in America: We love pleasures more than we love freedom, justice or anything honorable.

Americans are among the modern descendants of ancient Israel. God loves Israel and has used it through the millenniums in a special way to eventually benefit all nations. But we have turned from that purpose, turned away from God, and are rapidly accelerating toward the fulfillment of our prophesied collapse—following the same course toward our own destruction that Rome and so many other great powers have throughout history.

God laments in Hosea 13:9: “O Israel, thou hast *destroyed thyself* ....” We are doing this to ourselves.

We need to realize the same thing God implored our ancestors to realize: “[B]ut in me is thine help. I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities?” (verses 9-10). Surely we should be able to recognize by this point that *no one but God can save us*.

God is reaching out! He would help us, He would solve our problems—He would be our King—if *only* we would repent, embrace His law and submit to His rule!

God loves America. He wants to prevent our destruction if He can. But He will only do so if we allow Him to. ■



### Combat entertainment addiction.

Don't be intoxicated by pleasures. Stay clean with God's help. Request *How to Be an Overcomer* and live above the addictions.

# WHEN AN EMPIRE HAS AN IDENTITY CRISIS



One of the most intangible yet crucial causes for Rome's fall is bringing down America today.

BY RICHARD PALMER

IT WAS CLEARLY THE END. THE seemingly immortal empire was divided. It had suffered almost every imaginable humiliation. Barbarians attacked from every side. One emperor and his son had been killed by Goths, another had been captured alive—tortured to entertain foreign princes. Italy, the heartland of the empire, was invaded. Famine, plague, inflation and economic collapse were all undermining the empire. The problems seemed unsolvable.

Though the fall of Rome in the fifth century is familiar, this actually describes Rome in the A.D. 260s. It may have looked like the end, but Rome would endure for another 200 years.

Understanding Rome's fall must go beyond cataloging crises like barbarians, inflation and military defeat. Rome had suffered them all before and survived. Why did Rome survive them before but fail at the end?

To understand collapse, it is not enough to look at physical factors. A number of overlapping intangibles—identity, vision, patriotism—make all the difference.

These intangibles don't show up as clearly in the historical record as a horde of Huns. But understanding

them is critical. It would have been easy for fifth-century Romans to draw false comfort from the crises of the past: *We survived problems then—we can do so again.* That's a common view in America: *Yes, we're divided—but it was worse in the Civil War. Yes, we have enemies—but Pearl Harbor was more dangerous. Yes, the economy is struggling, but America survived the Great Depression.* We did it then, we can do it again.

But can we be sure? What makes the difference between successfully navigating stormy times or smashing on the rocks?

## Restorer of the World

In the third century, a series of capable men turned the situation around. In A.D. 270, Aurelian became emperor. He drove back the barbarians, rethought Rome's military strategy, reformed its coinage, and reunited an empire that had been split in three for over a decade. No wonder the Senate voted him the title *Restitutor Orbis*—Restorer of the World.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Aurelian, though, is that he was not Roman.

Nor was his predecessor, Claudius Gothicus, who earned his name by turning back the Gothic horde. Nor was his

successor, Probus, who finally brought peace to the empire. Nor was Diocletian, who restructured Roman government, creating a new system of four co-ruling emperors to try and manage the new dangers. All these men were from the western Balkans.

For centuries, great Romans stepped forward and saved the nation from crises. When they dried up, its conquered peoples filled that role. This is extraordinary. Because in nearly every other empire in history, the best and the brightest of the conquered have striven for their independence. Imagine John Paul II propping up the Soviet Union, or Charles de Gaulle saving the Nazis, or Gandhi protecting the British Raj. Yet this is what these leaders who had been subjugated by Rome did.

If Rome had a single special power that contributed to its epic lifespan, you could say it was its ability to convince the people it conquered that they were Romans.

There was a vision and confidence behind it that motivated first Romans and then non-Romans to keep Rome alive.

## The Envy of the World

Rome believed itself to be the best—and surprisingly, others agreed. Writing in the second century B.C., Greek scholar

Polybius concluded that Rome's system of government was the best that man had ever invented. In 91 B.C., in what was called the Social War, an alliance of Italian cities revolted from Roman rule. Why? They were outraged that Rome was denying them full Roman citizenship, with all its rights and duties. People were actually fighting to be included in this political system!

Roman citizenship was a status symbol. But it also came with political rights: protection from the worst injustices; participation in representative government.

The foundation of the constitution was that it was every Roman's duty to kill any man who would set himself up as king. The result was more like rule by aristocratic landowners than a modern democracy, but for the ancient world, this was heady freedom. Rome stood for self-reliance, freedom, good order and justice. And others wanted in.

But the same Social War was the beginning of the end of this vision. The top Roman generals, Sulla and Marius, vied to smash the relatively democratic system and set themselves up as dictators. Within a few decades, the whole republican structure had fallen apart.

In time, this would raise a new question: If Romans weren't free, what was the point in being Roman?

At first, Rome got by, by ignoring the change. Augustus Caesar remade Rome into an empire, but he didn't call himself emperor. He preferred "Princeps"—first among equals. The Senate was still consulted. Augustus decided that the best way to rule independent-minded Romans was to pretend that you didn't rule them. At that time, being Roman still gave a man political influence.

In A.D. 48, Emperor Claudius decided that Gauls could become Roman citizens, hold office, and even sit in the Senate. Rome would conquer and Romanize a place, and once their culture and way of life had been sufficiently adopted, those people would share in, and even govern, the empire.

Even those outside the empire had a path to Romanness. Barbarians knocking on the doors could be admitted, provided they disarmed, allowed themselves to be divided into small groups, and spread throughout the empire.

But over time, the reason for being Roman, and the motivation for the empire, weakened. The political rights vanished. When Caracalla gave Roman citizenship to all free men in A.D. 212, it mostly meant *freedom to pay taxes*.

Rome had once been a grand political experiment. But Aurelian was clearly not fighting for freedom. Instead, at best, this was about security and order: keeping Rome alive because Rome would keep you safe.

At the same time, the actual city of Rome faded into irrelevance. Aurelian closed down its mint. Diocletian didn't even bother to visit the city for the first 19 years of his reign.

In fact, historians consider Diocletian's reign the turning point, a shift away from the "Principate" of Augustus, where the emperor hid his power. This new phase was the "Dominate." This kept people fighting. But with no deeper vision, the process of converting *others* into *Romans* stopped.

Claudius Gothicus admitted large numbers of defeated Goths into the empire. Instead of spreading them out, he kept them pretty much intact. Aurelian brought large numbers of Germans directly into the Roman army.

It helped buy the empire 100 years of peace. But Germans were being invited in larger and larger numbers, with fewer and fewer conditions. At one time, the empire had tried to break all bonds of loyalty to their old tribes and bring them in as individuals or families. Now, they didn't have time.

### The End

There were many causes for the fall: the arrival of Germanic tribes in numbers 10 times larger than anything Rome had experienced before; economic collapse; declining birthrates.

In A.D. 376, the first disaster struck. Goths, fleeing the Huns, begged admittance to the empire. They were let in, in huge numbers. Yet rather than spreading out and resettling them, corrupt officials fleeced them and left them to starve. The Goths rebelled. Emperor Valens gave battle in A.D. 378 at Adrianople and lost. The barbarians

were free inside the empire, and Rome lacked the soldiers to stop them. The Goths were then bought off by being allowed to settle in the empire—but not as Romans. They were allowed to keep their own military and political units, essentially becoming a Gothic nation inside the Roman Empire.

From then on, the attacks barely let up. Britain formerly requested to leave.



There was a 100-year drought of great leaders. No one even seemed to see the need or purpose of Romanizing the Goths. Rome was no longer a superpower.

So what caused the fall of Rome? You can focus on the military weakness, the Germanic invasions and economic turmoil. All of that is true and accurate. But it's not the whole story.

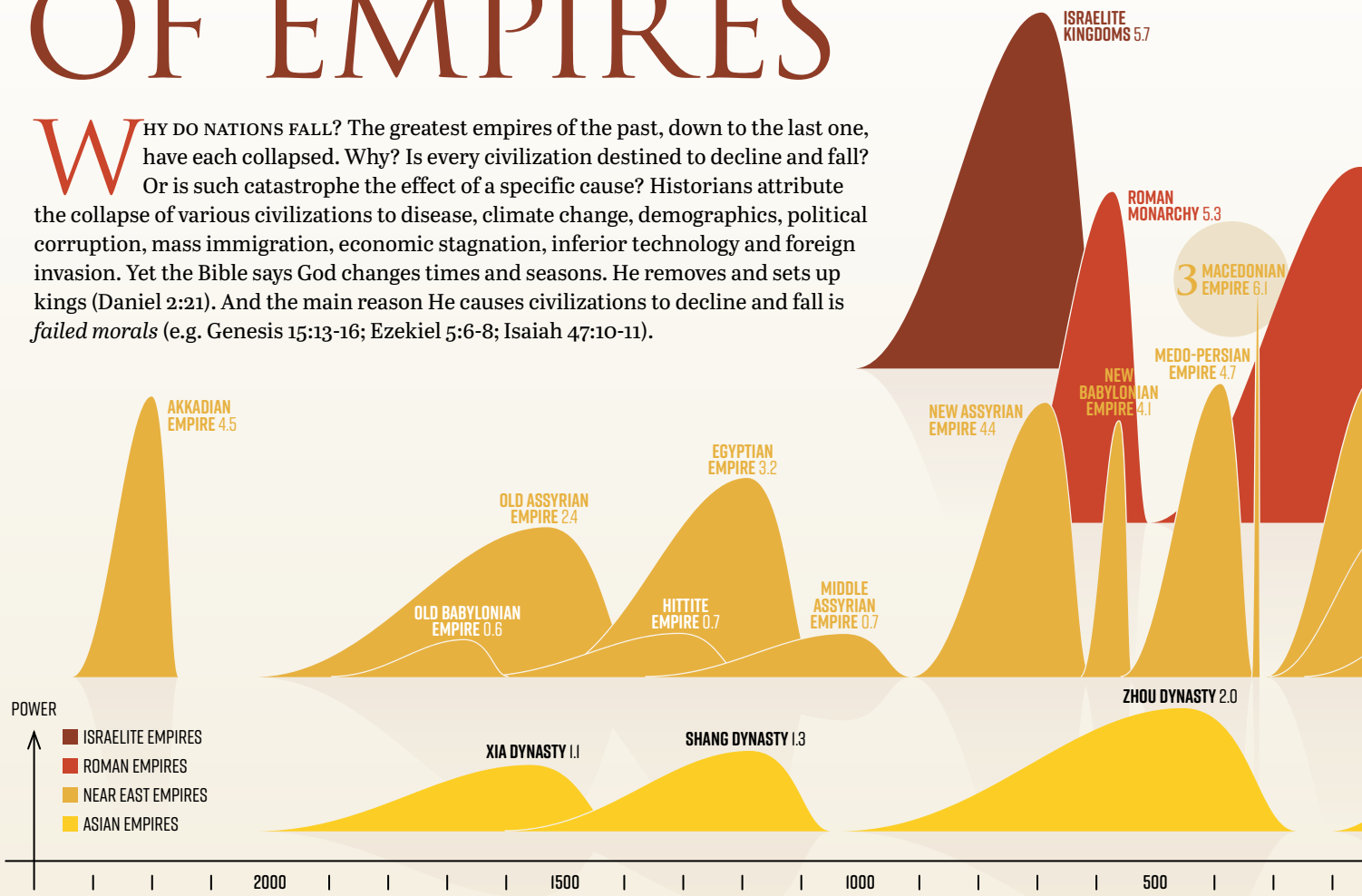
Why weren't these barbarians turned into Romans like the Gauls, Illyrians, Dacians and Greeks? Why were they antagonized by widespread corruption, instead of austere ideals of earlier Rome? Why were there no Aurelians to win the impossible battles, no Diocletians to reorganize the government system to deal with new threats?

Leo Tolstoy described an unknown factor "X," which—along with all the material components of an army—made for success. "X," he wrote, "is the spirit of the army, the greater or lesser desire to fight and to face dangers on the part of all men composing the army." And often in war, it is this "X" that makes all the difference.

Empires also have their "X" factor. It lies in foundational questions. Is the empire worth dying for? Are its values worth imparting to the next generation

# RISE & FALL OF EMPIRES

**WHY DO NATIONS FALL?** The greatest empires of the past, down to the last one, have each collapsed. Why? Is every civilization destined to decline and fall? Or is such catastrophe the effect of a specific cause? Historians attribute the collapse of various civilizations to disease, climate change, demographics, political corruption, mass immigration, economic stagnation, inferior technology and foreign invasion. Yet the Bible says God changes times and seasons. He removes and sets up kings (Daniel 2:21). And the main reason He causes civilizations to decline and fall is *failed morals* (e.g. Genesis 15:13-16; Ezekiel 5:6-8; Isaiah 47:10-11).



## SIX GREATEST EMPIRES

### 1 BRITISH EMPIRE

After King James I established his first colony in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, the British Empire grew into the greatest empire in human history. At its peak in 1919, it ruled over 23 percent of the world's people and 24 percent of the world's land area. Yet since the British embraced the so-called New Morality after World War I, their empire has dwindled to the point where they barely rule the British Isles.



### 2 ROMAN EMPIRE

From a village on the Tiber River established by Romulus in 753 B.C., Rome grew into an empire that ruled over 30 percent of the world's people and 4 percent of the world's land area. Rome spread the Latin alphabet and Roman law throughout Africa, Asia and Europe. Yet moral decay, especially in the rich upper classes and the emperor, caused Rome to degenerate to the point where the empire was overturned by Germanic tribes.

### 4 AMERICAN REPUBLIC

The colonists planted in Jamestown, Virginia, were soon joined by a group of weary pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Colonists kept coming until there were 13 colonies that wanted independence from Great Britain. They won their independence in 1783 and established a republic whose economic power and military might eclipsed all previous civilizations. Yet like the British before them, Americans have turned away from biblical moral values and are rapidly losing global influence.

