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# THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**Prophecy is proof of God**

**A dangerous new age  
of 'worshipping the will'**

**Putin to rule Russia for life**

**Why quarantine works**

**The greatest lesson mankind  
could possibly learn**



## CORONAPOCALYPSE

It's Changing the World—  
**and Fulfilling Prophecy**

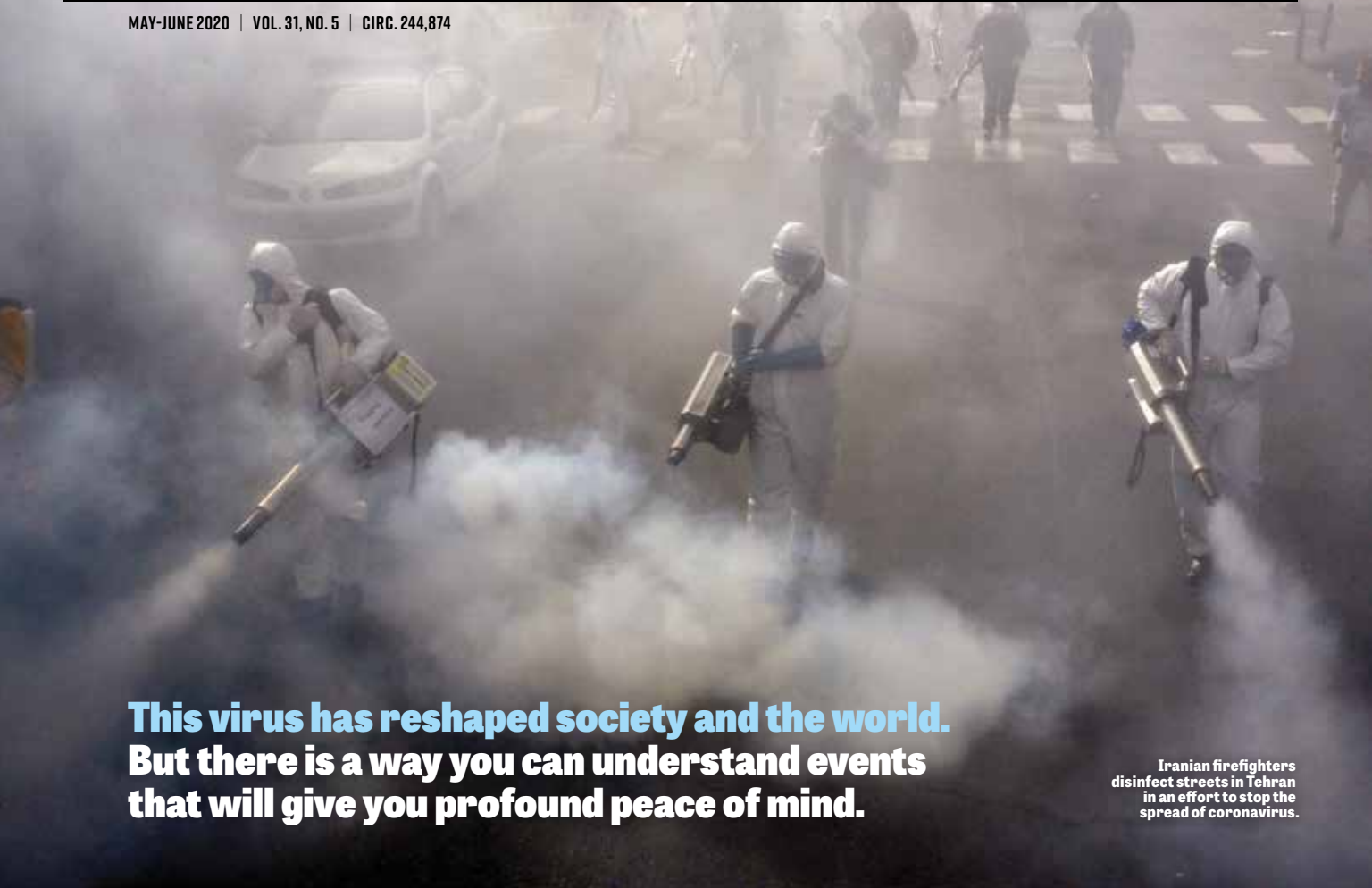
Will It Wreck the EU?

