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How to Solve America's Race Problems

The people of Charleston, South Carolina, showed the world the only way to have peace among the races.

ACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA ARE IN CRISIS AND THE JUNE 17 Charleston church shooting didn't help. It is quite a dangerous, destructive problem.

What is the solution? How do we solve race relations in the United States?

We were shown how in Charleston, South Carolina, where a white racist psychopath, Dylann Roof, killed nine black people. In terms of race relations, the response of the victims to the

GERALD FLURRY

CHURCH SHOOTING IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING STORIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

The members of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston and the relatives of the victims of that church shooting showed the whole world the solution to our race-relations crisisif only people would pay attention.

A Christian Example

Mark Berman wrote this in his June 19 Washington Post article "'I Forgive You.' Relatives of Charleston Church Shooting Victims Address Dylann Roof":

"The relatives of people slain inside the historic African American church in Charleston, S.C., earlier this week were able to speak directly to the accused gunman Friday at his first court appearance.

"One by one, those who chose to speak at a bond hearing did not turn to anger. Instead, while he remained impassive, they offered him forgiveness and said they were praying for his soul, even as they described the pain of their losses."

These people offered this murderer forgiveness. That is amazing. Why don't more people do that? We should, if we are Christians, because that is what Christ did. When Jesus Christ was crucified, as people were putting Him to death killing Him for our sins—He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

That is really the same spirit that the friends and families of those who were murdered in Charleston had!

"I forgive you," Nadine Collier, the daughter of 70-year-old Ethel Lance, told Roof at the hearing as her voice trembled with emotion. "You took something very precious from me. I will never talk to her ever again. I will never be able to hold her again. But I forgive you. And have mercy on your soul. You hurt me. You hurt a lot of people. But God forgive you. And I forgive you."

That is impressive! How many attitudes do you see like that? These people's words came right out of the Bible, from the very words of Christ.

Felicia Sanders's 26-year-old son, Tywanza, died while protecting her. She addressed his killer, emotion filling her voice:

"We welcomed you Wednesday night in our Bible study with open arms. You have killed some of the most beautifulest people that I know. Every fiber in my body hurts. And I'll never be the same. Tywanza Sanders was my son. But Tywanza Sanders was my hero. Tywanza was my hero. ... May God have mercy on you."

DePayne Middleton-Doctor, mother of four girls, was another victim. Her sister honestly told Roof, "I acknowledge that I am very angry. ... But one thing ... she taught me that we are the family that love built. WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR HATING, SO WE HAVE TO FORGIVE. I pray God on your soul" (emphasis mine throughout).

Other relatives of those who died called on Roof to repent. That is a *striking example* of biblical conduct. There is no room for hate—because the Bible says hate is murder! (e.g. 1 John 3:15; Leviticus 19:17-18; Matthew 5:21-22). How many Christians really believe that?

This example should have been held up for the whole nation to follow. It should have *filled the airwaves* after that terrible event. This is a lesson and an example for all of us of a way of life that can really solve our problems!

Do we want to solve our problems? We ought to think about this example and keep it on center stage for a long, long time—IF we really want good race relations, and we want PEACE between the races.

"She taught me that we are the family that love built. We have no room for hating, so we have to forgive. I pray God on your soul."

-DePayne Middleton-Brown

Sadly, just the opposite happened. Instead, the media and national leaders immediately put the focus on the Confederate flag. That became the main media story, while the REALLY IMPORTANT story of what happened and how those victims responded simply slipped into obscurity. Apparently we have just about moved on now.

If we don't learn from this lesson, we are all going to suffer in a way that people can't even imagine.

But if we want racial peace in this nation, it is critical that we understand why Charleston did not become a Ferguson or a Baltimore. We need to know why the riots and looting and destruction didn't happen there like in those other cities.

There is a way that leads to peace. Whether we realize it or not, this is the only spirit that will ever solve our race relations. It is what true Christians are commanded to do, by Christ Himself!



Blessed Are the Peacemakers

"Lots of folks expected us to do something strange and break out in a riot. Well, they just don't know us." That is what the minister, Norvel Goff, told the "packed, multiracial congregation" of this church at its first service after that grisly attack, according to journalist Jonah Goldberg (National Review, June 24).

People expected to see what they saw in Ferguson and Baltimore but these people responded in spirit the way Christ did. They followed His example, and they brought peace to Charleston.

People EXPECTED to see what they saw in Ferguson and Baltimore—but these people responded in spirit the way Christ did! They followed His example, and they brought PEACE to Charleston!

Here is one of the major doctrines of this church, the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church: "The church is wedded to the spiritual doctrine of 'God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Man our Brother."

That is the truth of the Bible! We all came from Adam and Eve—we are all brothers. But a lot of people don't like that doctrine because they don't like what Jesus Christ taught! And that is why He was killed! People want to hate other people, and kill other people. They killed the Son of God—and He forgave them. Without forgiveness, not one of us would have an opportunity to receive eternal life.

The motto of this church is, "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit our Comforter, humankind our family." Humankind really is ALL ONE FAMILY. Yet so many people do not recognize that truth.

In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ said, "Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). This is part of the Beatitudes—the BEAUTIFUL ATTI-TUDES Christ gave, which are at the HEART of Christianity. He said blessed are the people who make PEACE! They shall be called the children of God. If you are not a peacemaker—if you make war instead—then you are NOT called children of God by Jesus Christ.

Making peace is a beautiful attitude. Doing everything you can to make peace—not war, not riots, but PEACE!

This is why what the AME Church did is so critical in American history. How many times have you seen such an attitude that really shows how to have peace? And how important is peace in our nation!

Racial Harmony

In its first service after the massacre, the AME Church's minister said, "Some wanted to divide the race—black and white and brown—but no weapon formed against us shall prosper." How different that is from the approach we often see! And look how it works! This approach works, and the other doesn't.

Then this congregation sang these words about God: "You are the source of my strength, you are the strength of my life." Not other people, not the mob or anything else—God is the source of their strength, the strength of their lives. That is biblical! God will give you strength and power and might if you trust Him.

"The congregation gave the loudest standing ovation of the morning after Mr. Goff thanked law enforcement, particularly poignant at a time when the relationship between blacks and the police remains strained nationwide," the New York Times reported (June 21). This minister thanked the police. How does that compare with what we usually see?

Jonah Goldberg also wrote, "Less shocking, but almost as uplifting, was the conduct of the broader Charleston community, which has been unified and dignified, despite the expectations of some in the media—and the accused gunman, who had singled out Charleston because of its success at racial integration."

Goldberg reported of "tens of thousands of South Carolinians, white and black, marching in unity across the Ravenel Bridge on Sunday night." They were all walking together, in harmony, in spite of this terrible violence. The whole nation should follow their example.

YOU CAN SEE WHY CHARLESTON HAS SUCH GOOD RACE RELA-TIONS. Because the people think like the people in this church!

A House Divided

Dylann Roof singled out this community because of its good race relations. His murderous rampage shows that there are evil forces in this world—forces that don't want peace in America or anywhere else.

Do you really recognize what is behind that? 2 Corinthians 4:4 reveals that the god of this world is Satan the devil. Though he is invisible, he is worshiped in this world. That is why we can't have peace! The devil *hates* peace! He and his demons have been cast to this Earth and are now confined here and using violence, hate and murder to destroy America (Revelation 12:9-12).

Christ made this amazing prophecy: "EVERY KINGDOM DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF IS BROUGHT TO DESOLATION; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25). This is America's future if it remains divided: It will come to desolation!



This world is full of nations waiting to pounce on the United States and destroy it. Russia and China and radical Islamists are gobbling up neighboring territory right now. They are eager to see America fall. And when they look here and see race problems, riots, chaos and anarchy, they see a very vulnerable nation! Do you think they wouldn't attack America if it is divided, full of people hating each other and tearing each other apart? History cries aloud that they absolutely will! There are many nations that would *love* to see America's demise!

If America continues down the course it is taking, it is inviting its own downfall. If we keep stirring up hatred, it will consume us.

Jesus Christ said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Again, that sounds like the people in Charleston.

The way these people responded would help tremendously to bring PEACE to America! The other way—the way we have been seeing so much—brings riots and race wars. How else can it end?

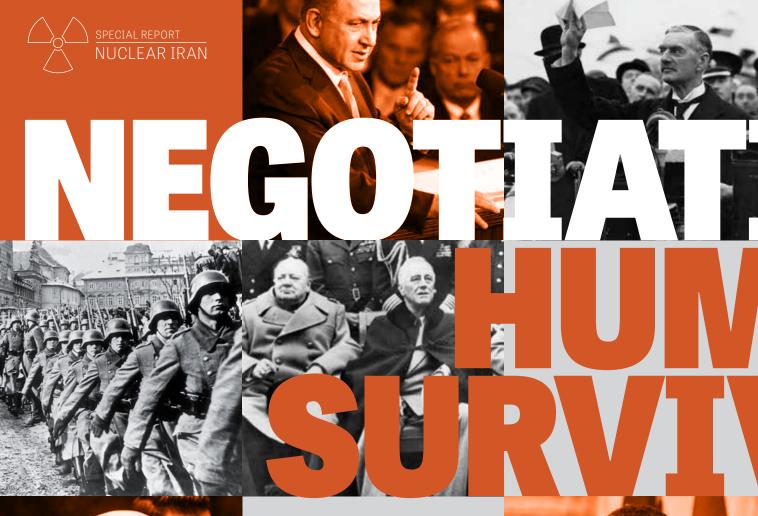
Like it or not, there is only one solution to America's race crisis, and we must go to the Bible to find it. In Charleston we were given an example that shows that it works! What a monumental lesson. It is a lesson that America needs to learnand quickly.

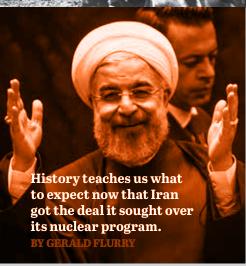


'Do good to them that hate you'

Anxieties abounded in Columbia, South Carolina on July 18 as white supremacists rallied to protest the removal of the Confederate flag from the statehouse. Yet not everyone on the scene allowed the tensions to override their compassion. This image, taken by Columbia photographer Rob Godfrey, shows black police officer Leroy Smith helping an elderly white supremacist who was apparently battling heat exhaustion. The white man is wearing a T-shirt bearing a swastika and symbols associated with a neo-Nazi group. Smith is holding his arm as he helps him find refuge from the heat. Onlookers were surprised that a black officer would not hesitate to assist an outspoken white supremacist, but Smith told reporters that the photo shows "who we are in South Carolina." He said his obligation is to assist everyone "regardless of the person's skin color, nationality or beliefs ... " He added that he hopes the photo "will be a catalyst for people to work to overcome some of the hatred and violence we have seen in our country in recent weeks."

TO SERVE AND PROTECT Public safety officer Leroy Smith (left) assists a man wearing a swastika who was overcome by heat during a Ku Klux Klan rally.





HE P5+1 NATIONS HAVE NEGOtiated a nuclear deal with
Iran. Many people are elated.
But there should be no celebration. What is at stake
is nothing less than HUMAN
SURVIVAL. We needed something that
would pull us away from that brink, but
this deal did just the opposite.

If we doubt that it is about human survival, then perhaps we should talk to

the Jewish nation Iran repeatedly says it wants to wipe off the map. Israel realizes its *survival* rests in whether or not Iran gets a nuclear bomb.

Even during the nuclear talks, Iranian groups repeatedly chanted "Death to Israel" and "Death to America." The Iranian leaders call Israel "the little Satan" and America "the great Satan." They have a history of hating America and wanting to wipe our influence off the face of the Earth.

Can we expect a deal with such a nation to make the world safer? History can help us answer that question. Experience is an excellent teacher, if we are willing to learn from it.

'Unmitigated Defeat'

There was a time in recent history that was much like we are experiencing today. In the 1930s, Germany's leadership planned on taking over the entire world one step at a time. Adolf Hitler had even recorded and publicized his intentions in his manifesto, *Mein Kampf*.

There are some stunning similarities

in how the world treated Germany in the years preceding World War II and how the nations are treating Iran today.

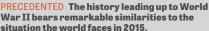
Before that war, France and Britain negotiated. They tried to appease Hitler at Munich by actually giving him a portion of another country, Czechoslovakia. History infamously shows where that agreement led: to subjugation for the Czechs, invasion for the Poles, and world war.



The reality of the situation today is that the Iranian nuclear deal is also going to lead to war-but this time around it will be far worse.

In an article for Commentary titled "Much Worse Than Munich," Rick Richman wrote, "If one peruses the pages of the New York Times from mid-September 1938 through the first week of October 1938, it is apparent that what we are witnessing today is a virtual replay of those three weeks—only worse" (July 15). It's about ten thousand times worse because we're not just talking about conventional warfare, but nuclear bombs.

"Two weeks before the September 30, 1938, Munich agreement, Germany increased its demands, while promising (the Times reported) 'hearty reciprocal cooperation in the work of solving other problems incidental to a wider European settlement," Richman wrote. "A week before the agreement, German 'demands had become higher,' but Hitler reassured Chamberlain that they were his 'final' ones. A few days before the signing, Hitler appeared before 15,000 people in Berlin's



largest auditorium, where the 'Sieg Heils' ['Hail Victory'] from the audience 'were heard around the globe, for Hitler had a world hook-up' on radio."

There was a certain hysteria at that time. The world was so happy with what Germany had done and the deal that was about to be made. People convinced themselves that giving Hitler a good portion of Czechoslovakia would appease him.

But did it?

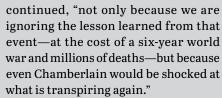
Winston Churchill knew it wouldn't. On Oct. 9, 1938, the Times wrote, "Winston Churchill attacked the Munich agreement as an 'unmitigated defeat' for Britain, and prophesied that it would be but 'the bitter foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year unless by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigor we rise again and take our stand for freedom as in olden times."

Churchill saw through the charade. He tried to evoke in Britain a "martial vigor," a military spirit with which to confront Hitler, not appease him.

In the same article from 1938, Neville Chamberlain was quoted as saying, "The government deserves approval ... for its conduct of affairs in this recent crisis, which saved Czechoslovakia from destruction and Europe from Armageddon."

Chamberlain's view of that agreement was the opposite of what actually happened! It delayed Hitler from taking over the rest of Czechoslovakia for about a month—and it cost Europe and the world 60 million lives!

"What we are living through now is worse than Munich," Richman



On top of that, now, with nuclear war on the horizon, the scale of death is certain to be even higher in World War III.

More Parallels

"Chamberlain sent a letter to Hitler stating that Germany's demands were unacceptable but urged continued negotiations, because 'force produces no solution" (ibid).

History proves that Chamberlain was wrong. It was only the use of force that produced a solution. Only after Britain and the Allies stood up to fight was Hitler stopped—and even then, the Allies came dangerously close to losing World War II.

The same wrong thinking is what is driving this agreement with Iran.

"By the end of the week, Chamberlain had accepted virtually all of Hitler's demands. The British leader was, the





Times reported, 'obviously exhausted and had resolved to make an end of the whole business" (ibid).

This is exactly what happened with Iran. In the final week of the negotiations, America was so desperate for a deal that it made multiple concessions to Iran.

"As soon as the Munich capitulation was signed, it was portrayed as a great success," Richman wrote. "In the letters published in the *Times* in the first week of October, one finds 1) a letter suggesting that 'the führer was finally swayed by the moderates' around him and predicting a

'more moderate' German policy 'from now on'; 2) a letter asserting the 'gains' from the Munich agreement 'far outweigh the sacrifice' and that Hitler would now 'be required to make good his assurance that he has no further territorial claims'; 3) a letter arguing Munich was 'the greatest tribute' to Britain and France, since they had exhibited 'solicitude for their civilians' by rejecting war; 4) a letter alleging that the 'tumultuous cheers given to Mr. Chamberlain in Munich were not so much because he gave Sudetenland fin Czechoslovakia] back to Germany as because he brought peace'; 5) a letter urging readers not to concentrate on 'bewailing what Czechoslovakia lost,' but to focus on 'this outstanding defeat of Hitler's,' since it had been 'proved beyond doubt' that Hitler now realized that 'power politics does not work anymore."

Because Hitler modified some of his demands and the two sides reached an agreement in Munich, people were actually crying out saying that Hitler should receive the Nobel Peace Prize! But those moments of joy and relief over the Munich agreement didn't last long. Within about a month, Hitler had broken

all of those agreements and continued taking over Europe.

Many people are hailing the new nuclear agreement with Iran. But this whole deal hinges on trust. Can Iran be trusted? In the past two decades, Iran has broken, violated and lied about 20 agreements made with it. Do we think its behavior will change because of this agreement? Just days before the deal was signed, Iran's president marched with a huge crowd of Iranians who were holding "Death to Israel" and "Death to America" signs.

Though many don't realize it yet, the Western world—and especially America—has been humiliated through this deal. The Iranian reaction should be enough to trumpet that fact.

Instead of trusting people based on what they say, the Bible says we should "know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). Iran's fruits show it will violate this next agreement. But this time, the stakes are much higher.

Prophecies

Surprising as it may seem, this nuclear deal involves many Bible prophecies.

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LIKE NO OTHER NUCLEAR POWER

👕 n his 2009 speech at Cairo University in Egypt, President Barack Obama announced to the world his future plans to work with Islamic nations, specifically about nuclear weapons. He said: "No single nation should pick and choose which nations hold nuclear weapons." Many people agreed with that statement in general, but failed to see where such rhetoric was leading. Now we see that the president was referring to Iran.

To say that we have no right to deny a nation nuclear weapons is insane if the nation seeking those weapons wants to destroy us! Iran is such a nation and has stated so repeatedly and publicly.

We must ask ourselves: Is Iran just another nation? Definitely not. Middle East historian Bernard Lewis, a great authority on Islam, wrote in 2006, "There is a radical difference between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other

governments with nuclear weapons" (emphasis mine).

The reason is Iran's religious motivations. Lewis continued, "A passage from the Ayatollah Khomeini, quoted in an 11th grade Iranian schoolbook, is revealing. 'I am decisively announcing to the whole world that if the world devourers—that is, the infidel powers—wish to stand against our religion, we will stand against their whole world and will not cease until the annihilation of all of them." Khomeini was the founder of the Islamic republic of Iran; he called for the destruction of all unbelievers. Lewis wrote, "In the context, mutual assured destruction (MAD), the deterrent that worked so well during the Cold War, would have no meaning."

Iran is unlike any other nation. Its leaders actually think that if they start a nuclear war, it will hasten the return of their messiah.

The previous president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was also under the control of the supreme ayatollah, stated, "Our revolution's main mission is to pave the way for the reappearance of the 12th imam." Dore Gold, head of Israel's Foreign Ministry and author of The Rise of Nuclear Iran, wrote, "It is not surprising that many Iran experts assert that Ahmadinejad sees Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons as means of paving the way for the mahdi's arrival. Indeed, many of the adherents to these associations believe that the destruction of Israel is a prerequisite for the mahdi's appearance." In other words, Iran may believe it has to attack and destroy Israel before the mahdi will even return! What other nation believes that? No other nuclear power—not even North Korea—believes anything like that. Anybody who relies on the classic deterrence model has no idea what he is up against with Iran.

We need to understand the critical danger we face when Iran builds nuclear bombs. We are facing the MASS MURDER OF BILLIONS OF PEOPLE, out of unstoppable religious zealotry.

GERALD FLURRY



OF THE MIDDLE EAST

VICTORIOUS Iranians celebrate the news of the nuclear deal in the streets of Tehran.

A look back at how Iran came to rule the region BY STEPHEN FLURRY

HE UNITED STATES HAS CROWNED A new king of the Middle East. Not a liberal democracy. Not a stable ally. Not a respected hegemon. A nuclear-pursuing terrorist threat whose slogan is, "Death to America." How did we get here?

Precedent

In most ways, this historic nuclear backand-forth with a rogue nation is unprecedented. But in some ways, it's not.

Back in 1994, President Bill Clinton spoke about a historic deal the United States had just made with North Korea: "This is a good deal for the United States. North Korea will freeze and then dismantle its nuclear program. South Korea and our other allies will be better protected. The entire world will be safer as we slow the spread of nuclear weapons The United States and international inspectors will carefully monitor North Korea to make sure it keeps its commitments."

Eight years later, North Korea revealed it had been secretly developing a nuclear weapons program. Then it proved it by test-detonating its first nuclear weapon in 2006, another in 2009 and another in 2013. Today, North Korea is armed to the teeth. It has hundreds of ballistic missiles aimed squarely at its neighbors. And it has the bomb.

In the situation now unfolding with Iran, we are told it will be different. It has been said that the P5+1 deal (with the UN Security Council's five permanent members-the U.S., the United Kingdom, Russia, China and France—plus Germany)

will verifiably prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. President Barack Obama said, "Under this deal, Iran will reduce its stockpile of enriched uranium by 98 percent, remove two thirds of its installed centrifuges—the machines necessary to produce highly enriched uranium-and store them under constant international supervision."

But let's rewind just a few months. We were told that Iran would do all of this during the negotiations. This was supposed to be Iran's concession to just come to the table in the first place. It refused. Now that the deal is done, why expect it to dismantle everything?

In January, President Obama said: "Our diplomacy is at work with respect to Iran, where, for the first time in a decade, we've halted the progress of its nuclear program and reduced its stockpile of nuclear material."

But the International Atomic Energy Agency's May 29 report stated that in reality, under the Obama administration's watch, Iran actually increased its nuclear fuel stockpiles by about 20 percent in the 18 months of negotiations.

Let's rewind to what the administration asserted in December 2013. At the Brookings Institution's Saban Forum, Secretary of State John Kerry said: "[W]e will have ensured that Iran's program will not advance while we negotiate. As we negotiate, Iran will forfeit its entire stock of 20 percent enriched uranium As we negotiate, Iran will be unable to grow its stock of 3.5 percent enriched

uranium, or unable to stockpile or increase the number of centrifuges that are operating at Fordo and Natanz. We will for the first time be able to inspect and go into the workshops and the storage facilities for these items. As we negotiate, international inspectors will have unprecedented access to Iran's key facilities, which we don't have today. We will have daily access to Fordo, daily access to Natanz, and regular access to the Arak heavy-water reactor site. And they are required to give us the plans for that site."

None of this happened. No wonder they were cheering in Tehran when this deal was announced! As Con Coughlin wrote, "You only had to look at the beaming smiles on the faces of the Iranian negotiating team to see who had emerged as the undisputed winners" (Telegraph, July 14).

"Tehran entered these talks, let us not forget, out of sheer desperation to escape the crippling effects of the economic sanctions," Coughlin wrote. Two years ago, Iranian leaders were desperate for a deal. Today, they are celebrating—and with good reason!

What Iran Gets

It is important to understand everything Iran receives from this landmark deal.

After it was announced, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said, "Negotiators have reached a good agreement, and I announce to our people that our prayers have come true."

Here is what the Iranians said, through the nation's state-controlled

news agency, about the deal: "Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said his country has achieved all its four goals in the agreement that his foreign minister Zarif signed with the six world powers in Vienna on Tuesday. President Rouhani said his nation started talks with the world powers in a bid to remove all sanctions while maintaining its nuclear program and nuclear progress as two main goals" (Fars News Agency, July 14).

The Iranian agency continued enumerating the reasons why it was clear Tehran had gained everything and lost nothing: "All sanctions, including the financial, banking, energy, insurance, transportation, precious metals and even arms and proliferation sanctions will be, not suspended, but terminated according to the Tuesday agreement as soon as the deal comes into force, he said, adding that Iran will only be placed under certain limited arms deal restrictions for five years.

"Meantime, Iran will inject gas into its highly advanced IR8 centrifuge machines, continue its nuclear research and development, and keep its Arak Heavy Water Facility and Fordo and Natanz enrichment plants under the agreement, he said, elaborating on Iran's gains."

Besides sanctions relief, the Islamic Republic also gets around \$150 billion in frozen assets released. Billions of dollars that had been funding unsettling or dangerous Iranian operations will now flow again.

On another front, the deal gives Iran enormous international legitimacy. Far from pushing the mullahs from power, it solidifies their position. For all those in Iran and around the world hoping for a regime change—you won't get one.

"Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday unsurprisingly hailed the nuclear agreement struck with U.S.-led world powers, and derided the 'failed' efforts of the 'warmongering Zionists.' His delight, Iran's delight, is readily understandable," Times of Israel editor David Horovitz wrote. "The agreement legitimizes Iran's nuclear program, allows it to retain core nuclear facilities, permits it to continue research in areas that will dramatically speed its breakout to the bomb should it choose to flout the deal, but also enables it to wait out those restrictions and proceed to become a

nuclear threshold state with full international legitimacy" (July 14).

For the United States, this represents a TOTAL SURRENDER.

We Saw It Coming

Rewind to 2001. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush identified Iran as part of an "axis of evil," and told Congress that the war against terrorism wouldn't end "until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated."

The *Trumpet* said that U.S.-led effort was doomed from the start because America lacked the will to face the problem head on.

Astute analysts often called Iran the head of the terrorist snake. But America chose to call that campaign the "war on terror." It chose to fight against a battle tactic rather than against radical Islam or the top sponsor of terrorism.

Within weeks of 9/11 the *Trumpet* wrote that Iran would emerge from the war "stronger than ever." Today, the Iranian head of the snake is unquestionably stronger than ever. It hasn't even really suffered from a war on its terror.

In our booklet He Was Right, we wrote about the folly of America's approach to combating terrorism: "As a result of this confusion in defining the enemy, the U.S., in the years since 2001, has effectively done NOTHING to target Iran or degrade its support of terrorism. The 'war on terror' has actually left Iran stronger. Its president is pushing to build nuclear weapons and threatening to wipe Israel off the map. Iranian agents fuel an insurgency in Iraq that kills American and allied soldiers. Iran has directed, funded, armed and personally assisted in the Hamas and Hezbollah attacks that transformed Israel and Lebanon into battlegrounds.

"Even if the U.S. had won a decisive victory in its campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, it would still be far from winning the war on terror. As long as the chief sponsor of Islamist terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran, is still in existence, the war on terror has not been won."

'King of the South'

Since the end of World War II, the United States has been the power maintaining security and order in the Middle East. For nearly 70 years, the U.S. has been the strongest force for stability in this region.

But with this nuclear deal, the U.S. effectively ceded control of the region TO THE TOP STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM! The U.S. *crowned* Iran as king!

Back in 1994, more than 20 years ago, the Trumpet identified Iran as the nation likeliest to become king—the dominant power—of the Middle East. How did we know? Because Bible prophecy labels it that way: the "king of the south." You can read about this "king" warring against a "king of the north" in "the time of the end" in Daniel 11:40.

Other prophecies and modern history and current headlines identify the king of the north as German-led Europe. It is extremely significant that America is not even mentioned in this prophecy!

Sobering clues are everywhere as to why it is so conspicuously absent. For the past several years, for example, it has been desperately working to get out of the Middle East and to hand over control to the king of the south.

Go back to 2009. That is when President Obama delivered his infamous Cairo speech in an effort to reach out to the Muslim world. Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry responded: "How much did America's president help the terrorist cause? Probably far more than we imagine" (August 2009).

In that article, he said the president's speech would powerfully impact the flow of prophetic events: "President Obama's speech is a great turning point in this world. It is going to play a major role in terrifying prophecies of your Bible being fulfilled." How true that statement was.

The Response From Israel

They are celebrating this deal in Iran. But in the nation of Israel, the reaction is the opposite.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said July 14: "The world is a much more dangerous place today than it was yesterday. The leading international powers have bet our collective future in a deal with a formal sponsor of international terrorism. They've gambled that in 10 years' time Iran's terrorist regime will change while removing any incentive for it to do so. In fact, the deal gives Iran every incentive not to change. In the coming decade, the deal will reward Iran,



the terrorist regime in Tehran, with hundreds of billions of dollars. This cash bonanza will fuel Iran's terrorism worldwide, aggression in the region, and its efforts to destroy Israel, which are ongoing. Amazingly, this bad deal does not require Iran to cease its aggressive behavior in any way."

The U.S. has just unleashed a monster. Netanyahu continued: "The bottom line of this very bad deal is exactly what Iran's President Rouhani said today. The international community is removing the sanctions, and Iran is keeping its nuclear program. By not dismantling Iran's nuclear program in a decade, this deal will give an unreformed, unrepentant, and far richer terrorist regime the capacity to produce many nuclear bombs. In fact, an entire nuclear arsenal with the means to deliver it. What a stunning historic mistake."

This is the kind of mistake you only make once. And it's not like all the blame falls on President Obama's shoulders. In April, the Republican-led Senate made a landmark capitulation to the executive branch that effectively rewrites a key part of the U.S. Constitution. Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, the "treaty provision" of the Constitution, states that two thirds of senators must vote to ratify any treaty a president makes.

But now the Corker bill is undermining the intent of this provision. Under that bill, the Senate needs a two-thirds majority to block the treaty. Speaking about the Senate's capitulation, nationally syndicated radio show host Mark Levin called it "rewriting the Constitution," which is effectively what it is. He said: "The Republican Senate has no more respect and faith for our

TRUST, DON'T VERIFY U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (left) and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the **United Nations in April**

Constitution than the Democrat president. They're in it together."

Watch and Pray

How has America become a country that empowers its worst enemies? Why are we torturing our Constitution for the sake of a nation that chants "Death to America"? How have we come to support terrorists rather than democracies, oppressors rather than the oppressed, dictators rather than the free?

And how will this turn out?

The answers are found in the same place: The Bible. The Bible tells us why America and the West are so weak and stupefied: It is because we are drenched in decadent, mind-wrecking sin. And it tells us what the result will be, for ourselves and for the world: Bible prophecy says America is heading for a meteoric fall!

Jesus Christ Himself was a prophet. His ministry was full of prophecies, and regarding some of these, He said, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:33). Bring God into your watching, in other words. "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when



the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping" (verses 35-36). The word watch means to be awake and be vigilant! It means to pay attention and be active.

The pace of prophetic events is accelerating. Mankind's experiment with self-government is about over. How do we know? Because the events Jesus Himself prophesied to be a sign of the end of the age and His soon-coming return are now coming to pass—exactly as He said they would.



The Bible said there would be a king.

Iran is stepping into a specific prophesied role. Understanding this prophecy shows you what it will do next. To learn about it, order a free copy of The King of the South.



HOW THE DEAL WILL CHANGE HISTORY

the course for the Middle East and beyond. BY JOEL HILLIKER

ANY OBSERVERS DESCRIBE THE nuclear deal with Iran as historic. That is absolutely right—but most people fail to understand WHY. A full appreciation of its significance requires seeing how it fulfills biblical prophecy. In a number of ways, this deal will accelerate events in the Middle East and far beyond that align exactly with what the Trumpet has been anticipating would happen based on the prophecies of the Bible.

This deal between the P5+1 nations and Iran regarding its nuclear program sets the course for the Middle East for years to come. We are certain to look back on it as a decisive moment in world events.

The most important effect is that it cements Iran's position as KING OF THE MIDDLE EAST. This is a prophetically significant role that the Trumpet has believed for over two decades that Iran would fulfill (article, page 7). Probably nothing has highlighted the truth of this analysis more than what just happened.

Trust Iran?

Most broadly, this deal puts Iran on a path to have crushing sanctions lifted and to take its place in the global economy—even while it maintains its nuclear program.

This agreement stipulates that Iran can continue to develop and improve advanced centrifuge machines that can be used to fuel reactors or bombs. Advanced centrifuges are unnecessary for peaceful nuclear power generation, which Iran has repeatedly insisted is the only purpose for its nuclear program. Such centrifuges are only essential if Iran wants to "sprint for a nuclear bomb."

Under this deal, for a limited time, Iran is not allowed to enrich uranium past 3.67 percent. Those restrictions gradually go

away after a prescribed number of years, as few as eight and as many as 15.

This belies the fundamental gamble underpinning the agreement: Essentially, the United States and these other nations hope that by that future time, the Iranian regime will have become so enmeshed in the global community, and that the overwhelmingly youthful Iranian population will have grown to possess such a strong moderating influence, that all will be well.

In other words, at the heart of the deal lies the notion that Iran can be trusted.

When he announced the agreement, President Barack Obama said, "This deal is not built on trust, it is built on verification." It is unclear what makes him so confident in outside nations' verification abilities, considering how Iran has repeatedly deceived nuclear inspectors. But that reality aside, there is no denying that it is, in fact, ultimately based on trust. The whole arrangement is built on faith that over time, given proper engagement by and collaboration with other nations, Iran will blossom into a stabilizing force in the region. As a U.S. diplomat involved in the negotiations said just days before the deal was struck: "Obama wants this [deal] as the centerpiece of his legacy, and he believes a peaceful Iran could be a bulwark against ISIS in the Middle East and the key to peace there."

The trouble is, this casts aside the mountains of proof that Iran is not peaceful—that it is actually the most destabilizing force in the Middle East. And just as much to the injury of the Iranian people, the current Iranian regime has been generously funneling resources to supporting terrorism even while its economy languishes under sanctions.

Now, however, with this deal in place,

the money will start to flow into Iran again. Soon, we will witness the results.

This deal says sanctions "snap back" if Iran violates its terms. This is impractical and thus untrue. It took enormous effort to convince nations to agree to the sanctions to begin with. It is ludicrous to think that Russia and China, for example which have been so resistant to punitive measures against Iran and so eager to find ways around them—will reimpose them once they have been removed.

Once Iran's seized assets are released and the sanctions start to come off, once oil money again starts flowing into Iran, watch what happens. Not even economic hardship was able to dissuade the regime from its radical goals. With the threat of economic punishment withdrawn, it will act with even greater pushiness.

So what sort of behavior will we see within the coming 6 to 12 months?

Considering how emphatically this underscores Iran's dominance of the region, it seems inevitable that its nefarious efforts over the last two decades to pursue that dominance will ramp up.





Germany

The Trumpet has forecast and tracked Berlin's response to Iran's rise, and how, because of the U.S.'s policy of appeasement and its broken will, Germany is preparing itself for what it views as an inevitable confrontation with Iran. Watch what Germany does. Pay special attention for it to become even more involved with those anti-Iranian Arab nations, which is also prophesied. (This is also explained in The King of the South.)

The Islamic State

This Islamist group's barbaric antics have demanded a lot of attention and aroused a lot of fear lately. By comparison, Tehran has emerged looking quite moderate and

reasonable. It has even found itself on the same side as the U.S. and the West in fighting the Islamic State. From Iran's perspective, this has served as a useful distraction during nuclear talks. But now that a deal has been struck, and particularly once Iran is flush with cash and far freer to do as it pleases, we could well see it rise up against the Islamic State and deal with it powerfully and decisively, putting to rest any confusion about who rules the region.

Afghanistan and Irag

In both of these theaters Iran has invested substantial resources to foment trouble. to create problems for the West and to spread its influence. Iran has been particularly aggressive in its conquest of Iraq—as the Trumpet has diligently tracked, and as is revealed in biblical prophecy (article, page 7). In the wake of this deal, we are certain to see Iran lock down its investment there.

Iran

Perhaps the most fearsome question of all is, what will happen when Iran gets a nuclear weapon? This deal was supposed to prevent this. In reality, it *guarantees* it—it is simply a matter of time. The Trumpet has warned for years about how the Bible's description of the sequence of endtime events reveals it will be a radical Middle East power that triggers World War III. It also reveals emphatically that this war will be a NUCLEAR WAR (article, page 12).

Saudi Arabia and other Arab states

These nations, fearful of an ascendant Iran, have been stridently opposed to this nuclear agreement—precisely because it is so clearly favorable to Iran. They insist that whatever concessions Iran receives for its nuclear program, they are entitled to receive as well. Even the negotiation process appeared to be setting off an arms race throughout the Middle East. This too is an extremely dangerous consequence to watch for.

More specifically from a prophetic standpoint, the strengthening of Iran's position is catalyzing an alliance among these Arab nations. This is prophesied in the Bible, and it is increasingly taking shape as an anti-Iran alliance. Now that Iran's power grows even stronger with this agreement, we can expect this trend to accelerate.

Israel

The Jewish state has emerged as practically the only nation unreservedly critical of this agreement. This whole process of negotiations has progressively left Israel more vulnerable and isolated than it has ever been. This deal exacerbates both its isolation and its vulnerability. This too is deeply significant from a prophetic perspective.

Read about Israel's future in our free booklet Jerusalem in Prophecy theTrumpet.com/go/jip.

Time Will Soon Tell

President Obama and many other people are making glowing statements about how important this deal is and how it will ensure peace.

The thing about those statements is, TIME WILL SOON TELL.

It doesn't matter what the politicians and pundits say: History is going to play out—and soon it will be clear to people around the globe what just happened.

This truly was a historic deal. It is setting the course for the Mideast from this point forward—and for nations far beyond that region. Soon the whole world will recognize just what a decisive moment in human history this agreement really was.

Read about this alliance in our free booklet The King of the South. Request a copy or read it online at theTrumpet.com/go/kos





There are roughly 20,000 nuclear weapons on this planet. What happens when one is dropped on your city?

BY BRAD MACDONALD

E'VE ALL SEEN THE MOVIE. A canny, well-muscled spy races against the clock to disarm a nuclear bomb that has been hidden by an evil chap with aspirations for world domination. The hero locates the bomb, disarms it with a second to spare, and then rides into the sunset with the token blonde bombshell.

This is the closest most Westerners come to contemplating nuclear

cataclysm. When the subject does come up in the real world, it is more as a political issue or an intellectual exercise. Nuclear bombs are negotiating tools, leverage, more a political weapon than an actual weapon of mass destruction.

There are 15,000 to 20,000 nuclear bombs on this planet. The United States and Russia keep hundreds of bombs on high-alert status, which means they can be released in minutes. India, Pakistan and Israel have the bomb. North Korea, an unstable, unpredictable regime, has nuclear bombs. Some people believe that some terrorists already possess nuclear weapons. Then there is Iran, the greatest terrorist regime in the world, on the cusp of getting the bomb.

Consider too: The motives for *using* nuclear weapons are intensifying. Fundamentally, the decision to flick the switch is caused by fear, anger, hatred, vulnerability, emotional volatility or religious fanaticism. These emotions and beliefs are the catalysts of nuclear war, and they are welling up in people all over the Earth. All it takes is one person in power to snap, and the unthinkable happens.

As long as nuclear weapons exist, and as long as human nature is present, then nuclear war is a possibility. Indeed, it is inevitable.

What does nuclear war look like? What does it sound like? Taste like? Feel like? This isn't an easy or pleasant subject to think about. But it is necessary and important that we do.

Contemplate History

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were struck with nuclear bombs. Little Boy, at 15 kilotons, and Fat Man, at 20 kilotons, are like air rifles compared to modern nuclear warheads of up to 50,000 kilotons.

The suffering in Hiroshima and Nagasaki was incomprehensible. This is partly why The New Yorker dispatched John Hersey to Japan a few weeks after the bombings. Hersey was tasked with the job of exploring Hiroshima and Nagasaki and documenting the stomach-turning devastation. The final product was Hiroshima, which became a bestseller and a defining piece of literature during the Cold War.

Hersey relates the experiences of six people who were in the city the day the bomb detonated: Toshiko Sasaki, an office clerk; Masakazu Fujii, a doctor; Hatsuyo Nakamura, a tailor's widow; Wilhelm Kleinsorge, a German Jesuit priest; Terufumi Sasaki, a young doctor; Kiyoshi Tanimoto, a Methodist pastor.

If you can, try to avoid merely seeing these people as historical figures. Instead, set yourself in their shoes on that fateful August day.

Flashing Light, Creeping Darkness

Tanimoto, the Methodist pastor, remembers the seconds after the bomb struck. "Then a tremendous flash of light cut across the sky. Mr. Tanimoto has a distinct recollection that it traveled from east to west, from the city toward the hills. It seemed a sheet of sun. Both he and Mr. Matsuo reacted in terror-and both had time to react (for they were 3,500 yards, or two miles, from the center of the explosion). Mr. Matsuo dashed up the front steps into the house and dived among the bedrolls and buried himself there. Mr. Tanimoto took four or five steps and threw himself between two big rocks in the garden. He bellied up very hard against one of them. As his face was against the stone, he did not see what happened. He felt a sudden pressure, and then splinters and pieces of board and fragments of tile fell on him. He heard

no roar. (Almost no one in Hiroshima recalls hearing any noise of the bomb. ...) ... He noticed as he ran that the concrete wall of the estate had fallen overtoward the house rather than away from it.... Under what seemed to be a local dust cloud, the day grew darker and darker."

At the same time, widow Hatsuyo Nakamura and three young children experienced the blast. "As Mrs. Nakamura stood watching her neighbor, everything flashed whiter than any white she had ever seen. She did not notice what happened to the man next door; the reflex of a mother set her in motion toward her children. ... Timbers fell around her as she landed, and a shower of tiles pummeled her; everything became dark, for she was buried. The debris did not cover her deeply. She rose up and freed herself. She heard a child cry, 'Mother, help me!' and saw her youngest-Myeko, the 5-year-old-buried up to her breast and unable to move. As Mrs. Nakamura started frantically to claw her way toward the baby, she could see or hear nothing of her other children."

These accounts describe a blinding flash of light, and then creeping darkness. It is much like the scenes described in Joel 2:2-3 and the book of Revelation, which discuss end-time events and say that the day will turn into the night.

Sasaki, the clerk, was sitting at her desk when Little Boy struck. "Just as she turned her head away from the windows, the room was filled with a blinding light. She was paralyzed by fear, fixed still in her chair for a long moment (the plant was 1,600 yards from the center).

"From the mound, Mr. Tanimoto saw an astonishing panorama. Not just a patch of Koi, as he had expected, but as much of Hiroshima as he could see through the clouded air was giving off a thick, dreadful miasma."

Nakamura uncovered her other two children and tried to find a place of safety. "The children were silent except for the 5-year-old, Myeko, who kept asking questions: 'Why is it night already? Why did our house fall down? What happened?"

Imagine the fear. And the questions: What's next? Is another explosion coming? Where is my family? Where are my friends? Where do you run to when everything around you is obliterated? Who do you turn to for help when

everyone needs help?

Kleinsorge, the Jesuit priest, felt the strange eeriness directly after impact. "Kleinsorge went inside to fetch some things he wanted to save. He found his room in a state of weird and illogical confusion. A first-aid kit was hanging undisturbed on a hook on the wall, but his clothes, which had been on other hooks nearby, were nowhere to be seen. His desk was in splinters all over the room, but a mere paper-mache suitcase, which he had hidden under the desk, stood handle-side up, without a scratch on it, in the doorway of the room, where he could not miss it."

Disbelief Turns to Chaos

Hersey recalls that immediately after the bomb exploded there was an eerie tranquility. About 80,000 people had just been instantly killed. And those who weren't dead were wounded and/or in a state of total shock and confusion. Then the silence turned into chaos, and the disbelief gave way to unbearable pain.

Hersey recalls the scene. "Wounded people supported maimed people; disfigured families leaned together. Many people were vomiting. A tremendous number of schoolgirls—some of those who had been taken from their classrooms to work outdoors clearing fire lanes—crept into the hospital. In a city of 245,000, nearly 100,000 people had been killed or doomed at one blow; 100,000 more were hurt. At least 10,000 of the wounded made their way to the best hospital in town, which was altogether unequal to such a trampling, since it had only 600 beds, and they had all been occupied. The people in the suffocating crowd inside the hospital wept and cried, for Dr. Sasaki to hear, 'Sensei! Doctor!' and the less seriously wounded came and pulled at his sleeve and begged him to come to the aid of the worse wounded. Tugged here and there in his stockinged feet, bewildered by the numbers, staggered by so much raw flesh, Dr. Sasaki lost all sense of profession and stopped working as a skillful surgeon and a sympathetic man; he became an automaton, mechanically wiping, daubing, winding, wiping, daubing, winding."

Much of the population had been destroyed. The city's infrastructure was destroyed. More than 92 percent of doctors were killed or wounded. In an attack

of this magnitude, for the vast majority of victims, there are no doctors or nurses or hospitals or drugs or police or firemen. It's every man for himself in this nuclear aftermath.

Following the attack, Tanimoto ran toward downtown Hiroshima in search of his wife and child. "He was the only person making his way into the city; he met hundreds and hundreds who were fleeing, and every one of them seemed to be hurt in some way. The eyebrows of some were burned off, and skin hung from their faces and hands. Others, because of pain, held their arms up as if carrying something in both hands. Some were vomiting as they walked. Many were naked or in shreds of clothing. On some undressed bodies, the burns had made patternsof undershirt straps and suspenders and, on the skin of some women (since white repelled the heat from the bomb and dark clothes absorbed it and conducted it to the skin), the shapes of flowers they had had on their kimonos. Many, although injured themselves, supported relatives who were worse off. Almost all had their heads bowed, looked straight ahead, were silent, and showed no expression whatever."

Tanimoto actually found his wife and child, both of whom were unhurt. He made sure they were safe, and then set about helping the sea of survivors.

Isaiah 13:6-13 describe a time when the sun will be darkened, the heavens will be shaken, people will be filled with terror, and "all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt." Again, this can only be talking about NUCLEAR WARFARE.

Across town, Sasaki, the clerk, was struggling to extricate herself from the bookshelf that had fallen on her. "Miss Sasaki spoke to the rescuer, and he worked toward her. He pulled away a great number of books, until he had made a tunnel to her. She could see his perspiring face as he said, 'Come out, miss.' She tried. 'I can't move,' she said. The man excavated some more and told her to try with all her strength to get out. But books were heavy on her hips, and the man finally saw that a bookcase was leaning on the books and that a heavy beam pressed down on the bookcase. 'Wait,' he said. 'I'll get a crowbar.' The man was gone a long time, and when he came back, he was ill-tempered, as if her plight were all her fault. 'We have no men to help you,' he shouted in through

the tunnel. 'You'll have to get out by yourself.' 'That's impossible,' she said. 'My left leg' The man went away." Amid such tragedy, most people take care of the self.

"Much later, several men came and dragged Miss Sasaki out. Her left leg was not severed, but it was badly broken and cut, and it hung askew below the knee. ... Then a man propped up a large sheet of corrugated iron as a kind of lean-to, and took her in his arms and carried her to it. She was grateful until he brought two horribly wounded people—a woman with a whole breast sheared off and a man whose face was all raw from a burn—to share the simple shed with her. No one came back. The rain cleared and the cloudy afternoon was hot; before nightfall the three grotesques under the slanting piece of twisted iron began to smell quite bad."

Despite having her three children at her side, the horror for Nakamura was far from over: "At once they were nauseated and began vomiting, and they retched the whole day. Others were also nauseated; they all thought (probably because of the strong odor of ionization, an 'electric smell' given off by the bomb's fission) that they were sick from a gas the Americans had dropped."

Kleinsorge, the Jesuit priest, commented, "It's funny, but things don't matter any more. Yesterday, my shoes were my most important possessions. Today, I don't care. One pair is enough."

There's no materialism in nuclear aftermath. The BMWs and Guccis don't matter. There's no rich and poor, little to no vanity or pride. Crisis of this nature is a great LEVELER.

The Methodist pastor filled his hours helping others: "Mr. Tanimoto found about 20 men and women on the sandspit. He drove the boat onto the bank and urged them to get aboard. They did not move, and he realized that they were too weak to lift themselves. He reached down and took a woman by the hands, but her skin slipped off in huge, glove-like pieces. He was so sickened by this that he had to sit down for a moment. Then he got out into the water and, though a small man, lifted several of the men and women, who were naked, into his boat. Their backs and breasts were clammy, and he remembered uneasily what the great burns he had seen during the day had been like: yellow at first, then red and swollen, with

HORRIFYING A victim from Hiroshima suffers disfiguration from the nuclear explosion and its aftermath (pictured below).

the skin sloughed off, and finally, in the evening, suppurated and smelly."

Kleinsorge, the Jesuit, witnessed horror after horror as the hours passed: "When he had penetrated the bushes, he saw there were about 20 men, and they were all in exactly the same nightmarish state: Their faces were wholly burned, their eyesockets were hollow, the fluid from their melted eyes had run down their cheeks. (They must have had their faces upturned when the bomb went off; perhaps they were antiaircraft personnel.) Their mouths were mere swollen, pus-covered wounds, which they could not bear to stretch enough to admit the spout of the teapot. ...

"Since that day, Father Kleinsorge has thought back to how queasy he had once been at the sight of pain, how someone else's cut finger used to make him turn faint. Yet there in the park he was so benumbed that immediately after leaving this horrible sight he stopped on a path by one of the pools and discussed with a lightly wounded man whether it would be safe to eat the fat, two-foot carp that floated dead on the surface of the water."

Sasaki, the clerk, still lay under the tin shelter, badly injured: "Altogether, Miss Sasaki was left two days and two nights under the piece of propped-up roofing with her crushed leg and her two unpleasant comrades. Her only diversion was when men came to the factory airraid shelters, which she could see from under one corner of her shelter, and hauled corpses up out of them with ropes. Her leg became discolored, swollen and putrid. All that time, she went without food and water. On the third day, August 8, some friends who supposed she was dead came to look for her body and found



her. They told her that her mother, father and baby brother, who at the time of the explosion were in the Tamura Pediatric Hospital, where the baby was a patient, had all been given up as certainly dead, since the hospital was totally destroyed."

This was utter loss and devasta-TION. It was physical, mental and emotional suffering beyond imagination.

Tanimoto, the preacher, worked through the day, helping anyone he could: "Whatever he did in the park, he felt he was being watched by the 20-year-old girl, Mrs. Kamai, his former neighbor, whom he had seen on the day the bomb exploded, with her dead baby daughter in her arms. She kept the small corpse in her arms for four days, even though it began smelling bad on the second day. Once, Mr. Tanimoto sat with her for a while, and she told him that the bomb had buried her under their house with the baby strapped to her back, and that when she had dug herself free, she had discovered that the baby was choking, its mouth full of dirt. With her little finger, she had carefully cleaned out the infant's mouth, and for a time the child had breathed normally and seemed all right; then suddenly it had died."

Radiation Sickness

The nuclear fallout caused major problems for months. Radiation sickness set in. "As she dressed on the morning of August 20 in the home of her sister-inlaw in Kabe, not far from Nagatsuka, Mrs. Nakamura, who had suffered no cuts or burns at all, though she had been rather nauseated all through the week she and her children had spent as guests of Father Kleinsorge and the other Catholics at the Novitiate, began fixing her hair and noticed, after one stroke, that her comb

carried with it a whole handful of hair; the second time, the same thing happened, so she stopped combing at once. But in the next three or four days, her hair kept falling out of its own accord, until she was quite bald. She began living indoors, practically in hiding. On August 26, both she and her younger daughter, Myeko, woke up feeling extremely weak and tired, and they stayed on their bedrolls. Her son and other daughter, who had shared every experience with her during and after the bombing, felt fine."

The nuclear blast was so fierce, shadows were engraved on walls. "The scientists noticed that the flash of the bomb had discolored concrete to a light reddish tint, had scaled off the surface of granite, and had scorched certain other types of building material, and that consequently the bomb had, in some places, left prints of the shadows that had been cast by its light. The experts found, for instance, a permanent shadow thrown on the roof of the Chamber of Commerce building"

Hiroshima inflicted permanent physical and mental scars. "A year after the bomb was dropped, Miss Sasaki was a cripple; Mrs. Nakamura was destitute; Father Kleinsorge was back in the hospital; Dr. Sasaki was not capable of the work he once could do; Dr. Fujii had lost the 30-room hospital it took him many years to acquire, and had no prospects of rebuilding it; Mr. Tanimoto's church had been ruined and he no longer had his exceptional vitality. The lives of these six people, who were among the luckiest in Hiroshima, would never be the same."

Nuclear War Prophesied

These scenes are not easy to think about. When we do, the natural response, besides empathizing with these victims, is to view Hiroshima and Nagasaki first and foremost as tragic history, unique, anomalous and distant. The reality is, this history is prophecy. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are in our future.

"It's time we face the hard, cold, realistic fact," wrote Herbert W. Armstrong in his book The Incredible Human Potential. "Humanity has two alternatives: Either there is an Almighty, all-powerful God who is about to step in and set up THE KINGDOM OF GOD to rule all nations with supernatural and supra-national FORCE to bring us PEACE—or else all human life

will be obliterated."

Mr. Armstrong recalled Jesus Christ's prophecy in Matthew 24. This chapter describes world events right before His Second Coming. Consider Christ's words in verses 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."

This devastation will exceed anything mankind has ever experienced. Think about the Second World War—the scenes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Auschwitz, Dachau and Treblinka—then multiply the suffering a thousandfold. This is what the Bible says is imminent! It will be so bad that if Christ didn't return and intervene, "there should no flesh be saved." Mankind would be wiped out, vanquished, made extinct!

The only way this could happen in a short span of time is if nuclear bombs are being detonated!

There are about 20,000 nuclear bombs on this planet. Experts believe it would only require 50 to 100 of them, depending on their size, to wipe out every human on Earth. Mr. Armstrong continued: "The recent 'recess' will soon erupt into nuclear World War III—called in biblical prophecy the 'Great Tribulation.'"

This is real, and it is coming soon! You need to think about this, RIGHT NOW.

As important as it is to ponder the history of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and its impending repetition, it is vital to keep the larger picture in mind. Remember the theme of Matthew 24: Jesus is prophesying events to occur immediately before His return and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Recall this as you meditate on this subject: The worst suffering in human history precedes the greatest, most joyous event in human history—THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT!

God is merciful and loving, and He is going to cut short the suffering. As Mr. Armstrong wrote: "God will cut short that final supreme world trouble, and send Christ again to Earth as KING of kings, LORD of lords—to restore God's government by the world-ruling Kingdom of God!"



The Supreme Court now says the Constitution protects same-sex 'marriage.' But its decision had nothing to do with the Constitution, and it set a dangerous precedent for America. BY JOEL HILLIKER

IVE PEOPLE JUST CHANGED THE DEFI-■ nition of marriage in the United States of America. That is shocking. On June 26, the decision by five Supreme Court justices in Obergefell v. Hodges halted national deliberation, usurped state powers, and exceeded the legal mandate of the nation's highest court in order to make same-sex "marriage" the law in all 50 states.

In his dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote this: "A system of government that makes the people subordinate to a committee of nine unelected lawyers DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE CALLED A DEMOCRACY" (emphasis added throughout).

Do you recognize the seriousness of what just happened?

According to the Constitution?

In their explanation of the legal reasoning underpinning their ruling, those five justices made the extraordinary assertion that the *U.S. Constitution* actually demanded it. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote this in the majority opinion about same-sex couples: "Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right."

Until just a few years ago, every society in human history has defined marriage—which actually is civilization's oldest institution, not just "one of" the oldest-as a union between a man and a woman. Yet supposedly the U.S. Constitution—written over two and a quarter centuries ago-grants the right to a redefinition.

How so? The court majority found it in the "due process" clause of the 14th Amendment. This clause is being increasingly used to justify whatever lawyers want it to justify. Its history of being tortured, twisted, expanded and made more and more powerful can be traced back to 1965 with *Griswold v. Connecticut*. Thanks to America's precedent-based legal system, lawyers have surrounded this fragof freedom in all of its dimensions, and so they entrusted to future generations a charter protecting the right of all persons to enjoy liberty as we learn its MEANING. When new insight reveals discord between the Constitution's central protections and a received legal stricture, a claim to liberty must be addressed."

By this reasoning, "the Constitution's central protections" could include anything if we gain "new insight" to understand it to be so. We can define "freedom" however we want and claim that the Constitution protects it.

In truth, this reasoning has nothing to do with the Constitution. It pays no actual heed to the intent of the Bill of Rights' authors. It simply represents judges doing what they want to do.

That is what happened in June: Five justices cast aside the law they are supposed to uphold and made a decision—now binding on 320 million Americans—based on their personal preferences.

Audacity

When the ruling was announced, Chief Justice John Roberts did something he has never done during his nearly 10 years on the Supreme Court bench: He read aloud a summary of his dissent. This is what he said: "If you are among the many Americans—of whatever sexual orien-



"A system of government that makes the people subordinate to a committee of nine unelected lawyers does not deserve to be called a democracy."

—JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA

ment of the Bill of Rights in layers of legal language through court opinions: One judge stretches it to mean something—the next takes what he wrote and stretches it a bit further—and before you know it, you have five justices insisting that the Constitution requires them to redefine an institution that has meant the same thing for all of human history.

Here is how Justice Kennedy explained this in the majority opinion: "The generations that wrote and ratified the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment did not presume to know the extent

tation—who favor expanding same-sex marriage, by all means celebrate today's decision. ... But do not celebrate the Constitution. It had nothing to do with it."

This tells you a lot about America today. About the state of its judicial system and the hubris of its top judges. About how wrecked the republic is in terms of leaders' respect for the Constitution's definition of and limits to their powers, and how little concern Americans have about that.

This issue is also deeply revealing of America's moral condition, though few will talk about it. Already the question of same-sex "marriage" was being debated and decided by states. Some few had rejected it, but the clear trend was more and more states redefining marriage.

We didn't define marriage in the first place. It takes considerable arrogance and audacity to "redefine" it.

Still, 14 states had passed bans on same-sex "marriage." These bans were legal efforts to preserve the suddenly vulnerable definition of marriage that has prevailed since man's creation. On June 26, the Supreme Court labeled these bans unconstitutional and lawless.

Justice Kennedy said the court could no longer allow this issue to play out among the states; it had to take immediate action to subvert that process. Why? Not for any compelling legal reason. Kennedy wrote that the "cautious" approach was inappropriate because, for same-sex couples "and their children the childhood years will pass all too soon."

Many people would argue that being raised by a homosexual couple is bad for children, but from a legal standpoint that is irrelevant. Whatever you believe about what is "good for children"-even if you are a Supreme Court justice—has nothing to do with whether the Supreme Court has authority to rule on it!

Force and Will

"This Court is not a legislature," Justice Roberts wrote in his dissent. "Whether same-sex marriage is a good idea should be of no concern to us. Under the Constitution, judges have power to say what the law is, not what it should be. The people who ratified the Constitution authorized courts to exercise 'NEITHER FORCE NOR WILL but merely judgment."

The five judges in this majority are not exercising judgment; they are exercising force and will. They are forcing their view on every American, and they are exalting their own will above the LAW.

Thus, what was founded as a democratic republic is now a nation in which top judges make decisions based on their ideas about what is "best for children"—rather than on what the law says. A nation in which top judges believe their opinions trump states' rights.

"For those who believe in a government of laws, not of men, the majority's approach is deeply disheartening," Justice Roberts wrote. "The majority's decision is an act of will, not legal judgment. The right it announces has no basis in the Constitution or this Court's precedent. The majority expressly disclaims judicial 'caution' and omits even a pretense of humility, openly relying on its desire to remake society according to its own 'new insight' into the 'nature of injustice.' As a result, the Court invalidates the marriage laws of more than half the states and orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia, for the Kalahari Bushmen and the Han Chinese, the Carthaginians and the Aztecs. JUST WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?"

What do you think of the *freedoms* guaranteed by America's Laws? How much do you cherish these freedoms that have made America such a historically exceptional nation? How concerned are you that they have been stripped?

This ruling gives an extraordinary picture of just how far America has fallen from the rule of law.

The Trumpet's editor in chief Gerald Flurry has warned about this trend—and the devastating consequences for this country—for 15 years. His booklet No Freedom Without Law, published in 2001, is more relevant than it has ever been.

Chapter 1, "What Is True Freedom?", gives an important introduction into

"The Court ... orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia Just who do we think we are?"

-CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS



That is a superb question. Who do these judges think they are?

"This is a naked judicial claim to legislative—indeed, super-legislative—power; a claim fundamentally at odds with our SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT," Scalia wrote.

"The substance of today's decree is not of immense personal importance to me It is of overwhelming importance, however, who it is that rules me," he continued. "Today's decree says that my ruler, and the ruler of 320 million Americans coast-to-coast, is a majority of the nine lawyers on the Supreme Court."

How important is that to you? How concerned are you that five lawyers have just granted themselves the power to make these decisions for you?

In his dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas described how this decision walks back the fundamental principle of freedom that has protected Anglo-American peoples since it was first enshrined in the Magna Carta. "Our Constitution—like the Declaration of Independence before it—was predicated on a simple truth: One's liberty, not to mention one's dignity, was something to be shielded from not provided by—the state," he wrote. "Today's decision casts that truth aside."

this subject. Chapter 2, "Justice and Our 'Evolving Constitution,'" reveals the danger in exactly the kind of reasoning behind the Supreme Court's June decision. And Chapter 3, "The War Against Law," shows the wisdom in the Founders' fight to enshrine the rule of law in the Constitution—and the lesson history has taught time and again about what happens when it gives way to tyranny.

"We are not prepared to die to defend our security, as we were in our past," Mr. Flurry wrote. "This is the *supreme sign* that our will has been broken—and that our republic cannot stand." You can read these chapters online (the Trumpet.com/ go/nfl), or order a free copy of this booklet.

Religious Freedom

Justice Thomas wrote that the majority "disregards the most plausible understanding of the 'liberty' protected by [the 'due process'] clause, and distorts the principles on which this nation was founded. Its decision will have inestimable consequences for our Constitution and our society."

Those consequences will be many, but let's briefly consider just one. Justice

The Bible Scoops the Scientists

The Creator of the universe has understood every detail of how His universe works since He first brought it into being. He revealed some of those truths to Bible writers long before scientists came to understand them.

MAN MADE FROM DUST

Scientists believe that the human body is made up of 25 elements, each essential for human life. Each one of these is found in the Earth's crust. The Bible indicated this roughly 3,400 years prior to 1982, which is when researchers at NASA's Ames Research Center confirmed that every element in man is found in the soil, prompting one scientist to famously remark: "[T]he biblical scenario for the creation of life turns out to be not far off the mark."

EARTH IS SUSPENDED IN SPACE

Most ancient cultures believed the Earth was supported by giant animals, men or pillars. Greece's Anaximander (611-547 B.C.) was one of the first known intellectuals to posit the idea that it is suspended in space. Later in the sixth century B.C., Pythagoras conducted astronomical studies which he said proved Anaximander's theory. This came 1,000 years after Job had spoken of it as a fact. The explanation of how the Earth "floats" in space didn't come about until the late 1600s when Isaac Newton posed the theory of gravity.

QUARANTINE AND SANITATION

Throughout history, even advanced cultures understood nothing about bacteria. The Black Death of the 1300s killed 50 million in Europe alone—over half the population. During this plague, Jews (who obeyed biblical instructions on quarantine and hygiene) experienced far lower infection rates. Only in the 1800s did advances in bacterial study give researchers understanding of the importance of quarantine, sanitation and hygiene. This was 3,200 years and millions of lives after these principles were outlined in Moses's writings. \blacksquare

Moses said it: Genesis 2:7 C. 1400 B.C.

Man "discovered" it late 1800s

Job said it: Job 26:7 C. **1550** B.C.

Man "discovered" it late 1600s

, MARC PERKINS, NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY, @ISTOCK.COM/KUPICOO

Moses said it: Numbers 19:3-22 C. 1400 B.C.

Man "discovered" it 1800s

See also Leviticus 11, 13, 14 and 22

CHRIS FORD, SERGEI GOLYSHEV, NASA, ©ISTOCK.COM/MALERAPASO, NAS.

THE WATER CYCLE

Ancient intellectuals believed all water originated below the Earth's surface. Around 800 B.C., Homer said a huge cavern inside Earth supplied all river water. By the fourth century B.C., Greek philosophers hypothesized that the hydrologic process was cyclical, and that Homer's theory had not been correct. Yet it wasn't until 1580 that a full scientific explanation of the cycle was delivered by Bernard Palissy—about 2,500 years after King Solomon had described it in detail.

EXPANDING UNIVERSE

In the fourth century B.C., Aristotle said the universe was finite in size and had remained unchanged throughout eternity. This theory prevailed until 1576, when English astronomer Thomas Digges posited the idea that the stars extend to infinity. This theory was solidified in the 17th century by René Descartes and Isaac Newton. In 1929, by measuring the redshifts of a number of distant galaxies, Edwin Hubble conclusively proved that the universe is indeed expanding. Without the benefit of telescopes, Isaiah, Job and Zechariah had recorded the same fact centuries earlier.

THERE ARE COUNTLESS STARS

Before the 1608 invention of the telescope, scientists such as Ptolemy (A.D. 150) taught that the stars in the heavens numbered 3,000 or fewer. Today astronomers say the Milky Way galaxy alone contains 400 billion stars. They estimate that the observable universe contains more than 170 billion galaxies, many of which contain trillions of stars. The universe beyond that is unknown. As Jeremiah said 2,500 years ago: "[T]he host of heaven cannot be numbered."

Solomon said it: Ecclesiastes 1:7 C. 950 B.C.

Man "discovered" it 1580

Isaiah said it: Isaiah 45:12 C. 720 B.C.

Man "discovered" it 1929

See also Job 9:8; Zechariah 12:1

Jeremiah said it: Jeremiah 33:22 C. 580 B.C.

Man "discovered" it 1608

LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD

For thousands of years, people practiced bleeding as a means of treating diseases. This medical practice caused countless deaths because it failed to understand that life is *in* blood. When the blood is removed, the life ends. Around 1628, William Harvey accurately described the function of the heart and the circulation of blood around the body. It wasn't until 1840 that the oxygen-carrying protein hemoglobin was discovered in the blood. The Bible specified that the life is in the blood more than 3,000 years beforehand.

OCEAN CURRENTS

An intricate network of currents flows through the oceans, heavily influencing Earth's weather. The paths of these currents change little. Medieval sailors mentioned ocean currents, but understood very little about them. In 1770, Benjamin Franklin mapped out parts of the Gulf Stream, but the big picture remained obscure until Matthew Maury (1806-1873) revolutionized sea travel by charting winds and currents. His quest was to find the "paths of the seas" that King David had written of 2,800 years earlier in Psalm 8.

WASHING WITH RUNNING WATER

In 1846 Ignaz Semmelweis realized that unwashed hands spread diseases. Before him, doctors would routinely handle dead bodies and then, without washing, treat expecting mothers. This sent women's death rates soaring. Semmelweis convinced many doctors to wash their hands between procedures, but most only washed in a bowl of water. It wasn't until late 1800s that Joseph Lister realized they needed to wash with running water. Moses had made this clear some 3,200 years earlier. \P

Moses said it: Leviticus 17:11

C. 1400 B.C.

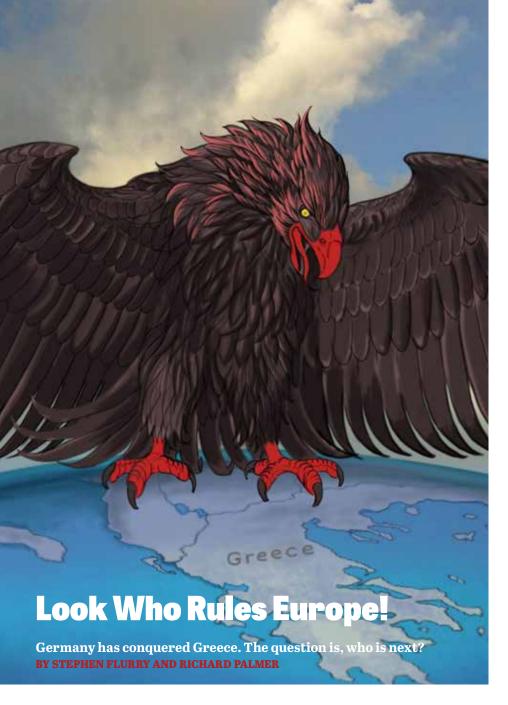
Man "discovered" it 1628

David said it: Psalm 8:8 C. 1000 B.C.

Man "discovered" it 1800s

Moses said it: Leviticus 15:13 C. 1400 B.C.

Man "discovered" it late 1800s



MAGINE IF GERMANY HAD LAUNCHED a military takeover of Greece this summer. If Leopard tanks had rolled across the border, bombers launched raids on Athens and paratroopers once again had landed on Crete.

It would have shocked the world. Wherever you live, your newspapers would have been filled with little else. It would have been a powerful sign that we live in a radically different world.

Instead, we saw something only slightly less dramatic: the economic takeover of Greece. Yet because it was economic instead of military, only a few are giving it the attention they should.

This July saw a clear, naked display of German aggression—one of the worst since World War II. Germany has been ruling the eurozone for years; earlier this year Der Spiegel even called it the new "Fourth Reich." But for the most part, it has concealed its dominance behind a fig leaf of consensus.

In this economic takeover, however, Germany stopped camouflaging its power.

The Death of Democracy

The EU Observer noted, "Monday, July 13, will go down in history as the day Greece lost its independence after 185 years of

freedom, the day democracy died in the country that invented it ..." (July 13).

Just over a week before, Greece had held a referendum. The voice of the Greek people was loud and clear: Greece would not submit to German hegemony. On July 13, Germany ignored the referendum and unilaterally imposed its will on the Greek government

Though they don't fully appreciate the importance of what has happened here, the mainstream media now sees what the *Trumpet* has been warning about for years. Greece is now a German colony. Here are some of the conditions Greece must now submit to:

- European Union officials have veto power over new Greek laws.
- The Greek government must repeal laws the EU officials do not like.
- €50 billion (us\$54.5 billion) worth of assets are to be taken from Greece and given to an independent fund. The fund will then sell them off.
- Greece must reform pension and tax laws in line with what EU officials want.
- The government must commit to automatic spending cuts if it isn't making enough money.

These are the major changes. You could argue that some of them are good. But what you cannot argue is that Greece is still a sovereign nation! It is now merely a puppet state.

This takeover has major implications for you and for the future of your world.

More Than Just Greece

This economic invasion was an attack on Greece, but also a warning to the rest of Europe of what will happen if any other nation tries to defy the German line.

Wolfgang Münchau went so far as to say that Europe has "reverted to the nationalist European power struggles of the 19th and early 20th century." He wrote in Britain's Financial Times: "They demoted the eurozone into a toxic fixed exchange-rate system, with a shared single currency, run in the interests of Germany, held together by the threat of absolute destitution for those who challenge the prevailing order. The best thing that can be said of the weekend is the brutal honesty of those perpetrating this regime change

"This was the real coup over the weekend: not only regime change in Greece, but also regime change in the eurozone" (emphasis added throughout).

Germany's rule extends far beyond Greece. In many ways, these draconian punishments were not about Greece. Greece's economy and debt are too small to cause a real problem for Germany. The real issue is Spain, Portugal, Italy, even France—the large EU economies that could cause Germany real problems. Greece tried to defy Germany, and Germany had to make an example of it. Now these other debtor states are far less likely to oppose the German will. If they try, they know they will suffer the same fate.

"The Germans made an example of Cyprus and now Greece," Stratfor's CEO George Friedman wrote. "The leading power of Europe will not underwrite defaulting debtors. It will demand political submission for what help is given. This is not a message that will be lost in Europe ..." (July 14).

German-Foreign-Policy.com noted the lack of any serious resistance from France or Italy to the Greek deal, writing that these nations "are competing for admission in a northern European core Europe, whose membership will be decided by Berlin, in the case of a possible collapse of the European Union" (July 15).

Much earlier in this crisis, Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "European nations fear economic collapse. Now they are looking to Germany as their financial savior. But they are going to get a lot more than a financial savior!" He went on to say, "Those nations that can't or won't comply will be kicked out of the European Union!" (May-June 2009).

That is exactly what we saw in Greece this summer. Included in Germany's threat to kick out Greece was an implicit threat to the rest of the eurozone.

A New Germany

As well as a radically different eurozone, we are also seeing a radically different Germany. The Germany of five or ten years ago would not have acted this openly. "The Germans have long been visible as the controlling entity of the European Union," wrote Friedman. "This time, they made no bones about it. Nor did they make any bones about their ferocity. In effect they raised the banner of German primacy, German national

interest, and German willingness to crush the opposition" (op. cit.).

The negotiations were all carried out within the context of the eurozone—but it was clearly Germany driving it all. Why?

The Greek crisis directly threatened Germany. It backed Germany into a corner. The Greek government tried to use the referendum to force Berlin to forgive its debt. If it had gotten its way, then the Germans would have ultimately have

Wolfgang Schäuble publicly broke with Merkel over the bailouts for the first time over this crisis. He said Greece should have been booted out of the euro.

There is real pressure on Chancellor Merkel to be even harsher in the future. There was a lot of dissatisfaction over Greece's earlier bailout in 2012, but when it came to voting, only around a dozen of her party members opposed it. This time it was 60.

"Now they are looking to Germany as their financial savior. But they are going to get a lot more than a financial savior." —Gerald Flurry

lost hundreds of billions of euros as all the other southern European countries used the same techniques to get their debt written off too. As Germany viewed it, a forceful response was necessary.

"Greece invoked its sovereign right, and Germany responded by enforcing an agreement that compelled the Greeks to cede those rights," wrote Friedman. "It was not the government's position that troubled Germany the most, but the Greek referendum" (op. cit.). He referred to Germany's move an "attack" on Greece's national sovereignty. "The Germans could not accommodate the vote. They had to respond by demanding concessions on Greek sovereignty," Friedman wrote.

They acted in a way that every German government since World War II has avoided acting. "[T]he Germans did something they never wanted to do: Resurrect fairly unambiguously the idea that Germany is the sovereign and dominant nation-state in Europe, and that it has the power and the will to unilaterally impose its will on another nation," Friedman continued.

In doing this, Germany broke with France. There wasn't even a pretense of Franco-German leadership. It was clearly all German. "[T]he final negotiation was an exercise of unilateral German power," wrote Friedman (ibid).

The world may be shocked by the harshness that Chancellor Angela Merkel demonstrated. But a lot of German voters wanted her to be even stronger! After the vote, Finance Minister

The Flaw at the Heart of the Euro

To understand what is coming, it's important to understand the real causeof the Greek crisis. There is a lot of anger, especially in southern Europe, directed against Germany now. It is often called a Nazi state. Merkel is often portrayed as Hitler or a concentration camp guard.

That is unfair. As easy as it is to sympathize with the Greeks losing their sovereignty, it is also easy to sympathize with the German taxpayers. No nation would be happy about handing over taxpayers' money to a foreign state. The German taxpayers are also victims here.

The real villains are the elites who designed the euro knowing it would lead to exactly this outcome. Many of these elites were German—though most were not elected government officials.

The eurozone is fundamentally incompatible with democracy. At one time, this may have been a controversial statement—but we see clear proof of it now in Greece. The elites who designed the euro knew it would lead us here.

A common currency binds nations closely together. Reckless spending (and lending) in one affects all the others. Worse, economic policy helpful to one country causes major problems to others. The eurozone ran an economic policy that aided its biggest economy, Germany. But that spelled disaster for economies that were very different from Germany's.

Predictably, in 2008, Greece experienced a crisis that threatened to break up the whole eurozone. So the

EU—mostly Germany—bailed Greece out. That immediately created a new problem. German taxpayers were now lending their money to Greece. Quite naturally, they wanted a say in how Greece managed its finances in order to ensure they would be repaid. At the same time, and also quite understandably, the Greeks weren't very keen on being told what to do by the Germans.

A common currency automatically leads to some states having a say in how other states are governed. That is sim-

The eurozone is **fundamentally** incompatible with democracy.

ply the way it has to be. A common currency will always mean bailouts and shared risk. In America, this happens democratically: All 50 states agree that the other states get to vote for the federal government, which makes the rules for all states. They also agree that there is a central pool of tax money that all states pay in to and get paid out of.

In Greece this never happened, so instead they find themselves forced against their will to submit to German dictates. It is fair to neither Greeks nor German taxpayers. European law explicitly states that bailouts are illegal. This law was simply ignored as soon as bailouts became necessary. European elites hid the reality that a common currency would require a common European government.

This flaw at the heart of the euro gives us a good idea of what is coming next.

Dominated by Germany

The eurozone still has no strong common government. There is no mechanism for rich nations to give power to the poorer. Without this, Greece and the rest of southern Europe are locked in a common currency with the world's premier exporting powerhouse: Germany. There is simply no way they can compete without outside help. Money will flow out of southern Europe into Germany, causing more crises and more needs for bailouts.

Until there is a common government, crises will continue. But Berlin has the money. It won't allow the formation of this common government unless it comes on Germany's terms.

Its terms may be too harsh for some, and we will probably see some nations quit the euro. The result will be a core EUROPE DOMINATED BY GERMANY.

Even those outside the core will be dominated—even subjugated—by Germany in the end. Nations like Greece and Cyprus are in key strategic locations, and Germany won't let them go.

We will probably see more battles for Greece. For now, Germany dominates it. The Greeks will chaff under this dominance and may challenge Berlin yet again. The result will probably be an even more forceful crackdown.

This is simply the economic destiny of the euro. It has been from its creation.

"[T]he EU quite deliberately created the most dangerous credit bubble of all: EMU [Economic Monetary Union]," wrote former civil servant Bernard Connolly, author of The Rotten Heart of Europe, well before the euro crisis. "And, whereas the mission of the Fed is to avoid a financial crisis, the mission of the ECB [European Central Bank] is to provoke one. The purpose of the crisis will be, as [Romano] Prodi, then Commission president, said in 2002, to allow the EU to take more power for itself. The sacrificial victims will be, in the first instance, families and firms (and banks and investors) in countries such as Ireland Subsequently, German savers (or British taxpayers) will bear the burden of bailouts that a newly empowered 'EU economic government' will ordain."

This is still the thinking of European elites today. In 2012, then U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner met with Schäuble. He wrote that Schäuble told him that "a Grexit would be traumatic enough that it would help scare the rest of Europe into giving up more sovereignty to a stronger banking and fiscal union. The argument was that letting Greece burn would make it easier to build a stronger Europe with a more credible firewall" (Stress Test: Reflections on Financial Crises).

No Choice But to Integrate

City A.M., a British business newspaper, wrote that "for the single currency

to survive over the longer term, euro countries will have to integrate further, involving greater fiscal and political coordination. If this doesn't happen, the eurozone will disintegrate" (July 14).

"Despite the short-term costs of keeping Greece inside, eurozone leaders have shown themselves to be unwilling to accept disintegration," it continued. "So the logical conclusion is that further integration must follow."

Since the latest Greek crisis, more and more EU leaders have been calling for this kind of integration. Guy Verhofstadt, leader of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament, tweeted, "We have to learn from this Greek thriller. A currency union without a political union isn't sustainable. Let's change Europe now." French President François Hollande called for the eurozone to develop its own government, parliament and budget, with a smaller group of nations starting immediately, leading the way.

The creation of the euro was a diabolically brilliant strategy. It forces the reluctant European nations together. At the same time, German elites and European bureaucrats get the German population behind them. Ordinarily German voters wouldn't be keen on a takeover of Greece. But because they see it as key to their economic prosperity and to keeping their tax money, they

The elites that designed the euro knew it would lead us here.

are generally in favor and even calling for harsher measures.

The new European superstate that the euro crisis is forcing can't help but radically change the world. This is about a third superpower, distinct and independent from both America and Russia.

Germany leading a core group of nations with a common government is more than just economic destiny. History and geography—and prophecy warn us of the same outcome.

A Warning From History

Probably no one is as good at marshaling history and geography to forecast world events as George Friedman. "Any country located in the middle of the northern plain of Europe will be important, whether fragmented, as it was during the Holy Roman Empire, or united," he writes in his book Flashpoints.

Friedman describes the genuine desire within Germany to avoid a repeat of World War II. "German intentions are to have an economic policy without political, and certainly without military, consequences," he writes. "They intend to be the dominant power in Europe without imposing their will on anyone.

"This is an understandable impulse," he writes. "It is not clear that it is practical." He wrote that before the last phase of the Greek crisis. He has already been proven right.

"The fourth-largest economy in the world does not have the option of avoiding politics," he warns. "Everything that happens in the world might affect its interests, and certainly everything that happens in Europe will affect Germany." German voters are realizing this. Ten years ago, they would have vigorously opposed such strong action from their government. Now they are encouraging it. If Chancellor Merkel had simply handed money over to the Greeks without demanding concessions, her chancellorship would not last long. Germany is a rich power, and "Wealth without strength is an invitation to disaster," Friedman writes. In time, he says, Germany will see that wealth taken away or use "its vast resources to transform wealth into POWER" (emphasis added throughout).

"Germany will face stark choices, and increasing its strength in all dimensions will become more bearable than the alternatives," Friedman writes. "Germany will therefore become a full-fledged power, first flexing its political muscles"—as we just saw in Greece—"and in time its military ones as pressures develop."

"Germany has nothing but psychological bars to rearming itself," he writes. "But the truth is that no nation is fully sovereign without weapons, and whatever Germany's memories and nightmares, the idea of perpetual peace is a dream. A prosperous economic life without needing to protect it is not sustainable."

This is what a geopolitical and historical analysis forecasts: Germany, as a major military power, dominating Europe. No matter how reluctant German voters may have been in the past, their nation is reverting to its old mindset of aggressively defending its interests.

There have long been those in Germany who wanted the nation to play this powerful role. Over the last few years, Der Spiegel—one of Germany's most popular magazines—has done some excellent work exposing the extent to which ex-Nazis infiltrated the postwar government. The American government has published intercepted secret documents showing top German industrialists committing themselves to rebuild a Nazi empire. Yet 60 years on, Germany has not launched another world takeover bid. Whenever Germany has acted with strength, like the Balkans, for example, it

German elites have created a crisis that finally gets voters behind their vision for German power.

has always avoided the limelight, hiding behind NATO or the EU. Why?

These elites never had the German voters behind them. Germany was devastated by World War II. Unlike after World War I, the nation was so comprehensively defeated that it lost its appetite for war. Even today, military spending is unpopular with most German voters.

For 60 years, ambitious German leaders have been unable to win voters' support for a vision of great German power. But by creating the euro crisis, they are changing that. If German voters see that German might, even armed German might, is the only way to keep them safe and prosperous, they will support it. That is exactly what we saw this summer.

As Friedman points out, even without the euro crisis, geopolitical reality alone means Germany cannot be both rich and militarily weak. Sooner or later, a dangerous world will force German voters to change. The euro crisis is making this

happen right now. German elites have created a crisis that finally gets voters behind their vision for German power.

But there is a more reliable source of warning for what comes next. Geopolitical analysis is helpful, but has its limitations.

Your Surest Guide to the Future

Friedman writes that "[i]n 1945 very few would have imagined the Germany of the 21st century, and those who did would have been terrified."

Yet Herbert W. Armstrong forecast exactly this outcome. Even before the end of World War II, he forecast that Germany would dominate Europe again. On May 9, 1945, he even said that this would happen through "a European union."

In August 1950, Herbert Armstrong predicted that "the world will be stunned, dumbfounded, to see Germany emerge suddenly in a power never equaled by Hitler—by a union of 10 nations in Europe, probably including some at present puppets of Russia—in a gigantic United States of Europe. ... Soon the 'United States of Europe' will emerge, with Germany at its head" (Plain Truth).

Those "puppets of Russia" are now part of the EU! We don't yet see the union of 10 nations—that is coming—but we see Germany clearly as Europe's head.

More recently, in his booklet Germany's Conquest of the Balkans, Mr. Flurry wrote, "It will not be long before Europe is reunited as the Holy Roman Empire. It will be led very assertively by Germany."

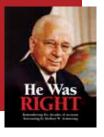
That book was first published in 1999. It is full of statements that would have

GERMANY PAGE 32 ▶

Herbert **Armstrong's** most important prophecy

For decades, he foretold of Germany dominating Europe. Now it is reality.

To learn more of his forecasts that are coming to pass in today's headlines, request a free copy of He Was Right.





UROPE IS A MESS. RECENT HEADlines have been dominated by economic brinksmanship, impassioned public protests, all-night wrangles among leaders trying to prevent Greece from going bankrupt, leaving the eurozone and hurling the entire European Union into the abyss.

Amid the uncertainty, one reality seems certain, at least to most observers: The European Union is dying—slowly, painfully and publicly. The hope of European countries forming a united, stable, democratic, geopolitically consequential entity is vanishing. The future of global politics and power, many believe, belongs to the likes of China, Russia, Iran and the United States. The EU, assuming it can survive the current crisis, is destined to remain, at best, a secondary power.

The Trumpet forecasts a different future.

Europe will unite and it will become a formidable global dynamo. The unity Europe attains will not be perfect, it will not come about easily or peacefully, and it certainly will not endure. But Europe will unite to become a serious, daunting global power. The emergence of this new Europe will have far-reaching and dramatic consequences for us all.

This forecast is underpinned by two basic proofs. First, like the goal of European unity itself, it is supported by more than 1,500 years of European history. Second, it is supported by Bible prophecy.

Founded in 1951, initially as the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Union was created with the fundamental goal of reviving the ancient Holy Roman Empire. This might be hard to envision, considering what a debacle the EU is today. Nevertheless, the cherished and publicly stated goal of some

Europeans, especially European leaders, is to resurrect the Holy Roman Empire.

What was the Holy Roman Empire? What would a resurrected Holy Roman Empire look like?

This empire—its composition and character, its behavior and accomplishments-was prophesied, repeatedly and in vivid detail, in the Bible. Where are these prophecies? Have they been fulfilled? What do they mean for the future of Europe, and for mankind?

Some of the answers are not pleasant, but we need to know.

Reviving the Holy Roman Empire

Brendan Simms is a historian and a professor of history at Cambridge University. In 2013, he wrote an article in the New York Times titled "The Ghosts of Europe's Past." "The cheerleaders of the European Union like to think of it as an entirely

new phenomenon, born of the horrors of two world wars," he wrote. "But in fact it closely resembles a formation that many Europeans thought they had long since left to the dustbin of history: the Holy Roman Empire ..." (June 9, 2013).

Not all Europeans, however, confined the Holy Roman Empire to the dustbin of history. Here is how Otto von Habsburg, a descendant of that famous line of European royalty, put it in 1989: "The [European] Community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it don't know by what heritage they live."

These are important words from an important man. Together with other leading figures such as Konrad Adenauer, Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet, this man built the European Community, which today we call the European Union. Habsburg died in 2011. He was a descendant of the Habsburg line of European royalty and former crown prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was one of the leading architects of modern Europe—and his statement discloses the vision that underpins modern Europe.

To appreciate the significance of this truth, we need to understand the history and nature of the Holy Roman Empire particularly the identity of the "holy" in its name.

Among historians, it is generally accepted that the Holy Roman Empire was the cyclical reincarnation of the ancient Roman Empire, presided over in each instance by the Catholic Church. Oxford Dictionary defines it as the "empire set up in Western Europe following the coronation of Charlemagne as emperor in the year 800. It was created by the medieval papacy in an attempt to unite Christendom under one rule."

These descriptions are accurate, but are woefully incomplete.

Mr. Habsburg lived in Vienna, Austria, the heart of the ancient Holy Roman Empire, and he often spoke about an illustrious crown on display in Vienna's Hofburg Palace. "We do possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations equally," he once said. "This is the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne."

The founders of the EU, and many European leaders today, readily acknowledge

that the supreme goal of the European Union is to live "by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire." European politicians regularly declare their admiration for Charlemagne and publicly admit that they seek to create a united Europe that "embodies the tradition of Charlemagne."

What is the "heritage of the Holy Roman Empire"? Who was Charlemagne? What is the "tradition of Charlemagne"? We need the answers to these questions if we are to understand modern Europe and anticipate its future.

Modern Europe wants to resurrect the Holy Roman Empire. That means this history is also prophecy of the imminent future. Examining the history and nations. He decides the borders of nations. He oversees all major developments in international relations. God reigns supreme in the affairs of men.

Another important truth that might surprise the reader is this: The Bible clearly shows that this is not God's world. This world's customs and traditions, cultures and societies, lifestyles, governments and economies of human civilization were not designed by God, and He does not endorse them. The Bible teaches that this world is under the control and influence of Satan the devil, a former archangel who rebelled against God (e.g. 2Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9). This explains the presence of so

Modern Europe wants to resurrect the Holy Roman Empire. That means this history is also prophecy of the imminent future.

that is informing the modern revival of this church-state combine provides a glimpse into the immediate future of both Europe and the world. That makes this a subject of paramount importance.

Proving God and His Word

Adding another dimension of importance to this subject is what the Bible says about the Holy Roman Empire. Any attempt to discuss it without employing Scripture is doing this subject injustice. In fact, the history of the Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire proves the veracity of God's infallible Word.

Note some statements in Scripture that begin to show this truth.

In Isaiah 46:9-10, He says, "... I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand"

In Isaiah 40, He says, "To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance All nations before him are as nothing ..." (verses 25-26, 15, 17).

The God of the Bible is the ultimate authority in the affairs of mankind. Few realize it today, but God sanctions the rise and fall of human empires

much evil and unhappiness in our world.

But the profound influence of the devil on this world does not preclude God's involvement in world events.

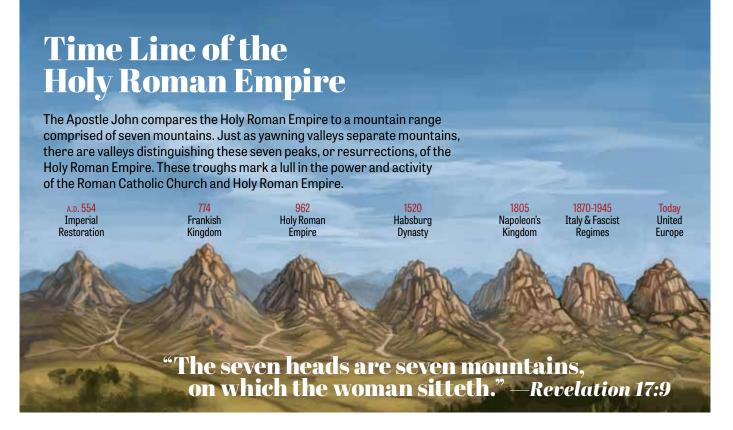
Psalm 33:10-15 say, "The Eternal wrecks the purposes of pagans, he brings to nothing what the nations plan; but the Eternal's purpose stands for ever, and what he plans will last from age to age. ... The Eternal looks from heaven, beholding all mankind; from where he sits, he scans all who inhabit the world; he who alone made their minds, he notes all they do" (Moffatt translation).

Any person who has the humility to meditate on that scripture will see that it is astonishingly hopeful and inspiring.

The tendency of human nature is to focus on the self, to behave as if the universe revolves around oneself. Thus blinded by vanity and self-absorption, individually and collectively, most people fail to see and accept that God is the ultimate authority in the affairs of humanity.

This is why God gives Bible prophecy: to prove that He exists and that He reigns supreme.

Though this world and human nature are under the influence of the devil, God steers world events to ensure that every word He has uttered is fulfilled exactly as He said. God monitors everything, and He sanctions every major and even many minor decisions and developments.



This is one of the most hopeful, assuring truths a person can know. And the history of the Catholic religion and the Holy Roman Empire provide quantifiable, living, irrefutable proof of this truth.

How?

How Relevant Is Prophecy?

In this world—even in much of traditional Christianity—Bible prophecy is almost universally ignored and rejected. But did you realize that fully one third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy? To discard prophecy is to discard one third of the Bible.

The great majority of Bible prophecy revolves around the time we are currently living in and the months and years ahead. Author and educator Herbert W. Armstrong taught that 90 percent of the Bible's prophecy is for our time. This is an astounding truth when you consider that the final canon of the Bible was finished more than 1,900 years ago.

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, which comprise the Pentateuch, roughly 1,400 years before the lifetime of Jesus Christ. The major and minor prophets, which are filled with so much prophecy, were written between 400 and 800 years before Christ. The Apostle John wrote his gospel, his epistles and the book of Revelation in the final decade of the first century, and authorship of

the Bible was completed by A.D. 100.

Now think on this.

If the Holy Roman Empire was discussed in the Bible long before it even existed—in some instances, more than a thousand years prior to it coming on the scene—then this would surely prove the existence of a higher power, a divine architect, a supreme being capable of intervening in human affairs and shaping world history.

If the Holy Roman Empire is indeed fulfilled prophecy, then it is dramatic, tangible, undeniable proof of God's existence. And if the prophecy of the Holy Roman Empire is accurate, then other biblical prophecies and truths would surely also be accurate. This would make the Bible a valuable resource for forecasting world events—even for preparing for them.

So, was the Holy Roman Empire prophesied in the Bible?

Holy Roman Empire Prophesied

The Holy Roman Empire is spoken of in multiple prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments. Let's look at one specific chapter—written more than 400 years before the Holy Roman Empire came into existence—that gives a detailed, thorough explanation of this empire's nature and motives, its

leadership, and its accomplishments.

The book of Revelation is about "things which shall be hereafter," or events that would occur after John's time (Revelation 1:19). Revelation contains prophecy of end-time events. Revelation 17 was written by the Apostle John around A.D. 90. The specific purpose of this pivotal chapter, as verse 1 plainly states, is to describe the "judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters." This "great whore" symbolizes a specific institution. In this chapter, God gives John a vision, beginning in verse 3, in which He gives the apostle insight into the character and conduct of this institution, and a look at its final judgment and its end.

John's vision contains three primary characters. The first two are revealed in verse 3: "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." The third is revealed in verse 6: "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."

The first character of Revelation 17 is the "whore" or "woman," which in biblical language represents a religion, or church (e.g. Ephesians 5; 2Corinthians 11:2). The

second is the beast that has seven heads and 10 horns. The third is the "saints" or "martyrs," a group of people the "woman" lives to persecute and destroy.

Revelation 17:4 says this "woman" is "arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls" She is conspicuously wealthy, overflowing with material splendor. She is a famous religion known and revered by people across the planet (see also verses 2 and 15 and Revelation 18:3).

The scene in Revelation 17:3 of the woman riding, or guiding, the beast depicts a religion brandishing political power. Verse 2 says the "kings of the earth have committed fornication" with her. Verse 18 says, "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." This religion enmeshes itself with the affairs of kings and empires. It is a power player in international relations.

Revelation 17 is clear. This religion is incredibly wealthy; it has a global presence and influence; it is a potent force in politics and international relations; and it uses the beast to pursue its grim ambitions.

Now look at the beast it rides. Verse 3 says this creature has seven heads and 10 horns. Verse 9 says that the "seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth." In biblical language, a mountain is a symbol for a nation or kingdom (e.g. Isaiah 2:2-3). Here, each "head" signifies a distinct kingdom, or empire.

Revelation 17:10 reveals that these seven heads are also "seven kings," or seven individuals, each ruling a kingdom. The seven heads represent seven distinct empires, or kingdoms, each with its own king. Verse 10 shows that these empires, or kingdoms, are successive, not concurrent.

All of these kings, or kingdoms, are inspired and led by the woman. To Catholics, the Holy Roman Empire is secular history, with the Vatican trapped in the middle as a reluctant and unwilling participant. That is not true.

Finally, what do the 10 horns represent? Again, Scripture reveals the answer. Verses 12-14 show that the 10 horns represent 10 kings, or 10 nations, that coalesce around and submit themselves to the superior king ruling over the seventh kingdom.

Now let's summarize the prophetic message of Revelation 17. This vision is obviously about a towering church—a wealthy, imperialistic, ambitious religion—presiding over the rise of seven distinct empires, or kingdoms, each ruled by a specific king. And this woman uses her influence over each empire to try and destroy the true "saints" of God.

Study history and you will come to appreciate how perfect this description of the Holy Roman Empire is. The Holy Roman Empire that is recorded and discussed in countless history books. The Holy Roman Empire whose history is still plainly evident in the cathedrals and castles, the ruins and battlefields, the symbols and memorabilia, the customs and practices of Europe today.

Most significantly, you will see what an apt description it is of the Holy Roman Empire currently resurrecting in Europe.

And to think, Revelation 17 was written more than 400 years before the first manifestation in Europe of the Holy Roman Empire.

Fulfilled Prophecy

These are some harsh truths: that the Catholic religion is the "woman" of Revelation 17; that the Holy Roman Empire is the seven-headed beast ridden by the woman; and that together these two seek to undermine, persecute and destroy the true religion of God.

Bible prophecy says the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will cause global devastation that will affect every person on Earth. The destruction and suffering will be exponentially worse than World War II.

The history of the Holy Roman Empire proves God's existence and the veracity of His Word. This is a truth that every person on Earth will have to come to understand and that every reader would do well to think seriously about. The message, if you really get it, is important, wonderful and life-changing.

Consider it. If God prophesied in the first century that a great false religion would preside over seven distinct empires, and subsequent history shows a great religion presiding over seven distinct empires, this is fulfilled prophecy.

If a prophecy is obviously fulfilled, that proves that a supreme power capable of bringing that prophecy to fruition also must exist. No man could forecast something like the Holy Roman Empire, and certainly no man could influence world conditions over the course of two millennia to bring it to pass. If the Holy Roman Empire exists, and if it looks and behaves exactly as God prophesied it would, then God must exist.

Now think about the consequences of proving God's existence.

If God really does exist—if He is alive and living, all-powerful and supremethen what is His purpose? What is man? What is man's future?

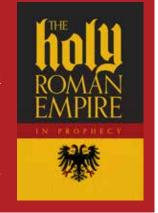
If God exists, then mankind, despite the chaos and hopelessness that engulfs us, has a bright future. If God exists, and if what He teaches in the Bible is true, then there is reason to be optimistic. If God exists, then there is cause for hope.

Doesn't the world right now—don't you—need some hope?

Six have come and gone. The seventh is rising.

The Holy Roman Empire has precisely followed the up-and-down course that biblical prophecy said it would. One last resurrection of this church-state combine is rising today.

For an eye-opening look at this spectacular history and prophecy, request a free copy of our new book, **The Holy** Roman Empire in Prophecy.





U.S., Iran share air base

N 1979, ISLAMISTS TOOK over Iran and also took 52 American diplomats and citizens hostage for 444 days. Since then, the United States and Iran have had no official diplomatic ties. Yet the two nations now have military ties—in Iraq.

A June 22 report by Bloomberg View, based on revelations from two senior officials in the Obama administration, showed that the U.S. and Iran now share the Taggadum military base 70 miles west of Baghdad, between the Islamic Statecontrolled cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. The U.S. first used this base when the Iraq War began in 2003.

The State Department has designated Iran the chief state sponsor of terrorism since 1984; this assessment was confirmed in its "Country Reports on Terrorism 2014." In a press briefing before the release of the reports on June 19, State Department coordinator for counterterrorism Tina Kaidanow said that "we continue to be very, very concerned about IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] activity as well as proxies that act on behalf of Iran."

Some of those proxies the State Department worries about are based at Taqqadum. While their main goal for now is to fight the Islamic State, these Iran-sponsored militias have fought against U.S. soldiers before—in Iraq. Senior administration officials told Bloomberg View that hun-



dreds of them constantly fly in and out of the base.

One militant group at Taqqadum is Iraqi Hezbollah. Its leader, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, was sanctioned by the Treasury Department in 2009 for destabilizing Iraq. Another group there is the League of the Righteous. In 2007, members of this IRGC affiliate disguised themselves as U.S. troops, abducted five American soldiers from a military compound in Karbala, Iraq, and killed them. The League of the Righteous

remains unrepentant for this; in fact, it brags about it.

Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, who fought in Iraq, noted that the most advanced and most lethal weapons used against American troops in Iraq were supplied by Iran to some of the exact same militias that are sharing Taggadum with Americans.

According to a senior administration official, U.S. military briefings on operations often include information on commanders from some of these Iranian proxies. Intelligence reports have revealed that these commanders also spy on U.S. operations from that base.

Bloomberg reported that even some U.S. military hardware has been obtained by Iran's proxies at Taqqadum.

In 2013, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy recognized groups like Iraqi Hezbollah and the League of the Righteous for deploying militants to aid Syrian President Bashar Assad in fighting rebels in Syria. This support, sanctioned by Iran, is what State Department terrorism reports say is the main prolonger of the Syrian civil war and has worsened the nation's humanitarian crisis.

One of the senior administration officials who spoke to Bloomberg said, "Even if these guys don't attack us ... Iran is ushering in a new Hezbollah era in Iraq, and we will have aided and abetted it."

America's involvement in the Mideast has helped Iran's rise to regional hegemony at a terrible financial and human cost. From the weakening of Iraq in the first Gulf War to the ouster of Saddam Hussein in the second to leaving a weak government in Afghanistan, the United States has helped Iran to seize kingship of the Middle East.



Russia's slow advance into Georgian territory

EORGIA IS CALLING ON THE international community to "properly respond" to Russia's ongoing creeping occupation of Georgian territory.

On July 10, Russian forces placed new "border" markers in several villages near Georgia's central highway. This action, according to Georgian officials, brought a new strip of Georgian territory more than a mile wide under Russian control. The newly occupied territory includes part of a major BP-operated oil pipeline.

"We've lost most of our fields," said a farmer from Tsitelubani, one of the communities affected by the newly declared border. "The Russians said we are no longer allowed there."

The move is the latest in a series of Russian operations, which analysts say are part of Moscow's creeping annexation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia—both breakaway Georgian territories. Russia has occupied the two territories since 2008 after a brief war with Georgia.

Georgia's Foreign Ministry urged the international community to stand up against these Russian actions that "violate fundamental principles of the international law."

Russia's dangerous new gas pipeline to Germany

R USSIAN STATE-OWNED GAS giant Gazprom signed a deal on June 18 to double the capacity of the Nord Stream gas pipeline that delivers Russian gas directly to Germany.

Analysts are wondering why Germany keeps working with Moscow when it is supposedly shunning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. When asked how he convinced Germany's E.ON to do business with Gazprom, chief executive Alexei Miller said, "[T]here was no politics at all."

But make no mistake: This pipeline deal has geopolitics all over it-geopolitics that will give more dominance to Russia and Germany.

Europe increasingly depends on gas supplies from Russia. If this next phase of the Nord Stream pipeline goes through (and it could take several years), Russia will be able to turn off gas to countries like Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Belarus, Hungary and Slovakia while still sending more-powerful Western nations all the gas they need.

Since 1991, Russia has turned off the gas to Eastern European nations dozens of times for political and economic reasons, sometimes during the dead of winter. Eastern European nations recognize this threat and are sure to oppose the new pipeline. But Germany and Russia pushed it through anyway.

Why would Germany agree to construct something that exponentially multiplies Russia's capacity to invade more Eastern European nations? Because the Nord Stream pipeline radically increases German power too.

With Russia's help,

Germany is becoming an energy hub of Europe. Increasing quantities of Russian gas are flowing through

Germany before being distributed to countries like the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Britain.

Germany and Russia actually have

a history of secret cooperation even when headlines appear to indicate otherwise. The fact that Germany and Russia are pushing through such a deal even as the West

and Russia struggle over Ukraine speaks volumes.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned that a German-Russian pact had already been made back in October 2008. "The presence of a deal between these two nations is not a sign of peace.

> Like the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, and so many others before it, it is a sign of exactly the opposite. Both of these nations are looking

to secure their shared border—so they can pursue their imperialistic aims elsewhere! It is a precursor to war!"

Later in the article he asked: "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."

Last March, the world was stunned as Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Yet it shouldn't have been. Russia already has great power over Ukraine and other Eastern European nations, and if the proposed expansion takes place, all of Ukraine and other Eastern European nations could be doomed to return to Russian domination.

Germany may support Ukraine with words, but watch its actions. Watch as Russia rebuilds its Eastern European empire. For a powerful preview of the near future, read Mr. Flurry's 2008 article "Russia's Attack Signals Dangerous New Era" (the Trumpet.com/go/5453). \blacksquare



through the NEL pipe

THE BANK FOR INTERNAtional Settlements (BIS) warned in a June 28 report that when the next economic crisis strikes, central banks won't be able to save the day again. "[I]n some jurisdictions, monetary policy is already testing its outer limits, to the point of stretching the boundaries of the unthinkable," wrote the authors (emphasis added throughout). "[T]he policy mix has relied ... on the very debt-fueled growth model that lay at the root of the crisis."

The report argues that the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and other central banks have run out of options to deal with economic catastrophe.

Yet the report says more clever scheming may yet solve the crisis: "Nothing is inevitable about this. The problems we face are

man-made and can be solved by the wit of man."

Others are not so hopeful. "I expect that within the next year or two we will see some major, major problems in the world financial markets," investor Jim Rogers warned days before the BIS report. "I suspect ... it will cause central banks to panic. ... By 2016, I am sure we will all be moaning ... because there is going to come a time when there is not much central banks can do, when they have lost all credibility, when governments have lost all credibility."

No major country has less debt today than it had in 2008. The Federal Reserve's balance sheet has more than quintupled. Even countries talking about austerity all have higher, and still rising, debt loads.

Greece's debt is potentially dragging it out of the

European Union. The U.S. territory of Puerto Rico declared in June that it was bankrupt. In July, the Congressional Budget Office reported that U.S. federal debt has doubled in seven years and that interest payments could drown the economy within a decade.

"[This is] going to affect the lives of every single individual in the U.S. and many in the world," Gerald Flurry warned on June 18. "We have to deal with this quickly, but at this time that debt just keeps soaring. ... [W]e have also been telling you close to 50 years that the entire financial structure and system of the Western world was going to collapse, and ... that's prophesied in your Bible." Watch his video on this subject, "Daniel and the Hidden Gospel," at theTrumpet.com/go/KOD1668.■

Pope calls for new world government

OPE FRANCIS PUBLISHED his second encyclical on May 24, Laudato Si (Be Praised). The document pushed for greater Catholic control over the global economy, global politics and the globe in general.

Francis made clear that this encyclical is not just for Catholics, but for "all people." The Guardian called it "the most astonishing and perhaps the most ambitious papal document of the past 100 years" (June 19).

A portion of it deals with global warming, but much concerns mankind's general "self-destructive" behavior. Francis blames both world poverty and the environmental crisis that he foresees on "the current global system, where priority tends to be given to speculation and the pursuit of financial gain."

That the global system is flawed is not controversial. but Francis's solution is: Hand control over to a "world political authority." Laudato Si calls for "global regulatory norms" and "enforceable international agreements." He wants to empower international institutions and create new international regulations with teeth. What Laudato Si leaves unsaid is what world religious authority should exert its influence over this world political authority, but the pope likely has an idea regarding that.



India and Pakistan join Asian security bloc

NDIA AND PAKISTAN JOINED the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on July 10. They are the first new countries to become full members since the bloc was set up in 2001.

The sco, a Eurasian political, economic and military group, is dominated by Russia and China and includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The admission of India and Pakistan extends the sco's geographic reach and its represented population-now more than 3 billion.

Since the sco's founding, member nations have signed more than 100 cooperation agreements and have expanded collaboration in economics, politics, security, culture and other areas. With the admission of India and Pakistan, the cooperation will lurch ahead with renewed vigor, largely because India is a rapidly growing economy with an enormous thirst for energy exports from Russia and Central Asian nations.

India's sco membership will likely diminish rivalries between China and India, thereby decreasing India's commitment to the U.S. as an ally. Similarly, a warmer relationship between Pakistan and the sco will boost Islamabad's bargaining power with Washington, thereby reducing the Washington's power in the relationship.

Russia and China are the regional behemoths driving the rise of the Eastern nations, and the sco is a key vehicle they are using to accomplish that.

NATO's weakness will make Europe stronger

OST OF WESTERN EUROPE does not want to defend а мато ally against Russian attack, a Pew poll published on June 8 showed. The survey asked, "If Russia got into a serious military conflict with one of its neighboring countries that is our NATO ally, do



you think our country should or should not use military force to defend that country?" Collective defense is NATO'S core. But 51 percent of

Italians, 53 percent of French and 58 percent of Germans said *no* to defending an ally.

The poll also showed that Poland's trust in the United States for defense has collapsed. Of all the NATO members polled, Poland is most under threat. In every other nation, more than 65 percent of those surveyed said they believed America would defend a NATO ally. In Poland, only 49 percent did.

Poland has seen America default on its promise to defend neighboring Ukraine, so it is pursuing other options, such as NATO's new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), deployed for the first time in Poland in June. The VJTF is built around the German-Dutch

Army Corp, making for a historical oddity: A German-led rapid deployment force being invited into Poland.

This potent symbol reveals the situation in Eastern Europe. Fear of Russia is growing, trust in America and NATO is faltering, and reliance on Germany is increasing.

One of the Netherlands' three brigades is already officially part of the German Army, and another is joining. Poland has swapped battalions with Germany and has its navy in close cooperation with the Deutsche Marine.

Berlin must balance its Russian interests against its Central European interests. but one outcome is sure: More and more of Europe will weld itself to Germany's leadership.



Ammunition for guncontrol advocates

44 THERE ARE ACTIONS THAT could be taken to make events like this less likely, and one of those actions we could take would be to enhance some basic, common-sense gun-safety laws." Those were the remarks of U.S. President Barack Obama on June 22 following the arrest of a white man for the racially motivated murders of nine black church members in Charleston, South Carolina.

President Obama made those comments during a

podcast interview with comedian Marc Maron, emphasizing that "it's not enough just to feel bad."

Later in the interview, the president blamed Congress for failing to act after the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012. He continued by saying, "I will tell you, right after Sandy Hook, Newtown, when 20 sixyear-olds are gunned down, and Congress literally does nothing-yes, that's the closest I came to feeling disgusted. I was pretty disgusted."

Chaos reigns in St. Paul schools

OME SCHOOLS IN ST. PAUL, Minnesota, have become madhouses where students threaten and attack teachers and each other. But the federal government's proposed solution to the problem may make it worse.

The U.S. Justice Department says the schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul are racist because black students are disciplined and suspended at higher rates than Caucasians and Asians. It has threatened

prosecution unless school administrators suspend students according to the proportion of each race in the school.

These school districts don't have the money to fight the Justice Department and are submitting to its demands, which in St. Paul's case means adopt-

ing the educational and discipline standards of the San Francisco-based Pacific Educational Group (PEG).

PEG's main purpose seems to be to sell the concept of victimization. It claims that the American education system—which traditionally has been run by whites (though this is no longer the case)—is racist toward black students.

To solve this alleged racism and help black students achieve, PEG states that school curricula should be customized to meet the cultural specifications of black students, which effectively means lowering academic standards. PEG also rejects



the concept of using suspensions or expulsions to discipline black students.

After PEG took over, it radically changed the ways schools are run. Special-needs students (violent students and ones with other behavioral issues) were put back into regular classrooms. Student suspensions were replaced by "time outs." School officials started forgiving or ignoring violence and other disruptive behavior.

Turning a blind eye to crime doesn't make it go away. As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in No Freedom Without Law, "God's law brings us the ultimate, most wonderful freedom of all. It protects our families. It protects our children. It protects us from all the evil in this world."

The deeply tragic, completely avoidable murder of Kate Steinle

HILE WALKING WITH HER FATHER AND A friend on a San Francisco pier, Kate Steinle was murdered in an apparent random act of violence on July 1. Her killer, Juan

Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, a 45-year-old illegal alien, had been deported to Mexico five times and had been convicted of seven felonies over the past 22 years. Sanchez was being held by San Francisco law enforcement but was released due to the city's "sanctuary" law, which argues that illegal immigrants should not be kept

in jail because it violates their rights. After his release, Sanchez shot Steinle in the chest as she was walking along Pier 14, a busy San Francisco tourist destination. While illegal immigrants



account for only 3.5 percent of the U.S. population, they represented almost 37 percent of federal sentences, according to U.S. Sentencing Commission data obtained by Breitbart News. Even after eliminating all immigration violations, illegal immigrants still account for 13.6 percent of all offenders sentenced in 2014.

HUMAN SURVIVAL FROM PAGE 6

Ezekiel 33:10 contains this end-time prophecy: "Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?" Israel here refers specifically to two nations

that descend from ancient Israel: America and Britain.

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God. I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked: but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die,

O house of Israel?" (verse 11). God doesn't want anyone to suffer through the nuclear tragedy that is coming! He calls out for people to turn from their evil ways. If you don't know what those evil ways are, you need to study your Bible to see. The

The Persian nation is going to continue pushing and pushing—and probably soon it will push with nuclear capability! However, the Bible shows that there will be a power that will stand up to it. Daniel 11:40 shows the end result for the nation of Iran: "And at the time of the end shall

> the king of the south [radical Islam led by Iran] push at him [a resurrected Holy Roman Empire in Europel: and the king of the north [the Europeans] 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 prophecy reveals that a European power is soon going to be strong enough to deal with Iran in exactly the way America won't.

In the 1930s and '40s, Britain and America thought Hitler could be appeased with words and treaties. But that did not stop him. Only superior will and power stops a madman.

To prove the

modern identities

of nations in Bible

prophecy, request

and study our free book The United States and Britain

in Prophecy

way America and Britain are conducting themselves violates just about every command God ever gave! And because of that, these calamities are coming upon us, including the end result of this deal.

America and Britain don't have the will to stop Iran. The Bible prophesies the complete collapse of will and power in America and Britain. In Leviticus 26:19, God says that He will break the pride of Israel's power. America's capitulation in these negotiations is a prime example of this prophecy being fulfilled.

In the 1930s and '40s, Hitler and the Nazis kept pushing and pushing, yet Britain and America just hoped the problem would go away. They thought Hitler could be appeased with words and treaties. But that did not stop him. Only superior will and power stops a madman.

No words will stop this king of terror because he believes he has a religious duty to bring upon the world a nuclear cataclysm so his messiah can return (sidebar: "The Danger of a Nuclear Iran"). No matter what happens, these religious zealots feel like they are winners.

Ultimately, though, this explosive situation will result in nuclear war. Passages including Matthew 24:21-22 and Daniel 12:1-2 describe a time of such catastrophic destruction that they must be talking about nuclear warfare. Isaiah 6:11, Jeremiah 2:15 and many other prophecies foretell cities without even one inhabitant. Only nuclear weapons could cause that.

Can't we see that there is no human solution to this crisis? Matthew 24:21-22 tell us exactly that. Without the return of Jesus Christ, mankind would war all the way to the point that there would not be a single human being left alive on Earth! This is talking about the nuclear war just ahead of us!

But these verses also show that there is good news: Jesus Christ is going to stop us from destroying ourselves completely! He is going to return—not an Islamic Mahdi currently hiding in a well. Jesus Christ is going to return in all power from heaven and place His feet upon the Mount of Olives, and bring us the real true and lasting peace that we all desire!

► GERMANY FROM PAGE 23

seen controversial at the time, but are now all over your newspapers. "The historical plan of the European Union was to control a dangerous Germany. But it is clear that Germany is controlling the EU!" wrote Mr. Flurry.

His statement that "it is now the politics of *Germany* that powerfully influence politics in all Europe," is now so obvious it appears tame.

He also wrote: "Notice what Sir Winston Churchill said, May 31, 1935: 'Everywhere these countries are being made to look to Germany in a special way.' AND TODAY ALL OF EUROPE IS LOOKING TO GERMANY IN A SPECIAL WAY." Today, no one would dispute that.

What these men wrote decades ago is coming to pass right now. What they forecast for the time ahead aligns with what the leaders of Europe, economic experts and top news analysts also predict.

How are they so right?

Their forecasts were based on Bible prophecy. That is not a fashionable news source. But you can't afford to ignore it, given how right these prophecies are proving to be. The Bible forecasts a power dominated by Germany and made up of a group little smaller than today's eurozone. This superpower will be "partly strong, and partly broken"-a conglomeration of different nations (Daniel 2:42).

This is exactly what many of today's experts predict for Europe.

You need to know what the Bible says about the future of

this power. For a step-by-step explanation, request our free booklet Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

The rise of this new German power is "one of the most significant moments ever in the



history of Europe," Mr. Flurry wrote. You cannot afford to be ignorant about what is happening in Europe and where it is leading.

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Don't Listen to Haters

There's a time to shut your ears and walk on.

O YOU CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK of you?

We all want to be liked. We seek admiration from friends and others. That's not necessarily bad. It can motivate us to eliminate annoying habits and treat other people well. But it can easily become a problem. We all run the risk of putting too much value on others' opinions, especially negative opinions. This can warp your thinking, distort your decision-making, and destroy your confidence—and even your faith.

With social media, this unhealthy tendency has gotten a



IOEL HILLIKER

mega-rocket boost. Many people become anxiously wrapped up in managing their online reputations. They obsess over their numbers of followers, friends, favorites, +1s, reblogs, retweets, likes and comments. And online, people tend to spout off mean, nasty comments even more freely. Absorbing yourself in that noisy, ugly world can give you terrible insecurity, melancholy or worse.

Have you ever fallen into these traps? If so, consider some great advice from a very wise man, who understood a lot about human nature long before any of us even picked up a smartphone.

King Solomon said this: "[T]ake no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee" (Ecclesiastes 7:21).

OK, I understand you don't have servants—but think about Solomon's point. He is addressing your attitude toward what others say about you, particularly your response to criticism. Don't go asking around for what people are saying, he advises. "[D]o not be overanxious about their evil reports concerning thee," Lange's Commentary explains; "do not be curious to hear how they judge thee"—be it in person, in texts or online.

Here's the thing: When you go fishing for comments, you're looking for praise. You want to hear good things. You crave what will puff you up. So even if you get what you want and do hear praise, the result is just vanity.

But as this verse says, that probably *isn't* what you'll hear. If you're snooping around trying to learn what people *really* think of you, you are going to hear something bad. And that is an excellent reason *not to snoop!* This verse says there are things you are actually better off *not even hearing.* When you overhear that cutting comment, what can you do about it anyway? It will only leave you frustrated and needlessly upset.

Like it or not, people will "curse" you. That is life. So what? "Take no heed." Even when you do happen to hear a nasty remark, don't set your heart on it. "[D]o not take to heart everything people say," the New King James Version says. This is hard—but don't get upset. Be like a deaf man to it (e.g. Psalm 38:13). Act like you didn't even hear.



Obviously, you need to hear constructive criticism. You must be correctable and willing to make changes that will make you a better person. Solomon isn't telling you to be deaf toward that—he is warning about a trap of your human nature. He is telling you to close your ears to snippity, gossipy *chatter*. And in our hyperconnected world, there's a *lot* of that flying around. Opening yourself up to that can turn your life into an echo chamber of people's offhand opinions! And it's easy to take offense at the slightest thing and turn pinpricks into civil wars.

The next verse gives additional wisdom that puts other people's comments in perspective: "[Y]our heart knows that many times you have yourself cursed others" (Ecclesiastes 7:22; Revised Standard Version).

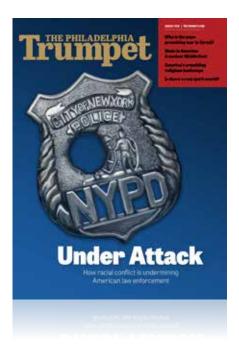
Admit it. You've said bad things about others—things you hope they don't hear. You *shouldn't*—but sadly, sometimes you have. When you hear someone saying something bad about you, instead of getting upset, take it as an opportunity to reflect on your own mistakes in that area. How *easy* it is to say negative things about people, whether you really mean it or not. How hurtful it can be to another person when you look down on them—especially when you *voice* that to others and damage that person's reputation.

When you hear someone "curse" you, criticize you, pause, get a grip on your emotions, and then humbly think about how you have "cursed" others. Instead of getting angry at the guy who ridiculed you, get a little irked at yourself for those times when you have ridiculed someone else. Use it as an opportunity to strengthen your resolve to avoid backbiting and gossip, to say only kind comments about others, to protect their reputations.

"[S]peak evil of no man," the Apostle Paul said, "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish" (Titus 3:2-3). We all make mistakes, and it's *easy* to judge others harshly. But there are plenty of things about *you* that could be judged and condemned just as easily! Remember that, and you'll have more patience for the person who says something unflattering about you.

Most all of us need to be less concerned about what other people think, and far more concerned about what God thinks. "[A]m I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man?" the Apostle Paul asked. "If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10; English Standard Version).

Follow Solomon's excellent advice. It is sure to spare you a lot of nonsense and heartache. When it comes to negative comments, don't listen to the haters; listen to Solomon!



For the August issue, the *Trumpet* examined Pope Francis taking the side of the Palestinians, the burgeoning Mideast arms race, Japan's march toward militarism, and America's crumbling religious landscape. Gerald Flurry's cover story, "Police Under Attack," looked at the handcuffing of American law enforcement (the *Trumpet.com/go/12840*). Your reactions:

"My grandfather was a policeman who was murdered in the line of duty. He was ambushed and shot in the face. It takes a person of character to defend law and order against overwhelming circumstances. Police Remembrance Day should be changed to Police Gratitude Day."

Emily Dalton AUSTRALIA

Music will never sound the same again.

Tune in to *Music For Life* with Ryan Malone and explore the purpose and value of music to humanity's enrichment. This new radio program surveys the history of music, introduces its major composers, and uses the Bible to uncover what ancient music was like. Visit KPCG.fm online to learn how to subscribe, listen on demand, or live stream every Monday.

I have watched the Baltimore incident several times as the police were arresting Freddie Gray. I saw no evidence of mistreatment of this man as they were putting him into the vehicle. Sadly, even that documented evidence does not satisfy those who have rioted and brought charges against those officers involved. To any logical person, this should serve to show that the police were not attacking this man because he was black (especially since half the officers involved were black). Mr. Flurry has pinpointed the root cause of the atrocities we are witnessing.

Theresa Garber

FLORIDA

This subject should be all over the news. More rights for criminals will only mean fewer rights for everyone else. Because people are so easily influenced, the deterioration of society will be quicker than we can imagine.

Ed

Pope has an agenda

The reason why the pope is "provoking war" in Israel is because both the Vatican and Germany (which the Vatican supports) have their own selfish agendas in Israel, namely Jerusalem ("Why Is the Pope Provoking War in Israel?", the Trumpet.com/go/12842).

Patti

Middle East debacle

The United States has cleared the way for Iran by instigating or causing regime changes in many Middle East and African nations, some of which have been unnecessary ("Made in America: A Nuclear Middle East," the Trumpet.com/go/12844). Made in America—how true. The U.S. has truly spent its strength in vain!

Jason

AUSTRALIA

Youth without religion

Thank you for this insightful analysis of the fastest-growing religious demographic in America ("America's Crumbling Religious Landscape," the Trumpet.com/go/12845) and your inspiring admonition for any reader so moved to go to the one and only source of unchanging truth and absolute authority, the Bible.

David Block

TEXAS

As a member of the millennial generation, I have grown up with people all around me who identify themselves as part of this "none" group, but I have never stopped and really looked at it. Thank you for putting this information together.

Breann Bacon

ARKANSAS

A new way of thinking

Thank you for this wonderful and helpful article ("Is Your Home Uplifting?", the Trumpet. com/go/12851). We definitely need more of this kind of love and thinking in our lives.

Daniel Ladenburg

WASHINGTON

Wake-up call

This is a wake-up call to all of us ("A Lesson for Today From Pompeii," the Trumpet.com/go/12852). How quickly we become dulled. May God help us to overcome our human nature, society and the evil one to watch and pray always and be worthy to escape what society is concocting.

Madeleine Catussatto

BRA7II

An Extraordinary Look at a Distant Wasteland

A scientific achievement that radiates inspiration BY JOEL HILLIKER

T'S REMARKABLE, THIS MARVELOUS CURIOSITY HUMANKIND has about the universe. We want to know what's out there. ■ But we don't just imagine it in Hollywood blockbusters we spend billions of hours and dollars meticulously building probes and launching them into that inky ocean of space.

We know so little. For half a century mankind has been sending spacecraft to explore our solar system. One by one, we have gotten spectacular close-ups of our neighboring planets. Each probe has yielded unexpected discoveries—river valleys on Mars; volcanic moons around Jupiter.

Pluto is the most unknown of them all. Our knowledge about it could fit on a postcard.

That is what motivated scientists to send a probe to check it out. They built it small—grand piano-size; fast—able to cruise a million miles a day; and efficient—requiring only 170 pounds of fuel to journey 3 billion miles. They loaded it with a suite of sophisticated reconnaissance instruments to gather all the data possible during a fleeting flyby.

Then they launched it. On Jan. 19, 2006, perched on an Atlas v rocket and moving at 36,300 miles per hour, New Horizons left its home planet.

Reaching its destination required the beauty of a perfectly timed 80-yard touchdown pass—on a cosmic scale. A quarterback throws not to where his receiver is, but to where his outstretched hands will be by the time the football finishes its flight path. Scientists had to determine how physical forces would operate on this probe over the course of nearly a decade, map its precise route and speed, and calculate how to align it exactly with those of this distant dwarf planet.

Factored into their computations was a nifty slingshot assist from the gas giant Jupiter. Moving through Jovian airspace, the spacecraft harvested four months' worth of observations about our solar system's largest planet—while using Jupiter's gravitational pull to pick up 9,000 miles per hour. That trick shaved three years off New Horizons' trip to Pluto.

After passing Jupiter, New Horizons went into hibernation for about 10 months out of each year to conserve energy. Even as this lonely robot scooted farther from home, scientists still monitored its systems, updated software, resolved computer glitches, and made course corrections.

On July 14, after 3,463 days, the touchdown pass was finally completed—a graceful rendezvous between a dwarf planet that had moved 874 million miles along its orbital path, and a probe that had traveled 3 billion miles to visit it.

The scientists nailed it. After nearly 500 weeks, New

PLEASED TO MEET YOU A photo taken by New Horizons as it approached Pluto

Horizons passed Pluto within a phenomenal 72 seconds and 43 miles of its targeted course. It sped 7,750 miles above Pluto's surface at 10 miles a second, recording all it possibly could. The data trove it captured was so vast, it will take 16 months to download it all.

What an achievement, What a testament, too, of the precision of our predictable, ordered universe, which operates in perfect accordance with laws of physics. Throughout the universe is fantastic, abundant evidence of an almighty Lawgiver, and a highly skilled Designer and Creator (e.g. Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:19-20).

Why are we so enraptured with the cosmos? There is always a fascination with the unknown. Scientists want to better understand the universe and its laws; they search for clues as to its origins; they hope for signs of life. Everywhere they look, though, what they see—though it is impossibly vast and staggeringly awesome—is wasted, decayed, lifeless.

Though some may be disappointed by that reality, it aligns perfectly with what is revealed in the Bible about the universe's present state. The Bible shows why it functions according to laws so perfect that human beings can throw a touchdown pass to Pluto—and why the things floating in it look like debris from a structure fire. Scripture also explains, if you can believe it, how it will become beautified, perfected and filled with life!

The successful completion of this mission marks the end of an age of planetary exploration for human beings. We won't see another new planet up close for the first time—not in this age anyway. Pluto was the last of the known worlds to explore. Within three or four years and another billion miles, New Horizons should reach more-distant significant objects within the Kuiper Belt, a huge ring of comets and icy debris that encompasses our solar system. After that, it will sail into interstellar space, where it isn't expected to hit anything else to report home about.

As awesome as this trip was, it reinforced just how unattainable any more-distant object is. If you shrank our solar system and the 3 billion miles between you and Pluto down to the size of a beach ball, on that scale the nearest star, Proxima Centauri, would be one mile away.

We knew almost nothing about Pluto, which is still in our cosmic backyard, until we managed to get within a few thousand miles of it. What mysteries lie beyond?

Science's answers are extremely limited. However, revelation from the *Creator* of that vast expanse gives us a perspective that radiates with inspiration.

Few understand this, but God created that immense amount of real estate for a marvelous purpose. Humanity's curiosity about the cosmos will one day be rewarded with far more than mere pictures and data captured by robotic flybys of relatively nearby planets. Our journey into the great unknown has barely begun.

To learn about the astounding purpose and future of the universe, order a free copy of our booklet Our Awesome Universe Potential.

► LAWLESS FROM PAGE 17

Samuel Alito referred to it in his dissent: "The decision will also have other important consequences. It will be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy. In the course of its opinion, the majority compares traditional marriage laws to laws that denied equal treatment for African-Americans and women. The implications of this analogy WILL BE EXPLOITED BY THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO STAMP OUT EVERY VESTIGE OF DISSENT."

In other words, if you don't agree with the court's—and now the law's—new definition of marriage, look out.

Yes, the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. Justice Kennedy, President Barack Obama and others who celebrated this ruling also said some nice-sounding things about how some will disagree with it, yet we must protect freedom of religion. This was mere lip service. Don't expect that constitutional right to protect you from anything. The Supreme Court just proved itself willing to exalt an implication in an interpretation of a clause in the 14th Amendment OVER the clearly stated First Amendment right to free exercise of religion, a principle on which this nation was founded.

Those who forced this law on Americans do not care about the person who disagrees as a matter of faith. They do not care if you oppose same-sex "marriage" out of conscience and religious belief. They don't care if you get your definition of marriage from the Bible—from the God who created marriage. Because now they can come after you with the law.

In 2006, Anthony Picarello served as president and general counsel of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a law firm that specializes in defending the free expression of all faiths. He was asked about the legal challenges to religious liberty that would arise from same-sex "marriage." He said this: "This is going to affect every aspect of church-state relations. ... [T]he church is surrounded on all sides by the state ... church and state butt up against each other. The boundaries are usually peaceful, so it's easy sometimes to forget they are there. But because marriage affects just about every area of the law, gay marriage is going to create A POINT OF CONFLICT AT EVERY POINT AROUND THE PERIMETER."

Every religious liberty scholar out there knows the Supreme Court's ruling will put tremendous pressure on those who disagree with this redefinition of marriage. Activists are eager to ramp up their use of the courts to challenge, silence, compel and bully into submission anyone who puts up the slightest resistance to their cause.

Welcome to the new United States of America—ruled not by laws, but by men. Brace yourself. It won't last long.

What happens when you redefine family?

This decision and others like it will have farreaching consequences that will affect us all.

Request a free copy of our booklet on this subject, Redefining Family.





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



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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Direct TV

CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun Discovery, Chan. 278, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri WGN, Chan. 307, 8:00 ET, Sun

Dish Network

Discovery, Chan. 182, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri WGN, Chan. 239, 8:00 ET, Sun

Nationwide Cable

CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun Discovery, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun ION, 6:00 ET, Fri WGN, 8:00 ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00, Fri;

WVUA 1:00 p.m., Sun **Dothan** WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun Mobile WFGX 7:30, Sun

Montgomery WBMM-DT/WVCF-DT8:30, Sun Alaska, Anchorage KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30. Sun Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri; KAZT 8:00, Sun

Yuma KECY-DT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, El Dorado KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun Fayetteville KHBS-DT/KH0G-DT 8:30, Sun Fort Smith KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun Rogers KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun El Centro KECY-DT 8:30. Sun

Eureka KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri;

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun Monterey KION 9:30, Sun Palm Springs KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;

KRCR 9:00, Sun Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri; TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun San Diego TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri Santa Barbara-Santa Maria KSBY-DT

Sun City-Menifee TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

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

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP6:00, Fri Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun Pensacola WFGX 7:30, Sun Tallahassee WTXL7:30, Sun; WTLF/

WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri

West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri Georgia, Albany WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun Atlanta WPXA 6:00, Fri

Augusta-Aiken WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri Columbus WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun Macon WMAZ-DT9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSA-DT 9:30. Sun Thomasville WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

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

Kaui Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Oahu Focus Chan. 497:00 am, Sat Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO Idaho, Boise KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Pocatello KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30. Sun Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUU7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri Peoria WH0I-DT 8:30, Sun Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.29:30, Sun Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri

Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun

Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA-DT 8:30, Sun

Monroe KN0E-DT 8:30, Sun Lafayette KADN 7:30, Sun; KATC-DT 8:30. Sun

Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri Maine, Bangor WARI-DT9:30, Sun
Portland WPME7:30, Sun;7:00, Mon-Fri
Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30. Sun Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30. Sun Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSD/KSWD-DT 8:30. Sun Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun Greenwood WBWD 8:30. Sun Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Hattiesburg WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri Kirksville KW0T 8:30, Sun St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT8:30, Sun Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun Helena KMTF-DT 8:30, Sun Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL 8:30. Sun Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun Remira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun; WPXN 6:00, Fri Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun North Carolina, Charlotte WJZY 10:30, Sun Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun

North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 8:30, Sun Dickinson KWMK 8:30, Sun Fargo WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT8:30. Sun Minot KWMK8:30, Sun

Valley City WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun Steubenville WBW09:30. Sun Toledo WMNT 8:00. Sun

Zanesville WBZV 9:30. Sun

Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun Oklahoma City KAUT 8:30, Sun; KOPX 5:00. Fri Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun; TVCLT-Bilingual, Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Lubbock KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Victoria KWVB 8:30. Sun Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30 Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT9:30, Sun Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri Washington D.C. WMDE 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri Seattle KCPQ7:00, Sun Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun Yakima KIMA 6:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/ KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Bluefield WVVA-DT9:30, Sun Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun

Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun Wisconsin, Eau Claire WX0W-DT 8:30, Sun La Crosse WX0W-DT 8:30, Sun Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun Superior KDLH-DT8:30, Sun Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Nationwide cable

WGN 8:00 ET, Sun Discovery 6:30 ET/PT, Sun Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun

Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun

Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun British Columbia, Vancouver CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun

Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun

Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun;
CIIT Joy TV11:00, Sun

Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun

Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun;

WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00, Sun Saskatchewan, Saskatoon WUHF 8:30, Sun

CARIBBEAN Regional satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 3 Trans. 2111:30 ET, Tue/Thu Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun

Bahamas Discovery Chan. 26, 6:30, Sun FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun

Belize WGN 7:00, Sun Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun Puerto Rico WGN 8:00. Sun Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun

Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun Mexico TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun;

WGN 7:00, Sun Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Adelaide TV4411:30, Sun; 10:00, Sat Perth WTV, 11:30, Sun/Wed New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun Philippines TV49:30 PHT, Sun

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CBS Action	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch.148	Ch. 192	Ch. 64	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch.149	Ch. 197		Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

TO KNOW EUROPE'S FUTURE, LOOK AT ITS PAST.

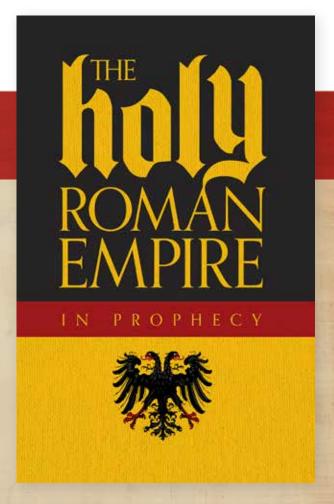
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