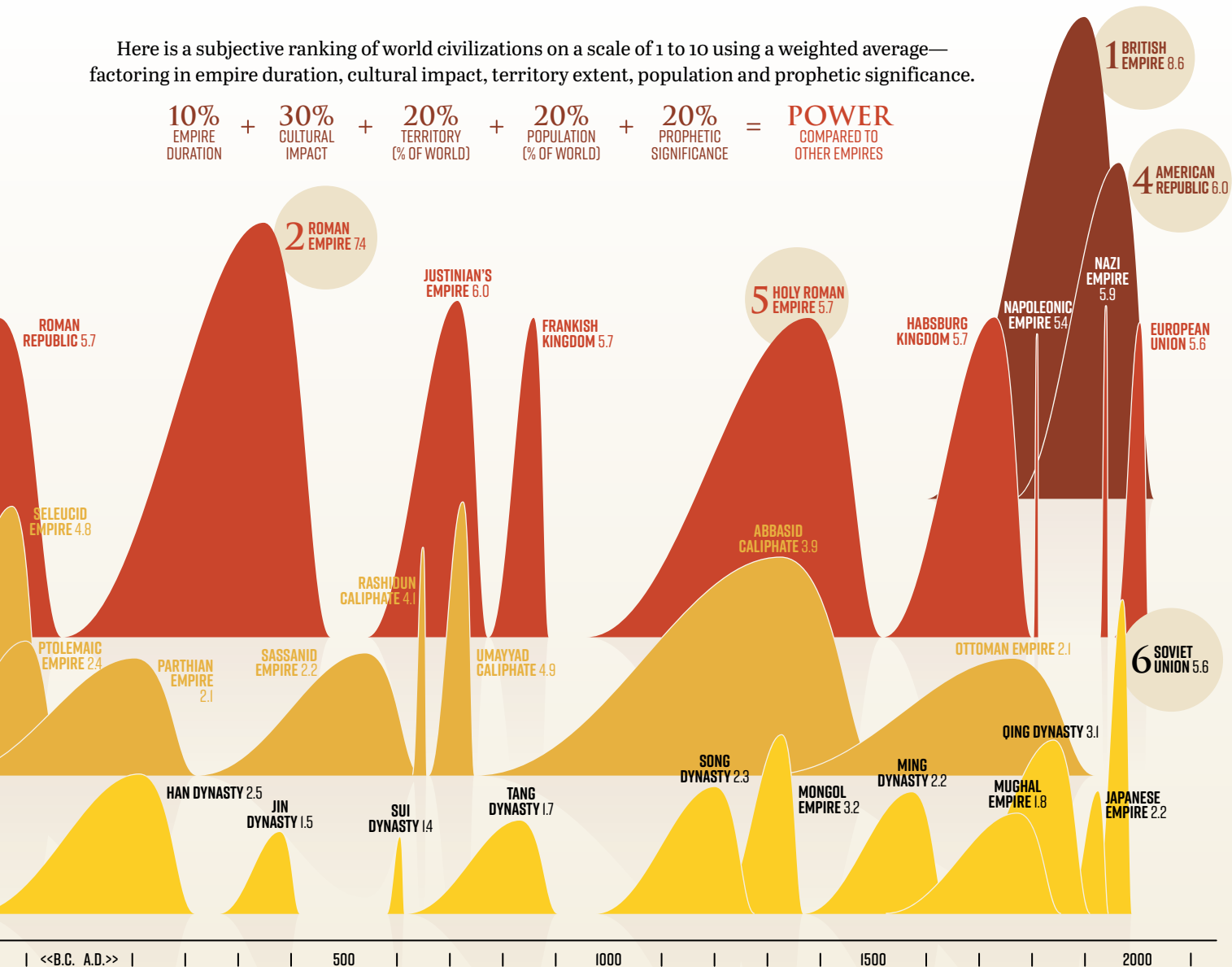


### 5 HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

After Germanic tribes overran Rome in A.D. 476, no other civilization was as great as Rome. Eventually, a Germanic king, Charlemagne, Otto the Great, established the Holy Roman Empire. In the Middle Ages, this was Europe's most powerful empire. It was destroyed by civil wars in the 13th century. Yet Holy Roman Emperor Frederick III revitalized it in 1452. It continued 354 years until Napoleon Bonaparte. By then, its identity crisis was complete. "The Holy Roman Empire was in no way holy, no"

Here is a subjective ranking of world civilizations on a scale of 1 to 10 using a weighted average—factoring in empire duration, cultural impact, territory extent, population and prophetic significance.

$$10\% \text{ EMPIRE DURATION} + 30\% \text{ CULTURAL IMPACT} + 20\% \text{ TERRITORY (\% OF WORLD)} + 20\% \text{ POPULATION (\% OF WORLD)} + 20\% \text{ PROPHECIC SIGNIFICANCE} = \text{POWER COMPARED TO OTHER EMPIRES}$$



### 3 MACEDONIAN EMPIRE

Upon the death of King Philip II in 336 B.C., Macedonia was a small kingdom in northern Greece. Yet under the leadership of King Philip's son, Alexander the Great, the kingdom conquered the Persian Empire and became master over 15 percent of the world's people. The Macedonian Empire spread Greek language and Greek culture throughout the known world, but it collapsed 13 years after it began when Alexander died and his generals turned on each other.



### 6 SOVIET UNION

After Czarist Russia fell into civil war in 1919, the revolutionary Vladimir Lenin exploited the morass to build the world's first Communist state. The Soviets ruled over 6 percent of the world's people and 22 percent of its land. Yet its wealth and power came mainly from nationalizing the rich resources bequeathed to it by the Russian empire. Its economic system and twisted morals led to its downfall after just 69 years.



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and teaching to new immigrants? Is it worth setting aside individual ambitions in the name of the greater good? Will it succeed, and are bets on its future sure? When the answer to these questions is *yes*, the empire thrives. When it becomes *no*, it dies.

The Bible recognizes a similar “X” factor critical to national success. When warning of America’s failings, Herbert W. Armstrong referenced one brief passage perhaps more than any other—the first



half of Leviticus 26:19: “... I will break the pride of your power ....” A nation needs some form of self-belief—that it *can* and *should*. Pride is usually a negative. But in Leviticus 26, this kind of pride is listed alongside things like food supplies, military victories and freedom from diseases—things a nation needs for success.

Proverbs 29:18 confirms, “Where there is no vision, the people perish ....” The wording is significant: It does not say “the person perishes.” It is referring to people *en masse*—the tribe, nation or empire. For any of these to survive, the people must have vision. They must see *why* they are there, and what makes them unique and worthwhile.

America began as the “shining city on a hill.” How many Americans still believe in that vision today? A large number actually believe America’s historic impact on the world has been for evil.

Do America’s young people have pride in their power? Will they sacrifice for the country? Do they have a vision of why it should be preserved—beyond *because we all benefit*? Are immigrants brought in in manageable numbers, such that they can have instilled in them

the nation’s core values? Are we raising leaders who can bring success?

Rome’s history shows us how much these questions matter. Failures of vision, purpose and identity can be fatal.

### Epilogue: A Counterfeit Empire

The Bible outlines general principles that dictate the success or failure of nations. But it is also specific: It tells us the spiritual forces acting on this world and how these will play out in the future.

It reveals God’s plan for this world.

And it reveals the great adversary’s attempts to defeat them.

God, you could say, has an empire (read “The Glory of Empire” at [theTrumpet.com/26220](http://theTrumpet.com/26220)). This is an empire that people of all races and nationalities can enter into and even play leading roles within. And Diocletian was right: An empire over a certain size requires more than one ruler.

But Satan has his own empires. The Bible reveals that ancient Rome was one of these.

It exercised a satanic, iron brutality such that God calls it a “beast” (Revelation 13).

Aurelian seemed to understand the large-scale problem that confronted Rome in his time: What moral vision could unify such a disparate empire, beyond merely *so we can all keep benefiting from it*?

His solution was religion. He attributed his victories to *Sol Invictus*—the unconquered sun. Himself an immigrant from Syria, Aurelian insisted that *Sol Invictus* was the one true god. Worshiping all the other many pagan deities in Rome was fine, but these were all merely aspects of *Sol*.

Aurelian died soon after and his religion never took root. But Constantine the Great took up the idea 50 years later. In A.D. 313, he began pushing Christianity as the empire’s unifying religion. Conveniently, Constantine’s Jesus shared a birthday with Aurelian’s *Sol Invictus*. In fact, many were taught that Jesus *was* *Sol*.

This religion would infuse meaning to the Roman Empire. But it would also fundamentally change it.

Ancient Rome had no global vision. Yes, its conquests were wide-ranging, but

Romans believed their spread had limits. Diocletian himself ascended to the throne after one emperor was reportedly struck by lightning while campaigning against Persia—the apparent victim of divine punishment for straying beyond Rome’s pre-ordained borders.

Perhaps without realizing it, Constantine introduced a vision of conquest without bounds. Spreading religion gave Rome a defining purpose, and also reason to conquer Persia and far beyond. More powerfully, it gave people a reason to *be* Roman and resurrect Rome, even if they had never set foot in the eternal city, never worn a toga, never chatted with friends at the bath. Christians began to believe this empire was the Kingdom of God on Earth.

This new vision of Romanness was, perhaps, not practical or grounded enough to prevent Rome’s fall. But when it fell, resurrecting it became an effort not merely to restore peace and order on Earth; it became a divine mission. The Roman Empire was now the *Holy Roman Empire*. And in that sense, it survived. In fact, that is an empire rising again right now!

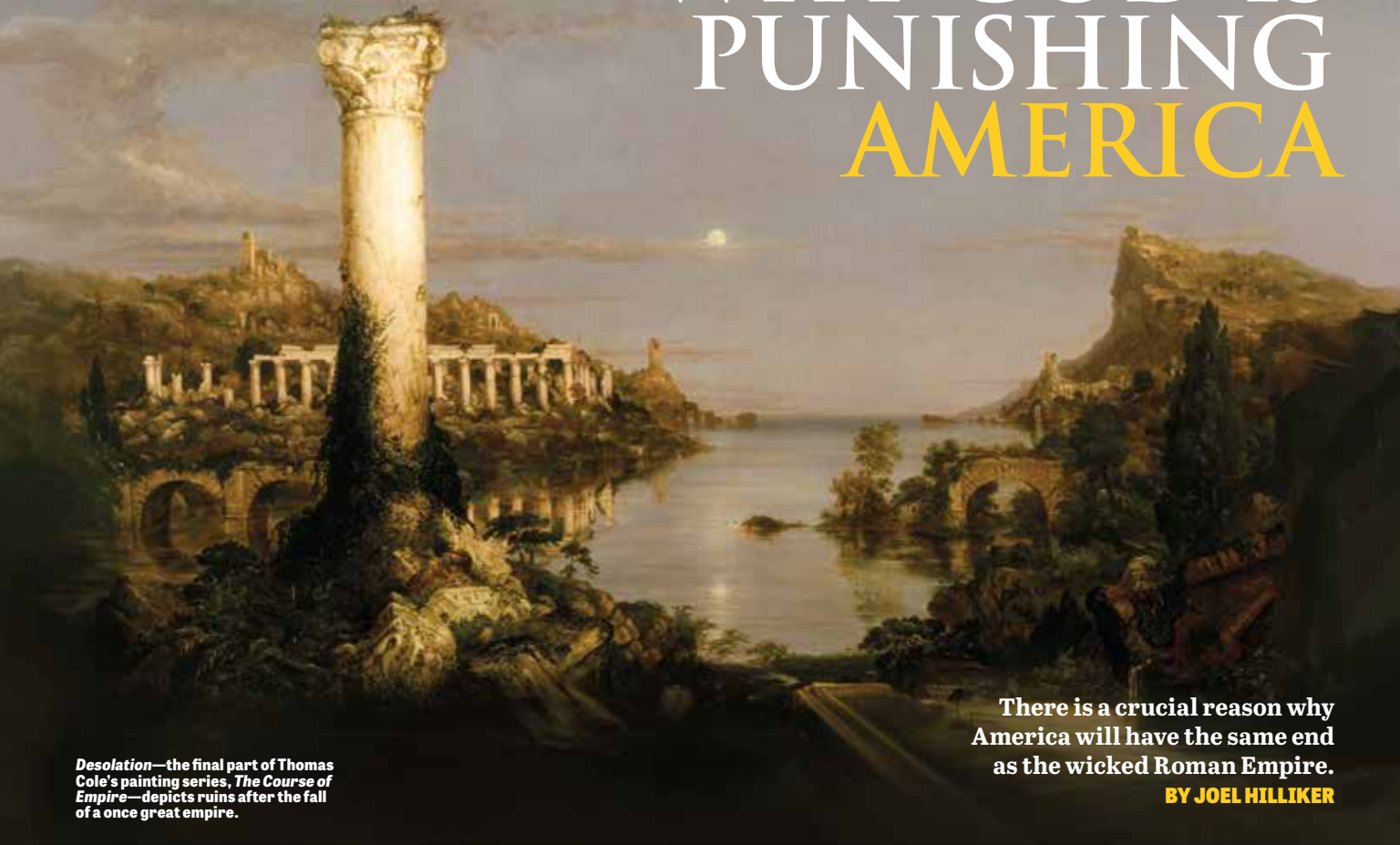
Rome was an ugly, evil empire. The stories of its origin are replete with rape and murder. It committed genocide and massacred with an organized brutality almost unparalleled in history. Perhaps only Nazis ever killed innocents with quite the same industrialized detachment of Rome. Yet there *is* something admirable about the way men would sacrifice for an institution that at least brought a form of peace to the Mediterranean.

The final rise and fall of the Holy Roman Empire is on the horizon. But it is leading to something far grander, longer lasting and more peaceful than the Roman Empire could ever be.

The Holy Roman Empire was something Aurelian would have instantly recognized: a counterfeit. It is hollow, a fraud, a sham. Its best aspects are dramatically inferior imitations of something far greater.

So many of the aspects of this Holy Roman Empire are a counterfeit of God’s. Its limitless ambition. Its desire to include people from other nations. Everything that was, or could, be noble about Rome is about to be realized on a far grander scale, in the God Family Empire. ■

# WHY GOD IS PUNISHING AMERICA



*Desolation*—the final part of Thomas Cole's painting series, *The Course of Empire*—depicts ruins after the fall of a once great empire.

**There is a crucial reason why America will have the same end as the wicked Roman Empire.**

**BY JOEL HILLIKER**

“**R**ESPECT FOR MARRIAGE.” That is how the leaders of the United States characterized a bill signed into law on December 13 at the White House. The building was lit in the rainbow colors of the lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-plus movement that rejects natural use of sex and marriage. Among the invited guests was a man who flamboyantly wears women's clothing and has publicly glorified adults having sex with children.

In this atmosphere, Joe Biden signed the so-called Respect for Marriage Act, announcing, “This law and the love it defends strike a blow against hate in all its forms.” This act requires the federal government and any “person acting under color of state law” to fully recognize same-sex unions. The government summary says it “repeals and replaces provisions that define, for purposes of federal law, *marriage* as between a man and a woman and *spouse* as a person

of the opposite sex with provisions that recognize any marriage that is valid under state law. The bill [now law] allows the Department of Justice to *bring a civil action* and establishes a *private right of action* for violations” (emphasis added throughout).

*That* is what this is truly about. It enables the government to mount legal attacks against anyone who objects to this perversion of marriage. Even if you own a private company and refuse to endorse these unions, you can be treated like a criminal.

Some lawmakers proposed amendments to protect the rights of people or organizations to act according to their conscience or religious beliefs. These amendments were rejected and the bill passed with dozens of Republicans in support. The Senate passed it, 61 to 36, and the House of Representatives, 258 to 169. “In an era of polarization and partisan conflict, this is a rare bipartisan vote at the heart of America's culture

war,” Axios wrote approvingly. *This* is what lawmakers can agree on: casting aside tradition and Scripture, trampling religious liberty, and promoting homosexuality—which God defines as sin—as virtuous. “Compared to the decades upon decades it took to dismantle Jim Crow laws or secure women's right to vote, America's about-face on same-sex marriage happened in the blink of an eye” (ibid).

This is as blatant a rejection of biblical and even traditional morality as has ever been promoted in the American republic. Those who believe this will *strengthen* the nation, and those who think this doesn't really matter, are grievously, dangerously wrong.

## **Moral Collapse**

What is sin? You don't hear this word these days—but the reality is, an astonishingly strict moral code is enforced in America today. Today's moralists demand that everyone ignore election

fraud, comply with official COVID orthodoxy, and renounce Donald Trump. They command compliance on sexual norms, gender roles and definitions, racism, multiculturalism and many more aspects of our lives, and they enforce it with religious fervor. Their moral code—though fluid and self-contradictory—is stringent and unforgiving. All forms of noncompliance are condemned—especially those commanded by God Himself.

God has strong opinions about marriage. He authored it. He defined it. He married the first man and woman. Lawmakers presumptuously *redefining* marriage is but one instance of their broad efforts to wrest from God the authority to define what is right and what is sin.



House representatives attend a ceremony after passing the Respect for Marriage Act.

This takes breathtaking arrogance and hubris. But these lawmakers wouldn't be surrendering to the radical minority that has been pushing for this revolutionary transformation if not for a complacent, amoral public.

This radical, anti-God bill was supported by the Episcopal Church and more than 40 other faith organizations. A September 2022 Grinnell College National Poll found that 74 percent of Americans believe same-sex "marriage" should be a right. In this poll, 13 percent were uncertain, and a mere 13 percent disagreed. Even a majority of Republicans now say the law should recognize these unions. When Gallup first asked this question just 26 years ago, only 27 percent of the public approved. That was when Democrat President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which *denied* same-sex marriages federal recognition.

It was a *liberal* president who signed legal protections for marriage just four presidencies ago. Now it is supposedly *conservative* legislators who were the deciding votes to strike these down. Public opinion on this issue has completely inverted in less than one generation.

You are living through a stunning and precipitous moral collapse—yet it barely makes the news. Nobody really cares.

This is just one story in an avalanche showing just how sick we have become. You literally cannot keep up with all the ways that sin is choking the life out of our nations.

### 'Show My People Their Sins'

In December, Project Veritas exposed Joseph Bruno, dean of students at Chicago's private Francis W. Parker School, boasting that he gives high school students sex objects used by homosexuals, prompting them to ask, *So how does this work?* He says, on camera, "That's a really cool part of my job."

After this exposé, the principal of the school issued a statement. Did he fire the dean? Condemn these behaviors? "At Parker, we care deeply about the health, well-being and development of our students," he wrote,

later stating, "We are heartbroken." Why? Not because the children under his care are being educated in perversion but because "one of our colleague's words have been *severely misrepresented for a malicious purpose*. Project Veritas is a far-right activist group that produces deceptively edited videos .... Parker administrators and Parker's Board of Trustees support Parker's programming, the strength and inclusivity of our curriculum, and the dedicated and talented faculty and staff that teach it. We are sickened by [sickened by what?] *this group's deceptive tactics* ... and their attack on the LGBTQ+ community. We will be meeting with Middle and Upper School students tomorrow to offer support and guidance." This man and so many educators nationwide *want* this filth fed to teenagers. They go to great lengths to ensure parents don't know about it.

God commands in Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." This is why this magazine is named the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. God wants people warned of their sins and their consequences! This is what a church that actually follows God and the Bible will do.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2). Many people are praying, yet God says He will not listen. Why? Because of *our sins*.

Read God's indictment in the verses that follow: We are defiled with violence, sin, lies and deceit. "None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. ... The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace" (verses 4, 8).

This is *God's view* of our nations. We need His view, or we easily grow complacent. Spend enough time around sin, and it becomes normal. Think of how swiftly public opinion flipped on same-sex unions.

God promises that "every secret thing" will become known (Ecclesiastes 12:14)—and there are a lot of secret things becoming known today. God is exposing so much—it truly is astonishing (article, page 23). But *who is reporting it?* Why aren't headlines blaring on all major networks and in major papers? Why do you only read about it from small, fringe publications? Why don't millions of people listen and respond?

"Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey ..." (verse 15). *This is fulfilled prophecy*: Those who renounce evil are attacked. Nations that have a history with God are now pressuring people, through force of law, to accept lies about vaccine injections, about stolen elections, about how two men can be "married"—and those who don't play along are branded extremists, fired from their jobs, even thrown in jail.





Elon Musk  
@elonmusk

Joined June 2009

160 Following 122.6M Followers

# Dark Truths Exposed



FTX, Twitter, Biden, Obama, censorship, collusion, corruption: How is it that secrets buried so deeply by such powerful people are being revealed? And why? **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**T**HE RADICAL LEFT IN AMERICA HAS amassed extraordinary power. They control elementary education, higher education, journalism, technology, sports, entertainment and the executive branch of the federal government. They have used their power to transform American society, largely by hiding the sources of their power and their intentions for using it. They have buried the truth deep under layers of bias, editing, censoring, secrecy, classification, denials, misrepresentation and lies.

Yet in instance after instance, unexpected events have led to the truth—the ugly truth—being exposed: long-delayed Freedom of Information Act requests, special counsel filings, text messages from an adulterous relationship, handwritten notes, a horrid abandoned laptop.

Despite the best efforts of the most powerful people in the most powerful organizations of the world’s most powerful nation to *bury* the truth in the fathoms of the “deep state,” the truth

has somehow surfaced, sometimes in extraordinarily unusual ways.

People with no connections or security clearances at all have learned the truth. Barack Obama’s background, corruption involving his Senate seat, misuse of stimulus funds, Fast and Furious gun-walking, Benghazi, secret arrangements for the Iran nuclear deal, channeling funds to political allies, involvement in foreign elections, tax collectors targeting political opponents, spies unmasking political opponents, surveillance of national allies’ heads of state, surveillance of members of Congress, surveillance of journalists, surveillance of hundreds of millions of average Americans, ObamaCare secrecy, Hillary Clinton’s secret e-mail server, Democratic National Committee rigging, Department of Justice collusion with the Clinton campaign, spying on the Trump campaign, spying on the Trump presidency, the January 5 Obama Oval Office meeting, the Steele dossier, COVID-19 origins, fraudulent COVID-19 lockdown

justifications, physical election fraud, electronic election fraud, manipulation of the January 6 protests, the ongoing manipulation of Joe Biden by Barack Obama—these and more dark truths have been hauled out into the open.

These sins and secrets are being exposed not just by a few whistleblowers and random journalists. Just as sure as there is an unseen force destroying America, there is another unseen force bringing the truth to light. As Jesus Christ said, “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known” (Luke 12:2).

## A Mine Full of Secrets

“Elon Musk didn’t just buy a company ... he purchased a crime scene.” That is how conservative commentator Jack Posobiec characterized this billionaire’s purchase of Twitter.

The purchase was anything but straightforward. It started with a few comments about how biased Twitter seemed and some jokes about how

Musk, then the world's richest man and an active Twitter user, should buy it. Then Musk announced that he had just become Twitter's second-largest shareholder (at 9 percent) and had been offered a seat on the board of directors. Then Musk actually spent \$44 billion on the purchase, offering the company's other stockholders \$54 per share for their 736,701,437 shares. Yet in the face of a such a profitable offer, well above the current share price, Twitter executives worked to prevent the deal. Musk said he would just walk away. How did Twitter executives respond? By threatening to sue to force him to buy their company.

This in itself was extraordinary. But then, having at least some idea of how

much wrath he—and his treasured auto, rocket and other companies—would incur, Musk followed through not only on purchasing the company but also on making drastic changes. He fired top executives and many other employees, and revised Twitter operations to fulfill, as he put it, the company's "potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe." Then, even more astoundingly, Musk actually looked into what leftists had been doing behind closed executive suite doors, found out, and told the world.

While sharing an obviously cozy relationship with liberal Big Tech executives, prominent radical Democrats outside and inside the government, like Jarrold Nadler, had repeatedly, authoritatively,

forcefully asserted that "the notion that social media companies are filtering out conservative voices is a hoax." But on Dec. 2, 2022, Musk and left-wing journalist Matt Taibbi released the first evidence from the crime scene. Twitter Files 1.0 contained internal e-mails and memos between Twitter executives and Biden campaign officials prior to the 2020 presidential election. The topic? How to best suppress the truth about Hunter Biden so Americans would vote for his father in the election.

In April 2019, Hunter had taken a damaged laptop into a Delaware repair shop and abandoned it. The laptop's contents included 103,000 text messages, 154,000 e-mails and more than 2,000 photos

# The Most Epic Fraud in History

**A**NOTHER UNEXPECTED TROVE FULL OF INFORMATION HAS come from a trove devoid of money. Among the big-name tech companies that pay superstar athletes, models and actors for 150-second Superbowl ads (when 30-second ads cost \$6 million), name major arenas after themselves, and develop cozy relationships with political operatives was FTX.

FTX was a familiar name among tech enthusiasts and investors. Founded in 2019, it ballooned in three quick years to become the world's second-largest exchange for cryptocurrency.

In November 2022, it ran out of cash, to put it mildly. The ongoing train wreck is the biggest cryptocurrency disaster yet. Investors who lost billions wanted to know what they did wrong. Now we have the answer: almost everything.

The scandal is so big it goes far beyond those just interested in cryptocurrencies like bitcoin. It links to corruption at the highest levels and may have even affected the United States midterm elections. The media, financial authorities and the Democratic Party are all implicated.

The more truth that comes out about FTX, the more the radical left, and society in general, is being exposed for what it really is.

FTX was essentially a platform that allowed people to easily trade cryptocurrency. Set up an account, and you could buy, sell and save bitcoin and other new types of electronic money.

But FTX wasn't just going to help you get rich. It was going to save the world. Its founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, was both banker and saint—hailed as a "savior" and "the world's most generous billionaire." He preached a gospel of "effective altruism," or "earning to give." He wanted to get rich, but only so he could give it all away. But what did he do to get rich? He cheated in spectacular fashion.



FTX promised that whatever digital money you put into your FTX account was yours. What it actually did was help itself to its customers' money. But nobody really knows what it spent that stolen money on. The "assets" FTX has in its atrocious and minimal records are essentially FTX loyalty points. The company made up its own currencies and created as much of them as it wanted. It swapped this made-up money with the real money in its customers' accounts.

One writer said this was worse than \$16 billion in worthless "magic beans." FTX's assets were "magic beans" that it invented itself and acquired for zero dollars—while the \$16 billion its customers stored with it simply vanished.

*Where is the—real—money?*

These billions could have evaporated into bad investments and ridiculous expenditures by FTX executives. But a good chunk of them appears to have been used to fund Democrats.

exposing a man obsessed with making videos with prostitutes, indulging in heavy drug use, neglecting his family, interacting with human traffickers, dodging police action, and acquiring money through business dealings involving foreigners, his Uncle James and the “Big Guy” himself: Joe Biden.

The *New York Post* researched, vetted, edited and broke the laptop story in October, three weeks prior to the 2020 election. It was shocking—yet many people never saw it until after the election, after Hunter’s father was declared the next president of the United States.

Twitter and Facebook executives outright *censored* all information about Hunter’s laptop before the election.

Twitter blocked not only the *Post*’s story but also the entire account of the 200-year-old publication, blocked all users from posting links to the story, and even blocked them from sharing links in their private direct messages, a measure usually reserved for combating crimes like child pornography. Tech executives, media executives and former intelligence officials branded the revelations about the Biden family as “Russian disinformation.” These executives were covering for the Bidens so Democrats could seize control of the presidency.

But they were not acting alone. Taibbi revealed an e-mail dated Oct. 24, 2020, in which a Twitter executive shared a list of five tweets from people within the Biden

campaign asking for tweets that criticized Hunter to be deleted. Taibbi wrote that such censorship requests from Biden campaign officials were routine.

Twitter executives were banning knowledge of the laptop at the request of the Biden campaign and the Democratic National Committee. In fact, they were banning knowledge of *a lot* of topics at their behest. Twitter Files 2.0, released by investigative journalist Bari Weiss on Dec. 8, 2022, revealed “secret blacklists” and “shadow banning” at Twitter, including censorship of conservative commentators and others for “COVID misinformation” and other pretexts. Twitter was actively censoring speech *in collusion with the Biden campaign*. And

Bankman-Fried donated the second-largest amount of money to the Democratic Party during the 2022 midterm elections, behind George Soros. In 2020, he donated \$5.2 million to Joe Biden, the second-largest amount after Michael Bloomberg. There was brief talk that he could donate \$1 billion in 2024. Even his nightmare of a balance sheet made his political leanings clear: \$7 million was mysteriously marked “TRUMPLOSE.”

Bankman-Fried’s mother runs a secretive political action committee that has funneled over \$20 million to Democrats. His brother formerly advised wealthy donors on how to give to Democrats before moving on to another outfit, funded by Sam, that focuses on “pandemic preparedness.”

Bankman-Fried donated to people on important financial committees, which apparently shielded his company (which was run something like a fraternity house) from investigation. He donated to the head of the Senate Agriculture Committee, a Republican who happens to oversee cryptocurrency regulation. The father of his girlfriend, Caroline Ellison, is head of economics at MIT and close to many of the key bureaucrats in charge of financial regulation.

The gang running FTX believed they could get away with all kinds of fraud because they backed the Democrats. The media would give them glowing write-ups. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission would look the other way. They had nothing to fear from Congress, the Senate, the Justice Department or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

But God wanted all this graft and deceit exposed. And so it was.

Here at the *Trumpet*, the Bible is our guide for watching world events. One core passage guiding our analysis right now comes from the book of Amos, which is an end-time book for the people descended from ancient Israel, most notably America. The *Anchor Bible Dictionary* states, “Amos decried the social injustice, the oppression of the poor, and the lack of any moral or ethical values on the part of the rich and powerful. According to Amos ..., Israel was a violent, oppressive and exploitative society. The poor had to sell themselves into slavery to pay off trivial debts (Amos 2:6; 8:6). The rich falsified

weights and measures (Amos 8:5) and traded dishonestly (Amos 8:6). Even the courts, the last bastion of hope for the poor, were corrupt. Judges were bribed to cheat the poor out of what little they had (Amos 2:7; 5:10, 12). In fact, Israel was no longer capable of acting with justice (Amos 3:10; cf. 5:7, 24; 6:12). Truth and honesty were now hated (Amos 5:10).”

America’s wealthy are “falsifying the balances by deceit.” Change that to “balance sheet,” and you have FTX.

We tend to focus on the prophecies of lawlessness and political turmoil. But these prophecies are accompanied by forecasts of rampant corruption. We are seeing the results before our eyes. If the law is not enforced, people will cheat to grow rich. They can cheat at the ballot box, and they can cheat in business.

But the story of FTX’s corruption could go even deeper.

With such a strong background in murky democratic financing, FTX could be a major player in Washington, D.C.’s corruption. Billions are missing. What Bankman-Fried is known to have donated is a tiny fraction of that. If you are going to cheat in an election—engaging in practices like ballot harvesting or worse—you need access to off-the-books cash. A dodgy cryptocurrency enterprise could be a great way to generate or hide it.

Evidence that FTX was involved at that level hasn’t yet been uncovered, but it is plausible. Certainly, the way the left-wing media has swooned over Bankman-Fried is reason enough for suspicion.

There is profound corruption at all levels of business and government—and more is about to be exposed. Bankman-Fried was arrested in December and extradited to the United States, and this led to yet another solid, intriguing, condemning revelation. The indictment accuses him of campaign finance omissions. It alleges that the former billionaire wasn’t just the second-largest donor of funds *legally*, but that he also *illegally* donated to politicians using other people’s names. This man is in the middle of a hole measured in billions of dollars, and he is a channel for money into the Democratic Party. More revelations are sure to come.

that campaign put Biden in the White House and forced Donald Trump out.

### FBI Collusion

Some argue that Big Tech companies are businesses, not part of the government, so they can censor what they please. *But the government was behind the censorship requests.* The third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth batches of “Twitter Files” provide additional proof that Twitter executives colluded with federal agents.

Before Elon Musk bought Twitter in October 2022, the company’s leadership had at least a dozen former Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, including former General Counsel Jim Baker. As a Twitter employee, even as the “Twitter Files” began to be published, Baker was able to censor information critical of the FBI. On Dec. 6, 2022, Musk fired him, and the “Twitter Files” got even more interesting.

Twitter Files 3.0 exposed more proof of company leaders’ collusion with the FBI. Twitter Files 4.0 and 5.0 exposed their collusion with Michelle Obama to ban the sitting U.S. president from the platform he had used so effectively throughout his campaign and presidency.

It is incredible that this hidden information is now available to billions of people around the world.

“After [the January 6 Capitol protests], internal Slacks show Twitter executives getting a kick out of intensified relationships with federal agencies,” Taibbi reported on December 9, showing screen images of one of the company’s lead censors, Yoel Roth, saying, “I’m a big believer in calendar transparency. But I reached a certain point where my meetings became ... very interesting ....” When a colleague wryly responded, “Very Boring Business Meeting That Is Definitely Not About Trump,” Roth replied, “Preeeeeeetty much,” and, “Definitely not meeting with the FBI I swear.”

An FBI agent testified to Republican attorneys general in Louisiana and Missouri on Nov. 29, 2022, that the FBI held weekly meetings with Big Tech companies ahead of the 2020 election to discuss the best ways to censor “disinformation.” Now, the “Twitter Files” shows that such meetings got “very interesting” after the Capitol protests. Twitter employees

and members of the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and Office of the Director of National Intelligence were censoring speech and working to ban President Trump from Twitter.

If this isn’t a violation of First Amendment free speech rights, what is?

Yoel Roth has bragged openly on Twitter for years about his interests in pornography and sex involving children. The FBI never censored him; instead they used him to hide the truth about the origins of COVID-19, Hunter’s laptop, the 2020 election theft and other issues.

It’s stunning to learn that these are the sorts of individuals responsible for blotting out the account of the sitting U.S. president. But that is what happened. Twitter Files 4.0, published by author Michael Shellenberger, reveals Roth asking an anonymous co-worker to blacklist the terms “StopTheSteal” and “Kraken” after the Capitol protests. Twitter Files 5.0, published by Weiss, shows Twitter staffers and top executives pushing for Trump to be barred from the platform despite the staff members responsible for evaluating the president’s tweets admitting he had not violated any policies.

The ban against Trump started the day after Michelle Obama called for it. Now we know that FBI agents loyal to her husband had been priming Twitter to ban Trump for months.

### Deep State Collusion

On Dec. 16, 2022, Taibbi published Twitter Files 6.0, more than 150 e-mails between Yoel Roth and FBI agents sent between January 2020 and November 2022. According to Taibbi, “a surprisingly high number are requests by the FBI for Twitter to take action on election misinformation, even involving joke tweets from low-follower accounts.” Taibbi compared the FBI-Twitter tie as a “master-canine” relationship and said, “Twitter’s contact with the FBI was constant and pervasive, as if it were a subsidiary.”

While admitting the e-mails are real, FBI leaders insist they are unimportant. A Dec. 16, 2022, FBI statement claimed,

“The FBI regularly engages with private sector entities to provide information specific to identified foreign malign influence actors’ subversive, undeclared, covert, or criminal activities. Private sector entities independently make decisions about what, if any, action they take on their platforms and for their customers after the FBI has notified them.”

The FBI maintains an 80-agent social media task force, created when Barack Obama was in office. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg admitted in an August 2022 interview with Joe Rogan that his team censored information on Hunter’s laptop after receiving a warning from the FBI that “Russian disinformation” was coming.

Twitter Files 6.0 also revealed that Twitter received content-related flags and action requests from beyond the FBI.



Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey (left) and President Obama meet at the White House in 2011.

“What most people think of as the ‘deep state’ is really a tangled collaboration of state agencies, private contractors, and (sometimes state-funded) NGOs [nongovernmental organizations],” Taibbi said in his December 16 release. “The lines become so blurred as to be meaningless.” The deep state goes a lot deeper than most people think.

On December 19, Musk and Shellenberger released Twitter Files 7.0, which reveals how the intelligence community “discredited factual information about Hunter Biden’s foreign business dealings.” In fact, it shows that the FBI paid Twitter more than \$3.4 million to censor certain posts. So Taibbi’s characterization of Twitter as an FBI subsidiary is perfectly accurate. In business, a subsidiary is a

daughter company owned or controlled by a parent company. Twitter executives were talking about being literally paid millions of dollars to collect, analyze, flag and censor your social media posts on behalf of Barack Obama's deep state.

Twitter Files 8.0 outlines how the Pentagon colluded with Twitter to run psychological operations in foreign nations. Twitter essentially acted as a government propaganda agency. Journalist Lee Fang wrote, "Twitter executives have claimed for years that the company makes concerted efforts to detect and thwart government-backed covert propaganda campaigns on its platform. Behind the scenes, however, the social networking giant provided direct approval and internal protection to the U.S. military's network of social media accounts and online personas, whitelisting a batch of accounts at the request of the government."

Fang wrote that the government invited Facebook and Twitter executives to "attend classified briefings in a sensitive compartmented information facility, used for highly sensitive meetings." It is helpful that so many Big Tech companies are staffed with former agents from the FBI and Central Intelligence Agency.

Twitter enforced nonexistent rules on conservatives up to and including the U.S. president. Corporate media spent weeks scrutinizing a single document in Trump's possession at Mar-a-Lago. But when it came to radical liberals, there were no rules.

The government operated Twitter as a deep state agency. Not just for puff-piece journalism or smothering a few embarrassing secrets, but for controlling people and for *stealing an election*.

The ugly truth has been and is being revealed about how the U.S. government, elites, public discourse and constitutional rights really work, especially under the sway of Barack Obama.

### **The Cover-up in the Exposure**

Twitter Files 8.0 shows that not just the FBI but the Department of State and military were manipulating social media, with Twitter leaders happy to comply. They *knew* the military was using fraudulent accounts to spread propaganda, and they violated their own policies to permit it and amplify

it. Twitter executives coordinated with the U.S. government to interfere in politics, depose leaders and alter regimes, abroad *and in America*.

Yet the biggest revelation has to do with *the dates*. Fang said Twitter Files 8.0 were provided through a Twitter attorney and only went back to a certain year, "so what I saw could be limited." What year might that be? 2017.

Corruption and even the deep state have existed for a long time, but *just make sure you don't go back to 2016, or 2009, or anything in between*. Why not? Because that goes straight back to *Barack Hussein Obama*.

That goes straight back to the man who took Americans' own government, weaponized it and turned it against them; who used the Internal Revenue Service to target conservatives; who spied on the communications of political opponents, journalists, members of Congress, possibly the Supreme Court, and innocent everyday Americans, wittingly, en masse. The subject matter is government collusion with Big Tech to manipulate communications and stop the search *exactly* at the point that it would expose the *master* of government collusion with Big Tech and manipulating communications. Even in this exposure there is a cover-up!

Yet as glaring as the manipulation of this particular news was, almost no one called it out, except for Mark Bradman, who wrote, "This release of information was filtered to avoid revealing that President Obama was the originator of this activity." (Even Twitter's operations in other countries correlate to the Obama State Department foreign policy: deposing U.S. allies like Hosni Mubarak in Egypt and propping up U.S. enemies like the terrorist regime in Iran. Identical operations were used to amplify race conflict inside the U.S.) Bradman went on to write that this Twitter release blacked out the Obama years not only because so many people in journalism and Big Tech share the radical Communist ideology of "the One," but also because exposing government collusion with Big Tech between 2009 and 2016 would expose journalists and tech executives as colluding with the government! Compared to protecting Obama, he wrote, the revelations from Twitter Files 8.0 "become almost secondary."

All roads lead to Barack Obama! You can't tell the full story unless you get to the root cause. Yet Republicans, everyday conservatives and even investigative journalists are missing this glaring fact—or intentionally bending over backward to avoid even mentioning his name.

### **What to Do**

These unlikely and multitudinous revelations are not just interesting or even infuriating news stories. They are not the product of a chain of coincidences among journalists, eccentric billionaires, sloppy fraudsters and dismayed government agents—many of whom swoon before Obama.

Discussing these ongoing exposures on One America News Network, President Trump said on December 20, "Our country is corrupt. Our elections are corrupt. We have a very sad and sick country. We have a very corrupt country." Those words are truer than even he realizes. You are living through a brief era of *exposure*—exposure of the true nature of this nation and its people. That true nature is corrupt and hopeless, formed by a very real, very sinister being: Satan the devil. But the exposure of that truth is happening at the initiative of the Creator of human beings. He wants us to see what we have allowed, what we have become, what we are as a nation and as individuals. "Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known" (Matthew 10:26).

God is showing His people in the nations of Israel their sins! It is better to *know* that your society is rotten, that your own mind is infected, than to not know it. We need to see what God is clearly showing us and recognize that He is the one directing it. ■

## **Learn the truth**

To start building a foundation of historical understanding that will allow you to avoid being deceived by agendas and biases, carefully read Herbert W. Armstrong's book ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy***.



# China's Strongest Protests in a Generation



**Economic turmoil and increasing unrest are weakening the nation.**  
**BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

**T**HE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY is now facing the strongest protests against it since those that led to the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989.

The anger is largely over the Chinese government's COVID-19 rules. Since the early days of the pandemic, General Secretary Xi Jinping has taken a remarkably strict stance against the virus. His policy, called Zero-COVID, aims to isolate every single infected individual and keep them quarantined from the rest of the population—by force if necessary.

Most everyone in the country has the Zero-COVID app on their phone, which gives them a QR code. That code is integrated with results from PCR tests that each person must take every day or two, and with data about other people—potentially infected people—that have been in a person's vicinity. The code tells you where a person can and can't

go. Every movement is meticulously monitored. If a person tries to board a train or enter a grocery store without a "green" QR, they are blocked, and authorities may be notified and dispatched.

"The Zero-COVID app ... has completely transformed 1.4 billion people into data that can be manipulated and shut down at any moment," said China analyst Matthew Tye.

Zero-COVID has resulted in three years of rigid lockdowns—often of tens of millions of people at a time. Some lockdowns have lasted as long as four months. It leaves many people without access to food and medicine, unable to generate income, and in deep despair.

Some, it has driven to a breaking point, evidenced by scattered protests that have broken out in various Chinese cities in recent months. Until now these have remained mostly isolated

and have been directed mainly against local authorities' implementation of lockdown measures in specific districts.

But on Nov. 24, 2022, a fire erupted in a residential high-rise in the city of Urumqi. At least 10 people were killed and several others injured in this tragedy. And horrendous footage of victims screaming as they burned circulated on Chinese social media.

Many Chinese understood that COVID restrictions were the reason these victims couldn't exit the building, and the reason firefighters weren't able to help them. It is well known that Chinese authorities often lock COVID-contaminated buildings from the outside, sometimes even welding doors shut. It is not yet clear if that was what prevented these Urumqi residents from escaping their burning high-rise. But in either case, COVID barriers outside the building kept firefighters from driving close enough to douse the flames. Footage showed fire trucks aiming streams of water at the burning building, but from too far a distance to hit the flames. The jets fell short, raining down onto the street, while the people—including young children—died in agony.

Tens of millions of Chinese saw this footage. Many recognized that the cause of the nightmare was Xi's Zero-COVID policy. Protests soon erupted in Shanghai, China's largest city and a most important financial hub. They then spread to Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Nanjing, Urumqi and other major cities.

Notably, many protesters went beyond just speaking out against lockdown measures and even began calling for the Communist Party—and even Xi Jinping himself—to be replaced. Many were chanting for a democratic government to be instated.

"We're already seeing the protests spread to non-related issues. University students are getting in on it. Opinions are being aired on dictatorship versus democracy, economic growth, housing, how good or how bad a job Xi personally is doing. In a country where any sort of common, coordinated public outcry is viewed as treason, we are already hip deep," said geopolitical strategist Peter Zeihan (Nov. 30, 2022).

When Chinese citizens saw footage of

the World Cup, with tens of thousands of people packed into stadiums, maskless and unconcerned about any sort of social distancing, it intensified their anger.

Protests in some cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, turned violent. People tore down quarantine barriers, overturned police cars, and openly clashed with law enforcement officers.

Since cameras integrated with facial recognition software are ubiquitous in Chinese cities, and since the nation's criminal justice system is notoriously brutal, many protesters likely knew they were risking their lives by publicly attacking the government. But they did it anyway because they are broken. They feel that life under the Communist Party's dictatorship is not worth living. So they risked it all. And many of those who were arrested may never be seen again.

### Reverse Course?

Zero-COVID has clearly been an economic disaster. It keeps people from working, shuts factories and shipping hubs, and disrupts supply chains. It has also been a disaster politically since it has turned many Chinese who were previously supportive of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) against it—sometimes even violently.

Yet Xi Jinping and the CCP have kept the rigid policy in place. This is because Xi has tried since the pandemic's early days to score political points both at home and abroad by contrasting China's "COVID success" with the failure of America and other Western nations. In his 2021 New Year's address, he boasted that while millions were dying in the West, China had "put people and their lives first ... with solidarity and resilience."

He has reiterated this message many times since. He also directs China's state-run TV to repeatedly emphasize that America has suffered over a million COVID deaths, making it the deadliest pandemic in U.S. history, and contrasts that with China's claims of just 5,000 COVID deaths. He has long pointed to these figures as proof of the efficacy of Zero-COVID and of the legitimacy of his rule.

Zero-COVID has become a signature Xi policy, so to reverse course now would show chinks in his armor. But to maintain the inane and destructive policy would also weaken him. There

are also legitimate concerns about the virus because Chinese cities are among the world's most densely populated, the Chinese vaccine is virtually ineffective, lockdowns have prevented many from developing natural immunity, and China's health-care system is roughly on par with that of medieval Europe.

Xi has no good options. And whatever course is taken next, Zero-COVID and the backlash against it are weakening Xi, the CCP, the Chinese economy and the nation's global clout and power.

"A crack in Xi's personal authority isn't simply a crack in the facade, but a fissure to the core which would unleash a

## It seems that China has reached a turning point and will continue to weaken.

torrent of dissent that would wash away ... everything?" said Ziehan.

It seems that China has reached a turning point and will continue to weaken. This is significant because the *Trumpet* has been expecting a decline in the power of Xi and China relative to that of his fellow strongman in Russia.

### King Over the 'Kings of the East'

Bible prophecy speaks of an end-time, multinational Asian military alliance called "the kings of the east" (Revelation 16:12). Ezekiel 38:2 describes the *leadership* of this Asian bloc, saying it will be headed by "the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal" (New King James Version). *Meshech* and *Tubal* are early names corresponding to modern Russian cities, and *Rosh* is a variation of an ancient name for Russia. This "prince" is clearly a Russian ruler.

The verse says "the land of Magog," which includes modern China, will also be a major part of the Asian alliance. But the wording makes plain that it will not

be a Chinese leader but a Russian one who is the main king, or prince, over this kings of the east bloc.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has identified Vladimir Putin as the man to fulfill this role. "We need to watch Vladimir Putin closely. He is the 'prince of Rosh' whom God inspired Ezekiel to write about 2,500 years ago!" he writes in his booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'* "When you study these scriptures alongside current events revealing modern Moscow's imperialist direction, you see that Russian President Vladimir Putin is *the prince of Rosh.*"

The path the protests take next and the way the Chinese Communist Party responds could determine how soon and to what degree the power of Xi Jinping, the CCP and China will be reduced.

In the meantime, the leadership in both China and Russia are causing a great deal of suffering in their nations and beyond. And they will continue to bring the world nearer to what Scripture calls "the times of the Gentiles." This will be a time when dictators rule ruthlessly and the kind of suffering now taking place in China will be the norm worldwide. It is a dark future that approaches. But there is also great hope tied into current trends.

Mr. Flurry concludes his booklet by stressing that the fact Putin is now on the scene means the end of man's failed efforts to rule himself is near.

"What we are seeing in Russia ultimately leads to the transition from man ruling man to *God* ruling man! And it is almost here! It is just a few short years away. ... A great transition is about to occur. We have to realize that this is all good news ..." (ibid).

To understand the significance of the emerging kings of the east axis, the impending reduction of Chinese power relative to Russia's, and the hope that is tied to these developments, order your free copy of *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'* ■

## Russia over China?

Few realize that China will be wingman to Russia in a power bloc that is about to get airborne. But it's what the Bible prophesies! To get the advanced intelligence of what's to come, order your free copy of *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'*



Verse 15 concludes, “and the Lord saw it, and IT DISPLEASED HIM that there was no judgment.” God sees our multiplying sins! He is very angry, and He is going to do something about it. This is a crucial aspect of these prophecies: the fact that God will *correct* these problems.

“[God] saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intervene; then his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him.



A young girl participates in a Pride Parade in New York City.

He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in fury as a mantle” (Isaiah 59:16-17; Revised Standard Version). Fixing our minds on this outcome helps us see things from God’s viewpoint, and it provides us a sure hope.

### Sin Piled High

“We must remember that these prophecies are primarily for the end time,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible*. “That means they are *specifically* for God’s Church and generally for the nations of Israel, which have an ancient history of briefly following, then rejecting, God. The only nation God ever called to serve Him was Israel. They failed God anciently and are still rebelling today. Because of Israel’s history with God, they are held more accountable to God than other nations. ... [T]he prophecies for physical Israel in this end time refer mainly to the American and British peoples. These people have ‘refused to return’ (Jeremiah 5:3).”

Read Jeremiah 5. In this chapter, God says, *I will forgive if you can find just one person who is doing right!* But

even the religious-sounding people are entrapped in sin. We are lazy, idle, unproductive, uneducated, dependent on government, abusing drugs, shoplifting by the billions, establishing after-school Satan clubs, stealing, robbing, and committing other crimes.

God has given this nation so much, yet people have turned against Him toward filth and rampant sexual sin (verses 7-8). Studies show that about *80 percent of men and 45 percent of women* watch

## THIS IS GOD’S ULTIMATE AIM. HE GIVES THESE WARNINGS TO TRY TO SAVE PEOPLE.

pornography weekly. Lurid headlines appear continually: sexual perverts are appointed to high government offices and given jobs designing school programs to pervert children and keep parents in the dark; an executive lures 9-year-old girls into sex; a landlord solicits sex from tenants struggling to pay rent; a high-end fashion label uses child porn tropes in its advertising; mainstream publications praise “a play about pedophiles” as “brilliant.”

“*Shall I not punish them for these things?* declares the Lord; and *shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?*” (verse 9; English Standard Version).

Verses 27-28 describe our coarseness, materialism, excess, gluttony, lack of conscience and absence of a moral compass. And God again asks, *Do you think I’ll stand by and do nothing about this?* (verse 29). God is going to correct our nations! In the face of our egregious wickedness, it would be *wrong* for Him to let us continue on indefinitely as we destroy our minds and those of our children. Our people who “declare their sin as Sodom” are about to get to know this God (Isaiah 3:9-11).

Notice something amazing, however. God will destroy, yet He says He will *measure out* the destruction (Jeremiah 46:28). Even in correction for massive sins, God will not destroy us completely, and the correction itself is for a powerful and ultimately wonderful reason!

### Everlasting Love

The destruction we are racing into isn’t just punishment or revenge. Back in

Isaiah 59, verse 18 shows that God will unleash fury on those who have defied Him. But it will lead to something beautiful: “So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the Lord drives” (verse 19; RSV). God says He will come as a Redeemer, *saving* anyone who turns from sin (verse 20).

This is God’s ultimate aim. He gives these warnings *to try to save people*.

This is the living God of judgment. He is a God *to fear*, but He Created us because He *loves* us and wants to *bless* us and *save* us. Standing in the way are our own sins.

Jeremiah 30:7 warns of the worst time of suffering *ever in history* for our people. God says, *I am going to correct you—hard! This won’t be a mere slap on the wrist* (verse 11). And why? “[F]or the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased” (verse 14). In verse 15 God says, *Don’t act like you don’t deserve this. You have a long litany of sins!*

But in the next chapter, we read of God’s ultimate intent: “At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. ... Yea, *I have loved thee with an everlasting love*: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:1, 3). God sees all that is happening and will punish for sin, but that punishment is an expression of His *love* and desire to help us.

Verses 7-9 describe our peoples being rescued out of foreign captivity, humbled and repentant. “I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble,” God promises: “for I am a father to Israel [speaking of America today], and Ephraim [Britain] is my firstborn.”

In verses 32-34, God says He will make a covenant with these repentant people: “... After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: FOR I WILL FORGIVE THEIR INIQUITY, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SIN NO MORE.” What a wonderful day that will be! ■



# What Is Sin?

Our behavior affects our future as individuals and as a nation.

**W**HEN YOU HEAR THE WORD SIN, what do you think of? Many people think of caricatures of 17th-century Puritans or “fire and brimstone” preachers or perhaps comedians making jokes and other pop culture figures being provocative. Even many Christians disregard it as something irrelevant to their day-to-day lives or to the life of the nation. They know that Jesus Christ died for our sins but assert that sin is a comparatively minor issue once you accept Christ’s sacrifice.

But what does the Bible say? It shows that sin is a core issue! Sin destroys success, wealth, relationships, happiness and life itself.

“[S]in is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). Sin is not merely violating one’s conscience; it is *breaking the law*.

The Apostle Paul knew sin only *through the law*. Which law? The law that says, “Thou shalt not covet” (Romans 7:7): the Ten Commandments. Paul described this law as “holy, and just, and good” (verse 12). King David called it perfect, sure, right and pure, more valuable than fine gold (Psalm 19:7-10).

Where did God’s law come from? From His character, His nature! God’s law codifies how He thinks and acts. It is the will of the Being who existed before the universe and mankind. And the Creator’s will, nature and *law* is LOVE (see 1 John 4:8.)

God is love, therefore God’s law can be summed up in that one word: *love*. Jesus said the law is further defined in two great commandments: love God and love neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). These are further expressed in 10 points by the Ten Commandments, the first four of which tell us how to love God, the last six of which tell us how to love our neighbor (Exodus 20).

God’s law of love is the perfect way of life. Every particle of human suffering, unhappiness, misery and death has come solely from its transgression!

“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well” (James 2:8). The whole law explains the principle of love. *Love* is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:8, 10). Jesus fulfilled it, setting us an example that we too should fulfill the law. We fulfill it with *love*—not any love we have by nature, but “the love of God [that] is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit]” (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit in us is God’s law in action in our lives!

So if we fulfill this royal law, we do well—but if not, we commit sin (James 2:9). Verses 10-11 state that if we keep the *whole law* (the general principle of love toward our neighbor) yet offend in one point, we are guilty of breaking the law. (Notice: The points of the law James describes are, *Do not commit adultery, do not kill*—the Ten Commandments.)



Jesus Christ was the ultimate example of perfect obedience to the law. Most Christians believe that Jesus came to Earth to abolish the Ten Commandments. Yet He clearly stated, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17).

Jesus magnified the law and made it honorable (Isaiah 42:21). When we put a spiritual “magnifying glass” on the Ten Commandments, it is enlarged in spirit and principle into many more points. And in the larger view, the entire Bible is a magnification of God’s law. The law is the basis of all Scripture. It defines a way of life: God’s way to happiness, joy and eternal life!

Truly fulfilling the Ten Commandments requires keeping both the letter and the spirit of the law. Christ gave two examples illustrating this point.

First: “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment ...” (Matthew 5:21-22). Christ quoted, *word for word*, the Sixth Commandment, which forbids murder (Exodus 20:13). He affirmed that maliciously ending a human life is sin. Then He magnified that law, showing that the *spirit* of murder, which includes hatred, is also sin.

Second: Christ addressed the Seventh Commandment, saying, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28). Christ upheld God’s law forbidding adultery, which includes premarital sex and infidelity within marriage. Then He magnified it, showing that even a lustful gaze breaks the *spirit* of that commandment.

These examples show that sin against God’s law begins in the *mind* and must be stopped immediately (James 1:14-15).

In principle, sin is anything other than God’s outflowing law of love. At the root of all sin is vanity—loving *self* more than loving God or fellow man. Its author was Lucifer—whose heart was lifted up because of his beauty (Ezekiel 28:17). It is manifest in attitudes of self-centeredness, self-exaltation, desire to be beautiful, covetousness, desire to get and take, jealousy and envy, competition, oft-resulting violence and war, resentment and rebellion against authority. These are the *principles* of spiritual sin.

To *repent* of sin means to quit sinning and begin keeping God’s commandments—all of them, for if you break only one, you incur the penalty of death (Romans 6:23), *eternal death*.

Thankfully, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ pays that penalty for us (Romans 5:6-10). Once someone repents, he or she is no longer doomed to eternal death. However, God still expects those He forgives to keep the Ten Commandments. “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2). It is now our responsibility to choose to overcome sin—to choose not death, but life (Deuteronomy 30:19). ■

# WORLDWATCH

## MIDDLE EAST

[theTrumpet.com/more/middle-east](https://www.theTrumpet.com/more/middle-east)

Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** informed Israeli President **Isaac Herzog** on Dec. 21, 2022, that he had come to agreements with his coalition partners to successfully form Israel's 37th government. Israel has had four elections in the last five years. It has been plagued by instability and inconsistency. But the Netanyahu-led coalition won convincingly in last month's elections, giving him an outright majority and the mandate to form what many consider the most conservative government in Israel's history. Five of the six parties in the coalition are religious conservatives committed to security, safety and stability, something that clearly resonated with voters. As prime minister previously, Netanyahu worked closely with United States President **Donald Trump**, and the two slowed the disintegration of their nations. Now that "**Bibi Is Back**,"\* expect a temporary resurgence in Israel, and expect Trump to regain the White House.

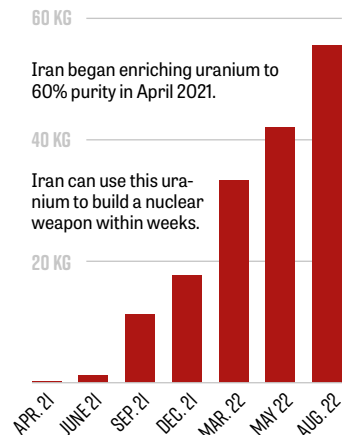
Meanwhile, **Iran** continues to develop nuclear-weapons technology. On Nov. 23, 2022, the regime began enriching uranium to 60 percent purity at its underground Fordow nuclear plant. The move came as a response to the International Atomic Energy Agency ordering Iran to cooperate with investigations into its undeclared nuclear sites. While Iranian scientists have already enriched uranium to 60 percent at other sites, this move is significant because Fordow uses advanced IR-6 centrifuges, which can produce weapons-grade uranium.

32 THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

Some experts believe that even if Iran builds a nuclear warhead, it lacks the technology to create a missile capable of delivering it. That may no longer be the case. On November 8, the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps** successfully tested the Ghaem-100 satellite launcher. The unit's aerospace division said

the rocket is only for launching communications satellites, but a U.S. State Department spokesman said, "Space launch vehicles incorporate technologies that are virtually identical to, and interchangeable with, those used in ballistic missiles, including longer-range systems." Gerald Flurry has warned for decades about Iran's illegal missile program. Iran's push for nuclear weapons is rapidly approaching the finish line. Read more in his booklet *The King of the South*.

## IRAN'S HIGHLY ENRICHED STOCKPILE



**TOPSHOT** Kuwaiti and French forces take part in a joint drill code-named "Pearl of the West," northwest of Kuwait City, on Dec. 8, 2022.



## EUROPE

[theTrumpet.com/more/europe](https://www.theTrumpet.com/more/europe)

**Poland** is rapidly emerging as a major military power in Europe. On Dec. 7, 2022, the U.S. State Department approved a \$3.8 billion deal to sell 100 M1A1 tanks to Poland and upgrade them to the newest model. This is on top of an earlier deal for Poland to buy 250 M1A2 tanks. The Polish military already possesses more tanks and howitzers than **Germany**, Central Europe's historic military heavyweight, and these two deals alone involve more modern tanks

than are currently operated by any European power. Poland also aims to increase its troop numbers to 300,000, making it the third-largest contributor of personnel in NATO, after the U.S. and Turkey, and to more than double its defense spending to 5 percent of its gross domestic product. The upgrades are so drastic that Politico called Poland "Europe's coming military superpower."

Poland is not the only European military acquiring advanced weapons. Germany's largest military upgrade since the end of the Cold War is gaining steam: On December 15,

Germany's legislature approved the purchase of 35 U.S. F-35 fighter jets at a cost of more than \$10 billion. It also approved the purchase of new rifles and other equipment, to be financed from the \$100 billion special fund announced in February 2022. The first F-35s are scheduled to enter service in 2028 and will enable German pilots to carry U.S. nuclear bombs stationed in the nation.

Gerald Flurry wrote: "America is giving Germany access to its most-advanced and deadliest weapons. The crucial question is, does the United States really have control over those bombs?" Now

\* Find links to freely access all the articles and booklets referred to on this spread at [theTrumpet.com/go/ww2302](https://www.theTrumpet.com/go/ww2302)

# ASIA

[theTrumpet.com/more/asia](https://theTrumpet.com/more/asia)

Japan's government voted on Dec. 2, 2022, to give the country's military "counterstrike capabilities." But the authorization allows Japanese forces to strike enemy missile launch sites preemptively if they appear poised to fire on Japan, meaning that Tokyo has actually authorized its military to strike first. The plan includes deploying 50 satellites starting



this year and 130 new depots for long-range standoff missiles.

This authorization violates Japan's Constitution, which the U.S. imposed after a war it was bombed into with an infamous preemptive strike: Japan attacking Pearl Harbor. That Constitution forbids Japan from maintaining "land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential." But 75 years later, Japan has developed highly capable land, sea and air forces, including fifth-generation F-35 stealth warplanes and small aircraft carriers capable of launching them. It has also initiated a deal to buy hundreds of U.S.-built Tomahawk cruise missiles and to begin developing at least 10 new missile types at home, including hypersonic models.

The plans follow an announcement by Prime Minister **Kishida Fumio** on Nov. 28, 2022, for Japan to double defense spending to 2 percent of gross domestic product by 2027. This will require the nation to spend \$345 billion over the next five years and could make Japan the world's third-highest military spender. The Center for Strategic and International Studies wrote that these developments will

America is providing Germany with an advanced stealth warplane that can conduct nuclear strikes. Read "[America's Naive Trust in Germany](#)."

The German government has announced plans to withdraw its 1,121 troops from Mali, according to *Der Spiegel*. The United Nations mission MINUSMA has been Germany's largest overseas deployment, and Germany continues to pursue its goal of training and cooperating with the security forces in the region to combat terrorism in the Sahel. It is now increasing its focus on Niger, which has proved to be friendlier to Western nations like

France, which has moved a large contingent of its troops there, and less welcoming to Russia. Based on Psalm 83 and Daniel 11:40, Mr. Flurry has stated that Europe's war on terrorism will lead to an all-out confrontation with the chief sponsor of terrorism: Iran. Germany's missions in the region are preparing for this clash.

But Germany need not go abroad to find terrorists. On December 7, about 3,000 police officers raided 130 properties and arrested 25 people with suspected links to the extremist *Reichsbürger* movement. *Reichsbürgers*, meaning

"shatter policy norms in place for much of the period since World War II." But the Japanese feel norms must be shattered as Russia, China and North Korea become more belligerent.

As Russia's war on Ukraine rages on, former President **Dmitry Medvedev** said on Dec. 11, 2022, that Russia is increasing production of new weapons to defend against enemies in "Europe, North America, Japan, Australia, New Zealand" and beyond. This came just one week after Russia deployed advanced missile systems on the Kuril Islands, parts of which are claimed by Japan.

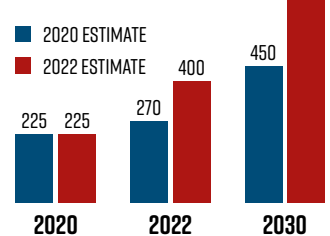
Meanwhile, the U.S. Defense Department reported on Nov. 29, 2022, that China is stockpiling nuclear warheads and is expected to reach numbers comparable to what Russia and the U.S. have. The report estimates that, as of 2021, China has more than 400 nuclear-capable warheads and is on pace to increase its arsenal to 1,500 by 2035. Only Russia and the U.S. currently possess more than 1,000 nuclear weapons. The presidential U.S. National Security Strategy, released on Oct. 12, 2022, stated, "By the

2030s, the United States for the first time will need to deter two major nuclear powers [Russia and China], each of whom will field modern and diverse global and regional nuclear forces."

Bible prophecies show that several Asian nations will unite as "the kings of the east," fielding a staggering 200 million troops. Ezekiel 38:1-2 show that Russia and China will lead this massive

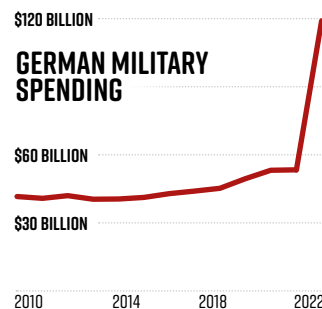
## INCREASING ESTIMATES

Since 2020 the Pentagon has increased its estimates for China's nuclear stockpile.



force; verse 6 includes "Gomer" and "Togarmah," which refer to the main peoples who make up modern Japan. Today, animosity between Japan and China and Russia is one factor motivating these nations to build up their firepower. But these prophecies show that we should expect these nations to eventually lay aside this animosity and join forces. ■

"citizens of the Reich," claim that the federal government is illegitimate and the German empire is the true, rightful German state. Justice Minister Marco Buschmann referred to the group as a "suspected terror network" and said, "the



suspicion exists that an armed attack on constitutional organs was planned." One of the suspects is an active member of Germany's elite special forces. Another was a judge. The repeated discovery of such plots shows that some in Germany are dangerously angry about the current state of affairs and willing to go to extremes. It suggests that extreme views and sympathies exist throughout German society. It also confirms forecasts by Herbert W. Armstrong that a Nazi spirit would rise again in Germany. Read "[Why Does Germany Have So Many Neo-Nazi Conspiracies?](#)" ■

# ANGLO-AMERICA

[theTrumpet.com/more/anglo-america](https://theTrumpet.com/more/anglo-america)

Contemporary university life in the United States resembles education under a one-party regime like in China or the Soviet Union. A Nov. 30, 2022, survey published by *The College Fix* found **zero Republican professors in 33 departments across seven universities**, including more than half of all departments surveyed at the University of Alaska–Anchorage, Cornell University, the University of Georgia, the University of Nebraska–Omaha, the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, Ohio State University, and the University of Oklahoma. Six of the seven states have majority Republican voters, yet these universities show a Democrat ideological monopoly. The study found that Democrat professors outnumber Republicans 11 to 1.

This indoctrination profoundly affects society, for example in the media. To take one example, on December 31, Dr. **Anthony Fauci** steps down as chief medical adviser to Joe Biden. Yet White House Press Secretary **Karine Jean-Pierre** used Fauci's last press briefing to cover up COVID-19's true origin. When the Daily Caller's Diana Glebova tried to ask Dr. Fauci a question about whether it was appropriate for him to fund EcoHealth Alliance, which used its money for gain-of-function

research in China, Jean-Pierre shut down the question. Today News Africa correspondent Simon Ateba defended Glebova's inquiry, but Jean-Pierre accused him of being disrespectful and moved on to questions from more regime-friendly journalists. Former EcoHealth Alliance vice president Andrew Huff has published a book titled *The Truth About Wuhan: How I Uncovered the Biggest Lie in History*. It admits that EcoHealth Alliance worked with the U.S. government to give Chinese scientists the bioweapons technology they used to create COVID-19. Yet neither Dr. Fauci nor the White House will answer questions about it. Such journalism is as unwelcome at the White House as a Republican in a sociology department.

**Democrats rushed to pass additional gun restrictions before the 118th Congress convened in January**. On November 24, **Joe Biden** called for "stricter gun laws" after mass shootings in Colorado and Virginia. He called on Congress to ban semiautomatic weapons with high-capacity magazines, similar

to the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban. This ban expired and was not renewed because it had no significant effect on firearm homicides and because it violated the U.S. Constitution provision that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Canadian gun owners are having trouble as Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** has pushed for **a mandatory buy-back program** covering 1,500 models of "military-grade" firearms from their owners. But several provinces and territories have resisted. On December 1, Saskatchewan's provincial government introduced an act to "protect the rights of lawful firearms owners" from federal gun-control legislation. Officials in Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory say they do not have enough federal police officers to confiscate Canadians' guns. Communist Cuba, Nazi Germany, Red China, the Soviet Union and many other dictatorships and would-be dictatorships have confiscated their citizens' guns in order to oppress them. ■

## FEATURED FEEDBACK



From your article, I learned that this past election had a lot of issues ("Ready For War," January 2023, [theTrumpet.com/26447](https://theTrumpet.com/26447)).

This needs to stop. People are going to stop going to vote. They need to wake up and fight back.

**Robert James Schwent** FLORIDA

I believe everything in here about Bible prophecy. I feel like a lot of people are lost because they don't get this magazine. I can read this magazine in about two days without putting it down.

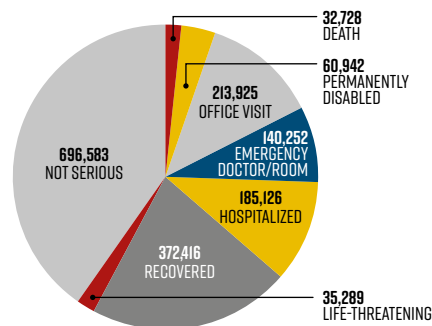
**Margaret McFarland** FLORIDA

Let me tell you how I first came across the *Trumpet*. I found it at the eye doctor's office; it was in the magazine rack. I only saw half of it peeking out, but what stood out to me was the word "Trump." It made me think of President Trump. I love that man. I came home and read that whole magazine in one day. I just love it so much. I try and get others to sign up for it as well.

**Beverly Howell** OHIO

## COVID-19 VACCINE ADVERSE REACTIONS

Data released by the CDC shows that 1,469,237 people experienced an "adverse event" after receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Some cases have multiple symptoms; a single case can account for multiple entries in this table. This is why the total count is greater than 1,469,237.



## THETRUMPET.COM HIGHLIGHTS



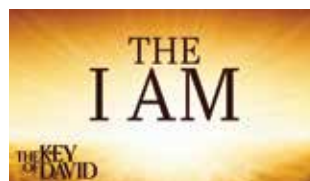
TOP ARTICLE

**FTX: Are America's Democrats Behind the Scam of the Century?**  
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TOP ARTICLE

**Russia Loads Silo With Nuclear-Capable Intercontinental Ballistic Missile**  
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TOP VIDEO

**The I AM**  
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TOP PODCAST

**Another Maricopa County 'Miracle' for Democrats**  
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# The Fall Is Near

So why is it taking so long?

“**A** REPUBLIC, IF YOU CAN KEEP IT.” THAT WAS BENJAMIN Franklin’s cautious reply to Americans who asked what kind of government the Founding Fathers had created. It was understood by the founders and Americans in general that this drastic experiment, making the government accountable to the people, could fail.

John Adams warned that “our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.” If the American people lost what biblically based morality they possessed, no greatness in population, territory, wealth or strength could prevent its failure.

This deep understanding of the nation’s impermanence came in large part from a deep study of Roman history. The American republic was largely modeled after the Roman Republic. Founders Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison signed their *Federalist* essays supporting the ratification of the Constitution with the pseudonym Publius, after the Roman Publius Valerius, who helped found the republic in 509 B.C. George Washington looked to Cato, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson to Cicero—both prominent Roman statesman who defended the republic from oncoming tyranny. Even the architecture of the American capital city was designed to evoke ancient Rome.

Along with inspiration from Rome came a warning from Rome. The republic’s greatest threat turned out to be itself.

After nearly 500 years, the Roman Republic was powerful and rich. Its wars of conquest in Africa, Europe and Greece wreaked havoc on families and farms; great quantities of plundered wealth and slaves poured in; the people squandered their own freedoms, stopped sacrificing to uphold self-government, and they and their government became corrupted.

Rome was still the superpower of the known world, yet it fell to rigged elections, systemic bribery, pandering to the mob, and civil war. Faced with the perpetual choice between freedom and security, they opted for the latter. Unable to control themselves, they allowed Julius Caesar to arise and impose order on the *res publica*, the affairs of the people, by abolishing freedoms.

What was left of the republic—the Senate—warred against the tyrant and was defeated. Cato, who embodied Rome’s ancient way and its version of virtue, chose to die rather than submit to dictatorship. His death symbolized the death of the republic. It too had committed suicide.

This warning was embedded in America’s foundation. The Romans could not keep it. Could the Americans?

Under the caesars, dictatorial Rome actually conquered additional territory, gained additional wealth and wielded superior force for two centuries more. Virgil, Ovid and other poets called Rome *urbs aeterna*, the eternal city.

In A.D. 248, Rome celebrated a millennium in existence—a first in world history—with games, drink and more. The next year, its emperor was dead on the battlefield. And for 40 years, Rome was wracked with intrigue, corruption, murder and worse, with an emperor falling every two years, and with more non-Roman warrior emperors than Roman emperors. Yet the empire lurched on for two centuries more until the shell cracked and the rotting personal character of which the empire was now made could no longer hold it up. Romulus Augustus, richly named after both the founder of Rome and the founder of the empire, lost both to the Germanic king in A.D. 476.

Why did Rome fall when it did? The answer comes from the Maker of empires. As our editor in chief writes (article, page 1), God foretold the rise and fall of the empires of the West, including Rome, in surprising detail. In Revelation, He prophesied its repeated resurrection, to continue all the way up to the 21st century.

And in books including Genesis, Leviticus and Jeremiah, God prophesied the rise and the fall of the British and American peoples.

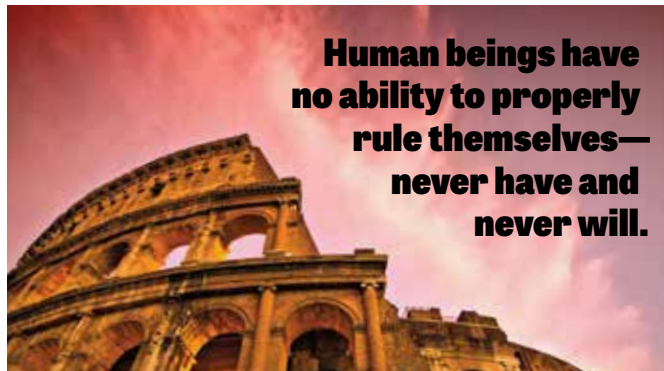
God has said that America *will not* keep its republic or even its nation! American character has fallen, the American ideal of government is falling, and the American superpower will fall. God is working out a plan, for Americans and *all people* of

*all nations*, from the mightiest of powers to the smallest of states.

If we should allow ourselves to be taught by millennia of tragic history and by prophecies for the near future, we should learn that human beings *need good government*. The brightest hope for that in modern history, the United States, has gone dark. This leaves us with only one conclusion—the conclusion taught by the Bible and by history from beginning to end: Whether through monarchies, empires, republics, oligarchies, dictatorships or other experiments, human beings have no ability to properly rule themselves—never have and never will.

Human beings need an empire not “of the people” or “by the people” but truly “for the people.” They need the first and only empire that will be measured not just in one or two millennia, but in millennia without number, governed from a truly eternal city by the only King fit to be king. They—*we*—need Daniel 2:44 to be fulfilled: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

The end is near. Let us hope and pray for the hastening of the new beginning that will follow.



# THE KEY OF DAVID

The *Key of David* uses end-time Bible prophecy to bring clarity to your world. Every week *Philadelphia Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry uses the Bible to solve life's most confusing problems, explain the news, and show where world events are going. You are guaranteed to find answers on a variety of topics, such as Christian living, world news, Bible prophecy and the purpose of life.



**Watch the *Key of David* and let end-time prophecy add clarity to your life and your world.**

ALL TIMES ARE A.M. LOCAL TIME UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## UNITED STATES

### Nationwide

BUZZR Nationwide 6:30 ET, 5:30 CT, 4:30 MT, 3:30 PT, Sun

### Nationwide Cable

Charge 6:30 ET/PT, 5:30 CT, 7:30 MT, Sun  
Comet 6:00 ET/PT, 5:00 CT, 7:00 MT, Sun  
CW Plus 5:30, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun, 4:30, 8:30 CT/MT, Sun; 5:30, Mon-Fri;  
This TV 6:30, Sun

**Alabama, Anniston** WVUA 5:30, Sun

**Birmingham** WABM 10:00, Sun; WVUA-THIS 5:30, Sun

**Demopolis** WJMY-CD 5:30, Sun  
**Dothan** WRGX 7:30, Sun; WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Homewood (Birmingham)** WTTQ-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Huntsville** WHDF (Chan. 15) 8:00, Sun

**Mobile** WFGX-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Montgomery** KYMB-LD 6:30, Sun; WCOV-TV 5:30, Sun

**Montgomery-Salem** WBMM-DT/WNCF-DT 8:30, Sun

**Opelika** WGBP 9:30, Sun; WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Tuscaloosa** WVUA 5:30, Sun

**Alaska, Anchorage** KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun

**Fairbanks** KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

**Janeau** KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

**Arizona, Phoenix** KDVD-LD 4:30, Sun; KSAZ 5:30, Sun; KTVK-COMET TV 7:00, Sun

**Prescott** KTVK 5:30, Sun

**Sierra Vista** KTTU 5:30, Sun

**Tucson** KTTU 5:30, Sun

**Yuma** KEY-DT 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Bentonville** K28NT-D 5:30, Sun

**El Dorado** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

**Fayetteville** K28NT-D 7:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

**Fort Smith** K28NT-D 7:30, Sun; KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

**Harrison** K26GS-D-COMET TV 5:30, Sun

**Jonesboro** KAIT3-HD 9:30, Sun; KJOS 8:30, Sun

**Little Rock** KATV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KTVV-LD 7:30, Sun

**Mountain Home** K07XL-D 5:30, Sun

**Pine Bluff** KTVV-LD 7:30, Sun

**Rogers** K28NT-D 7:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

**Springdale** K28NT-D 7:30, Sun; KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

**California, Bakersfield** KBFX-CD-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

**Cathedral City** KRET-CD 3:30, Sun

**Chico** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

**El Centro** KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Eureka** KECA-LD/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun

**Fresno** KAIL 3:30, Sun; KFSN 3:30, Sun; KMPH 4:00, Sun; KMPH-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Los Angeles** KABC-TV 3:30, Sun; KCOP 10:30, Sun; KDCC-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Modesto** KSAO-LD 5:30, Sun

**Monterey** KION 9:30, Sun; KYMB-LD 3:30, Sun

**Oak** KGO 5:30, Sun

**Palm Springs** KCWQ/KEQO-DT 9:30, Sun; KRET 5:30, Sun

**Redding** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

**Sacramento** KMAX-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; KSAO-LD 3:30, Sun

**Salinas** KION 9:30, Sun; KYMB-LD 6:30, Sun  
**San Francisco** KG0-TV 3:30, Sun; KPXP 6:00, Fri

**San Jose** KGO 5:30, Sun

**Santa Barbara-Santa Maria** KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

**Shreveport** KMSS 10:00, Sun

**Stockton** KSAO-LD 5:30, Sun

**Visalia** KFSN 5:30, Sun; KMPH-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Colorado, Colorado Springs** KXRM 9:30, Sun; KXTU 10:30, Sun

**Denver** KCDO-TV 4:30, Sun; KWGN-TV-COMET TV 7:00, Sun

**Grand Junction** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Gunnison** K13AV-D 4:30, Sun

**Montrose** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Connecticut, Hartford** WCCT-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**New Haven** WCCT-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WCTX-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Waterbury** WCCT-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Florida, Daytona Beach** WSWF 8:30, Sun

**Fort Walton Beach/Pensacola** WFGX-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Gainesville** WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun; WCJB 6:30, Sun; WNBW-DT-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Jacksonville** WBXJ-CD 6:30, Sun; WCWJ 6:00, Sun; WJXB-CD 8:30, Sun; WJXX 11:00, Sun

**Melbourne** WSWF 8:30, Sun

**Orlando** WKCF 9:00, Sun; WOTF-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WSWF 8:30, Sun

**Panama City** WCEP 7:00, Sun; WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

**Tallahassee** WTWC 10:30, Sun; WTLF-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WTLX 7:30/1:00 p.m., Sun; WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

**Tampa** WTTA 8:30, Sun; WXPX 6:00, Fri

**West Palm Beach** WPEC-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Georgia, Albany** WALB-DT4/WGCW-LD 8:30, Sun; WALB 6:30, Sun; WFXL-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WPCH 7:00, Sun; WSWG Sun, 8:30; WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun

**Atlanta** WANN-CD 6:30, Sun; WATL 8:30, Sun; WPCH 7:00, Sun; WUPA-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Augusta-Aiken** WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

**Brunswick** WPXC 6:00, Fri

**Columbus** WGBP-TV 6:30, Sun; WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun; WXTX 7:00, Sun

**Macon** WGXA-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun

**Savannah** WSAV-DT 9:30, Sun; WTGS-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Thomasville** WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

**Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed

**Kauai Ho'Ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

**Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku** Chan. 52 6:30 p.m., Sun; 3:30, Mon

**Oahu Focus Chan.** 49 7:00, Sat

**Idaho, Boise** KRID-LD 4:30, Sun; KYUU-LD-COMET TV 7:00, Sun; KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Idaho Falls** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun; KPFI 6:30, Sun

**Lewiston** KLEW-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Pocatello** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun; KPFI 6:30, Sun

**Springfield** WICS-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Twin Falls** KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Urban** WICD-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Illinois, Bloomington** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun; WYZZ 7:30, Sun

**Chicago** WCUI 9:30, Sun; WGN 10:30, Sun; WLS-TV 5:30, Sun

**Moine** KGCW 7:30, Sun

**Peoria** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun; WYZZ 7:30, Sun

**Quincy** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun; KHQA-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Rock Island** KGCW 7:30, Sun

**Rockford** WREX 10:00, Sun; WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

**Indiana, Bloomington** WTTV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Elkhart** WCWW 8:30, Sun

**Fort Wayne** WISE-DT 9:30, Sun; WLMO-LD-COMET TV 6:30, Sun

**Indianapolis** WALV-CD 6:30, Sun; WTHR 5:00, Sun; WTTV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Lafayette** WLFI-DT 9:30, Sun

**South Bend** ESBT/WSBT 7:30, Sun; WCWW-LD 6:30, Sun

**Terre Haute** WTHI-DT 9:30, Sun

**Iowa, Burlington** KGCW 5:30, Sun

**Cedar Rapids** KGAN 11:00 p.m., Sun

**Davenport** KGCW 7:30, Sun

**Des Moines** KDSM-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Keokuk** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

**Mason City** KAAL 8:30, Sun; KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Ottumwa** KTVQ-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KWOT/KYOU-DT2 8:30, Sun

**Sioux City** KMEG-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KTVI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Kansas, Hutchinson Plus** KCTU 7:30, Sun

**Kansas City** KCKS-LD 5:30, Sun; KCTV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KMBC 2:00, Sun

**Louisburg** KMJC-LD 5:30, Sun

**Pittsburg** KFJX-DT2 8:30, Sun; KSXF 9:30, Sun

**Topeka** WROB-LD 5:30, Sun; WROB/KMJC/KCKS 7:30, Sun; KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun

**Wichita** KCTU-LD 5:30, Sun; KSAS-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun/12:30, Fri

**Lexington** WDKY 7:00, Sun; WLJC 8:30, Sun

**Louisville** WBNA 6:30, Sun; WMYO-CD-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Paducah** KBSI-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Louisiana, Alexandria** KALB-DT 8:30, Sun

**Baton Rouge** WBTR-CD 5:30, Sun

**Lafayette** KATC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Lake Charles** KPILC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Monroe** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

**New Orleans** WNOL-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; WUPL 5:30, Sun

**Shreveport** KMSS 9:30, Sun

**Maine, Bangor** WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

**Presque Isle** WAGM-DT3/WBPQ 9:30, Sun

**Waterville-Portland** WPFO-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Maryland, Baltimore** WMAR 5:30 p.m., Sun; WNUV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Salisbury** WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun

**Massachusetts, Boston** WHDH 6:30, Sun; WBSK-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Holyoke** WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun

**Manchester** WHDH 8:30, Sun

**Springfield** WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun

**Michigan, Alpena** WBAA 9:30, Sun

**Bay City** WSMH-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WUWB/WURO 8:30, Sun

**Cadillac** WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun; WMNN-LD 6:30, Sun;

WPBN/WTOM-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Detroit** WDIV 5:00, Sun; WDIV-THIS 6:30, Sun; WKBD-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Flint** WSMH-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WUWB/WURO 8:30, Sun

**Grand Rapids** WOTV-CHARGE 6:30, Sun

**Lake City** WMNN-LD 6:30, Sun

**Lansing** WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun; WSYM, 6:30, Sun/6:00, Fri

**Marquette** WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun; WZMQ 6:30, Sun

**Roscommon (Traverse City)** WURO-LD 6:30, Sun;

6:30, Sun;

**Saginaw** WSMH-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WUWB/WURO 8:30, Sun

**Sault Ste. Marie** WPBN/WTOM-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Traverse City** WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun; WMNN-LD 6:30, Sun; WPBN/WTOM-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**West Branch** WUWB-LD 6:30, Sun

**Windsor** WKBD-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Minnesota, Austin** KAAL 9:30, Sun

**Duluth** KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun

**Mankato** KMNF-LD2 8:30, Sun; KWYE 8:30, Sun

**Minneapolis** KSTC-TV 5:30, Sun; KSTP 10:30, Sun; WUCW-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Rochester** KAAL 7:30, Sun; KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun

**St. Paul** KSTC 7:30, Sun; KSTP 10:30, Sun; WUCW-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Mississippi, Biloxi** WXXV 7:30, Sun; WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun

**Clarksdale** WPRO-LD 5:30, Sun

**Cleveland** WHCQ-LD 5:30, Sun

**Columbus** WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun; WLOV-TV 5:30, Sun

**Greenville** WBWD 8:30, Sun

**Greenwood** WBWD 8:30, Sun

**Gulfport** WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun

**Hattiesburg** WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun; WHPM-LD 5:30, Sun

**Jackson** WLOO 7:30, Sun

**Laurel** WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun; WHPM-LD 5:30, Sun

**Meridian** WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun

**Tupelo** WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun; WLOV-TV 5:30, Sun

**West Point** WLOV-TV 5:30, Sun

**Missouri, Cape Girardeau** KBSI-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KBSI 10:30, Sun

**Columbia** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun; KRCC-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Hannibal** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun; KHQA-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Jefferson City** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun; KRCC-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**Joplin** CWPL 8:30, Sun; KFJX-DT 8:30, Sun; KSXF 7:00, Sun

**Kansas City** KCTV 5:30, Sun; KCTV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KCWE 8:30, Sun

**Kirksville** KTVQ-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KWOT/KYOU-DT2 8:30, Sun

**Springfield** KRFT 7:30, Sun

**St. Joseph** KNPB-LD 8:30, Sun

**St. Louis** KSDK 5:30, Sun; KPLR-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KSDK 6:00, Sun

**Montana, Billings** KSVI 10:00, Sun; KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun

**Bozeman** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun

**Butte** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun

**Glendive** KWZB 8:30, Sun

**Great Falls** KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun

**Helena** KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun

**Missoula** KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun

**Nebraska, Hastings** KWBL/KCWH-LD 8:30, Sun

**Kearney** KWBL/KCWH-LD 8:30, Sun

**Lincoln** KWBL/KCWH-LD 8:30, Sun

**Omaha** KPTM-COMET TV 5:00, Sun

**North Platte** KLT-LD2/KWPL 8:30, Sun

**Scottsbluff** KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun

**Nevada, Las Vegas** KPVM-LD 5:30, Sun; KVCW-COMET TV 6:00, Sun

**Pahrump** K46KA-D 3:30, Sun

**Reno** KNSN-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; KRNS-CA 6:30, Sun; KLOU3/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun

**New Mexico, Albuquerque** KOB 4:30, Sun; KOB/KOBF/KOBR 6:30, Sun; KOB-COMET TV 7:00, Sun; KORE 12:37, Fri/1:35 Sun

**Farmington** KOB-COMET TV

COMET TV 6:00  
**Troy** WYBN 8:30, Sun  
**Utica** WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Watertown** WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Carolina, Asheville** WGGG 8:30, Sun;  
 WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Bowling Green**, WBKO 12:30, Fri  
**Charlotte** WAXN 10:00, Sun; WCCB  
 5:00/10:30, Sun; WHKY-TV-COMET TV  
 6:30, Sun  
**Durham** WNCN 5:00, Sun; WRDC-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun; WTVB 6:30, Sun  
**Fayetteville** WTVD 6:30, Sun  
**Greensboro** WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Greenville** WCTI-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Hickory** WHKY-TV-COMET TV 6:30, Sun  
**High Point** WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**New Bern** WCTI-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Raleigh** WNCN 5:00, Sun; WRAZ 7:00, Sun;  
 WRDC-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WTVB 6:30,  
 Sun  
**Salem** WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Washington** WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wilmington** WECT 6:00, Sun; WFSX-TV 6:30,  
 Sun; WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Winston** WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**North Dakota**  
**Bismarck** KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun  
**Dickinson** KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun  
**Fargo** KRDK-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KXJB  
 8:30, Sun  
**Grand Forks** KRDK-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Minot** KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun  
**Valley City** KXJB 8:30, Sun  
**Ohio, Akron** WIVM/WIVX 8:30, Sun  
**Chillicothe** WWHO-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Cincinnati** WBQV-LD 6:30, Sun; WSTR-TV-  
 COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Cleveland** WIVM/WIVX 8:30, Sun; WJW-TV-  
 COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WUAB 7:30, Sun  
**Columbus** WSYX 6:30, Sun; WWHO-COMET  
 TV 6:00, Sun  
**Dayton** WKEF 10:00, Sun; WRGT-TV-COMET  
 TV 6:00, Sun  
**Lima** WBOH 9:30, Sun  
**Steubenville** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Toledo** WMMT-CD 6:30, Sun; WNNW-TV-  
 COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Youngstown** WYTV 11:30, Sun  
**Zanesville** WBZ 9:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lawton** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma City** KOCB-COMET TV 5:00, Sun;  
 KOPX 5:00, Fri  
**Tulsa** KMYT-TV 5:30, Sun; KOTV 5:30, Sat;  
 KQCW 9:30, Sun; KTUL-COMET TV 5:00,  
 Sun  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Eugene** KMTR-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; KMTR-  
 DT 9:30, Sun  
**Medford-Klamath Falls** KTVL-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun; KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Portland** KATU-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Altoona** WANT/WWCP 8:30, Sun;  
 WATM-TV 6:30, Sun; WJAC-TV-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun  
**Erie** WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Harrisburg** GHP 5:30 p.m., Sun  
**Johnstown** WANT/WWCP 8:30, Sun;  
 WATM-TV 6:30, Sun; WJAC-TV-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun  
**Philadelphia** WPSG-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WPVI-TV 6:30, Sun  
**Pittsburgh** WPNT-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WPTG-CD 6:30, Sun  
**Scranton** WSWB-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**State College** WANT/WWCP 8:30, Sun;  
 WJAC-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Wilkes Barre** WSWB-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Puerto Rico, Aguadilla** WSJP-LD-COMET TV  
 7:30, Sun  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WJAR-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun  
**South Carolina, Anderson** WGGG 8:30, Sun;  
 WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Charleston** ECVI 8:30, Sun; WCBD-DT 9:30,  
 Sun; WCBD 12:30, Sun  
**Columbia** WACH-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**WOLO Columbia, SC** 11:30 p.m., Sun  
**Florence** WPDE-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Greenville** WGGG 8:30, Sun; WSPA 1:30, Fri/  
 Sat/Sun; WSPA 12:00 p.m., Sun; WYCW  
 9:00, Sun

**Hardeeville** WTGS-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Myrtle Beach** WPDE-TV-COMET TV 6:00,  
 Sun;  
 WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Spartanburg** WGGG 8:30, Sun; WSPA 12:00  
 p.m., Sun; WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**South Dakota, Huron** KTTM 5:30, Sun  
**Rapid City** KLCO-DT 8:30, Sun; KXNB 5:30  
 p.m., Sun; KOTA 5:30, Sun  
**Sioux Falls (Mitchell)** KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun;  
 KTTW 5:30, Sun  
**Tennessee, Alexandria** WRTN-LP 5:30, Sun  
**Chattanooga** WDSI-TV-COMET TV 5:30, Sun  
**Jackson** WNBJ 8:30, Sun  
**Knoxville** WEZK/WJZC 8:30, Sun  
**Memphis** WATN 6:30 p.m., Sat; WBII 7:30,  
 Sun; WMC-TV 5:30, Sun; WHBQ 5:30, Sun;  
 WMC 1:30, Thur/Fri  
**Nashville** WRTN-LP 5:30, Sun; WUXP-TV-  
 COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Texas, Abilene** WNCN 8:30, Sun;  
 KVII-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Amarillo** KVII-DT/KVIIH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Austin** KCWX 5:30, Sun  
**Beaumont** KBTU-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun;  
 KFDM, 2:50, Sat; KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Brownsville** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun;  
 KGBT-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Corpus Christi** KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Dallas** KDAF 7:00, Sun; KTXA 7:30, Sun; KTXA  
 5:30, Sun; KTXD-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**El Paso** KFOX-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Ft. Worth** KDFW 5:00, Sun; KTXA 5:30, Sun;  
 KTXD-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Harlingen** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun;  
 KGBT-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Houston** KIAH-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KTRK-TV  
 5:30, Sun  
**IUFKIN** KIVY 7:30, Sun  
**Laredo** KYLX 8:30, Sun  
**Longview** KIVY 7:30, Sun; KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lubbock** KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Midland** KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Odessa** KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun; KWWT  
 5:30, Sun  
**Port Arthur** KBTU-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun;  
 KFDM, 2:05, Sat 8:30, Sun  
**San Angelo** KTXE 8:30, Sun  
**San Antonio** KCWX 5:30, Sun; KMYS/GOAI  
 9:00, Sun  
**Sherman** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sweetwater** KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tyler** KIVY 7:30, Sun; KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Victoria** KVCT 5:30, Sun; KVCT-DT3/KWVB  
 8:30, Sun  
**Waco** KZCZ-LD-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Weslaco** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wichita Falls** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun; KFDF  
 6:00, Sun  
**U.S. Virgin Islands, Charlotte Amalie** WVXF  
 7:30, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KJZZ-TV-COMET TV 7:00,  
 Sun;  
 KSL-DT3 4:30, Sun  
**Vermont, Burlington** WFFF 10:00, Sun; WVNY  
 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30  
**Virginia, Bristol** WCYB-TV-COMET TV 6:00,  
 Sun  
**Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Hampton/Norfolk** WSKY 9:00, Sun  
**Harrisonburg** WSVW-LD2 8:30, Sun;  
 WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun; W29DH-D-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun  
**Lynchburg** WSET-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WYAT 8:30, Sun  
**Newport News** WTKR 6:30, Sun  
**Norfolk** WTKR 6:30, Sun; WTVZ-TV-COMET  
 TV 6:00, Sun  
**Richmond** WRLH-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WUPV 6:00, Sun; WWBT 1:30, Sat/Sun  
**Roanoke** WSET-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun;  
 WYAT 8:30, Sun; WSL 11:30, Sun  
**Virginia Beach** WTKR 6:30, Sun  
**Washington D.C.** WJLA-TV-COMET TV 6:00,  
 Sun  
**Washington, Kennewick** KGfZ-LD 5:30, Sun;  
 KVVK-CD-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Pasco** KGfZ-LD 5:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT  
 9:30, Sun  
**Richland** KGfZ-LD 5:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/KEPR-  
 DT 9:30, Sun

**Seattle** KCPQ 7:00, Sun; KOMO-TV-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun; KONG 3:30, Sun  
**Spokane** KAYU 7:30, Sun  
**Tacoma** KONG 5:30, Sun  
**Yakima** KGfZ-LD 5:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/  
 KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun; KUNW-CD-COMET TV  
 6:00, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Bluefield** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Charleston** WVAH-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun; WVUX  
 8:30, Sun  
**Fairmont** WVUX-LD 6:30, Sun  
**Moorefield** W29DH-D-COMET TV 6:00, Sun  
**Oak Hill** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Parkersburg** WCVW/WOVA-LD2 9:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun; WVUX 8:30, Sun  
**Wheeling** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT  
 8:30, Sun  
**Green Bay** WCWF-COMET TV 5:00, Sun;  
 WFRV 1:30, Sun  
**La Crosse** WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Madison** WKOW 5:30, Sun; WMSN-TV-COMET  
 TV 5:00, Sun  
**Milwaukee** WIWN 7:30, Sun; WVTU-DT2-COMET  
 TV 5:00, Sun  
**Rhineland** WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun  
**Superior** KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Suring** WCWF-COMET TV 5:00, Sun  
**Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wyoing, Casper** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun; KFNB  
 7:00, Sun; KLWY 7:00, Sun; WVUX 7:30, Sun  
**Cheyenne** KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Jackson** KPIF 6:30, Sun  
**Riverton** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVUX 8:30, Sun

## CANADA

**Nationwide cable**  
 Vision TV 4:30 p.m. ET, Sun  
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun  
**Atlantic Provinces**  
 CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun  
**Alberta, Red Deer** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Calgary** CKCS-DT 10:00, Sun; KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Edmonton** CKES-DT 10:00, Sun; KAYU 8:30,  
 Sun  
**Medicine Hat** CHAT 8:30, Sun; KAYU 8:30,  
 Sun  
**Lethbridge** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**British Columbia,**  
**Dawson Creek** CJDC 9:30, Sun  
**Kamloops** CFJC 9:00, Sun  
**Prince George** CKPG 9:00, Sun  
**Vancouver** CKBC 8:30, Sun; CHNU 11:30,  
 Sun/10:00, Tues;  
 KCPQ 7:00, Sun  
**Victoria** CHNU 11:30, Sun/10:00, Tues  
**Manitoba, Winnipeg** CTV Winnipeg 9:30, Sun;  
 CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun  
**New Brunswick, Moncton** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Saint John** CKLT-DT 11, Sun  
**Nova Scotia, Halifax** CJCH-DT 11, Sun  
**Sydney** CJCB-TV 11, Sun  
**Ontario, Ottawa** CJOH/CTV 8:30, Sun  
**Toronto** WADL 10:00, Sun; WUTV 10:30, Sun  
**P.E.I., Charlottetown** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVNY 10:30, Sun  
**Saskatchewan, Saskatoon** CFQC 5:30, Sun;

## CARIBBEAN

**Regional** CaribVision 8:30 am AT, Sun  
**Bahamas** FOX W.Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun

## AUSTRALASIA

**Australia**  
**Nationwide** BOLD 7:30, Sun  
**Adelaide** TV44 11:30, Sun; 3:00 p.m., Mon  
**Philippines** GTV 5:30, Sun; TV5 PH 12:00, Sat  
**New Zealand**  
**Nationwide** Eden TV 6:00, Sun; Eden+1 7:00,  
 Sun

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