The Cure Is Killing Us

**Can the Global Economy Recover?**

Is God Unhappy With Mankind?

How You Can Survive



**This virus has reshaped society and the world.  
But there is a way you can understand events  
that will give you profound peace of mind.**

Iranian firefighters disinfect streets in Tehran in an effort to stop the spread of coronavirus.

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# Prophecy Is Proof of God

**W**ORLD EVENTS HAVE BEEN BEWILDERING AND DISTRESSING in recent months. The Wuhan coronavirus has been reshaping society and the world. But there is a way you can understand events that will give you profound peace of mind. You will see this in all the articles within this *Trumpet* issue. Events are not random and arbitrary. They may be concerning and sobering, but God is watching over them, ensuring they fulfill His purposes.

You can prove this to yourself, and it will change the way you look at world events—and how you live your life!

Did you know that *one third* of the Bible is prophecy—and 90 percent of that prophecy is for **OUR DAY**?

The Bible is *full* of prophecy—describing events in advance of their happening. Most of these prophecies were made over 2,500 years ago, yet they concern nations *today*: Britain, America, European, Asiatic and Middle Eastern nations—countries all over the world. They foretell what will happen in these nations. Many of these prophecies have already come to pass, and many more are in process of being fulfilled right now. *Not one* of these prophecies



has failed! These prophecies—recorded millennia ago—are repeatedly proving to be *excellent* descriptions and projections of events taking place right now!

This is a truth you can prove, and one that you must honestly face. Could any human being ever issue a prophecy that would come to pass like that? These prophecies are divinely inspired. You can study these scriptures, study history and current events, and prove this.

There are other proofs that show God's existence and that the Bible is God's Word, but skeptics will dismiss them. Jesus performed miracles, and even pagans admitted that they happened, but cynics won't accept that. Some people consider *answered prayer* as proof that God is alive and active—yet the doubters don't have *their* prayers answered, so that isn't convincing to them.

But *fulfilled prophecy* cannot be refuted! It is the best proof of the Bible—and it reveals God. Did you know that the Bible literally *taunts* the skeptics—even *ridicules* them, in a way? It *dares* them to disprove the reality of **FULFILLED PROPHECY** as proof of God!

## Prophecy Again

Isaiah 41:21-22 read, "Set forth your case, says the Lord; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. [A]nd tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come" (Revised Standard Version). God is saying,

*Let's hear YOUR prophecies, if you think you can accurately foretell the future!* Of course, nobody accepts that challenge.

But God has repeatedly issued astounding prophecies, on a grand scale, and then brought them to pass.

God was careful to record and preserve these prophecies, and He has been careful to **REVEAL** their meaning in our day. The foundation of all that prophetic revelation and understanding was given to Herbert W. Armstrong, who for nearly 60 years explained the relevance of the Bible's prophecies for this modern time.

However, even within the church Mr. Armstrong founded, some ministers wanted to get away from the message of prophecy. Mr. Armstrong said in a sermon on July 21, 1978: "The last two years, ministers have not been preaching prophecy. I wish I could get our ministers to talk about these prophecies. **THESE PROPHECIES NEED TO BE EXPLAINED AND PROPHESED TO OUR PEOPLE.**"

After Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, nearly *all* the ministers abandoned his teachings and adopted a "prophecy not" message. They stopped delivering all that prophecy God had revealed.

So God commissioned a faithful remnant, the Philadelphia Church of God: "Thou must **PROPHECY AGAIN** before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings" (Revelation 10:11). This is a **COMMAND FROM GOD THAT WE PROPHECY AGAIN!** This in itself is a great prophecy that is being fulfilled today.

Consider it: The fact that God had to command His people to **PROPHECY AGAIN**—meaning to **PROPHECY** as Mr. Armstrong did—should be a great warning for all of us. This strongly implies a terrible *rebellion* and *falling away* from that prophetic ministry! God's own Church failed, and yet God had to ensure *another way* of disseminating that prophetic understanding.

In Isaiah 56, God criticizes those rebellious ministers: "His watchmen are *blind*: they are all *ignorant*, they are all *dumb dogs*, **THEY CANNOT BARK**; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber" (verse 10). What a powerful picture. God is illustrating a watchdog on the porch, his master's house surrounded by encroaching, vicious beasts. Yet the dog, which *should* be noisily alerting the household to the danger, slumbers!

God is saying that a **WATCHMAN MUST WARN!** He gave prophecy for a **REASON**, and He commands His people to tell the world of the dangers that are coming! If we don't, then we are as worthless as a slumbering watchdog. God holds His ministers who fail to do their job accountable.

The Apostle John wrote in Revelation 19:10, "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for **THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.**" If Jesus Christ's testimony is the *spirit of prophecy*, then, if He is leading and guiding us, **WE** should have the spirit of prophecy as well.

## The Sign of His Coming

Matthew 24 contains the most miraculous prophecy for proving the promise of Christ's Second Coming and for proving God. This was the last and most important prophecy Christ gave during His earthly ministry.

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (verses 3-5). This is a prophecy of what you see in a lot of the Christian world today: People come in Christ's name and talk about Christ a lot, but they don't give you *His message*.

His prophecy continues, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes ..." (verse 7). Pestilences would certainly include a disease like coronavirus. Christ prophesied that just before His return, there would be plagues and viruses tormenting nations! But these things, Christ said, "are the beginning of sorrows" (verse 8)—in other words, they are going to get far worse.

Now, take note of this great prophecy, and it shows you how reliable Christ's prophecy really is. "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" (verses 21-22).

Understand the magnitude of this statement! The Moffatt translation reads, "Had not those days been cut short, not a soul would be saved alive ...." The Phillips translation states, "Yes, if those days had not been cut short, no human being would survive." The New Living Translation reads, "In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race will be destroyed." When Christ made this prophecy, armies were using swords, spears and other primitive weapons of war. Yet He prophesied of a time when weapons would be so potent and lethal that *humanity's very survival* would be threatened!

Today, weapons of mass destruction DO literally threaten human extinction! At no other point in history was this possible!

What an impressive forecast: Christ, 2,000 years ago, TOLD US EXACTLY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TODAY! How can you ignore this mind-shattering prophecy?

Many prophecies explicitly state that they were intended for a much later time. For example, God told the Prophet Daniel that his prophecies would not be understood in his day (Daniel 12:8-9). They are for the time WE LIVE IN NOW. Revelation 5 describes how the meaning of that prophecy would be *sealed*—but now, it has been *unsealed*. (Request my free booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation* to learn how these two important prophetic books tie together. The *framework* for all end-time prophecies is found in these two books, and both have been *unsealed* in these last days.)

In Ephesians 3:3-5, the Apostle Paul described how revelation that God revealed to him "in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed ...." This is even MORE true as the world lives out its final days before Christ's return. Prophecies of great magnitude have been made known unto us! And you can prove them for yourself.

## The Church

God wants His prophecies *understood*, so He reveals that understanding through His faithful servants. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). Once He has revealed that "secret," which includes the spirit of prophecy, then He expects those servants to *share* that understanding, to publicize and broadcast it! "[W]ho can but prophesy?" He says (verse 8). Those who are tuned in to God know that they have an important job to do: They *must prophesy for God!*

That is what makes it such a grievous sin when those people *fail* to carry out that responsibility—when they begin to say, "Prophecy not" (Amos 2:12).

Not only does the Church play a crucial role in *preaching* about prophecy, it is also the *subject* of some very important biblical prophecy.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ prophesied, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Christ Himself founded the New Testament Church, and He promised that the Church would never die—it would *always* be there! So that Church must still exist today.

The book of Revelation reveals the grand overview of end-time events. And the first three chapters focus on prophecy ABOUT CHRIST'S CHURCH. The Apostle John wrote, "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks [*lamps* is a better translation] .... The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden [*lamps*]. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven [*lamps*] which

thou sawest *are the seven churches*" (Revelation 1:12, 20). These lamps represent the SEVEN SUCCESSIVE ERAS of the true Church of God, beginning in the first century and extending to our day. We are in the last of those seven eras today. (Request a free copy of my book *The True History of God's True Church* to learn about this history.)

Notice—in Revelation 1, Christ is pictured as being right in the *midst* of those seven eras (verse 13). His eyes burn like fire, His face shines like the sun in its full strength, and His voice is like many waters (verses 14-16). What a powerful Being!

Led by Jesus Christ, God's Church is as a shining lamp in this dark world. There is only one Church—one "little flock," as Christ called it (Luke 12:32)—where you will find this lamp shining. That is what we must focus on. There you will find light to show the world the way to solve its problems, whether



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# BEHIND THE UNSEEN HAND

God is much more active in the coronavirus crisis than most people know. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

**H**UMANITY IS IN THE GRIP OF A global pandemic far more devastating than coronavirus. This infection has triggered a worldwide contagion of *irrational fear and emotion*. Man has lost his mind.

The ramifications of this universal abdication of reason are vast and unknown. Right now, the world is in lockdown: Millions of people are in quarantine, a calamity for countless individuals and businesses; stock markets and economies are in free fall, even as federal governments are racking up unparalleled debt trying to save them;

many experts believe the world has entered recession. Meanwhile, national borders are closing, soldiers are being deployed to the streets in cities across the Earth, and countries are enacting wartime laws and measures, equipping many federal governments with authoritarian power.

In aviation, when a pilot becomes disoriented and loses spatial awareness, he can panic and make decisions that send the aircraft into an out-of-control free fall, a fatal moment called the graveyard spiral. Has the panic over coronavirus plunged mankind into a graveyard spiral?

It has not. Let me tell you why.

## God's Timing

The coronavirus fulfills Bible prophecy. Many biblical passages, such as Revelation 6 and Matthew 24, forecast disease pandemics in the time just before Jesus Christ returns. The truth is, as *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned in last issue's cover story, we can "expect diseases like this new Wuhan coronavirus to get worse, and to eventually spread like medieval pandemics and kill millions of people!" ("Coronavirus and Other Modern Plagues in Prophecy," [theTrumpet.com/22001](http://theTrumpet.com/22001)).

But it is crucial to remember: The prophesied death of millions from disease and pestilence does not happen arbitrarily. In fact, *none* of the biblical prophecies presently being fulfilled occur haphazardly or by chance. Yes, the Bible tells us that a lot of suffering is imminent and that millions will perish. But the suffering and death occur on *God's terms*.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?" Jesus asked His disciples. "And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:29-30; Revised Standard Version). God knows every person on Earth. He knows *you* down to the number of hairs on your head.

God is just as aware of humanity in general. King David wrote, "From heaven the Lord looks down and sees ALL MANKIND; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do" (Psalm 33:13-15; New International Version).

God closely watches world conditions and often intervenes to ensure events unfold according to His plan. "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations" (verses 8-11; NIV).

This isn't the way most people, even Christians, see God. To most people, God is distant and detached. He takes little interest in humanity. Even to most religious people, God is little more than an idea or perhaps a feeling generated through study or prayer. To them, God

isn't a living, dynamic, active Being who takes a serious interest in human affairs and engages with men, individually and collectively. Sadly, men are ignorant of God's presence in world events—despite the Bible plainly revealing that He "sees all mankind" and "watches all who live on earth" and "foils the plans of the nations" and "thwarts the purposes of the peoples."

So what is God doing now? Why hasn't He saved mankind from coronavirus? God makes the answer clear: He is allowing this crisis as correction for our sins. As Mr. Flurry wrote, "The Wuhan coronavirus and the other diseases breaking out today are only the beginning. [God] is going to let the world see where its evil ways are leading" (ibid). To see how God uses such events to help us recognize

President Donald Trump). You can study what we have written about this prophecy in our free booklet *Great Again*.

Consider Amos 7:7-8, where God revealed this prophecy to Amos: "He showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb line.' Then the Lord said, 'Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them'" (RSV). God Himself is talking here, focusing our attention on the plumb line in His hand.

A plumb line is a measuring device, an instrument used to guarantee accurate construction. These verses show that God is "measuring the destruction that



our sins and change our behavior, read "You Can Survive the Coronapocalypse" (page 16).

God isn't allowing the coronavirus crisis to unravel indiscriminately. To the contrary, He is *carefully monitoring* this crisis and its impact on the world, at a national and global level, but also on a family and individual level. The Bible shows that He watches world events *far more closely* than most people know.

## Measured Crises

Mr. Flurry and the *Trumpet* have focused a lot in recent years on the prophecy of Amos 7. This prophecy outlines key developments to occur in America in the end time, including the emergence of a latter-day type of King Jeroboam II (fulfilled by United States

is to come upon the nations of Israel," Mr. Flurry writes in *Great Again*. "THIS DESTRUCTION IS NOT RANDOM; GOD IS MEASURING IT CAREFULLY AND PRECISELY. And it will bring about the most wonderful results imaginable."

Here in Amos 7, God specifically states that He measures the punishments that come upon "Israel," the term used in prophecy for America predominately, but Britain and the State of Israel, too.

What does this mean, practically? It means that punishment doesn't come on these nations blindly. The blows that are falling because of the coronavirus crisis are punishment from God, delivered with divine precision.

God takes a *personal interest* in the coronavirus and its impact on America, Britain and Israel. He is aware of the

consequences for President Trump and his administration, and the toll this will take on America's economy, its institutions and the public. God sees that the radical left is using this crisis to attack the president. Amos 7 shows that God is paying close attention and will ensure events unfold according to His plan.

Amos 7 means we can also state: *The coronavirus will not take down President Trump*. Neither will the radical left, which has been instrumental in manufacturing this crisis. Amos 7 makes clear that God will bring down Mr. Trump, on His time schedule and on His terms.

What about the world in general? Is God measuring this crisis as it rolls through China, Italy, Iran and all other nations and peoples on this planet?

An enthralling and dramatic prophecy in Zechariah 6 answers: ABSOLUTELY! In his book *The New Throne of David*, Mr. Flurry writes: "The *time frame* of Zechariah 6 is very sobering. It is about the urgent period of preparation RIGHT BEFORE the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord!" (emphasis added). The Tribulation and Day of the Lord precede the return of Jesus Christ and are described in Matthew 24, as well as the books of Joel, Zechariah and Malachi. The events depicted in Zechariah 6 begin shortly after the "Jeroboam end" begins, the time period of the events of Amos 7.

Zechariah 6 gives a dramatic account of God's active, tangible presence in the world RIGHT NOW.

In verses 1-3, Zechariah records the vision: "And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses."

Who are these chariots and what do they represent? Verse 5 says, "These are the FOUR SPIRITS of the heavens, which go forth FROM STANDING BEFORE THE LORD of all the earth." These "spirits" are angels, which God often uses to accomplish His will on Earth. In Hebrews 1:14, Paul wrote that angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister ..." In 2 Kings 6, God dispatched an entire army of angels to protect Elisha and

Israel. God even opened the eyes of one young man so he could actually see this angelic army, which was "full of horses and chariots of fire" (verse 17).

In Zechariah 6, God Himself dictates orders to four powerful, high-ranking angels, then dispatches them to Earth. Each angel has a specific job description and a detailed set of commands from God. "God sends these chariots," Mr. Flurry recently wrote. "He is preparing, giving specific commands about what these chariots are to do. It is a global effort. God has given these angels of Zechariah 6 instructions, and is dispatching spirits all over the globe, setting up and arranging for these catastrophic events that are already beginning to unfold before our eyes" (*Royal Vision*, March-April 2020).

These verses show that humanity has not been left alone with the coronavirus. God is not letting mankind accidentally stumble into the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. These terrible times are coming, but they will arrive on God's terms. Zechariah 6 shows that God Himself—*through* these four angels and their legions—IS CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATING WORLD EVENTS.

Some might think it preposterous to say that God monitors world conditions using angels. Some will find it hard to visualize angels crisscrossing the planet, keeping tabs to ensure events unfold according to Bible prophecy. A few months ago, many of these same people would have thought it preposterous that a disease epidemic would send the entire planet into lockdown. One of the great lessons of the coronavirus crisis is that we need to think the unthinkable more often.

### Guiding World Powers

What do these four angels do once given their orders? "The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and the grisled go forth toward the south country. And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth" (Zechariah 6:6-7).

God is being extraordinarily calculated; these four angels even have specific territorial assignments. "The black horses here are a representation

of violence, famine and pestilence," Mr. Flurry explained. This angel in particular is closely measuring the spread of contagious diseases. Notice too, the black horses have a special focus on the "north country," which other biblical prophecies tell us refers to Europe. Is it coincidence that the coronavirus has hit Europe the hardest and has had a major impact on the politics and economies of the Continent? Not if you understand and believe Zechariah 6! Meanwhile, another angel is operating in the south. Perhaps this includes the area controlled by the "king of the south," or Iran and its radical Islamist allies, prophesied in Daniel 11:40.

Practically, this means God is calculating events in Europe and in Iran, as well as in China and the rest of the planet. Through these angels, He is making sure the coronavirus crisis advances the biblical prophecies about these regions. This means that this crisis is certain to help Europe unite and cause a powerful German strongman to rise and lead his nation and Europe. Perhaps it looks like the coronavirus will destroy Europe politically and financially, and end the notion of European unity. In fact, the angel stationed over the Continent has everything under control: This being is ensuring that this crisis forges Europe's development into a German-led federal superstate! (article, page 6).

The same is true for Iran, another nation the *Trumpet* has delivered strong, specific forecasts about for many years. A few months ago, Iran was tormenting the region and the wider international community, very obviously fulfilling the role of the king of the south prophesied in Daniel 11:40-44. Then the coronavirus struck. Since January, some of Iran's top leaders have been killed, by either coronavirus or U.S. drones. The virus has ravaged the population and is thrashing Iran's economy. Is Iran still the king of the south and capable of inciting war with Europe, as the Bible prophesies?

Do not doubt it! The angel stationed over this region and responsible for measuring Iran's power and presence has it under control. Perhaps Iran was a little too powerful; perhaps Tehran was moving too quickly toward accomplishing its prophesied role, and God needed to slow it down to ensure prophecy is fulfilled on His timetable.

Then there is China, patient zero for the coronavirus and the nation that only a few months ago brandished colossal global influence and power. The *Trumpet* has long forecast that China would be an economic and military superpower that would rival the United States and would one day impose a devastating economic siege on America. Then the Wuhan coronavirus hit, causing China to enter total lockdown, tanking the economy, and sending the nation's leaders reeling. Is China still a superpower capable of competing with America? Or has the coronavirus knocked China out? Was our prophecy wrong?

You know the answer: The angels of Zechariah 6 have it all under control. The virus's devastating impact on China will advance the biblical prophecies about this nation, and it is already doing so. Beijing's relationship with America, which was already erratic, will be even more volatile. This virus also secures Russia as the lead nation in the prophesied Sino-Russian alliance. Economically China will slow down, especially if there is a global recession, but it still has the power to besiege the U.S. Perhaps this crisis will reconfigure the world economically, giving Beijing more freedom to decouple from the U.S. and creating the opportunity for more overt hostility.

What about the global economy, plummeting oil prices and the dramatic events occurring within and between nations all over the Earth, in Russia, in Saudi Arabia, in South America and Africa? God is vigilantly monitoring all these developments through His warrior angels, and He is intervening when necessary in a variety of ways to guarantee that His will is accomplished and His prophecies are fulfilled! (article, page 14).

### Assurance and Hope

In *The New Throne of David*, Mr. Flurry writes that Zechariah 6 “shows how God is diligently preparing for the

events of the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord—and for the majestic coronation that will follow immediately afterward!” We too must diligently prepare for the future.

We need to be more familiar with these prophecies in Amos 7 and Zechariah 6. The more familiar we are with them, and the deeper our faith in them, the more urgent we will be in our *own* preparations.

AMOS 7 and Zechariah 6 SHOW HOW URGENTLY AND INTIMATELY INVOLVED GOD IS IN WORLD EVENTS! There is tremendous reassurance and hope in these prophecies. The world is spiraling toward destruction, and many will suffer. But humanity is not in a *graveyard* spiral. While it often feels like civilization is spinning out of control—and it is accurate to say that our leaders and experts are fast losing the power to control events—remember one of the great lessons of the prophecy we have looked at: “ZECHARIAH 6 SHOWS THAT GOD HAS A CLEAR PLAN OF ACTION.”

Think on this: The fact that the chaos and destruction are so calculated and measured reveals God's active presence in human affairs! It shows His love, mercy and compassion.

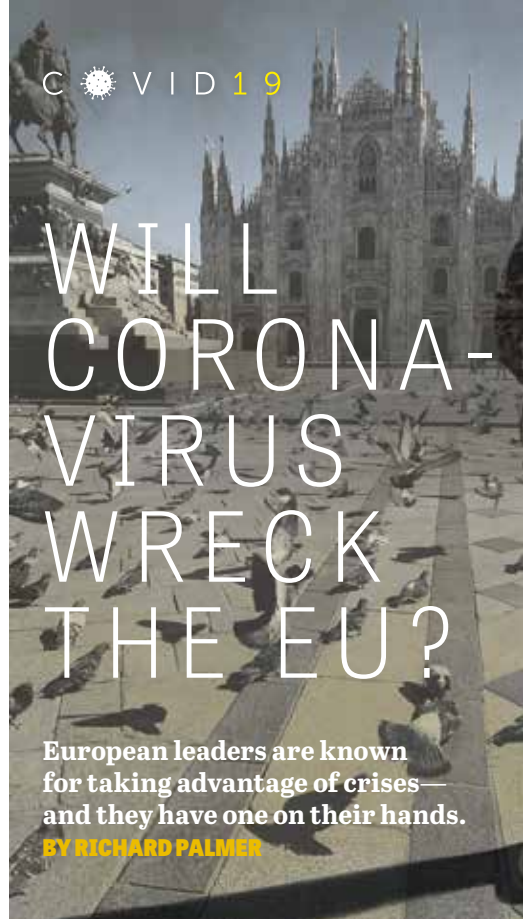
Remember, too, that God knows the number of hairs on your head. While He is keenly interested in world events, in what is happening in your nation and city, He is also keenly interested in what is happening in *your* life.

WHAT IS happening in your life? Has the surreal state of world conditions these past few months prompted you to deep reflection and contemplation? