

BIG BROTHER Is the government reading your e-mail?

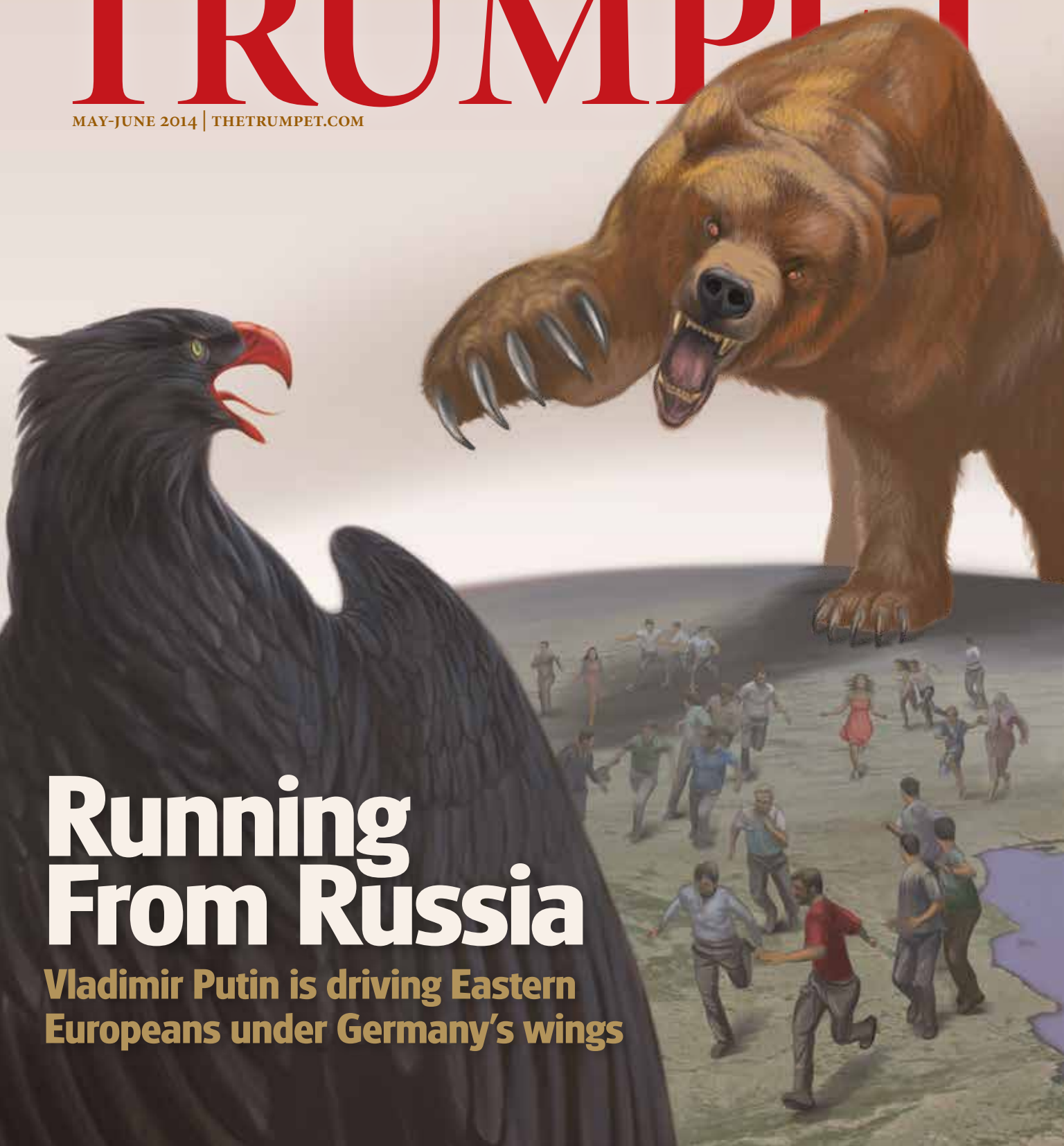
Why you need to keep an eye on Lebanon

It's baaack ... the occult revival

The big bang and the Bible

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

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Running From Russia

Vladimir Putin is driving Eastern Europeans under Germany's wings



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Photo: Crimean Prime Minister Sergei Aksyonov casts his vote on March 16 for Crimea to become part of Russia.

Cover illustration: Gary Dorning/Trumpet





Putin Remembers Yugoslavia

What he remembers should bring shame to America and Germany! **BY GERALD FLURRY**

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN OF RUSSIA HAS SOME DEEPLY emotional views about the recent history of Yugoslavia. And on this subject, his words are very compelling.

Yugoslavia was aligned with the Soviet Union for a time after World War II. The alignment didn't last long, and Yugoslav-Soviet relations in the Cold War era were often rocky; however, when Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union in 1985, they improved greatly. But that came to an end in the early 1990s when the Soviet Union broke up.

President Putin's takeover of Crimea has Eastern Europe frightened and the Western world upset. But he explained his actions in an extremely revealing statement during an address to the Russian Federation on March 18 that we must examine.

Here is what Putin said: "As it declared independence and decided to hold a referendum, the Supreme Council of Crimea referred to the United Nations Charter, which speaks of the right of nations to self-determination. Incidentally, I would like to remind you that when Ukraine seceded from the USSR it did exactly the same thing, almost word for word. Ukraine used this right, yet the residents of Crimea are denied it. Why is that?" He is talking about Crimea's vote on March 16 to secede from Ukraine and become part of Russia. You can read more about this in my article on page 10 of this issue.

President Putin has labeled the breakup of the Soviet Union "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." He is still angry about that and is clearly trying to reconstruct that empire, of which Ukraine was a part. But something else fills him with wrath as well.

He continued: "Moreover, the Crimean authorities referred to the well-known Kosovo precedent—A PRECEDENT OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES CREATED WITH THEIR OWN HANDS IN A VERY SIMILAR SITUATION—when they agreed that the *unilateral separation of Kosovo from Serbia*, exactly what Crimea is doing now, was legitimate and did not require any permission from the country's central authorities" (emphasis mine throughout).

He is referring to what happened to Yugoslavia. What happened there, and why is he so upset about it?

From the early 1990s through the early part of 2000, the United States used its power and ultimately its military to *dismantle Yugoslavia!* And it did so at the behest of Germany. America and Germany would like to forget that history as it really happened, but Vladimir Putin has not forgotten. What occurred there is etched in his memory and enrages him to this day.

A Double Standard?

Putin continued by saying this about Kosovo: "Pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 1 of the United Nations Charter, the UN International

Court agreed with this approach and made the following comment in its ruling of July 22, 2010, and I quote: '*No general prohibition may be inferred from the practice of the Security Council with regard to declarations of independence*,' and, '*General international law contains no prohibition on declarations of independence.*'"

He then quoted another official document: the Written Statement of the United States of America, April 17, 2009. This was submitted to the same UN International Court in regards to Kosovo: "Declarations of independence may, and often do, violate domestic legislation. However, this does not make them violations of international law."

Putin explained that the U.S. "wrote this, disseminated it all over the world, had everyone agree, and now they are outraged.

The United States used its power and ultimately its military to conquer Yugoslavia. And it did so at the behest of Germany.

Over what? THE ACTIONS OF CRIMEAN PEOPLE COMPLETELY FIT IN WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS, AS IT WERE. For some reason, things that Kosovo Albanians (and we have full respect for them) were permitted to do, Russians, Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars in Crimea are not allowed. Again, one wonders why.

"We keep hearing from the United States and Western Europe that Kosovo is some special case. What makes it so special in the eyes of our colleagues? It turns out that it is the fact that the conflict in Kosovo resulted in so many human casualties."

Putin is *right* about that. Kosovo was tied to Serbia when the U.S. supported its breakaway. He is also right that American-led military intervention against Serbia—the leading state of Yugoslavia—led to many casualties.

'The Rule of the Gun'

Putin's next statement was aimed even more directly at the United States, and it is astounding. "Our Western partners, led by the United States of America, prefer not to be guided by international law in their practical policies, but *by the rule of the gun.*"

AMERICA, he said, IS LED BY THE RULE OF THE GUN! And in this case he is right!

Yugoslavia was conquered by *American* military power. Under the banner of NATO, the United States blasted the Serbs to smithereens so Kosovo and other

■ SUCCESSOR STATES TO THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA



GERMANY CONQUERS THE BALKANS

- **1914-1945** | World War I and World War II: The Serbs ally with America against Nazi Germany. Croatia (and many Slovenians) support Berlin.
- **June 1991** | Croatia and Slovenia proclaim independence from Yugoslavia. Civil war ignites.
- **December 1991** | Germany recognizes the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. Pope John Paul II quickly follows Berlin's lead. The U.S., UN and most of Europe strongly oppose Germany's decision. The UN decides to concede and backs away from confrontation with Germany.
- **Jan. 15, 1992** | European leaders cave in to Berlin. The U.S. follows suit. Croatia and Slovenia are effectively under German control.
- **1992-early 2000s** | The U.S. and NATO lend political and even military power to Germany's cause against Yugoslavia and the Serbs.
- **1997** | Germany fights its World War enemy, the Serbs, by supporting Albanian guerillas (the Kosovo Liberation Army). The U.S. leads NATO against its own longtime ally, Serbia.
- **March 1999** | For the first time since World War II, German fighter pilots go to war. Alongside U.S. and NATO forces, they attack Serbs. The UN Security Council never approved the violent intervention.
- **June 1999** | The NATO military campaign ends, Serb troops withdraw from Kosovo, and the Balkans are effectively under control of the German-led EU.
- **May 2004** | Slovenia becomes full member of the European Union, solidifying Germany's power there.
- **July 2013** | Croatia becomes full member of the EU, solidifying Germany's power there.

states could break away. It was a terrible attack against the Serbs, who were America's *allies* in World Wars I and II!

But the most ominous part of all is that the United States conquered the Serbs basically *on behalf of Germany*—its bitter enemy in both world wars!

For proof that Germany orchestrated the destruction of the Serbs and Yugoslavia, it is critical that you request and read my free booklet *Germany's Conquest of the Balkans*. I hope every single one of you will read it. It is a powerful explanation of world news and of what happened in Yugoslavia. And it is supported by *facts*—not opinions.

Now Germany controls what used to be Yugoslavia—and the entire Balkan Peninsula. It accomplished this feat while hardly even using its military; *America* did the bombing. That is why President Putin says America is guided by “the law of the gun.” If you look at the facts of what happened in Yugoslavia, you would have to agree.

United States Secretary of State John Kerry accused Russia of living in the 19th century and not acting like someone living in the 21st century. But I submit to you that *the crime against Yugoslavia was FAR WORSE than that committed by the Russians against Crimea*. The United States should be *ashamed* to have done that, and then to just bury the true history!

Serbia, the leading state within Yugoslavia, fought on the same side as the United States in two world wars. It has suffered terribly from German aggression for more than a century. It was our ally, and then we turned around and bombed it into defeat!

Why did we do that? Because we were unwilling to stand up to Germany—the very nation that wrought such destruction against us and much of the world by starting two world wars!

ANYONE CAN SEE SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG WITH AMERICA'S LOGIC!

I challenge you to look honestly at the history Putin is citing and determine whether he is right! What *was* America doing *bombing* the country that was our ally in World Wars I and II?

Then we gave Yugoslavia and the entire Balkan Peninsula over to the very nation that started the two world wars and was America's bitter enemy.

Germany was the first country to perceive and demonstrate the depth of America's broken will. Vladimir Putin also understands our horrendous weakness in foreign policy. He is going to exploit it as the Germans did.

Russia Has Not Forgotten

Here is more of what Putin said during his speech: “To make this aggression look legitimate, they **FORCE** the necessary resolutions from international organizations, and if for some reason this does not work, they simply ignore the UN Security Council, and the UN overall.

“This happened in Yugoslavia. **WE REMEMBER 1999 VERY WELL.** IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE, EVEN SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES, that at the end of the 20th century, one of Europe's capitals, Belgrade [capital of Serbia], was under missile attack for several weeks, and then came the real intervention. Was there a UN Security Council resolution on this matter, allowing for these actions? Nothing of the sort.”

Russia, a UN Security Council member that holds veto power, was extended no opportunity to give its input on what should

happen in Yugoslavia. THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT!

Do you think they will now accept *our* input on their takeover of Crimea, which is mostly inhabited by Russians?

When Putin says Russians “remember 1999,” he’s saying that they have *deep emotions* about it to this day. That rage still burns within Vladimir Putin. He has a lot of power and a strong memory about what happened in Yugoslavia.

On March 19, *Courcy’s Intelligence Brief* highlighted the same sentiment: “IT IS A MYSTERY AS TO WHY WESTERN POLICYMAKERS DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE RESENTMENTS THAT HAD BEEN BUILDING UP IN MOSCOW and that Ukraine represented a red line for Russia.” It is a mystery WHY the West doesn’t understand *why* the Russians were so infuriated by what happened in Yugoslavia.

“THESE RESENTMENTS AND FEARS ARE GENUINE, NOT CONCOCTED,” Courcy continued, “AND THEY HAVE BEEN SIGNALLED FOR A LONG TIME. The only surprise is that the West seems to have been surprised by the Kremlin’s actions over Crimea.” Western leaders and analysts may have been surprised by what happened. We at the *Trumpet* were not.

Are you willing to examine President Putin’s accusation objectively? The *facts* are terribly condemning.

A German Plan

The Serbs see clearly that *Germany* was behind the breakup of Yugoslavia. Slovenia and Croatia wanted to break away in the 1990s. Initially, most of Europe, the United Nations and the United States were against that because they knew it would cause terrible problems. But Germany (and the Vatican) recognized and strongly supported Slovenia and Croatia. And against the rest of the world, the will of *Germany* prevailed. CROATIA’S BREAKAWAY LED TO CIVIL WAR. THEN GERMANY MANAGED TO GET AMERICA AND NATO TO DO THE DIRTY WORK!

Warren Christopher, the United States secretary of state at the time, said that “the Germans bear a particular responsibility” for the Yugoslav civil war. But he was quickly silenced! And no leader in our government has made such a statement since.

In *Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*, I wrote: “How could this happen without an outcry of alarm from the rest of the world?”

The U.S. wants this history of how Germany manipulated us to be forgotten. Germany now has almost full control of the whole Balkan Peninsula on the Adriatic Sea, leading right out into the Mediterranean, where Bible prophecy indicates it has much greater ambitions.

The front cover of our June 2002 *Philadelphia Trumpet* had a map of Yugoslavia with this headline: “First Victim of World War III.” We expanded this powerful cover story into the booklet because it was so important.

AT THE TIME, GERMAN LEADERS WERE CRYING OUT THAT THE SERBS WERE COMMITTING GENOCIDE—TRYING TO DESTROY

WHOLE RACES OF PEOPLE. ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THOSE STATEMENTS LONG AGO PROVED TO BE LIES! THAT IS THE TRUTH!

German Defense Minister Volker R  he pressed for a firm deadline to deploy the military into Yugoslavia as quickly as possible. He said the Serbs were running concentration camps



AN IGNOMINIOUS GIFT

U.S. Admiral Gregory Johnson relinquishes the NATO flag to German KFOR commander Gen. Holger Kammerhoff in 2003.

What is wrong with American foreign policy when Germany can single-handedly bend us and much of the world to its will?

and ordering mass killings. He EMPHASIZED THAT THE NATIONS INVOLVED NEEDED TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE THE RUSSIANS COULD VETO THE WAR. He went on to say that WHEN NATO NEEDS TO DO SOMETHING, WE DON’T NEED TO LOOK TO RUSSIA FOR SUPPORT—JUST DO IT! AND HE CONVINCED AMERICA, THE REST OF EUROPE AND THE UN THAT THAT’S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

The Russians remember that. Vladimir Putin knows what really happened there. He just doesn’t talk about Germany as much because he knows it was *America’s* power that shattered Yugoslavia in the end.

What is wrong with American foreign policy when Germany can single-handedly bend us (and much of the world) to its will? What WEAKNESS there is in America!

This is a startling fulfillment of the *curse* God warns of in Leviticus 26:19. God promised that He would “break the pride of [our] power”—and so He has! When you know that *God* is cursing our power because of our sins, it becomes clear how we shift so dramatically—from disagreeing with Germany

See **YUGOSLAVIA** page 24 ►





Is the Government Reading Your E-mail?

And will it stop there?

BY ROBERT MORLEY

AMERICA'S GOVERNMENT wants to protect you—from foreign aggressors, terrorists, domestic extremists, online scam artists and other dangers. To do that, it wants to log every phone call you make, track most of what you do online and even record every time you drive your car.

Is this what America was supposed to be? Doesn't the Constitution protect against such intrusive government behavior?

On February 27, the *Guardian* revealed that the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) and Britain's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) had secretly captured and stored the webcam images of millions of ordinary American Internet users *not suspected of any crime*. They are accumulating the images for future use.

Use for what?

This follows last year's revelation that the NSA collected and stored data (not the contents) from *every single phone call—domestic or international—made in the United States* DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS. And that it was building a massive new operation to do the same with e-mails and even Web-browsing activity.

The government enacted this enormous intrusion into citizens' private lives quietly and without public debate. If not for a whistle-blower, *it would still be secret*.

Who gave the federal government permission to turn the land of the free into a police state?

No One Is Immune

A year ago, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper was called in to testify before Congress. America wanted to know: Is the NSA indiscriminately spying on people without suspicion, and without a judge's warrant? Clapper denied it. He was asked point-blank: "[Could you] give me a yes or no answer to the question, does the NSA collect any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans?"

"No, sir."

"It does not?"

"Not wittingly."

It was a premeditated, bold-faced *lie*.

But what does the NSA care about what Congress thinks? In January it was revealed that the NSA was spying on Congress too, and America's elected representatives didn't have a clue.

In a December ruling that described the NSA's action as "almost Orwellian," Judge Richard Leon wrote: "I cannot imagine a more 'indiscriminate' and 'arbitrary' invasion than this systematic and high-tech collection and retention of personal data on virtually every single citizen for purposes of querying and analyzing it without prior judicial approval. . . . Surely, such a program infringes on 'that degree of

privacy' that the Founders enshrined in the Fourth Amendment."

Yet the surveillance goes on.

On March 11, Sen. Dianne Feinstein accused the Central Intelligence Agency of spying on members of the Senate Intelligence Committee and hacking their computers.

"I don't know about you, but I'm worried," Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul told students at the University of California–Berkeley on March 19. "If the CIA is spying on Congress, who exactly can or will stop them?"

The president?

When running for election, then-Sen. Barack Obama campaigned against this exact kind of government intrusion that began under President George W. Bush. The nation reflexively looked to him.

In January, at the height of the phone spying scandal, the leader of what he has called "the most transparent administration in history" asked Americans once more to *trust him*. President Obama promised to do everything in his power to reform the NSA. His proposals "should give the American people greater confidence that their rights are being protected," he said, "even as our intelligence and law-enforcement agencies maintain the tools they need to keep us safe."

Within that context he recommended two things: The NSA should get permission from a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court before accessing phone

records, and the NSA should no longer store phone records for so long.

The FISA courts are not new. The NSA already goes to FISA judges to get authorization to spy on people (just not to collect phone metadata). The problem is that FISA judges almost *always* give permission. *Not once* in the past three years has a FISA judge denied an NSA request. Since first being instituted, the court has only turned down 11 requests—out of nearly 40,000. This is not a court; it is a rubber stamp. It is no advocate for the public. President Obama knows that. Nothing has changed. Secret government spies still secretly ask for permission to spy from unaccountable judges, who make their rulings in secret.

The president's second recommendation—putting a stop to storing the phone records of Americans who are not suspected of any crime—should be a slam dunk. What possible justification could there be to secretly collect and store personal information from Americans who have done nothing wrong—and for five years? Now that the world knows about this obviously unpopular and clearly unconstitutional practice, who would keep this program running? Yet, despite the months that have passed since President Obama said he would stop this domestic spying, it continues. Federal employees and their contractors continue collecting data on your phone calls.

In fact, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, the White House has now asked for special court approval to allow the NSA to store phone records *for even longer*.

Don't Worry, It's All Legal

While the NSA phone scandal has gotten plenty of attention, in some ways its webcam peeping should be getting even more.

We now know that video from Americans was being collected and stored with the NSA's blessing by Britain's GCHQ as far back as 2008, at least. This is personal video of people talking to their friends and family, consulting their lawyers, conducting business conferences and so on. That's right—an American federal agency, chartered to protect Americans, permitted a foreign government to spy on them. According to documents recently made public by whistle-blower Edward Snowden, in one six-month period, GCHQ cataloged webcam imagery from 1.8 million different users just from Yahoo.

But the story gets even more troubling.

The Snowden files also indicate that the NSA and GCHQ are running that data against facial recognition technology to build a searchable digital database that can identify Web users who might otherwise remain anonymous. They are also working with social media networks like Facebook to gain as many picture profiles as possible.

The goal? To be able to know who said what when, where and to whom for every person using the Internet. With the rapid advancement of computing technology, this is feasible.

Senators Ron Wyden, Mark Udall and Martin Heinrich called the NSA/GCHQ actions “a breathtaking lack of respect for the privacy and civil liberties of law-abiding citizens.” But the NSA says don't worry; everything is strictly legal. And it is all done in order to keep America safe. *We will only use this information on bad guys.* Feel safer?

Smile: You're on Camera

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) doesn't want to be left behind in the domestic spying business either. In February it requested quotes for building a national automatic license plate reader database.

Police departments nationwide are rapidly expanding automatic license plate scanner databases to track vehicles *in real time*. Drive past a traffic light camera, and your license plate gets scanned. Cross a major bridge, and your plate gets scanned. Have a police car pull in behind you, get scanned again. Enter a major freeway, ditto.

Individual police departments are using this technology to flag cars that are stolen and to help identify fugitives. But the ramifications for privacy rights are troubling, and the potential for abuse is alarming.

Because so many license scanners are in circulation, some city police forces can track you almost anywhere you drive—in real time—and store those records indefinitely. Use of these scanners is limited not by reasonable suspicion or probable cause but, as one police department put it, “is only limited by the officer's imagination.” According to the ACLU, police forces like Jersey City's store the data for five years. Others have no stated policy on how long they archive the data.

Now DHS wants to create a national database capable of tracking the movement of any vehicle anywhere across the country.

And if it is anything like the other three-letter government agencies, it too will want to store that information for as long as it can.

There is even talk of expanding the program to include photos from traffic light cameras and security cameras to mesh the national automatic license plate reader database with facial recognition technology.

So the next time you go out for a drive, smile, you may be on camera—and stored in some DHS database.

The government can track your ...

Phone call data The NSA collected and stored data from every single phone call—domestic or international—made in the U.S. during the last five years.

E-mails The NSA is building a massive new operation to do the same with all e-mail.

Internet use Ditto for Web-browsing. The NSA “touches” some 19 petabytes of Internet traffic data each day, about 126 times more than the data volume of total daily Facebook uploads.

Webcam imagery Personal video imagery is being indiscriminately collected. In one six-month period, the NSA recorded and cataloged webcam imagery from 1.8 million Yahoo users.

Car travel Police departments nationwide use automatic license plate scanners, placed at traffic lights, bridges and freeways to track vehicles in real time.

Should You Be Worried?

For the first time in a decade, the majority of Americans are more concerned about the government spying on them than about potential terrorist attacks, according to a Pew Research poll from last July. Growing numbers of people from both parties are worried.

Can you blame them? Technology is now so pervasive that you can't go anywhere or do anything without a government agency knowing about it. Carry your cell phone (turned on *or off*), and the NSA is tracking it. Swipe a credit card, and the NSA can track that too. Write an e-mail, and the federal government may have it. Play an online video game, and the government can record your chats. Go for a drive, and an unseen camera may be capturing your license plate and possibly tagging you inside using facial recognition software. Board a

plane, Interpol knows and has your picture. Search for “pressure cooker” on Google, and if your spouse happens to have Googled “backpacks” a couple minutes earlier, you might get a visit from the police, as a couple living in Suffolk County, New York, found out. Call a friend in Canada—and the NSA can legally record all your communications for a week without even having to ask for a warrant.

On March 21, the *Washington Examiner* revealed that the military operates a huge national database that targets and tracks civilian data. It works with federal, state and local police databases to keep track of everything from parking tickets and minor fender-benders to pawn shop records and field information cards filled out by officers even when no crime has occurred. This formerly obscure database, known as the Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LinX), contains more than 506 million law enforcement records linking names to other personal information. It is fully searchable—and run by the military.

The websites you visit, the friends you have on Facebook, the tweets you post, the personal calls you make, where you drive after work—according to the government in none of these can you have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Your personal life can be recorded in a government database for future reference.

It’s a “dystopian nightmare,” says Senator Paul. “I perceive fear of an intelligence community drunk with power, unrepentant and uninclined to relinquish power. ... I am honestly worried, concerned about who is truly in charge of our government.”

Edward Snowden said in 2012 that while he contracted for the government, “I, sitting at my desk,” could “wiretap anyone, from you or your accountant, to a federal judge or even the president, if I had a personal e-mail.”

How hard is it to get someone’s e-mail? And why do little-known government contractors have such power at their fingertips?

Sadly, Orwell’s classic 1984 aptly describes America today: “You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement was scrutinized.”

Is this the kind of country we want? Already, government-appointed “experts” working in

conjunction with the president have the authority to assassinate Americans overseas—as long as they are deemed a threat to America. The “threat” doesn’t even have to be immediate. And again: There is no judicial oversight, no legal defense, no trial by jury and certainly no public debate. Just a drone, a missile and a funeral.

What Is America Becoming?

There may be some outcry, but by and large, people are being conditioned to accept grave abuses of their most fundamental rights. As it gains more and more latitude, the executive office is circumventing Congress and refusing to protect or enforce the Constitution.

Last year, President Obama came under serious criticism for using drones to kill American citizens without trials, but also because that precedent drastically expanded his grip on power. Perhaps many or even most of the people being targeted by agents at the NSA and other law enforcement agencies *are* actually threats to the U.S. But the larger problem is that *these agencies are expanding rapidly under an administration that actually disdains the law that it is sworn to uphold!*

America’s leadership continues to flout the Constitution, and few people are speaking out. Many think of America’s founding document as outdated. Yet what most people don’t understand is that there is no freedom without law. Without the Constitution, without rule of law, society will always produce tyranny.

“Do you realize how deadly dangerous this trend of lawlessness is?” writes Gerald Flurry in his booklet *America Under Attack*. “Very few people do. But it gives profound insight into the real nature of the threat facing America today.”

Throughout most of its history, America has enjoyed a level of freedom unparalleled in the human experience. We have not suffered the turmoil that many other nations have. As a result, people are oblivious to what is really happening around us. Most think the American experience is the norm. They don’t know what it is like to live in much of the rest of the world. And they don’t see the danger in giving up their constitutional freedoms. They say things like: “I know the government is spying on me, but what does it matter as long as I am not breaking the law?”

This is a misguided and terribly naive mindset. We are not living in God’s world. There is a lot of evil in this world. There are Hitlers and Stalins and Charlemagnes ruthlessly enslaving people—even today. That is reality. As Winston Churchill said, the history of man is the history of war.

“[G]OVERNMENT TYRANNY IS ROUTINE IN HUMAN HISTORY,” writes Mr. Flurry. “Let’s not be naive and think something like that could never happen here. Our forefathers weren’t stupid. They wanted to guarantee Americans’ freedom. They really knew that God was a God of freedom; He wants us to be free. That’s a gift from God, and they understood that!” Such thinking formed the foundation of the freedoms they enshrined in the Constitution. The authors of that document understood human nature far better than we do today, and wanted to protect against the extremes of human reason. They did that by creating a Constitution that was based to a great extent on God’s law.

“That is why I believe it is the most noble document ever written by a government of this world,” continues Mr. Flurry.

Yet today, that Constitution—and along with it, the rights and freedoms of Americans—is being destroyed. If Congress cannot or will not rein in America’s spy agencies, there isn’t much protection left against a president becoming a tyrant.

This shocking development in a free society is also significant *prophetically*. Mr. Flurry’s booklet explains how. To understand the vicious attack being waged against the Constitution in this nation, and the spiritual reality behind the erosion of America’s freedoms, you need the perspective provided by biblical prophecy. If you haven’t yet, request and read Gerald Flurry’s free booklet *America Under Attack*. ■



The 'Spectacular' Big-Bang Discovery

Is this the black eye for creationism that many say it is? **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

SCIENTISTS ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 17 that they have discovered fascinating markings in the sky. These ripples in the fabric of space time, they say, provide the first direct proof that the universe underwent a brief, staggeringly rapid expansion immediately following the big bang.

“Our universe burst into existence in an event known as the big bang 13.8 billion years ago,” NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory declared on its website. “Moments later, space itself ripped apart, expanding exponentially in an episode known as inflation.”

This inflation apparently would have happened much faster than the speed of light, likely leaving cosmic “stretch marks.” Now scientists believe they have discovered those marks. The discovery is being hailed as “spectacular,” a “smoking gun for inflation,” and “bigger than the Higgs boson.” There’s already talk of a Nobel Prize.

Though the findings don’t prove the big-bang theory, they lend heaps of credibility to it, according to many scientists. CalTech theoretical physicist Sean Carroll said, “Other than finding life on other planets or directly detecting dark matter, I can’t think of any other plausible near-term astrophysical discovery more important than this one for improving our understanding of the universe.”

“It’s mind-boggling to go looking for something like this and actually find it,” said the University of Minnesota’s Clem Pryke, co-leader of the project. “This has been like looking for a needle in a haystack, but instead we found a crowbar.”

Many also say that crowbar smacks a shiny black eye onto anyone who believes the universe was created by an intelligent Being. Really?

Early Documentation

The truth is, this discovery *reinforces* the Holy Bible’s teachings about how God created the universe. In fact, the books of the Bible are by far the earliest documents ever to refer to the universe inflating and expanding.

“Not until the 20th century did any other book—whether science, theology or philosophy—even hint at the universe’s continuous expansion,” astrophysicist Hugh Ross wrote in *Why the Universe Is the Way It Is*. That continuous expansion, ongoing to this day, is not the same as the inflation that these marks seem to prove, but inflation may well have been the initial phase of that expansion. And the Bible’s account of creation is certainly consistent with the inflationary model.

“Scientists first rejected the big-bang concept because it seemed *too religious*,” states our booklet *Our Awesome Universe Potential*. “Its echoes of ‘in the beginning’ bothered them. ... There appears to be much solid evidence that the basics of the theory are correct. ...

“When you study the biblical accounts of God creating the universe, the most common description is that God ‘*stretched out*’ or ‘*spreads out*’ the heavens. God ‘*created the heavens, and stretched them out*’ (Isaiah 42:5). ‘*He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing*’ (Job 26:7).

“This is highly unusual terminology. What exactly does it mean? The phrase *spreadeth*

STARS IN SPLENDOR

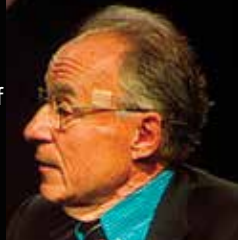
Our Milky Way galaxy, viewed from Australia

out comes from the Hebrew *natah*, which means to stretch or spread; it can mean to *extend in every direction*. Scripture refers to the heavens in this way a total of 11 times, by the pen of five different biblical writers: Job, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zechariah.

“Based on observable evidence, scientists believe there was an *INITIAL rapid stretching out* of cosmic material—and there has been an *ONGOING EXPANSION* ever since. God’s revelation in Scripture seems to corroborate that view. Four verses (Isaiah 45:12; 48:13; Jeremiah 10:12; 51:15) use a form of *natah* that literally means the action was completed some time ago. Seven instances use a form of the verb *natah* that implies *continual or ongoing stretching* (Job 9:8; Psalm 104:2; Isaiah 40:22; 42:5; 44:24; 51:13; Zechariah 12:1). Both of these aspects of this stretching can be seen in Isaiah 40:22, which says that God ‘*stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent*

“The best data we have concerning the big bang are exactly what I would have predicted had I had nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms and the Bible as a whole.”

ARNO PENZIAS
NOBEL LAUREATE IN PHYSICS, IN 1978



to dwell in.’ *Stretches out* comes from *natah* and implies something continuing today ...”

There is no disagreement between *accurate* science and *true* religion!

University of Chicago cosmologist Michael Turner, like most scientists, acknowledges that human theories are inherently limited. “If inflation is the dynamite behind the big bang, we’re still looking for the match,” he said.

Theories such as big bang and inflation don’t even attempt to explain the *origin* of matter. Matches don’t spontaneously come into existence, neither do they light themselves. Despite amazing findings like the discovery of those cosmic markings, science remains without a match or a match lighter. Without a Designer, a Creator, a Maker who can make the match and light it, you still have no big bang and no universe. ■

Science is learning the *how*—but you can know the *why*. Understand why God created the universe. Order our free booklet *Our Awesome Universe Potential*.



It's Baaaack ... the Occult Revival

Interest in demons and the supernatural has gone mainstream. Is it harmless fun? **BY DENNIS LEAP**

IT'S AN INTRIGUING PARADOX OF RECENT times: While the vast majority of people do not believe in Satan the devil, there is an insatiable interest in demons, magic, possession, supernatural powers, witchcraft, vampires and zombies. Occult themes dominate popular prime-time television shows and young adult literature.

"[M]ore and more smart, savvy and usually cynical 18-to-30-year-olds are dabbling in the occult," *Newsweek* reported, "from astrological natal charts and tarot to séances and full-moon ceremonies" (Oct. 24, 2013). Others are going far beyond *dabbling* to literally experimenting with sorcery.

History has seen many occult revivals. Yet this time, as *Newsweek* states, it has become "a crossover hit, going mainstream." Not many are expressing concern. You don't hear much about it on your evening news. Yet *everyone*, especially parents, should be *very* concerned. Here is why.

It All Began With Harry

Things occult began to receive mainstream acceptance with the release of the Harry Potter series of books by J.K. Rowling for young people. The first installment in the series was published in 1997; the seventh and final book came in 2007. Rowling has become the first and only billionaire author. The popularity of her books has been a phenomenon. Translated into 67 languages, over 400 million Harry Potter books have sold. Along with the books, there has been a wildly successful theme park, eight blockbuster films and six popular video games. The Harry Potter brand is estimated to be worth \$15 billion.

Criticisms of the series have fallen on deaf ears. Most critics are accused of being right-wing fundamentalist kooks who want to deprive children of innocent pleasure. Critics of the critics laud the books for motivating children to read. J.K. Rowling has defended the books as being "highly moral." Yet the major theme of the story is witchcraft. Children and young adults who read the series learn about demons, werewolves



and other monstrous creatures, magic, spell casting, levitation, animal sacrifices, astral projection, crystal gazing and communing with dead souls. While the books seemingly started out innocent—the story opens with Harry as an 11-year-old wizard (a male witch) misunderstood by his adoptive parents—the series grows to explore darker themes such as death and obtaining immortality, and becomes more violent as Harry grows older. Even publishers were concerned the darker themes threatened to harm the books' popularity. Obviously that never happened.

Currently bookstore shelves are filled with many new Potter-like fantasy series for children and young adults. Among the

most popular are *The Mortal Instruments*, *Twilight* and *Graceling Realm*. All of these series deal with occult themes such as demons, vampires and supernatural powers. Harry Potter unlocked a door that will not likely be shut anytime soon.

So in many ways, we should not be surprised to learn that 18-to-30-year-olds are *dabbling in the occult*. Harry Potter introduced them to it!

It's Not Normal—It's Paranormal

Allison Chomet, a 23-year-old in Philadelphia, told *Newsweek* that tarot is "super useful for clarifying my own confused feelings about where I'm headed or what I'm doing." Thirty-year-old Martha Windhal, from Los Angeles, said that when her life got difficult, she turned to tarot and astrology. After she graduated from college and couldn't find a job, she began reading tarot professionally. Her business has become so successful she can pay her living expenses easily.

When I was in college in the 1970s, tarot card readings were hush-hush, done in back rooms of homes or apartments in low-rent districts of town. Today, nearly everything occult has been made to look normal. Popular fantasy books, television series, movies and video games have desensitized children and parents to the dangerous powers lurking behind the occult.

But people should face reality: Matters occult are not normal—they are paranormal. Merriam-Webster defines *paranormal*, "very strange and not able to be explained by what scientists know about nature and the world."

Windhal admitted to *Newsweek* that there is power behind tarot cards. "They're untapped resources when you feel like you have a loss of power," she said. Some 20-year-olds told *Newsweek* "they appreciate the supernatural because it's a non-denominational method of self-exploration that reminds them that the world is both older and bigger than they are." Many college-educated young adults are embarrassed by traditional religion, yet a growing number consider the spirituality associated with the occult as "cool." Few understand the menacing, perilous path they are walking down.

Evil Never Produces Good

It is no fantasy that there is real power behind the occult. However, it is not a power for good. It is an organized power with a plan to do evil to all caught up in its trap.

Satan and his demons are real beings with a ravenous hatred for God and human beings (Isaiah 14:12-14; Revelation 12:12). Few today understand their immense power. Satan and his demons have been cast down to Earth. They can no longer travel into the universe (Revelation 12:7-8). These evil beings are incapable of doing anything good for humans or themselves. Being supremely intelligent, they have done a masterful job of convincing unsuspecting humans that they do not exist (verse 9).

Now they are successfully at work to entice many to get involved in their secret arts. The fruits will never be good.

Let's call the occult movement what it truly is: a substitute religion. Unfortunately, most are blind to the fact that the occult is the worship of Satan and his demons.

There is nothing new here. Mankind has been worshiping the devil since our creation. Although most today scoff at the Bible, this book reveals that Satan is literally "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). It is his personal desire for all human beings to worship him. His goal is not to help us; rather, his mission is to make human life miserable and wretched. In fact, all the horrendous evils threatening our world—the massive problems wrecking families; the rampant crime, disease, poverty and violence; the international conflict and warfare—can be traced directly back to him.

"I have had a number of personal experiences with demons through a few demon-possessed people," explained Herbert W. Armstrong in his must-read book *Mystery of the Ages*. "I have cast out demons through the name of Christ and power of the Holy Spirit. Some demons are silly, like spoiled children. Some are crafty, sharp, shrewd, subtle. Some are belligerent, some are sassy, some are sullen and morose. But all are perverted, warped, twisted."

Be sure to take the time to read Ephesians 6:12. Although human beings don't see it, we are wrestling with "the rulers of the darkness of this world." They are the spark behind all human problems and evils. Anybody who gets involved in the occult is simply surrendering to the devil and his minions.

Close the Door

Don't even *casually* dabble in the occult. Demon possession is not the stuff of fables. It is very real. Using tarot cards or Ouija boards, reading fantasy books or watching movies that deal with the occult will break down the barriers of your mind and open the door for problems—even potential possession. All parents have the responsibility to protect their children and teens from such danger.

This means that parents should screen what their children read, what movies their children see and what tv programs they watch. You may well be seen as old-fashioned and out of touch, but your child's mental and spiritual health should be far more important to you than your own vanity.

One critic in support of *Graceling*—a book about Katsa, a young girl with special powers in the art of killing—wrote this: "I imagine there may be some parents who may be a little concerned over the blatant sex scenes and Katsa rejecting the standard mode of marriage, however I think teens are savvy enough to think for themselves, and parents shouldn't be choosing their teens' books anyway." Please don't be influenced by that kind of idiotic reasoning. Teens *need* guidance from parents about books, movies, games and tv programs. Their young minds are so impressionable.

Don't let fantasy book advocates push you around. You owe it to your child and yourself to close your door to the occult in whatever form it comes knocking at your house. You can find incredibly exciting, intellectually stimulating books for your young children and teens far afield from the occult fantasy books. My wife and I raised our children without such books and they became great readers.

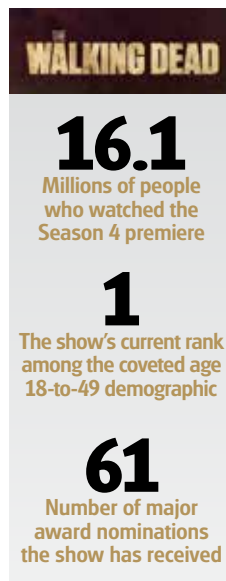
God, a great loving Father, warned the children of Israel, "When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who

burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you" (Deuteronomy 18:9-12; English Standard Version). God did not require this to prevent the people of Israel from enjoying some innocent pleasure. He wanted to protect them from great evil.

There is much you can do to protect yourself from Satan's onslaught. Accept the truth that involvement with the occult will open a person's mind to the influence of Satan and his demons. The Bible clearly shows that these evil spirits want to possess people. We should be cautious to not open the door of our minds to them. Possession can also happen as a result of taking drugs or allowing intense emotional states such as anger to dominate our lives (Ephesians 4:26-27). The very real danger of demon-possession was brought to light in a recent case in Indiana. Though the media sensationalized the event, the

facts are plain: Police and medical personnel corroborated a family's claims of being harassed by demons. Gary, Indiana, police Capt. Charles Austin visited the home several times. He declined to disclose details on the record, but simply said, "I am a believer." Valerie Washington, a family case manager working for child protective services, investigated the family during the ordeal. She said she witnessed several paranormal occurrences, including an instance when the 9-year-old boy walked backward up a wall to the ceiling. A nurse in the room at the time confirmed the account, saying, "There's no way he could've done that."

Such nightmares can happen—and do. That is why everyone should be concerned about the revival in the occult. It is going to produce great harm. Take fair warning. This evil need not come near you. ■



THE CRIMEAN CRISIS IS RESHAPING EUROPE!

One of the most dramatic prophecies in the Bible is unfolding before our eyes.

BY GERALD FLURRY

FLASH POINT
Central Kiev continues to burn.

CRISIS TIME LINE

- **Nov. 21, 2013** | Vladimir Putin persuades Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to abandon an EU trade deal.
- **December 2013 – February 2014** | Clashes in Ukraine include pro-EU groups vs. pro-Russia groups; they kill at least 95 and injure 984.
- **February 22** | Yanukovich flees the country; parliament calls for elections.
- **February 27-28** | Pro-Moscow forces seize vital buildings in Crimea. The Crimean parliament, under siege, appoints a pro-Russian prime minister.
- **March 6** | Crimea's parliament votes to become part of Russia, while the rest of Ukraine leans toward Europe.
- **March 16** | In a disputed referendum, Crimean voters choose to secede from Ukraine and join Russia.
- **March 18** | Putin and Crimean leaders sign an agreement in Moscow to officially return Crimea to Russia.

IN MARCH, RUSSIA INVADED Ukraine and took over Crimea, a republic situated on the Black Sea that is of huge strategic importance to Russia.

The move shocked the world. Most of all, it shocked Europe.

In a stroke, Russian President Vladimir Putin redrew Ukraine's borders. Just days after Putin accepted the applause of the world at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, mysterious "gunmen" carrying no flags or national markings began taking over government buildings in the Crimean Peninsula. Before the West realized exactly what was happening, Russia had captured Crimea without firing a shot.

Note the amount of *fear* Russia's attack generated. A March 14 Associated Press article said this: "Broken promises of help from the West. A tragic history of Russian invasion that goes back centuries. A painful awareness that conflicts in this volatile region are contagious. These are the

factors that make nations across Eastern Europe watch events in Ukraine—AND TREMBLE" (emphasis mine throughout).

On March 16, Crimea held a referendum—under the watchful eye of unmarked gunmen—on whether to join Russia. Moscow claims that 96.8 percent voted in favor of union with Russia.

Thus, Russia succeeded in swallowing another nation's sovereign territory—and the world did almost nothing.

This terrifies Eastern Europeans. It is the kind of action that many assumed had ended forever once the Soviet Union fell.

That AP report continued: "From leaders to ordinary people, there is a PALPABLE SENSE OF FEAR that Russia, seemingly able to thumb its nose at Western powers at will, may seek more opportunities for incursions in its former imperial backyard. The question many people are asking is: WHO'S NEXT?"

Ukrainians and Eastern Europeans have lived through brutal occupation.

Their countries were pulverized during World War II. They know what Russia can and will do—and they fear it in a way that is hard for us in the West to even imagine.

How This Is Fulfilling Prophecy

We have been prophesying for around 70 years that Eastern Europe would become a vital part of a new European superpower—a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. This prophecy is *directly related to the Crimean crisis!* The fear you see in Europe because of events in Crimea is going to cause 10 leaders in Europe to unite in a sudden and dramatic way—and in *precise accordance* with the Bible’s description of that European empire!

In our February edition, I wrote about Ezekiel 38:2, which talks about the prince of Russia and the trouble he will cause in this end time (“Is Vladimir Putin the Prophesied ‘Prince of Rosh?’” theTrumpet.com/go/11228). The way that prophecy is coming to pass is having a fierce impact on Europeans far more than on any other people in the world.

That scripture talks about Gog, Meshech and Tubal—all prophetic names for Russia—along with Magog, which includes China. Translated correctly, that verse also talks about a “prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal”—a ruler of Russia. Who could that be? No politician could fill that role better than Vladimir Putin, and I don’t believe there is time for any other man of such stature to rise on the world scene. (Again, if you haven’t yet done so, read that article, which goes into this subject in much greater detail.)

That prophesied “prince of Rosh” is a powerful man, and he is having a forceful effect on Europe. The *reaction* within Europe to this crisis is something you need to watch, because it is shaping and molding the future composition of the Holy Roman Empire! It is making European leaders move *urgently* to tie together this Holy Roman Empire that we have been prophesying about for so many years.

No Trust in America

Eastern Europe’s history gives those people good reason to fear. They suffered terribly under evil men like Hitler and Stalin. And they have been abandoned repeatedly by the West. Britain and France shamefully betrayed Czechoslovakia in the lead-up to World War II, effectively turning it over to Hitler.

After they gained their freedom from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europeans trusted in America. Some of those nations became members of NATO. Then, they watched as Russia began to get aggressive again. They hoped to receive support from America, defending them from that aggression. But now they see America’s will is *broken!*

Eastern Europe put its hope in America’s missile shield. This was an opportunity for America to demonstrate its commitment to the region and to prove that if push came to shove, Eastern Europe could trust Washington to stand up to Russia. But America stopped that plan to appease the mighty Russian bear. That kind of weakness is now being exploited to the hilt!

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski used to be a great supporter of America, making Poland a firm and loyal ally. “Before 2011, Sikorski and other leading Polish politicians were frank about their belief that the European Union is merely an economic pact and that only their alliance with the U.S. could guarantee geopolitical security,” political scientist Michal Kuz wrote. “This was the view of other CEE [Central and Eastern European] states as well” (National Review Online, Aug. 8, 2012).

That view changed after the missile shield didn’t materialize. “After the U.S.’s decision to relocate the missile shield, the Atlanticist rhetoric that used to mark Sikorski’s speeches disappeared from them,” Kuz continued. “In response to

U.S. fickleness, he and [Polish Prime Minister Donald] Tusk shifted Poland’s diplomatic tone.”

Sikorski himself was transformed from the region’s most prominent transatlanticist to its top lobbyist for European integration. He saw that *only German leadership* could transform the European economic alliance into something more meaningful and powerful. Sikorski’s most famous speech is probably his November 2011 call for Germany to “lead” Europe. “I will probably be the first Polish foreign minister in history to say so, but here it is,” he announced: “I FEAR GERMAN POWER LESS THAN I AM BEGINNING TO FEAR GERMAN INACTIVITY.”

HE MADE THAT STATEMENT LONG BEFORE RUSSIA INVADDED UKRAINE. HOW MUCH GREATER WOULD BE HIS DESIRE FOR A STRONG GERMANY TODAY? How much *more* motivated will Poland and the rest of Central and Eastern Europe be?

This is probably the first Polish foreign minister *ever* to say that he “fears German power less than ... German inactivity.”

Why should he fear German power?

WORLD WAR II BEGAN WHEN GERMANY ATTACKED POLAND!

Germany has attacked Poland numerous times throughout history and caused that nation endless suffering. Much of that tribulation was caused by a German-led Holy Roman Empire—a church-state combine that has risen up repeatedly to devastate Europe and fill it with streams of blood.

FROM JANUARY 2004

“Russia Frightens Europe—and Fulfills Bible Prophecy”

“Russian elections have recently moved President Vladimir Putin much closer to becoming a dictator. This strikes intense fear in Europe. ... The Russian election is triggering a fear that will hasten the uniting of the European Union. The Russian election will cause Germany and other European nations to want a stronger leader.”

thetrumpet.com/go/1049



FROM OCTOBER 2008

“Russia’s Attack Signals Dangerous New Era”

“Russia’s attack on Georgia in August marks the beginning of a dangerous new era in history. This was the first military strike of a rising Asian superpower—and there will be more! ... Will the Georgia strike actually spark European unification? Will a crisis occur over Ukraine? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well. ... Watch Europe to see how it responds to these dramatic developments in Asia.”

thetrumpet.com/go/5453



EUROPE'S EASTERN LEG

Poland's Radoslaw Sikorski and Germany's Frank-Walter Steinmeier

“as Europe’s go-to people for anything related to the bloc’s eastern neighbors.”

Until recently, the European Union has been a Westerners’ club. Former Communist nations were allowed to join in 2004, but with little influence. The European Parliament and Commission are in Brussels. The founding members of the Union took all the top jobs, with some others like Britain also given a look-in.

It seemed likely that Poland and other newcomers would act more like Britain—sticking to the outskirts of the EU, securing opt-outs and never getting fully involved in the endeavor.

But in recent months, amid the tussle over Ukraine, Poland in particular has emerged as a serious European power—not equal to Germany, but perhaps on the same level as France, Italy, Spain and other members of the old guard.

Other Eastern nations have also proven to be enthusiastic Europeans. Slovakia and Slovenia quickly joined Europe’s currency, the euro. Latvia and Estonia both signed up even after seeing the mess of the Greek bailouts, which exposed the common currency’s fundamental flaws. The Czech Republic also indicated that it would adopt the euro within the next few years.

Eastern Europe’s drive to be at the heart of Europe is an important shift in world events.

The Rise of Poland

In this Ukrainian crisis, no European voice has been louder than Poland’s. As violence escalated on the streets of Kiev and the bodies began piling up, it was Poland and Germany that sent their foreign ministers to Kiev to forge a deal and end the bloodshed.

came up with an agreement and got all the leaders sitting around the table to sign it. Though the protesters on the street ultimately rejected it, it was still a partial diplomatic success. The negotiations showed that “Poland, for years dismissed as a poor relation in the European Union, has a place at the top table of European decision-makers, enjoying the confidence of EU powerhouse Germany, especially over policy in the East,” Reuters wrote (February 24).

“The events in Kiev offer clues about the future shape of the European Union, and the shifting balance of power that has seen ‘old Europe,’ notably EU co-founder France, lose ground to the faster-growing states that joined the bloc after 2004,” it continued.

Poland, Reuters wrote, has created “a special role” for itself

Europe is impressed. Reuters quoted a couple of anonymous senior sources praising Sikorski’s efforts. The EU was humiliated in Ukraine; its soft power was made to look impotent in the face of threats from Russia. Sikorski’s diplomacy allowed it to save some face.

“Whatever role Sikorski’s appeal played in ending the killing, Poland’s diplomatic credentials have been burnished and could be cemented in a coming round of appointments to senior jobs in Brussels,” noted Reuters (*ibid*).

Sikorski is a serious contender to become the EU’s next foreign minister or the head of NATO. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk is in the running to replace José Manuel Barroso as president of the European Commission. He is not necessarily the frontrunner, but just a

Unless you have experienced such attacks and deeply understand that history, you can’t comprehend the Polish foreign minister’s fears and understand how *dramatic* is the impact of current events on Europe.

Despite all that knowledge of Germany, the Polish foreign minister wants Germany to have *more power!*

And, now, he fears Vladimir Putin and Russia *even more!* HE HAS HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO FEARS. This gives you some idea of how Europe fears Russia—and Eastern Europe fears Russia even more.

Europe’s dreadful fear of Vladimir Putin—its next-door neighbor—is going to help shape and form the Holy Roman Empire rather *suddenly*. I believe the eastern leg could be formed in months.

The terror that Europe has of Russia is magnified because it knows America lacks the will to help as it did in the past. America has a broken will, and Europe and the world know it! That too was prophesied to happen (Leviticus 26:19).

A Landmark Prophecy

12 Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied for years that a strong

European power would emerge that would include nations from both east and west Europe. He said this while the Iron Curtain cut Europe in two and the Soviet Union looked invincible. How did he know?

For the answer, we have to look at a landmark prophecy in Daniel 2. Here God showed King Nebuchadnezzar a vision of a giant statue representing the powerful Gentile empires that would rule the world. The image’s head of gold was Nebuchadnezzar and his world-ruling empire. Following him came the Medo-Persian Empire, signified by the chest and arms of silver. Then came the belly of bronze, which was Alexander the Great and the Greco-Macedonian Empire. Finally emerged the mighty Roman Empire, symbolized by legs of iron.

History reveals the significance of the *two legs*, as the Roman Empire was divided, with its western capital in Rome and its eastern capital in Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey, today). But the symbolism goes much further.

The Roman Empire fell in A.D. 476. But this prophecy claims to be for the “latter days” (Daniel 2:28). Other

prophecies—especially in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17—reveal in detail what was to become of that empire: Ten successive governments would grow out of it, and the last seven of these would be united with a great false church. In this way the Roman Empire, symbolized by those two legs, would survive right up to the end time.

You can track the fulfillment of this prophecy through history. The centuries since have witnessed several leaders like Charlemagne, Napoleon and Hitler who, time after time, *resurrected* the Roman Empire from the ruins! Since Justinian restored it in A.D. 554, there have been *six resurrections* of what is called the Holy Roman Empire—the union of church and state. That leaves *one more* to occur before the return of Jesus Christ. That resurrection is now forming very fast. It could be fully formed this year or next.

Ten-Nation Superpower Prophesied

Notice: Though the Roman Empire is represented in Daniel 2 by legs of solid iron, the *feet and toes* are composed of iron and clay (verse 41; you can read more about that symbolism in our article on page 14). The

few years ago no one from Poland would have even been considered for any of these posts.

The East Under Threat

On March 1, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius invoked Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty, where NATO members must meet if “the territorial integrity, political independence or security” of a NATO member is at risk. This provision has only been invoked four other times.

Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlăteanu told the Associated Press that “there is first of all fear” that Russia’s aggression could spread. “Romania is extremely preoccupied,” he said.

Foreign Minister Sikorski told *Der Spiegel* on March 10 that it was essential that Europe take a stronger stand and that Europe unite to face the Russian threat. “The Americans have done even

more—by relocating F-15 and F-16 jets to Eastern Europe,” he said. “In contrast to Europe, the U.S. has a centralized government. We should learn from the current crisis that European integration *must also continue when it comes to security policy.*” In other words, Europe needs to start working on a combined, American-style military.

Poland is also reconsidering its position on the euro. It has benefited economically by avoiding the single currency and not getting caught up in the mess of bailouts and economic crises. Its firm position used to be that it would not join until Europe had sorted these problems out. But in the wake of Russia’s invasion, Poland’s central bank governor, Marek Belka, said that Poland *should* join the euro—not for economic reasons, but *security reasons*. Poland, he said, needed to be in the “core group” within Europe. “Even if the

THE IMAGE OF DANIEL 2

Its legs of iron symbolize the divided Roman Empire, with nations from both Western and Eastern Europe.

economic benefits today look modest, we need to make the political calculation as well,” he said.

Bible prophecy makes it clear that several Central and Eastern European nations will be in the core group of Europe. Continue to watch as this ancient forecast becomes present-day reality.

RICHARD PALMER



Nations impacted by Russia’s aggression

- LATVIA 1
- LITHUANIA 2
- POLAND 3
- UKRAINE 4
- CZECH REP. 5
- SLOVAKIA 6
- ROMANIA 7
- SLOVENIA 8

10 toes of that image represent *10 kings* that are going to rule in this end time as part of this Holy Roman Empire (spoken of in Revelation 17:12).

Following the symbol of the image, those 10 toes are *divided*, probably with exactly five on the eastern leg and five on the west. This suggests that five of the kings that come together to form this European superpower will come from Western Europe, and five from Eastern Europe.

In 1981, Mr. Armstrong wrote: “When this Holy Roman Empire does happen, it will happen **SUDDENLY**. So quickly it will take your breath! And the whole world will **GASP IN AWE** and **WONDER** when they see the things that are prophesied. For example, 10 nations in Europe—probably five of them in Western Europe and five in Eastern Europe—reviving, resurrecting, the so-called Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages.” Mr. Armstrong prophesied this for well over 50 years.

In April 1952, long before the Soviet Union broke up, the *Good News* magazine, with Mr. Armstrong as its editor in chief, wrote, “Russia may give East Germany back to the Germans and will be forced

to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria to complete the 10-nation union.”

Then, in a booklet first published in 1955, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Some of the Balkan nations are going to tear away from behind the Iron Curtain. . . . Russia probably will lose still more of her Eastern European satellites.” He said virtually the same thing in 1956 and many other times. We document all of this history in our booklet *He Was Right* (request a copy, free of charge).

These prophecies of the retreat of the Soviet Union and dramatic change in Eastern Europe have already been fulfilled! Now, the eastern leg and even parts of the western leg of that empire are really beginning to develop.

The great *proof* of God’s existence is fulfilled prophecy. And there is so much prophecy being fulfilled now that man is without excuse!

Europe’s Putin

A second major prophecy that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine will bring about is

OVER 2,600 YEARS OF HISTORY AND PROPHECY—ALL IN ONE IMAGE
To help etch it in your mind, order our brand-new reprint “*The Daniel 2 Image.*”

the arrival of a strongman in Europe. A new leader is coming—a kind of Vladimir Putin. This is what Europe needs in order to bind together, to have the strength and unity of purpose needed to confront Russia.

Daniel 8:23 tells us that “in the latter time,” we should expect “a king of fierce countenance” to arise in Europe. “And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people” (verse 24).

Europe’s new fear of Russia is going to play a major role in hastening the fulfillment of that prophecy!

See **CRIMEA** page 36 ➤

EUROPE'S IRON-AND-CLAY UNITY

Written 2,500 years ago, the book of Daniel includes an extraordinarily fitting description of end-time Europe. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

MORE THAN A FEW people have been disappointed by Europe's feeble response to Russia's beligerent actions in Ukraine.

One such person is Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, Germany's former defense minister and once the most popular politician in Germany.

In March, as Russia conquered Crimea and events in Ukraine spiraled from bad to worse, Guttenberg published at least three articles criticizing Europe's response to Russia's aggression and outlining his strategy for confronting Vladimir Putin. In a March 12 article in *American Interest*, Guttenberg wrote, "Whereas Russia has acted aggressively and pointedly, *Europe now struggles to get its footing*. This is tragic, as Europe has a historic responsibility to get this crisis right" (emphasis added throughout).

Guttenberg lamented what he considers a lack of vision among Europe's leaders. "The EU has more leverage over the situation than many policymakers seem to think they do. **THE SOONER EUROPEAN LEADERS WAKE UP TO THIS REALITY**, the better for all concerned," he wrote. Guttenberg also addressed the obvious lack of coordination and unity within Europe. He noted how even the travel itineraries of Europe's leaders during the crisis revealed a continent in disarray. "Brussels and the member states should get back to the highly disciplined coordination very quickly," he warned. "The European Union lacks established mechanisms to deal with situations like the near-outbreak of a war on its borders."

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To Guttenberg, the solution is clear. Europe needs more

unification, more coordination, and more leadership from Germany.

Despite the disarray and lack of coordination so obvious in Europe right now, Bible prophecy agrees with him and says that **EUROPE IS GOING TO UNITE**.

Many who look at Europe disagree with Guttenberg and with Bible prophecy. They see the many conflicting opinions, the bureaucracy, the chaos and disunity, and conclude that these differences are just too great. Can these seemingly divergent views on Europe be reconciled? Can Europe—laden with instability, with conflicting national and cultural views and motives—become the integrated, robust global superpower that Bible prophecy says it will be?

Daniel's 'Shakespearean' Prophecy

Daniel 2 contains the pillar prophecy explaining over 2,600 years of world history. In this chapter, the young Jewish prophet recounts a dream that the Chaldean King Nebuchadnezzar had in the late sixth century B.C. In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a towering statue comprised of four distinct parts: a head of gold; breast and arms of silver; a belly of brass; and legs of iron. In verses 36-43, God reveals that these successive materials represent four successive world-ruling empires: The head of gold represented the Babylonian/Chaldean Empire; the chest of silver represented the Medo-Persian Empire; the belly of brass represented Alexander the Great's Greek Empire of the fourth century; finally, the two legs of iron pictured the Roman Empire that began in

31 B.C., which had two capitals—one in Rome, the other in Constantinople.

The Daniel 2 image reveals the chronological succession of world powers, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire and concluding with the last resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire represented by the feet of the image.

Now notice in verses 41-43 the description of the *feet* of this image, which symbolize the *final resurrection* of the Holy Roman Empire: "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, **PART OF POTTERS' CLAY, AND PART OF IRON**, the kingdom shall be *divided*; but there shall be in it of the *strength of the iron*. ... And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be *partly strong*, and *partly broken*. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay ... *they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay*."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE COULDN'T HAVE DEvised A MORE APT DESCRIPTION OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE.

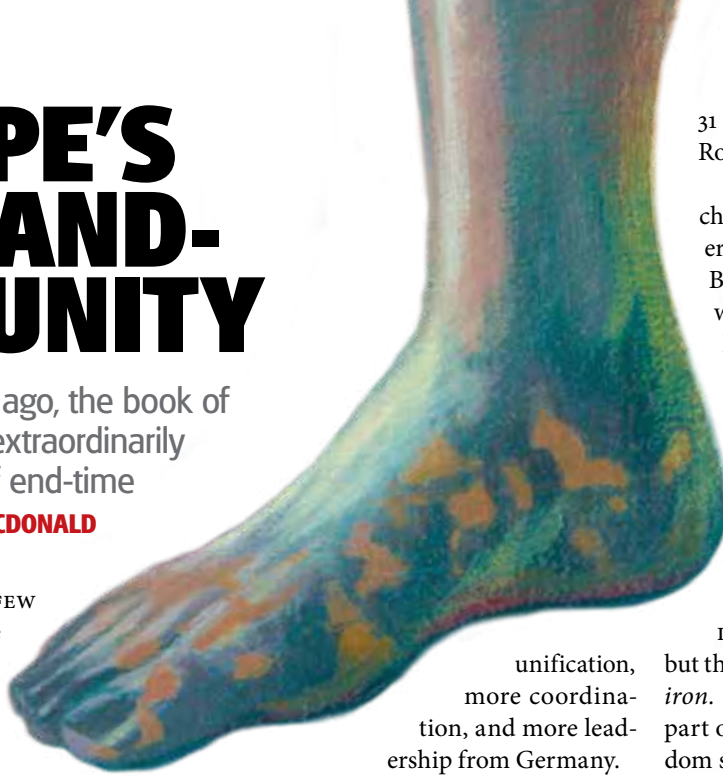
Written 2,500 years ago, this spectacular portrayal of the final manifestation of the Roman Empire **ACTUALLY RECOGNIZES** the differences—politically, economically and culturally—between the nations that form this end-time European superpower. Can anyone disagree that modern Europe is indeed a continent of iron and clay? Some nations, like Germany, are strong and robust. Others are weak and fragile. The European Union is a mixture of iron and clay, making it "partly strong" and "partly broken." This prophecy indicates that, as a result of these differences, Europe's end-time unification will occur haltingly, gradually, in fits and spurts, with inconvenience and some pain.

Is there a better way to describe Europe today, and its response to the dramatic events unfolding in Ukraine?

It is based on this prophecy that the *Trumpet* forecasts the *emergence of this short-lived and crumbly—yet overwhelmingly powerful, with the "STRENGTH OF IRON"—European superstate.*

'Fatal Weaknesses'

Notice what the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in 1956 about this final resurrection of the Roman Empire: "It will possess greater military might by far than the Rome of



old, BUT IT WILL ALSO INHERIT FATAL WEAKNESSES. Prophecy symbolizes this admixture of never-equalled military might and unprecedented weakness with the apt phrase, ‘iron mixed with miry clay.’ The European nations will unite militarily—but they are suspicious and envious of each other—THEY HATE ONE ANOTHER.”

Mr. Armstrong was not ignorant of the fundamental differences between many of Europe’s countries, cultures and peoples. He understood and consistently took into account geopolitics and international relations, which is partly why he concluded that the European states that comprised the last resurrection of the Roman Empire would be “suspicious and envious of each other.” In this sense, Mr. Armstrong, decades ago, anticipated and warned of the current tumult besieging Europe.

Neither Mr. Armstrong nor Gerald Flurry and the *Trumpet* have ever taught that Europe would coalesce into a *long-term* and *stable* power. Rather, we have prophesied consistently that while Europe *will* unite, its ties will be weak and short-lived, like the bond between clay and iron. “[T]he last, final, *brief* resurrection of the ‘Holy Roman Empire’ by 10 European groups or nations” is forming, Mr. Armstrong wrote. “[A]nd they shall last but a *very* short space, possibly no more than 2 to 3½ years” (*Plain Truth*, May 1979).

This is truly inspiring when you think on it. This prophecy in Daniel was written 2,500 years ago, yet it describes present-day Europe perfectly. It reconciles the seemingly divergent viewpoints about Europe espoused today by the *Trumpet* and other analysts. When you understand this prophecy, all the disarray and disunity in Europe—made evident by events in Ukraine and the ongoing financial

crises, among other things—does not undermine what the *Trumpet* prophesies about European unification: *It actually reveals the profound accuracy of the Bible’s forecast.*

It’s breathtaking, really. God didn’t just prophesy Europe’s end-time integration into a superpower: He said this European superpower, though possessing the strength of iron, would also be inherently fractious and unstable.

We need to keep this prophecy in mind as we watch Vladimir Putin, events in Ukraine, and events in Europe. Now, Europe appears to lack the unity and strength to present any sort of united front against Russia. While Europe’s leaders gather for endless meetings in which they bicker over financial-aid packages and the language of press releases, Putin dispatches military helicopters to drop Russian forces in Crimea. *Expect this to change.*

Watch Guttenberg

The Bible reveals that this radical change in Europe is going to occur under the leadership of a specific individual. This man, as prophecy in Daniel 8 explains, is responsible—under the sanction of the Vatican—for uniting Europe and leading it into end-time confrontations with major world powers, including Iran and radical Islam, and Vladimir Putin and his Eastern armies.

In verses 23-25 of Daniel 8, this man is identified as an end-time type of Antiochus Epiphanies, the cunning, calloused Greek dictator responsible for inflicting terrible destruction on the Jews and Jerusalem in the second century B.C. “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of *fierce countenance*, and *understanding dark sentences*, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he

shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many”

The *Trumpet* believes that Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg *could be* the Daniel 8 man.

Time will tell, but this is a man we need to pay close attention to. Guttenberg is different from most of Europe’s leaders. Unlike so many others, he sees reality, accepts it, and isn’t afraid to talk about it openly and honestly. He has a clearer view of human nature and the nature of geopolitics. He’s not afraid to speak the truth, even when it is politically incorrect or a little offensive—even when he’s talking about Vladimir Putin. “When it comes to the honorable title of Bully of the Year, the Russian president surely triumphed in 2013,” he wrote in January.

Guttenberg also appears to be an opportunist. Notice what he wrote in *Time* in January: “As for Europe, it finally seems to recognize that it needs to be capable of taking care of its own neighborhood. The frozen conflicts in the post-Soviet space have been ignored for far too long. Why did it take a war in Georgia to realize that Tbilisi required more assistance from Europe? RUSSIA’S BEHAVIOR TOWARD UKRAINE MIGHT HAND EUROPE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MORE UNITED AND EFFECTIVE IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY.”

You don’t see words like that coming from many European politicians today!

“The European Union lacks established mechanisms to deal with situations like the near-outbreak of a war on its borders.”

KARL-THEODOR ZU GUTTENBERG
FORMER GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER



We’ve said it in the past and we’ll say it again: Watch Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg. Bible prophecy says that Europe will soon get its Vladimir Putin, and that under his leadership—despite Europe’s many political and cultural rifts and disagreements—a German-led European superpower will emerge.

ASIA STANDS

WITH PUTIN



Obama says Russia is isolating itself from the world. At least 3 billion people disagree. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

RUSSIA'S BULLYING OF UKRAINE and takeover of Crimea have exposed Vladimir Putin as the authoritarian dictator that he is. These moves have Eastern Europeans quaking with fear and the Western world deeply concerned. But what about China and India?

These Asian powerhouses have made clear that *they support Putin*.

This is a stunning fulfillment of a biblical prophecy!

"Backing Russia is in China's interests," said the *Global Times*, a mouthpiece for China's Communist Party, on March 5. "We shouldn't disappoint Russia when it finds itself in a time of need." The next day, a senior official from India said, "There are legitimate Russian and other interests involved [in Ukraine]. We hope ... there is a satisfactory resolution to them."

In his March 18 address to the Duma, President Putin singled out these two nations to thank them for their support. "[W]e are grateful to all those who understood our actions in Crimea; we are grateful to the people of China, whose leaders have always considered the situation in Ukraine and Crimea taking into account the full historical and political context, and greatly appreciate India's reserve and objectivity."

When these Asia nations—extremely powerful nuclear-armed countries—begin to show solidarity with each other regarding moves like that, what does that portend for the world? I tell you it is **WOE** to the world. It will cause many serious problems. And it is going to affect everyone.

How to Read Asia

This Asian cooperation blindsided many in the West. When Russia took Crimea, even top-notch analysts like Ambrose Evans-Pritchard were convinced China would side with the West against Moscow. U.S. President Barack Obama said the nations of the world were "largely united" in believing Putin had violated Ukraine's territory.

The *Trumpet* has never made that mistake in reading Asia's powerhouses. Actually we have been proclaiming for over 50 years that Russia, China and other Asian nations would ally themselves in the end time. **AND WE ARE IN THAT END TIME NOW.**

As I have been explaining in recent issues (and in my article on page 10 of this issue), Ezekiel 38:2 foretold the Russian power we now see rising, led by a "prince of Rosh" (or "prince of Russia"). This scripture also mentions China ("the land of Magog" includes modern-day China), indicating that this Russian leader will rally other Asian peoples behind Moscow. Additional Bible prophecies strongly suggest that India will also unite with these Eastern nations. (Order a free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy* to prove these truths for yourself.)

It is clear that Ezekiel recorded an *end-time* prophecy for Russia and China and other powers. This prophecy makes plain that *Russia* will be the leader of this massive Asian alliance. That is a key to understanding this.

The December 1959 issue of the *Plain Truth*—a prophecy-driven magazine under the editorial eye of Herbert Armstrong, in whose footsteps the *Trumpet* follows—predicted this end-time Asian coalition with

startling accuracy! "Russia's program is not to take Europe and to attack the United States, first. ... [It] calls first for the seizure of Asia. Lenin wrote that the way to Paris, London and New York is via [Beijing] and Delhi," the magazine wrote. "[China's] constant dream for centuries [has been] ultimate world conquest! ... China knows, however, that in this highly industrialized age she can accomplish this dream *only as an ally of Russia*. ... [Russian leaders] will ultimately control not only the Russian states, but China ... and India as well!"

Russia, China and India—all under Moscow's command! That was written 54 years ago, and it is **NOW** coming to pass! How could Mr. Armstrong have known that? Because it is prophesied in your Bible.

Why Prophecy Is Key

Another key scripture to understand is Revelation 9:16. This says the end-time Asian bloc led by Russia will command the largest army *in history*—a gigantic force of *200 million men*. This army comes from the *same geographic regions* described in Ezekiel 38.

These statements of support from China and India mean that **RIGHT NOW**, rallied behind Vladimir Putin and Russia's 144 million people, potentially stand China's 1.36 billion and India's 1.24 billion! That is a virtually endless supply of manpower! That will be key to the success of this Asian alliance.

President Obama and even top-tier analysts thought the idea of a revived Russian empire would pose too great a danger to China and India for those countries to support it. But that perspective fails to recognize a significant truth: to India and especially to China, *the West is a far greater enemy*. More importantly, that perspective fails to recognize the prophecies of the Bible.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany's foreign minister, said Russia's annexation of Crimea means Europe is "in its most serious crisis since the fall of the Berlin Wall." That is an understatement. I believe Europe is facing its **MOST SERIOUS CRISIS SINCE WORLD WAR II!** This is much more significant than most people think. They are underestimating its importance *because they don't understand Bible prophecy*.

This crisis is far from over. Follow the *Trumpet* and *The Key of David* to know what this means for the world, how it will affect you, and what you can do about it. ■

THE CURTAIN-RAISER

Europe never could have united its East and West if someone hadn't opened the Iron Curtain first. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

IN EARLY 1979, EASTERN EUROPE seemed as darkened by the Soviet shadow as ever. Agriculture was collectivized. Private shopkeepers had been almost completely replaced by giant government-controlled conglomerates. All official educational programs were gutted to conform to Marxist-Leninist views. Works of literature were made to echo the voice of the Communists. Churches were demolished by armies of secret police, and religion was actively suppressed.

Warsaw was one of the most stifled cities in the Eastern bloc. Jan Prokop, a professor of literature who lived there at the time, described it as “this everyday grayness of life without hope, just survival.”

But that June, the grayness of the Polish capital began to give way to something else.

Windows in the sterile, Stalin-era shops and apartment buildings began springing to life with festive shrines: crucifixes, flowers, rosaries and depictions of Jesus and Mary. Poles wanted to welcome one of their own, whom the Communist government had reluctantly allowed permission to visit his home country: Pope John Paul II.

A Hero's Welcome

Despite government efforts to minimize the crowds, some 10 million Poles—*almost one third of the nation*—turned out to see the 59-year-old pontiff. Most who were unable to attend one of his numerous outdoor masses followed his nine-day, six-city pilgrimage on television or radio.

His message was highly emotional. “I cry from all the depths of this millennium,” he publicly prayed. “Let your Spirit descend. Let your Spirit descend and renew the face of the Earth, the face of this land.”

“You must be strong with the strength of faith,” the pope candidly told his

countrymen. “When we are strong with the Spirit of God, we are also strong with faith in man. ... There is therefore no need to fear.”

The lively message of faith resonated deeply in the hearts of the Polish people. Emboldened, they pushed aside their fear of the government. Crowds repeatedly erupted into shouts of “We want God! We want God!” By chanting for God, the very antithesis of communism, they were calling for regime change.

The Sparks Catch Fire

Fourteen months after John Paul II's visit sparked the revolutionary fire, a workers' strike gave birth to Poland's Solidarity movement. It was a workers' rights crusade, but they were fueled by the Catholic spirit.

The movement showed Communists that Poland's Catholic heritage was glowing hot once again, and was on the cusp of resurfacing after years of suffocation. “The power of the papacy was never more visible,” said theologian Michael Novak, “and the Soviets learned this to their dismay: that [the pope] could turn their empire inside out.”

Back in Rome, John Paul II remained firmly committed to the cause: He wrote severe letters to Soviet leaders; he allied with United States President Ronald Reagan; he prayed publicly and frequently for the success of Solidarity.

The efforts sent shock waves rippling throughout the Soviet Union, from Budapest to the Sea of Japan. These convulsions eventually toppled the Berlin Wall in 1989, led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, and, astoundingly, routed Communist influence from Eastern Europe.

Many factors contributed to communism's demise, but historians almost unanimously agree that the man who did the most to peel away the Iron Curtain was Pope John Paul II.

“The nine days of John Paul II in June 1979 were nine days on which the history

of the 20th century turned in a dramatic way,” said historian George Weigel.

This dramatic turn ultimately opened the way for Poland and many other former Eastern bloc nations—Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Croatia—to join the European Union.

And the most astounding aspect of the pope's accomplishment? *That it was foretold long before it happened.*

He Was Right!

Some 3,000 years ago, the Prophet Daniel wrote that Europe in our modern era would have a clear western half and an eastern half that would fuse together (article, page 12). Theologian Herbert W. Armstrong relied on Daniel's writings and other Bible passages to predict, with startling accuracy, that Pope John Paul II would play a vital role in bringing this prophecy to pass.

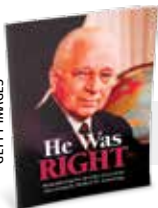
In February 1972, when Eastern Europe seemed permanently welded to the Soviet sphere, Mr. Armstrong's *Plain Truth* magazine forecast, “One of the biggest roles desired by the Vatican is that of mediator between East and West. The Vatican ... will continue to do its part in courting the Eastern European countries.”

In January 1980, a short time after John Paul's first visit to Poland, Mr. Armstrong wrote: “The character, personality and actions of the Polish pope, John Paul II, indicate *more* than possibly that he may be the pope to offer his good services to unite the nations of Europe once again. European nations want, seriously, to be united. Of themselves they are unable. John Paul II could make it possible.”

Throughout his 50-plus-year ministry, Mr. Armstrong made many other such statements. He died before seeing his forecast come to pass, but time has proven that he was right!

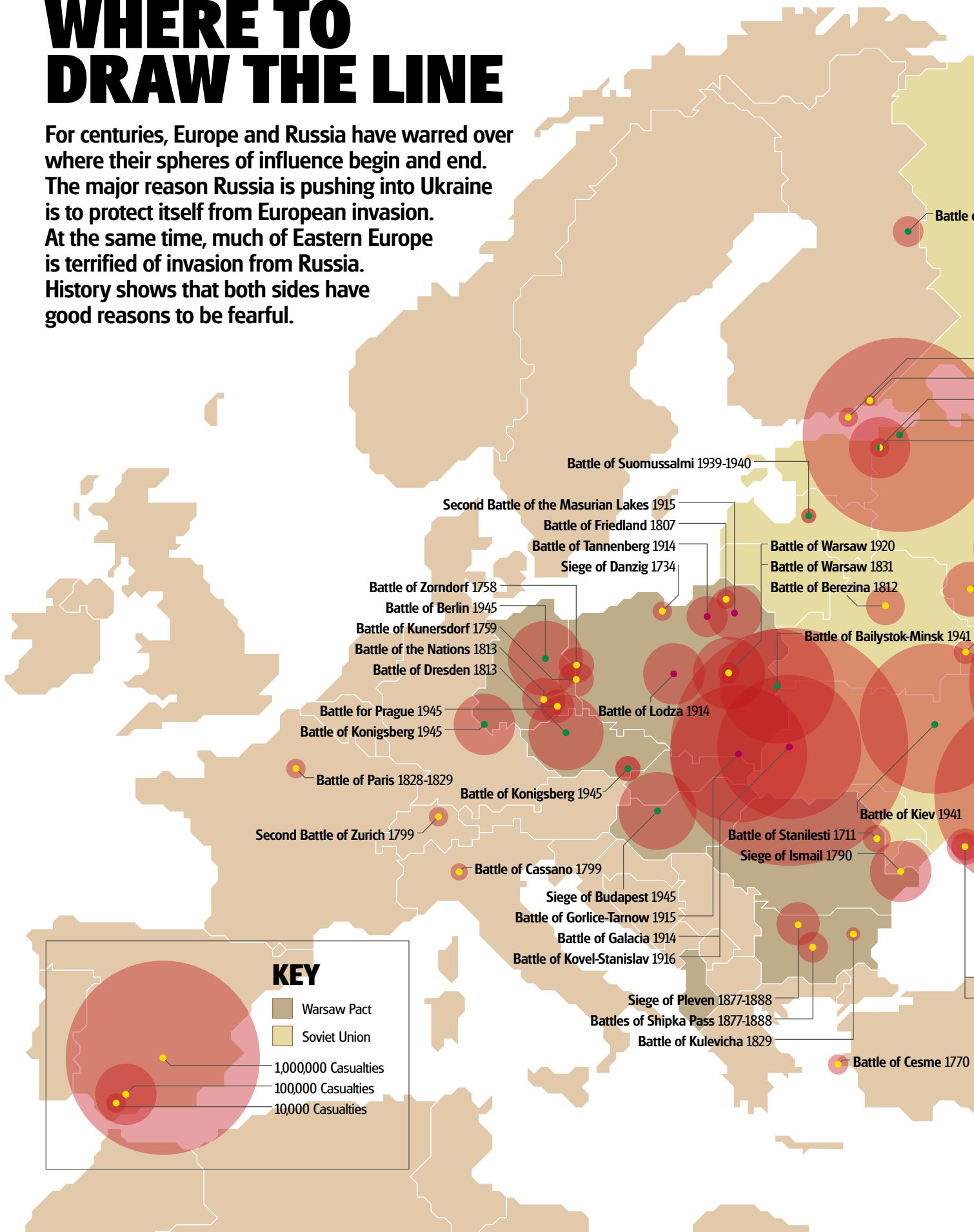


To understand the detailed Bible prophecies Mr. Armstrong relied on to make this forecast and many others, request **He Was Right**.



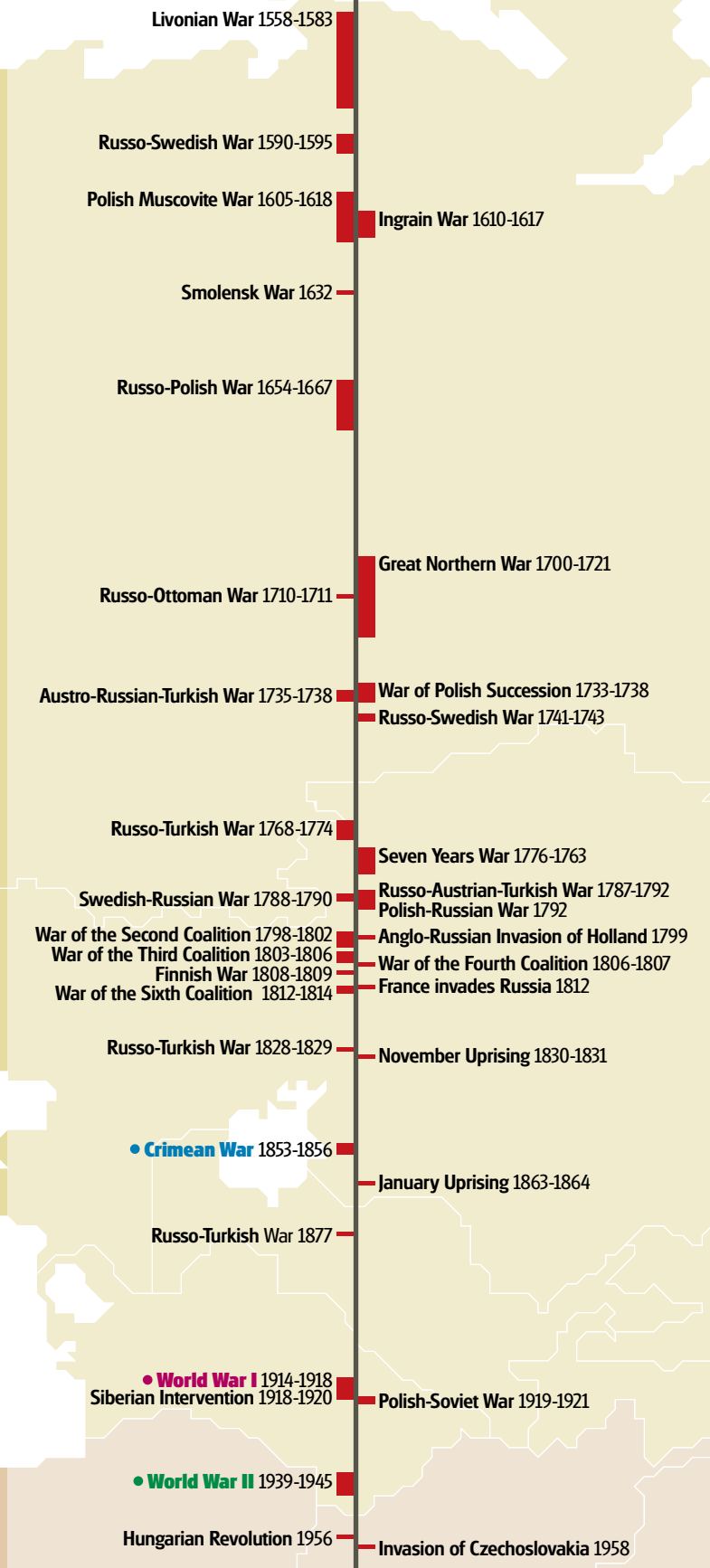
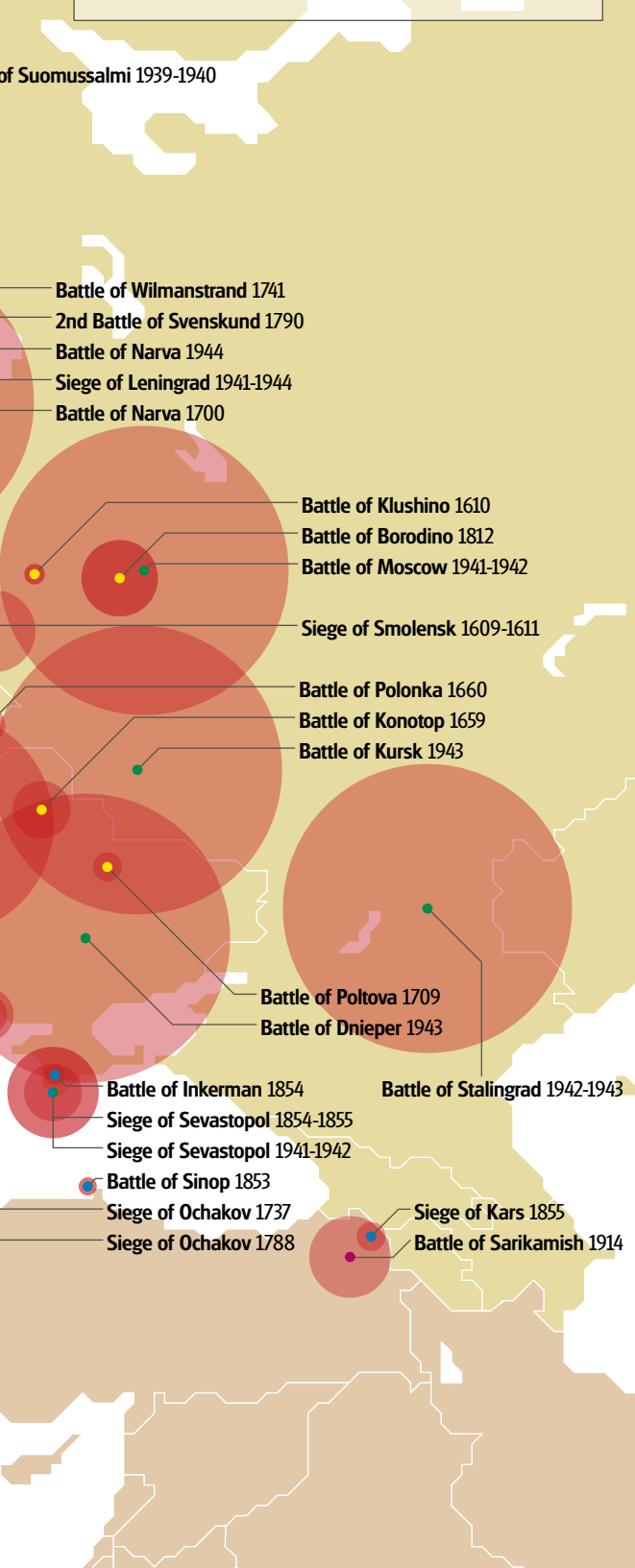
WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE

For centuries, Europe and Russia have warred over where their spheres of influence begin and end. The major reason Russia is pushing into Ukraine is to protect itself from European invasion. At the same time, much of Eastern Europe is terrified of invasion from Russia. History shows that both sides have good reasons to be fearful.



400 YEARS OF WAR

The ever-fluctuating front dividing Europe and Russia is a theater of war permeated by bloodshed. The 56 battles displayed on this map were part of 34 wars. The dates and durations of these wars are shown in the adjacent time line.



A MESSAGE TO THE PRINCE OF RUSSIA—FROM GOD

Russia's President Putin is making some bold, dangerous moves. Does God have a *specific* message for him? **BY GERALD FLURRY**

THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS CONTINUES to dominate the news almost daily. That crisis was created by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the Western world rejoiced because the Cold War was over. But not Putin. In 2005, he said, “The demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the [20th] century.” Since he first became president 14 years ago, he has tried to recreate the geography of the Soviet Union. This is changing the course of history. A great superpower is rising before our eyes!

You realize just how perilous this development is when you grasp that it was *prophesied*.

Ezekiel 38:2 describes a vivid personality to appear on the scene in this end time: “the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal” (New King James Version). In modern terms, this is the *prince of Russia* (article, page 10; see also my February cover story, “Is Vladimir Putin the Prophesied ‘Prince of Rosh’?” theTrumpet.com/go/11228).

There is also *another* personality in these verses that we have not talked about as much. Yet this man has a *stronger message with more power behind it* than Vladimir Putin can even imagine!

Notice who that same passage in Ezekiel 38 addresses: “And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, *Son of man . . .*” This shows that *God uses a man*. When the prophecy was written, it was Ezekiel. But one of the fundamental keys to understanding biblical prophecy is to recognize prophetic *duality*. There is a latter-day fulfillment as well. This

person, a *type* of Ezekiel, is receiving a message, and God commissions him to prophesy against the prince of Russia in this end time. God doesn't come down and deliver this message Himself. He has a man do it.

We must remember that Ezekiel was taken prisoner when the Jewish nation was taken captive in 585 B.C. However, his book is addressed to the nations of Israel. The



Jews, or biblical Judah, are only one tribe or nation of Israel.

Ezekiel could not possibly have delivered his message to the 10 tribes of Israel. They had been taken captive over 100 years before.

Ezekiel was a prisoner when he wrote his book to the nations of Israel: specifically America and Britain. (Request our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for a full explanation. All of our literature is free.)

Also, Ezekiel's book is for this *end time*. Only a *type* of Ezekiel could deliver his message today.

Who *is* the “chief prince of Meshech and Tubal”? (Ezekiel 38:2). Someone must know. And who *is* the “son of man” that God says must prophesy against this prince in the end time?

The Prince of Rosh

It is easy to prove that Ezekiel is an end-time book. Ezekiel 38 is clearly an end-time prophecy. Verse 8 specifically mentions its setting in the “latter years”; verse 16 talks about the “latter days”—such statements are made throughout Ezekiel's book.

God's commission begins in verse 2: “[S]et thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and *prophesy against him*.” This is for our day, and it's talking about Gog and Magog. Who are they? People don't know, but they *could*. It's not that difficult. This verse also mentions a *definite, specific man* that God tells the “son of man” to prophesy against. How can the son of man do that unless he knows who this man is? How could he speak against Gog and Magog without knowing the modern identities of these peoples? These scriptures would be *nonsense* if we didn't understand who these nations are in this end time. This son of man *has to know* in order to deliver God's message.

Scholars generally agree that Gog is Russia and that the land of Magog includes China. The descendants of Meshech and Tubal have been found together throughout history. In Assyrian and Greek histories, Meshech appears as *Moscha*, *Moschi* or *Mushki*—all names related to the Russian spelling of Moscow, as the

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia shows. And east of the Ural Mountains lies the city of Tobolsk, named after the Tobol River, derived from *Tubal*. Tobolsk was once the seat of Russian government over Siberia, and was basically considered Russia's Asian capital.

This verse also mentions *another* Russian people with the Hebrew word *Rosh*. The King James Version translates this into the adjective "chief," but the correct rendering used by the Moffatt, New King James and others uses the word as a proper noun: *Rosh*. The verse *should* read "the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal." *Rosh* was the ancient name of Russia, once called *Rus*.

So who is this prince of Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk? The use of these three names shows that this man rules *all* the peoples of Russia, from west to east. Another indication that this is a *specific individual* is God's command to "prophesy against HIM."

THIS IS CRITICAL INFORMATION. GOD COMMISSIONS A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL TO SPEAK AGAINST THIS PRINCE OF RUSSIA, ANOTHER SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL. To do that job, this "son of man" must know who that man is—or at least have a very strong idea of who he is—and what he is going to do. How could a *son of man* even *do* the job unless he has that information?

Can you think of a politician who could fulfill the role of the prince of Russia? One, and only one, comes to mind: Vladimir Putin.

God's Power

The book of Joel describes an army called God's army (Joel 2:11, 25). The context shows that this is the same army headed by the "prince of Rosh." That means that even though God commands His servant to prophesy *against* him, God is actually *using* this "prince of Rosh" for His own purpose.

The Ezekiel 38 commission continues: "And say, THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD [NOT MAN], Behold, I am against thee, O Gog [Russia], the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws" (verses 3-4).

THESE VERSES REVEAL SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY. This prince of Russia is clearly a man with a lot of power—BUT THE SON OF MAN HAS FAR MORE POWER!

WHY? HE HAS NO POWER OF HIS OWN; HE IS MERELY A PUNY MAN. BUT HE HAS THE POWER OF ALMIGHTY GOD BEHIND HIM!

God is not awed by nations with great physical power. He says all nations are as a drop in a bucket (Isaiah 40:15). Their supposed greatness doesn't faze Him.

Russia used military force to invade the former Soviet nation of Georgia in August 2008. In our October 2008 *Trumpet* issue, I wrote, "Russia's attack on Georgia in August marks the beginning of a dangerous new era in history. This was the first military strike of a rising Asian superpower and *there will be more*. ... Will the Georgia strike actually spark European unification? Will *a crisis occur over Ukraine*? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that, as well."

God commissions a specific individual to speak against this prince of Russia, another specific individual.

I wrote that in 2008 because of the Bible's prophecies, and because you could see the rising power of the prince of Russia. Now, we are seeing a crisis in Ukraine.

This prince considers Ukraine and Georgia part of his union of nations. So there were bound to be problems with countries in that area, and there will continue to be—you can count on that. The movement from Gog and Magog is building—and where it is leading will be at the heart of *World War III!*

The same Bible that accurately prophesied a powerful prince of Russia prophesied that an Asian superpower will do battle in a final world war—primarily against a German-led Europe. War is coming between Russia and China and a German-led Europe—war on a scale that is hard to imagine! Millions and even billions of people will be killed. Nuclear bombs and other weapons of mass destruction are going to impact every nation on Earth!

But the Bible *also* prophesies that at the end of all of these wars, the world is going to see the greatest event ever in the universe: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! As Christ Himself said, if He didn't return, there would literally be no flesh saved alive (Matthew 24:22; Moffatt). But before

humanity annihilates itself, He *will* return and stop all this madness!

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

The End of War

Ezekiel 38:23 says, "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and *I will be known in the eyes of many nations*, and THEY SHALL KNOW that I am the Lord." This is clearly a prophecy yet to be fulfilled. People in general *don't* know that God is the *Lord* today. This is a great transition about to occur.

It continues in the next verse: "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech [Moscow] and Tubal [Tobolsk]" (Ezekiel 39:1; NKJV). God tells the son of man, *Prophesy against Russia and the prince of Russia. Publicize the truth about what is going to happen in that region and the impact it will have on the rest of the world.*

In verses 6-8 God says, "[A]nd they shall know that I am the Lord. So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; ... Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God; *this is the day whereof I have spoken.*" God is going to intervene! Man has proven he cannot rule over man. This is the day God talks about throughout the Bible: the day *He* rules man and brings peace, joy, abundance and happiness to all mankind!

Sadly, most people will have to endure a *nuclear holocaust* before they will finally begin to understand and submit to God!

Once Christ returns, He will *destroy* the military power of Russia and China and other nations once and for all. He will show the world what power really is! "And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers" (verse 9). This is what will happen to all those military armaments at the start of the Millennium (described in Revelation 20:4, 6). It is going to take a lot



MEDITERRANEAN SEA



Beirut

LEBANON

SYRIA

■ Hezbollah-dominated areas

★ Car bomb attacks against Hezbollah targets this year

✚ German Navy patrols on Lebanese coast as part of NATO's Operation Active Endeavor and UNIFIL

0 10 miles

ISRAEL

Why You Need to Watch Lebanon

This little nation is a linchpin for a biblically prophesied end-time alliance. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

THE FIRST VISIBLE SIGN OF A powerful prophecy is now manifest in the little Mediterranean country of Lebanon.

The Syrian civil war next door has opened an awesome opportunity for both Europe and Saudi Arabia to be involved in Lebanon. Their involvement marks a critical turning point for this small country, and is destined to lead to a far-reaching change of alliances.

Today, southern Lebanon is dominated by Hezbollah, a terrorist organization that is controlled by its Shiite masters in Iran. The Iranians are also continuing to prop up the Syrian government to Lebanon's east, and are directing Hezbollah to cross the border into Syria and do a lot of the fighting on Bashar Assad's behalf.

However, Hezbollah's involvement in Syria has weakened the group's political power within Lebanon. This is what has given the Sunni Arab population and Saudi Arabia, its traditional supporter, a tremendous

opportunity to increase their power at Iran's expense.

This may seem like a small development. However, your Bible says it is the beginning of a dramatic shift that will build into an alliance announcing the start of World War III!

Saudi Arabia's Grab for Lebanon

One recent visible sign of this alliance forming before our eyes was announced in December: a \$3 billion gift from Saudi Arabia to the Lebanese military for use in purchasing military hardware and weapons systems. The conditions of the gift were very telling.

The Saudis specified that the Lebanese had to buy the material exclusively from French suppliers. This marked a dramatic change: Saudi Arabia has typically bought most of its own military equipment from the United States. Here the Saudis, in supplying the Lebanese, wanted to make certain the matériel came *from Europe*.

This large military donation also departed from Saudi Arabia's historical policy toward

Lebanon. In the past, Saudi Arabia and other nations fighting against the spread of Iran's power didn't arm the Lebanese military for fear those weapons would end up in the hands of Hezbollah, Iran's proxy. The fact that the Saudis donated what amounts to twice the annual budget of the Lebanese military shows that they are confident those weapons will stay with the Lebanese military—and won't be used by Hezbollah.

Saudi Arabia's gift is a deliberate attempt to remove Iran's hold over Lebanon. It is also part of a larger strategy to bring the moderate Arab states together with Europe to counter the Iranian-aligned Shiite crescent developing in the Middle East.

This was just a small sign of an alliance that is going to build into something enormous that will shock this world.

Civil War Coming

The majority of Sunni Arabs in Lebanon want to maintain peace within their fractured country. However, many Sunni radicals who are fighting against the Bashar Assad regime in Syria are crossing the border into Lebanon and bringing the fight to Hezbollah.

For the past decade, Hezbollah has developed a reputation for being moderate and friendly to the Lebanese by funding schools, hospitals, clinics and other social programs within southern Lebanon. This led to a general acceptance of the organization, even among many Lebanese who didn't agree with its policies. As long as Hezbollah was looking after the Lebanese, the public accepted its presence.

However, Hezbollah's contributions to the war in Syria are changing people's view. Ever since the bloody violence spilled over into Lebanon, Hezbollah has refused to end its involvement in Syria. And the Lebanese people blame this organization for every bomb that goes off inside their country. Hezbollah is losing all credibility in the eyes of the majority of the Lebanese. The division between these two sides is threatening to turn violent.

Viewing this division, Saudi Arabia sees an opportunity: It believes that now is the time to act to undermine and uproot Iran's influence in Lebanon.

At the same time, the United States—historically Saudi Arabia's ally—is showing tremendous weakness in its foreign policy. (We have covered this trend in recent

Trumpet issues, especially our January cover story, “What Happens After a Superpower Dies?”—theTrumpet.com/go/11137/) That is why the Saudis chose to look to *Europe* for help in this endeavor.

The Saudis insisted that Lebanon get its weapons directly from France. Here is a comment from a journalist who sees what is really going on with this deal. Sami Nader writes in *Al Monitor*: “The amount is the highest ever to the army, but the most alluring aspect of the initiative is not limited to the allocated sum. . . . Rather, the bigger surprise is the *emerging Saudi-French partnership*, which constitutes a turning point in the Middle East” (January 6; emphasis mine throughout). Yes, this is a big turning point! It is happening right before our eyes, yet almost *nobody* recognizes its significance.

Why is this so important? Because the Bible prophesied it! *Several aspects* align exactly with what Scripture said would happen. Here are three of them.

What Prophecy Tells Us

First, many prophecies foretell the decline and fall of the United States. (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.) Prophecies of end-time events in the Middle East *leave out* the United States. This shows that the power the U.S. has exercised in that region for years—which is now visibly collapsing—is about to end. Already we see Europe moving into the Middle East to fill the void left by American weakness.

Second, the Bible *specifically* describes an alliance between Arab states (including the Saudis) and a European power. We are almost 100 percent certain that France is going to be part of a multinational European empire that is prophesied to storm the world stage. We will look at that prophecy in a moment.

Third, the deal represents an escalation of tension between Europe and the Middle East forces allied with Iran. To understand how this relates to prophecy, study Daniel 11:40: “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south”—speaking of an Iranian-led, radical Islamist axis—“push at him: and the king of the north”—which is an empire composed of European nations—“shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass

over.” This clash is going to come between what amounts to German and Iranian will.

Events today are building toward this epic clash! The Saudi-France deal is one example. We cannot underestimate what Europe’s involvement in this deal portends. Europe coming into the Middle East is going to infuriate Iran. AND IT IS SUCH EUROPEAN INTRUSION THAT WILL CAUSE IRAN TO PUSH AT THE KING OF THE NORTH. Iran is going to strike back with a lot of power!

However, as Daniel 11:40 states, *that is going to lead to Iran’s destruction*. A German-led Europe is going to conquer Iran and have controlling power over the other nations aligned with the king of the south, such as Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Ethiopia. Then, brimming with confidence following that victory, Germany will exploit its alliance with the Arabs to pursue even greater ambitions.

A Prophesied Alliance

Let’s look at a prophecy of what will occur immediately *after* the Daniel 11:40 prophecy. It has everything to do with Europe’s involvement in Lebanon.

“They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that *the name of Israel* may be no more in remembrance” (Psalm 83:4). This is an end-time prophecy about Israel. But it is not talking only about the Jewish nation called *Israel* today. Anciently, Israel had 12 tribes; today there are 12 *nations* of Israel. We explain that truth thoroughly in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

There are three of these nations *in particular* that God is going to deal with very severely because of their sins. This prophecy in Psalm 83 shows a significant part of how that punishment will come about.

Verses 5-8 list a number of nations that will be allied to bring about Israel’s destruction. Concerning this Psalm, the *Anchor Bible* reads, “History transmits no record of the national crisis when the nations enumerated in this Psalm formed a league to wipe out Israel . . .” *Lange’s Commentary* states, “The 10 nations who are here enumerated as being combined against Israel are never mentioned elsewhere as enemies allied at the same time and for the purpose of annihilating Israel.” The fact that these nations have never come together to destroy Israel in the past plainly shows that it is a prophecy for the end time.

We can’t be precise in every boundary, but we can know the general idea of where these nations are today. Here are their modern names, as taught at Ambassador College under Herbert W. Armstrong: Edom is Turkey; *the Ishmaelites* are SAUDI ARABIA; Moab and Ammon are Jordan; the Hagarenes anciently dwelt in the land where Syria is today; the Philistines are the Palestinians now occupying the Gaza Strip; *Gebal* is LEBANON, and the *inhabitants of Tyre* are in SOUTHERN LEBANON. Finally, *Assur* is referring to modern-day GERMANY.

Furthermore, considering that this is an end-time prophecy, there must be some people that God will give understanding to about who is who here—otherwise why even prophesy it?

Notice: Many of the nations listed in this Psalm fall into what many consider the “moderate Arab” camp, where mainly Sunni Islam is prevalent today. Also notice that *none* of the nations mentioned in Daniel 11:40-42 as comprising the king of the south, such as Iran and Egypt, are listed here. Iraq is also conspicuously absent, which indicates that it too will be allied with the king of the south. The reason those Iranian-allied nations are missing from this prophecy is that by the time the betrayal described in this Psalm occurs, the king of the south has been subdued and mostly conquered!

Once this Psalm 83 alliance between the king of the north and these Arab states emerges, it is going to ignite World War III starting with the destruction of Israel!

Believe it or not, this is where your Bible says the Lebanon deal is leading.

Lebanon the Linchpin

Looking at Lebanon’s demographics, you can see why Europe would intervene there even though it refused to act in the Syrian conflict.

Lebanon is the only Middle Eastern country with a strong Christian population. Forty percent of Lebanon’s people belong to a Christian denomination; the largest is the Catholic-affiliated Maronite Church. By constitutional decree, the president of Lebanon must be a Maronite.

Imad Salamey, professor of international relations at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, said this about the Saudi-French weapons deal: “This is an attempt by

Saudi Arabia to present itself as a state with a positive attitude toward the Christians; *that the Sunni-Catholic alliance is possible*, that Saudi Arabia is not about supporting extremists, that Saudi Arabia wants to support state institutions and the army, and that Saudi Arabia is a supporter of moderation” (NOW, January 2).

He continued, “It can offer guarantees for the Christians in particular who can feel protected through the Lebanese Army.”

This heavy Christian population makes Lebanon different from the rest of the Arab world. By calling on Europe to participate in this deal—designed to protect the Lebanese from Shiite extremism—Saudi Arabia opens the door for a Sunni-Catholic alliance! (Note: No Shiite nations are mentioned in Psalm 83. That doesn’t necessarily mean that all Sunnis will align with a German-led Europe.)

Because of its high population of Christian Arabs, Lebanon has become a linchpin for the Psalm 83 alliance.

Once Lebanon receives the military hardware from France, a larger peacekeeping force could be needed on the ground to aid the Lebanese Army. Even many leaders in Lebanon are calling on other nations to do more than just supply weapons to the Lebanese Army: They are asking for direct foreign intervention. The Sunni Future parliamentary bloc, for example, made this statement on February 7: “The only realistic solution would be for the Lebanese Army, backed by UN peacekeepers, to deploy along the border with Syria to control the borders in all directions and [prevent] any violations, regardless from which side.”

The call for UN peacekeepers is significant. Usually it is mostly French soldiers that fill UN missions in Lebanon. However, also lurking in the Mediterranean off the coast of Lebanon is a German observer

mission that was re-approved in January this year. As I wrote last month, Germany is changing to a more aggressive military policy (“Germany’s Urgent and Dangerous Military Decision,” theTrumpet.com/go/11396). Given that change, we should watch to see whether it decides to send its soldiers into Lebanon to *make peace*.

Time will tell how the details come about, but the possibility of European fighters coming up against Iran is something we have been watching for years. Here is a scenario, based on a budding Arab-European alliance, that could see Europe expand its footprint in the Middle East and hasten the massive confrontation of Daniel 11:40.

Once that clash takes place, a progression of globe-shattering prophecies will unfold leading to the time Jesus Christ describes in Matthew 24:21-22: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

Thankfully, at that time, Christ says He will intervene in the affairs of man. He must come back and stop that nuclear disaster before *everybody* is wiped off the planet.

That is what we are facing! This is the real world that we live in! And it has everything to do with a deal involving the tiny nation of Lebanon in the Middle East. Continue to watch as Lebanon descends into another civil war, but as you do, recognize that bloody event as one in a chain reaction destined to end in the return of Jesus Christ.

God has laid it all out for us to see in His majestic prophecies. We are about to see a new and a wonderful world ushered in by Jesus Christ Himself! What greater news could we receive than that? ■

► YUGOSLAVIA from page 3

and having most of the world on our side, to then giving our former allies, the Serbs, over to our former enemies, the Germans—even providing them with the *power* to destroy Yugoslavia!

You can see why Vladimir Putin says America is guided by the “rule of the gun.” That is our history in Yugoslavia—a shameful part of our history—and it is coming back to haunt us.

What Vladimir Putin did in Crimea was a great crime! But I say to you, AMERICA COMMITTED A GREATER ONE IN YUGOSLAVIA. Just look at the facts! I’m trying to be as objective as I possibly can. This is not my emotional opinion—these are *facts*! Most people will not face the truth. They would rather not talk about it.

German Conquest

Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans states, “The NATO attack on Belgrade in 1999 succeeded in *forcing* the Yugoslav government to make peace with the Kosovo separatists.” The separation of Croatia, Slovenia and Kosovo was *forced* on Yugoslavia and the Serbs. Can the U.S. and other nations now criticize Putin for *forcing* Ukraine to part with Crimea?

State by state, Yugoslavia has been conquered. Even the name *Yugoslavia* has been discarded—it isn’t on the map anymore! That nation has been *blotted out*! And all because *Germany* wanted it done. Germany, which made Nazi puppets of Croatia and Slovenia in World War II. Germany, which came back and recognized those two states years later and caused them to break away from Yugoslavia. Germany, which turned the world and even former allies against the Serbs and crushed them.

These facts of *recent* history ought to *scare* people, if they would just open their eyes. Forget about Bible prophecy for a moment and just look at *history*. An obvious and terrible warning is embedded in our own recent history! These are *facts*.

We wrote all about this as it happened in a booklet 15 years ago! It was exactly what we called it: *Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*.

Here is what Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission, said at the time: “But in the long run, Balkans belong strictly to the EU.” German-led



Get the advance warning on the Middle East.
Order our free booklet **The King of the South.**

Europe persuaded America to do its dirty work, but then made it clear to whom the spoils belonged: not to America—not to the Serbs—not to the United Nations.

Stratfor, the best intelligence reporters around, pointed out in 2002 that as America disengaged from the Balkans and Germany took over, Berlin would become the dominant power not only in that region but in *European defense policy as a whole*. Why has Germany yearned for more than a century to control the Balkans in the first place? It is to PROJECT POWER FAR BEYOND THAT PENINSULA.

Stratfor even called this “A REBIRTH OF GERMAN FASCISM.”

But who is really listening?

Stratfor called this “a rebirth of German fascism.” But who is really listening?

In 1999, the *New York Times* wrote, “Strong German support for Croatian independence from Yugoslavia, and Croatia’s adoption of the hymn ‘Danke Deutschland’ when that independence came in 1991, only reinforced Serbian misgivings” (March 26, 1999). Croatia clearly knew its revolt succeeded *because of Germany*. After all, they didn’t sing “Danke NATO”! They didn’t sing “Danke America”! They thanked the *Germans*, because the Germans orchestrated *all* of it! And if you think Germany doesn’t have ambitions beyond the Balkans, then you don’t realize what is happening.

Many people wonder why Germany has been so quiet about Putin’s takeover of Crimea. I think there is a very good reason: The Germans know what they did. And they know that Vladimir Putin also clearly understands what they did and that he is *not* about to back down in Ukraine! They know how they manipulated the whole world. Our marvelous booklet will explain all this for you. I hope you will request it and read it: *Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*.



► MESSAGE from page 21

of force to put down these gigantic armies that would otherwise end up killing every last human being!

God has this all planned out, and He has the son of man delivering a message about it. When that man is speaking as He commands, God puts His power behind every word of it!

“And it shall come to pass *in that day* [another reference to the end time], that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog. And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land” (Ezekiel 39:11-12). It will take *seven months* just to bury the soldiers of this massive army! What an amazing prophecy! And notice what it ultimately leads to.

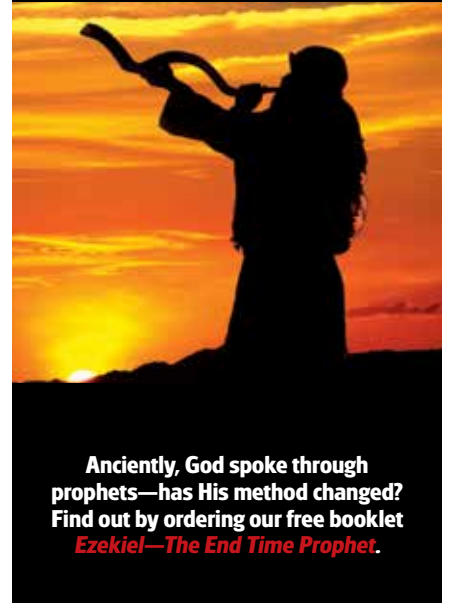
‘They Shall Know That I Am the Lord’

After that period, “the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 39:22). Today, Israel—whose modern descendants include Britain, America and the State of Israel—doesn’t know God. But at that time, they will know that God is the Eternal.

Ultimately, these scriptures are very inspiring. Read all of chapter 39, and notice the happy ending! “Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them” (verses 28-29). Right now, God *hides His face* from the nations of Israel. Why? Because they rebel and don’t *want* God to be part of their lives. But that is about to change dramatically.

Ezekiel concludes this part in Ezekiel 40:4: “And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon *all* that I shall shew thee for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.” God says, *Declare it all!* God sends this son of man to declare His message and all these wonderful prophecies that are about to come to pass.

How does God speak to a modern world?



You can see a related command in Ezekiel 33:7: “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear THE WORD AT MY MOUTH, and warn them FROM ME.” God delivers this message through a “son of man,” and tells that man, *This word is not from a man, it comes from My mouth! Son of man, you go to all these nations and tell them you have a message from the very mouth of God!* If a message comes from God’s mouth, you can be sure that God is going to back it and support it 100 percent!

In verse 11, God makes it clear that He is talking about the *death of nations*. “Why will you die?” He asks Israel. This is what that son of man must prophesy today. And God will bring every bit of it to pass. Every iota of this Bible prophecy will be fulfilled.

These are some terrible prophecies—but what a glorious outcome they produce. In the end, not only will Israel know God, but *even the heathen* will know God! And nobody will make anybody afraid anymore.

There is a lot of trouble and destruction ahead, but the book of Ezekiel also has so *much* to show how this is not a gloomy, negative message. Jesus Christ is about to return!



Palestinian Hamas forces in Gaza City are suddenly on Egypt's bad side.

1,200

Number of tunnels between Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, most of which have been destroyed by Egypt

\$230 million

Losses in Hamas revenue per month from closure of tunnels by Egypt since latest offensive

Egypt bans Hamas

ON MARCH 4 AN EGYPTIAN court banned the activities of Gaza-based terrorist group Hamas. The ruling cut all official ties between Egypt and Hamas and closed the organization's offices and infrastructure

within Egypt. Hamas operatives currently in Egypt have "now lost any legal cover," and "should be arrested," according to the filing lawyer Samir Sabry, reported the *Times of Israel*.

The Cairo court's potent

ruling came two months after Egypt's military-backed interim government branded the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization. The Brotherhood is Hamas's parent organization. Incarcerated Brotherhood members face charges that could lead to the death penalty. Now that Hamas is outlawed in

Egyptian territory, its members face the same threat.

Since the Egyptian military forced Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi from power last July, Egypt has worked hard to stifle Hamas's influence in the country by undermining all trade from Egypt into Gaza. Not only did it close its main legal, above-ground crossing with Gaza, but it has also destroyed most of the 1,200 underground smuggling tunnels into the strip. This effectively cuts Gaza off from any trade except the little it can do with Israel.

This ruling will likely push Hamas further into the arms of Turkey and its moderate Arab friends in Qatar. Psalm 83 discusses a mysterious alliance whereby the Gazan region—former territory of the ancient Philistines and now occupied by Hamas—allies itself not with Iran and Egypt, but rather with Turkey and the Arabs located in the Gulf states. It is no surprise that at the same time Hamas's relationship with Egypt is severed, relations between Qatar and Turkey are warming. In fact, the only reason the Gaza Strip has not collapsed already is because of new sources of help Hamas has received from Turkey and Qatar.

Expect Hamas to continue to grow closer to the Turks and its Arab friends—at the expense of its traditional allies, Egypt and Iran.

SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN COLLAPSING

The P5+1 nations (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China) continue their negotiations with Iran over its disputed nuclear program. But the corrosive effects of their first deal are only now becoming visible as they eat away at international sanctions.

The White House has tried hard to pretend as though the sanctions in place are still effective. "I am confident that the sanctions pressure on Iran will continue to mount," wrote David Cohen, under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed. "Iran will be even deeper in the hole six months from now, when the deal expires, than it is today." An White House press secretary official downplayed the

sanctions relief provided by the Geneva agreement as being "insignificant economically"—worth a maximum of around \$6 to

\$7 billion. "Iran's oil exports will remain steady at their current level of around 1 million barrels per day," he insisted.

In truth, Iran's crude oil exports have already swollen to 1.32 million barrels per day. Since the sanctions eased, oil-hungry nations such as China, India and Japan have been drinking up the black gold, bringing the value of sanctions relief up to well over \$20 billion.

With the structure of international sanctions collapsing, Iran's immediate future seems secure,

with a resurgent economy, a thriving oil market, an intact nuclear program, and an uninterrupted quest to build a bomb.



ROUHANI

Iran's oil exports to India increased from **189,000** barrels to **412,000** in January 2014.














The British view

A 2014 poll asked Britons:

Overall, how positive or negative do you feel toward each of the following countries?

Here are the mean scores, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is very negative and 10 is very positive:

 Canada 7.23
 Germany 5.74
 USA 5.73
 Italy 5.7
 Spain 5.69
 France 5.08
 China 4.77
 Russia 4.07
 EU 4.0
 Israel 3.97
 Iran 2.69

Kingdom with a strong voice inside the European Union,” she said. “If we have that, we will be able to make the necessary changes for the benefit of all.”

The British press is still debating whether Merkel’s support for limited reform is a victory or defeat for Cameron. But the real story here is the way Britain has gone after Germany’s help.

The Bible warns in several passages that the modern nations of Israel (primarily Britain, the United States and Israel) will look to foreign allies to solve their problems instead of looking to God. It compares those nations to a woman seeking lovers—in particular the Assyrians, or Germans (e.g. Hosea 2; Ezekiel 23; Lamentations 1). That metaphor is reflected in Britain’s emotional and showy pursuit of Merkel’s affection. Cameron almost acted like someone trying to impress a girlfriend, laying out the flashiest program possible for the German chancellor.

The Bible prophesies that Britain will continue to look to foreign allies to solve its problems, until it finally learns to put its trust in God



Queen Elizabeth II honors Merkel (left) with an audience at Buckingham Palace.

Britain: Yoo hoo! We love you, Germany!

BRITAIN WELCOMED GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel for her whirlwind trip to London on February 27. As the nation rolled out what the press dubbed the “reddest of red carpets,” Merkel became the second-ever German chancellor to address both houses of Parliament; she spoke in the Royal Gallery in the Palace of Westminster, which is literally covered in gold and has to be one of the most impressive venues in the world; she met

with Prime Minister David Cameron; she had tea with the Queen in Buckingham Palace. All this for a visit that lasted only six hours.

Cameron desperately wants the German leader’s help. He hopes to renegotiate Britain’s relationship with the European Union, and the best person to help with that is the de facto leader of the EU: Angela Merkel.

In her speech to Parliament, Merkel gave Cameron a little hope. “We need a strong United

MERKEL ADORES ISRAEL—DO GERMANS AGREE?

German Chancellor Angela Merkel led the largest-ever delegation of German cabinet members to Israel on February 25 to conduct bilateral meetings with their Israeli counterparts for two days. The Merkel government signed a number of new agreements with Israel, one of which will allow Germany to provide consular services to Israeli citizens in countries where Israel has no diplomatic presence, mainly in hostile Arab nations. Merkel called the agreement a “sign of trust” between the two nations.

“Israel has closer defense relations with Germany than virtually any other country in Europe,” *World Tribune* reported German officials as saying.

To cap off the visit, Merkel received the Presidential Medal of Distinction, Israel’s highest

civilian award, from Israeli President Shimon Peres. This is the first time a European politician has ever received the award.

Merkel’s motivation appears to be an honest desire to make up for what Germany did to the Jews in the past. However, her constituents back home hardly share her moral duty toward Israel. A recent BBC poll showed that only 14 percent of Germans have a positive view of Israel.

This dichotomy between the German chancellor and her people falls in line with a prophecy in Hosea 5. This end-time prophecy indicates that the relationship between Germany and Israel will warm to the point that Israel will go to Germany for help in dealing with the problem of Palestinian terrorism. However, the Bible



Peres (right) awards Merkel the Medal of Distinction.

also indicates that this will lead to a gigantic German double cross. Perhaps this will come at a time when a new German leader will be in power—one who thinks not like Merkel, but like the German public.

For more on this prophecy, request *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.





China ready to swallow Taiwan

CHINA AND TAIWAN HELD A landmark meeting on February 11 to establish representative offices (equivalent to embassies or consulates) for closer cooperation between the two nations, which have long been at odds. The agreement, the first of its kind in Taiwan's history, marks the latest of many significant measures that show the two nations are about to reconcile.

In 1949, Chinese Communists rose up against the ruling party and pushed Kuomintang off the mainland onto the island of Taiwan. The civil war divided China into two nations, China and Taiwan, but Communist mainland China has consistently claimed the right to rule Taiwan. Meanwhile, Taiwan, which is officially called the Republic of China, technically claims sovereignty over the mainland.

Yet in 2008, the Taiwanese voted in China-friendly Ma Ying-Jeou as president, and since then he has made conciliatory overtures toward Beijing. "The two sides of the Taiwan Strait should not quarrel," Ma said in 2011. "We should

instead focus on encouraging and helping each other grow" On March 17, despite strong opposition from opposition groups, Ma's Kuomintang party passed a historic pact that will sharply enhance trade between China and Taiwan.

The warming relationship between China and Taiwan is bad news for the United States and other nations concerned

about China's ascendancy.

For decades, Taiwan remained an outpost of democracy and maintained warm relations with the West. It also served as the best location from which to monitor China, thanks to its proximity and its advanced information technology. Shared language, ethnicity and culture also allows Taiwanese spies to blend into Chinese society during their reconnaissance missions. But now, Taiwan appears to be questioning its role as the eyes and ears for other nations. Reports say Ma has halted the activities of some Taiwanese spy agents operating in China and plans to stop sharing intelligence with the U.S. and its allies.

The *Trumpet* has long predicted the China-Taiwan reconciliation, which is now gaining great momentum. In 1998, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "How could anyone fail

To understand the significance of China's rise, read "Czars and Emperors" in our January edition. theTrumpet.com/go/11142

to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of mainland China?" Establishing representative offices may be a key step toward fulfilling that bold geopolitical prediction. When Taipei refuses China's increasingly bold advances, Beijing often responds with war games and other threats of force. But under Ma's Beijing-friendly rule, and despite some Taiwanese protests, such refusals are becoming less and less common. When China completes this reconciliation process, its ability to dominate the Pacific will grow—as will its capacity to persuade other Asian states to rally behind Beijing. ■



Top six Asian nations by population

WHY IS CHINA CONCERNED ABOUT JAPAN?

China expressed "serious concern" over Japan's possession of weapons-grade nuclear material in a February 18 report in the *China Daily*. Beijing is pushing for Tokyo to return the plutonium to the United States as quickly as possible. "We believe that Japan ... should strictly observe its international obligations of nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear security," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said. China possesses nuclear weapons; Japan currently does not.

Since 2010, the Obama administration has also been urging Tokyo to return the plutonium, which the U.S. gave to Japan during the Cold War for research purposes. But Japan has strongly resisted. It has been promising to return the material, even as recently as February, but has so far failed to follow through.

The 331 kilograms of plutonium currently stored at



Company officials visit Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Japan's Atomic Energy Agency is enough to produce 40 to 50 nuclear weapons. In light of the nationalistic shifts underway in Japan, and the growing number of Japanese who view their nation's World War II history without remorse, this news takes on great significance. As the U.S. snubs history, turns inward and ignores geopolitical shifts, the barriers established to prevent another world war are being systematically dismantled.



THIRD ASIAN GIANT WANTS A BIGGER ROLE

India reiterated on February 24 that it wishes to play a broader and deeper role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and that it hopes to become a full member soon. The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and military bloc dominated by Russia and China. It also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The admission of India would greatly extend the SCO's geographic reach and boost the population it represents to just under 3 billion. The expansion could transform the SCO's mission and bolster its geopolitical significance. China and Russia are the regional behemoths driving the cooperation of the East, and the SCO appears to be one vehicle they are using to attain that cooperation.

Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, the day he was arrested



Drug lord jailed—what happens next?

MEXICAN AUTHORITIES arrested Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, the Mexican drug baron who headed the Sinaloa Federation, on February 22. Guzmán was the most elusive criminal in Mexico, the most wanted felon of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, *Forbes* magazine's 67th most powerful

person in the world and 701st-ranked billionaire tycoon, and Chicago's Public Enemy No. 1.

JOAQUÍN "EL CHAPO" GUZMÁN

- 67th most powerful person in the world
- 701st-ranked billionaire tycoon
- Chicago's public enemy No. 1

Guzmán was arrested in 1993 for drug trafficking

crimes, but he shamed Mexico by running his narcotics business from a maximum-security prison until his eventual escape in 2001. "El Chapo" consolidated the Sinaloa Federation cartel's narcotics business into an international enterprise whose tentacles reached throughout the United States and even into drug markets in Europe, Asia and Australia. In Mexico, the Sinaloa Federation controlled the greatest geography of any cartel.

Yet, in spite of his recent arrest, not everyone broke out the tequila in victory celebrations. "It's like time stood still," wrote journalist and author Javier Valdez. "There is a feeling of uncertainty, a worry of what could come next."

Guzmán's arrest will not solve Mexico's drug nightmare. The history of the Sinaloa Federation shows that a power vacuum can lead to violent intra-cartel battles for succession, or inter-cartel turf wars. While Guzmán was a significant part of the drug problem, the real problem is human nature and the insatiable drug market north of Mexico. ■

EU AND BRAZIL WANT TO HAVE SECRET CONVERSATIONS

The European Union and Brazil announced on February 24 that they will lay an \$185 million undersea cable connecting their two continents in order to keep the United States from spying on their communications.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff framed the project in terms of "respect[ing] privacy, human rights and the sovereignty of nations," and frankly stated: "We don't want businesses to be spied upon." Last year, Rousseff canceled a trip to Washington after learning that the U.S. had been tapping her



Brazil's president meets with EU officials in February.

undersea cables for their communications.

On the same day, Rousseff and her European counterparts expressed hope for a breakthrough in trade negotiations between the EU and Mercosur, the Latin American economic bloc

cell phone and e-mail.

The planned cable would stretch some 3,500 miles from Lisbon, Portugal, to Fortaleza, Brazil, and would allow the EU and Brazil to stop relying on America's

to which Brazil belongs. The two sides have been working toward a mammoth free trade deal since 2000, but the talks so far have produced few results. Their mutual anger over U.S. spying may prove to be the catalyst they need to jolt the trade deal to life.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said the agreement aims to expand far beyond just Brazil. "It will allow for the completion of an economic area in the long run between Europe and South America."

The United States is still South America's largest trade partner, but its position has been sliding, and Europe has been working to take its place—just as the *Trumpet's* predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, predicted in the 1960s.



The government wants your retirement money

MANY AMERICANS HAVE virtually nothing saved for their retirement. President Barack Obama emphasized this point in his State of the Union speech in January and proposed a dramatic solution: He wants you to trust your retirement money to the government.

The president announced “a new savings bond that encourages folks to build a nest egg,” called the myRA plan. He described it as a risk-free investment that comes with a decent return. No risk—decent return?

Here is how the plan works. Anybody who makes less than \$191,000 household income can contribute to the myRA. Contributions would be with after-tax money. Once in retirement, withdrawals are tax-free.

If that sounds a lot like a Roth IRA, that’s because it is a lot like a Roth IRA. The big difference, though, is that in a Roth IRA, you can invest in virtually anything you want. With the myRA, you only get one choice. What is it? The only

thing you can invest in is government bonds.

The bonds in the myRA will be modeled on the government’s Thrift Savings Plan Government Securities Fund. This fund returned 1.47 percent in 2012. The cumulative return over the past three years is 5.92 percent.

This investment doesn’t even keep up with the rate of inflation. And if interest rates start rising from their historic lows, investors will get massacred.

This plan is so bad that if it were a private company offering this plan to investors, it would be illegal. The myRA violates multiple fiduciary standards required by the government’s own legislation. For example, investment administrators are not allowed to use investors’ money to make loans to themselves or to businesses they are associated with—which is exactly what the myRA does. Additionally, a private company would have to identify potential conflicts of interest and both communicate and address them. President Obama did neither.

So why would the president of the United States promote such a terrible investment that

would be illegal if anybody else offered it? It gets down to this: America has largely fleeced the Chinese and Japanese for all it can, so now the government is turning to the last big pool of money left to keep it operating: retirement funds.

With the Federal Reserve saying it has to cut back its money printing, the U.S. government will soon need to come up with an additional \$45 billion per month to pay its bills. For the past several years, the Federal Reserve covered the entire U.S. deficit with money printing. It allowed tough budget decisions to be postponed, but now, unless some other source of cheap money is found, a day of reckoning may be imminent.

Hence the new plan to finance the deficit—without politically uncomfortable raising of taxes or spending cuts.

Sadly, in the end it will hurt most the very people the president purports to be helping. The only people likely to invest in such a plan are the poor and middle class. That’s because many of the poor are uneducated, and the middle class is trusting. ■

RADICAL ISLAM EXPLODES IN NIGERIA

Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram massacred more than 1,300 people in northern Nigeria in January and February alone, marking a bloody surge in its ongoing campaign of violence.

“We are in a state of war,” Nigeria’s Borno state Governor Kashim Shettima said on February 17. He conceded that “Boko Haram are better armed and better motivated than our own troops.” He said defeating the group “is impossible for us.”

Last May, the government declared a state of emergency in the three main affected states and formed a joint task force to stop the terrorists. Though they deployed over 20,000 soldiers, the attacks continued, displacing nearly 300,000 residents from the region.

Boko Haram has links to groups

like al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). It is working with one of AQIM’s offshoots, the “Signers in Blood,” which took over Northern Mali and carried out attacks in Algeria. Boko Haram’s fighters are well armed, and some believe their weapons are from Muammar Qadhafi’s regime in Libya and/or from the volatile Central African Republic, where Islamists looted millions of weapons from the government before being forced out.

As radical Islam becomes more deeply



The aftermath of two explosions set off in Maiduguri, Nigeria

entrenched across North Africa, the region is breaking out into pockets of unrest and violence. Although America can no longer be relied on to control such outbreaks, one major power is watching this situation closely and is beginning to take action to secure its interests: Europe.



What It Means to Serve God

Does your performance match your desire to serve? **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

DURING HIS MINISTRY, PAUL ORGANIZED A COLLECTION of supplies for Church members in Jerusalem who were suffering through a drought. Given the urgent need, many of the Macedonians gave beyond their means.

Paul wrote of their generosity to the Corinthians: “We want you to know brethren, about the grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Macedonia, for in severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of liberality on their part” (2 Corinthians 8:1-2; Revised Standard Version). Notice: The Macedonians’ giving attitude resulted in an abundance of joy!

It wasn’t just the goods the Macedonians gave that impressed Paul, it was their attitude of service. “[B]ut *first they gave themselves to the Lord* and to us by the will of God” (verse 5; rsv). The Macedonians gave wholeheartedly. That is *why* they were so joyous.

The Corinthians, on the other hand, *desired* to serve, but their *performance* didn’t quite measure up. “I say this not as a command,” Paul wrote, “but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine” (verse 8; rsv).

God wants to prove the same thing about us. Does your performance match your desire to serve? When you give of yourself, do you find yourself giving with the attitude of the Macedonians—or of the Corinthians?

In Matthew 20, Christ’s disciples began getting competitive with each other, debating which would achieve the highest position of authority. That is how most people view leadership: It’s an exalted position where they can exert dominion over those below.

Christ told His disciples that true leadership is actually about *service*—unselfishly sacrificing for others. “Whoever wants to be the great man among you must be your servant,” He said, “and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all,” (verses 26-27; Moffatt).

Christ, the ultimate leader, gave His LIFE for those under Him as “a ransom for many” (verse 28; Moffatt). That is the essence of godly service.

Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a *living sacrifice*, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Sacrifice is the “surrender of something for the sake of something else.” In this case, Paul asks for *living* sacrifices—living your life in service to others. Paul said this is our *reasonable* service. Given what God has done for all of us, it’s *reasonable* for us to be living sacrifices in return!

“If we do only what is required and what we’re supposed to do, in God’s sight, that is not enough,” Hebert W. Armstrong said. “God requires that we do a little more than that. Many of us think if we do just what is required, we’ll get into the Kingdom of God. We’re still thinking of how much we can *get*. As long as you’re thinking how much you can get, you’re probably not going to get into the Kingdom of God.” God does require certain things from us. But to sacrifice our life in service to God means doing *more* than what is required. It means we have the right *attitude* in our service.

Verse 2 also emphasizes the importance of proper attitude, which can be obtained by the daily renewal of your mind (see also 2 Corinthians 4:16). Moffatt translates part of verse 2, “be transformed in nature, able to make out what the will of God is.” God’s will is that we exhibit the same humble, serving, attitude that Christ Himself displayed as He washed His disciples’ feet.

Philippians 2:3 puts it this way: “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Mr. Armstrong often spoke about his life prior to conversion, when he considered himself important in his own eyes. But after a period of catastrophic circumstances and numerous business failures over several years, his SELF-confidence was smashed. “I took a new look at myself. And what I now saw was pretty humiliating,” he wrote. “I called myself a burned out ‘hunk of junk.’ I felt unworthy to be cast onto a junk pile. At this point a soul-jarring experience and a new self-appraisal resulted in a total about-face. A jolt changed the direction of my life” (*Good News*, April 1981).

Once he was in a right attitude, God was able to work with him in a power-

ful way. Through him, God built one of the foremost religious and humanitarian international organizations of the 20th century. And Mr. Armstrong *sacrificed* for that work and those who supported him for the rest of his natural life!

Whatever our specific responsibilities, there is one thing we can all do: GIVE to others in *service* and *sacrifice*. Acts 20:35 says, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Moffatt translates it, “To give is happier than to get.” The more we give and serve, the more God gives in return—and the happier we will be!

Give yourself in service to God. As you do, God will give back an *abundance* of blessings. You don’t have to take my word for it—you can prove it! Put this law to the test in your life today!



Herbert W. Armstrong meets children at an Australian youth camp.



FEEDBACK



The 'new' Germany

Thank you for this very revealing look at the new Germany—or, should I say old? (“Germany’s Urgent and Dangerous Military Decision,” April). I am happy that you clarified that the Germans are a great people, and Germany is a great nation. Some people misinterpret what you say about Germany thinking that you are being judgmental, when in reality, you are simply relating facts of history which we could all learn from. I found this article about the world-shaking event that occurred on January 15/16, to be a huge stamp of authentication as to who had it right all along. The articles on theTrumpet.com are a continuation of that same great work. *He was right!*

Ross Freeman—GEORGIA

Educational analysis

The *Trumpet* is inspiring, informative and above all educational (“How the *Trumpet* Is Different,” April). I do believe education, particularly in God’s Word, is something very much missing in the world today, which is why we see evil beyond belief and a world tearing itself apart. The trumpet must keep blowing!

Elliot Nash—CALIFORNIA

I started reading the *Plain Truth* in the ‘60s whenever I could find it. I didn’t even know how to order it. I began reading the *Trumpet* wherever I could find it until I learned to order it. I haven’t missed reading the magazine or the e-mail since I subscribed and urge everyone I know or talk with to do the same. ... I wish world leaders would read them, but then they would not be

leaders of the world. Such is the nature of man.
Frederick Greenwell—VERMONT

Religion’s false portrayal of God

Thank you for this very necessary article (“Does Religion Misrepresent God?” April). Both children and adults need to know the real, living, merciful, lawful and loving Eternal God to experience a truly joy-filled life. *Johnet Smith—SOUTH AFRICA*

You wrote: “Most of the rest of traditional Christianity admits to only following what is written in the New Testament and Psalms.” But if one actually looks into what they base their “beliefs” on, one finds most of it is the exact opposite of what is actually written in the New Testament and Psalms. *David Hallett—WASHINGTON*

RESPONSES TO “DIRT CHEAP”

“This is an article every single human on this planet should read and understand right now.”

“Despite what you think of ‘bugs in the ground’—the Lord put them there for a reason, and we are expected to be good stewards of His creation.”

“How interesting to know what a miracle even the soil we have under our feet is.”

“The push for quantity over quality has degraded the food we all eat to a mineral-deficient shadow of its former self.”

“I have discovered through trial and error that man-made chemical fertilizers work well temporarily but that they eventually cause more damage and harm to potted plants in the long run because they make the soil unproductive and dead.”



Many atheists are truth seekers. The problem is they have been told so many lies that they don't know what to believe. If they would just follow the *Trumpet* and study the Bible they would find all the answers they seek.

Theodore Trecker—FLORIDA

The not-so-high life

This tells you a lot about the society we live in ("The High Life," April). It also shows just how unhappy and unfulfilled so many people are these days. Pop and movie stars are indeed treated as gods, but they are not called idols for nothing. Great article! **Colin Jurd—AUSTRALIA**

This is an excellent article and a very interesting read. I like that you did not just tell us the problem, but showed the solution. **JDG**

Your description of the hole that is in each human being brought me to tears. I see the results all around me of people trying to fill that void with something other than God. For some it is drugs, others illicit sex, still others fill their minds with mind-numbing amounts of sports. Whatever the solution, it is never the right one! As you said, the hole comes back deeper than before. What a wonderful thing to know that soon everyone will be able to have that relationship with their heavenly Father and will no longer seek after a substitute relationship that can only leave them unfulfilled.

Rebecca Utter—KENTUCKY

As a retired registered pharmacist, I can see many sides of most drug issues. At first blush, if those illicit drugs were made legal and controlled by DEA and ethical pharmacists, it would seem to be a workable solution. However, one must look deeper at such an issue. First the word "ethical" is the one I chose to use, but that does not apply to all pharmacists. I know for a fact, and have witnessed much abuse. The now-illicit dealers would then seemingly have no market, and "controls" would likely save many lives. However, Oxycontin (Oxycodone) is one example of a "controlled" substance, yet it has become number one among abused prescription drugs. In many areas Oxycontin abuse has become rampant. Others in approximate order include Percocet, Percodan, Tylox, morphine, codeine and more. Legalization with controls does not seem to represent a comprehensive answer. Drugs on the street seem to represent an even greater danger; so that is also undesirable. A comprehensive answer is in my opinion unobtainable until we bring God back

into the equation. He has been outlawed in schools and public places, and some are trying to eliminate God completely.

Harris Allen—NORTH CAROLINA

The war on pot is a joke and nothing more than a tool to control the masses. Marijuana has many health benefits and cures, which is the real reason they want to keep it illegal. Only the ignorant and the biased that have bought into the lies that they've been told believe. **Jeff W**

All drugs have a damaging effect on society, no matter whether it is heroine or marijuana. All of these drugs dull the senses and rob you of any ability to form a meaningful relationship with God. The problem is now that with times getting rapidly worse and Satan working harder than ever to destroy mankind, people are going to look ever increasingly for that "way out" of reality. **Mark Bird—UNITED KINGDOM**

Christ's prophetic timetable

Thank you for making this so clear and understandable, laying it out step by step ("Where We Are on Jesus's Timetable of Prophecy," April). If only we could all heed and follow your leadership. **Violet**

I have been a reader of your materials since the early 1970s and wish to thank you for all your hard work. **Jerry Betancur**

I appreciate the boldness of the truth you teach. This world is sick and needs to heal. The only way I see that happening for mankind is for the Lord's return. I pray for His return and for all who desire a life free of pain, hurt and hopelessness.

Linda Roberson

Future sons of God

Thank you once again for this wonderful vision that you have in this article ("What Does It Mean to Be a 'Son of God?'" April). It should be deeply rooted in our mind that when God says, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness," that we will be God's born children in the Kingdom of God Family. That is our only hope to stand and survive in this world that is so saturated with sin and confusion. **Carmen**

This world is littered with all kinds of trash. We all pray for the return of Jesus Christ and for that change. Thank you so much for this article. It gives us more zeal to stay closer to God. This is the only hope that we are clinging to. Thank you.

Eloisa Todoc—PHILIPPINES

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Students protest at an Illinois university.

Student insurance pays for what?

STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY of Illinois will pay more for their insurance this year—and it is not just because of Obamacare. In March, the university’s board of trustees voted eight-to-two to cover sex-change operations for students.

Thanks to the Affordable

Health Care Act, insurance costs for healthy young people are soaring. Insurance premiums will rise 15 percent this year at the university. Adding gender-reassignment surgery to every student’s insurance will raise rates even further.

Interestingly, one of the two no votes came from the student body representative, who argued that the changes were pushed through without any debate and without informing students first. “I would make the argument that 90 percent of this campus has no idea that this is being added to the student health insurance,” Michael Cunningham told CampusReform.org. “I am the student trustee on campus. If I just found out 17 days ago, I can’t possibly imagine what the rest of the 40,000 students don’t know or feel.”

At least 51 universities, including Yale and Harvard, now force their students to help pay for sex-change operations for peers at their colleges.

The extra surgery coverage on college campuses marks a victory for aggressive lobbying by homosexual, bisexual and transgender activists.

The University of Maryland also added gender-reassignment surgery to students’ health insurance plans this year. The university’s health center director said she will only seek student input if the cost estimates come in higher than the expected 1 percent increase. The university already forces students to subsidize hormone therapy for transgender students under its health insurance plan.

How much do sex-change surgeries cost? Mykell Hatcher-McLarin, a senior from Baltimore and a transgender advocate who is biologically female but identifies as male, started an online fund-raiser to ask people to pay for chest masculinization surgery; her procedure is expected to cost at least \$7,000. For many, the

cost could be significantly higher. University officials asked for surgery coverage up to \$100,000 per individual.

The fact that student gender-reassignment coverage is occurring on so many campuses shows how quickly social values are changing. And history shows that trends that begin on college campuses eventually make their way to the rest of society.

Transgender advocates hope that the Affordable Care Act, which prevents insurers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions, will eventually force insurers to pay for gender reassignments. State insurance commissioners in Oregon, California, Vermont, Colorado and Washington, D.C., have said that under Obamacare’s provisions a person’s gender identity cannot be a reason to deny coverage. Soon you too may have to pay for gender-reassignment surgery—if you want to keep your health insurance. ■

THE GOVERNMENT’S PLAN TO POLICE NEWSROOMS

America’s news stations are so bad that the government needs to step in and make sure Americans get the news they need. Before February 21, this was the position of the Obama administration. That was when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) came under intense criticism for its plan to put government observers into radio stations, television and even newspaper newsrooms to make sure Americans were getting the “critical news.”

The FCC said it wanted to examine “the process by which stories are selected,” how well stations cover “critical information needs,” if there is “perceived station bias” and how responsive stations are to “underserved” minority populations.

Ajit Pai, a commissioner with the FCC and now a whistle-blower, warned in the *Wall Street Journal* that the plan involved grilling “reporters, editors and station owners about how they decide which stories to run” (February 10). Pai questioned whether it was a thinly veiled effort to wade into office politics, look for

angry reporters whose story ideas were rejected, and use this as evidence of wrongdoing and conspiracy in the media. The concern was that this “evidence” would then be used as blunt-force weapon to coerce media outlets into “voluntarily” complying with how the political appointees at the FCC thinks news stories should be covered.

Since the FCC determines whether or not television and radio get licenses, “voluntary” isn’t really voluntary.

Pai compared this move to the now-abandoned “fairness doctrine” by which the government decided whether or not radio station programming was politically balanced and fair. If a station wasn’t considered “fair,” its license was revoked and given to someone else.

Former New Jersey Superior Court Judge Andrew Napolitano called the FCC plan “a radical new era of tyranny for the White House.” *National Review* compared it to the IRS scandal by which the agency targeted Tea Party and conservative groups.



America’s Founders knew the importance of the freedom of the press, and guaranteed it with the First Amendment. But that provision was meant to secure the liberty not only of the media—but also of the country. America’s founders knew that a free press was a check on totalitarianism because it holds leaders accountable to the people they represent. As long as the press is free and individuals are allowed to express their views, it is a check on government.

Due to the uproar, the FCC was postponed on February 21. But the fact that the FCC even considered putting government observers in newsrooms says a lot about the administration, its regard for the Constitution, and its motives.

Politics and the Wicked Human Heart

BY BRAD MACDONALD

"THIS IS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION. ... IT'S REALLY 19TH-century behavior in the 21st century. ... You just don't invade another country ..."

So said John Kerry, the United States secretary of state, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in March. That remark is valuable, because it provides profound insight into the worldview of America's leaders and the disastrous mentality at the heart of America's foreign policy.

Kerry's remark reveals a fatal ignorance of *human nature*.

The Obama administration apparently believes that because we live in the 21st century, because our leaders have Ph.D.s and were educated at Oxford and Yale, because the world is highly globalized and our leaders engage in erudite diplomacy, because human civilization is more sophisticated and advanced, that we have evolved beyond the era of invasions and wars. *This is the 21st century, they seem to reason, and we're now too smart and too progressive to invade nations and start wars.*

It's a pleasant thought, and one we all wish was true. But it ignores a basic reality: The 21st-century human heart is *exactly* the same as the 19th-century human heart, and the 10th-century human heart, and the first-century human heart. Perhaps we have accumulated more knowledge. Perhaps we appear more sophisticated. We certainly have better technology. But our added intelligence and sophistication comes with a handicap.

It has blinded us to the fact that *our human nature remains the same!*

Behind the tailored suits, the smartphones, the culture, the sophistication, the private jets and the eloquent diplomacy, exist hearts that are *naturally selfish*, hearts that are *inherently vain*, hearts that *crave power and preeminence*, hearts that are *fatally deceptive* and *wicked*. Embedded within Vladimir Putin, *as in all men*, is an essential desire for self-preservation and self-advancement, and a proclivity to put self-interest and the interests of one's own (family, state, country) above the interests of others.

This truth is summed up in Jeremiah 17, particularly verse 9, which ought to be carved in granite above the entrance to the U.S. State Department: "THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND DESPERATELY WICKED: WHO CAN KNOW IT?"

This is worth thinking about. *Your* heart, and mine, and Barack Obama's, and Vladimir Putin's, and Xi Jinping's, and even the pope's, is "deceitful" and "desperately wicked." The Hebrew word translated *deceitful* means sly, insidious or slippery. *Wicked* means sick, frail, woeful or incurable. Our hearts are not just sick or woeful, they are *desperately* sick and woeful, to the point of being *incurable*. This truth is not easy to sincerely accept. But consider the impact it would have if it informed and shaped America's foreign policy.

If Jeremiah 17:9 were valued, foreign-policy strategies and decisions would take into account the tendency in other governments to lie, cheat and deceive. America's leaders would be cautious about investing trust in the promises and platitudes of others. Aware of the selfish human nature within their counterparts in other states—and knowing that other states are advancing their own creed and pursuing their own ambitions—Washington would exercise a foreign policy of cautious realism. This may sound cynical and pessimistic, but such an outlook would inform a more resilient, stable and effective foreign policy, one less likely to be caught off guard by lies and exploited by deception.

Informed by Jeremiah 17:9, the wise statesman would be wary of obfuscation and lying, and would invest his faith and hope in *action*, not promises or rhetoric. Policies of appeasement and compromise would be practiced slowly, with caution. And while the foreign policy informed by Jeremiah 17:9 would not willingly or actively incite conflict, *it would understand that conflict is inevitable and would always be ready for it.*

Joseph Conrad wrote, "I have never been able to find in any man's book or any man's talk anything convincing enough to stand up for a moment against my *deep-seated sense of fatality governing this man-inhabited world*. ... The only remedy for ... us is *the change of hearts*." Many today would call Conrad a cynic. But he was simply looking into human history and making a realistic observation.

The human heart does not know the way to long-term peace, happiness and stability. We simply don't know how to forge a world without conflict, unhappiness and destruction.

"This is an act of aggression. ... It's really 19th-century behavior in the 21st century. ... You just don't invade another country"

JOHN KERRY
UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE



Conrad was absolutely right: The only remedy for mankind is a "change of hearts." Believe it or not, this change of heart Conrad yearned for is almost here.

Few people have understood the depths of Jeremiah 17:9 like the late Herbert W. Armstrong. Employing the authority of Scripture, Mr. Armstrong explained the origins of this evil, selfish state of the human heart and mind. "[T]he selfishness, hostility, deceitfulness, wickedness, rebellion, etc. that we call '*human nature*' is actually *Satan's nature*," he wrote in *The Incredible Human Potential*.

Although the human heart is terribly sick—incurable by human beings—there *is* a cure. The cure lies in the Spirit of God, the divine power by which mankind was created, and by which converted Christians produce fruits of peace, joy, gentleness, longsuffering and giving. In His time, God will make that Spirit available to all of mankind. When the Spirit of God enters the minds of men, their human hearts will be healed of their infirmities.

Until then, it would be wise for Barack Obama and the stewards of America's foreign policy to study Jeremiah 17:9. ■

No dodging, fudging or lying. Just the answers to life's greatest questions. Order our free book *Mystery of the Ages*.

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► **CRIMEA** from page 13

Besides that strongman, the Catholic Church is also going to play a major role in uniting all those disparate European nations.

So much of what God prophesied through Mr. Armstrong has *already* been fulfilled. Watch closely for the final part of these prophecies to emerge! “Ten kings” are going to arise—and the 28 nations currently comprising the European Union are going to be pared down to 10. They are going to be led by a strong Putin-like dictator and unified by the Roman Catholic Church. At that point, they will present to the world a power *even greater* than that of Russia or the United States!

Consider the power the European Union *already* has today; look particularly at the clout Germany has. The Germans already lead Europe and call the shots *economically*—but they are about to begin to call the shots *militarily* for nine other kings.

Poland’s prime minister said: “The world stands on the brink of conflict.” That is true: The **WHOLE WORLD** stands on the brink of conflict! But how many people see that? The *Europeans* are beginning to see it because Russia is their neighbor. They see an intensifying need to withstand Russia—and because they know they won’t receive help from America, they will band together and combine their military might.

The growing necessity to protect themselves is going to drive European leaders to pare down the number of nations in their union and empower a strongman! That man will then use the clout and power of Europe to take on Vladimir Putin and what the Bible calls “the kings of the east” (Revelation 16:12).

Putin is helping to create a power that is going to be greater than his own! He doesn’t know that, because he doesn’t understand Bible prophecy. But he is *going* to know it. And the clash between these two powers will cause more suffering than the world has ever known!

What Happens in the End

These prophecies can seem dark and dire, but the Bible tells us that they all have a positive ending. Daniel 8:25 tells us that this European strongman will “stand up against the Prince of princes”—he will try to fight Christ Himself—“but he shall be broken without hand.” The Messiah will come and *stop* these disastrous wars and *destroy* that man. The 10-nation military superpower will be destroyed at the same time.

The prophecy in Daniel 2 concludes with the image being smashed by a stone from heaven and blowing away in the wind as dust—then the stone growing into a mountain that fills the Earth (verses 34-35). Daniel explains the meaning with this inspiring verse: “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**” (verse 44). That is going to be the *end* of the Daniel 2 image and all the repressive human empires of this world. God is going to *smash* that image forever!

Is this a gloomy message? Well, it does describe a lot of suffering coming upon this world—the worst ever. But it is tied directly to the coming of the Messiah, when all suffering ends, and God brings peace, happiness and joy to the world! That is the *best* news you could ever hear!

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Chan. 333 3:30 am, Sun The Discovery
Channel

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9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

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Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30, Sun

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Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri
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Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
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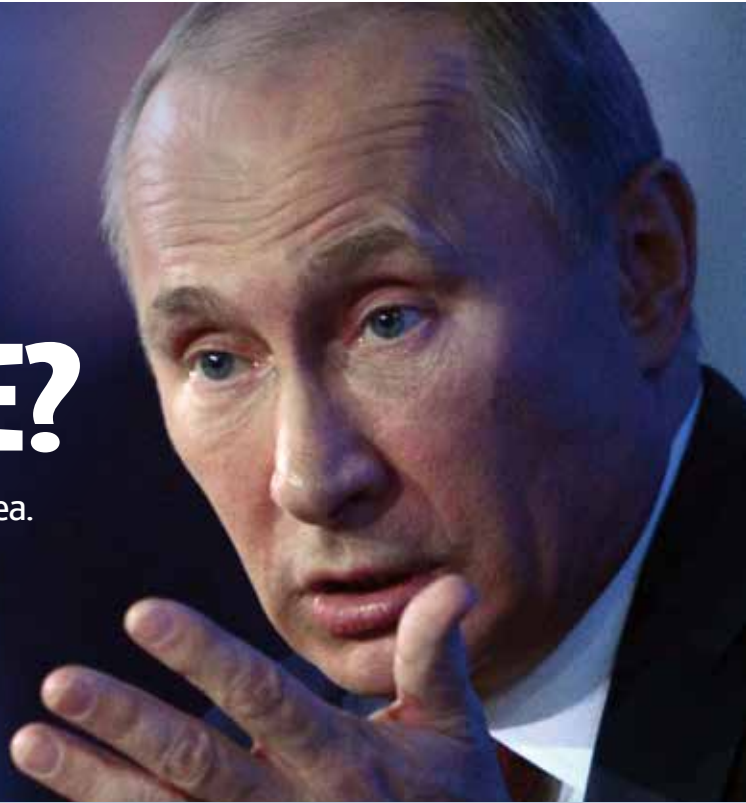
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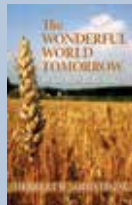
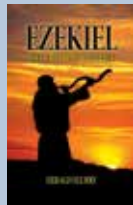
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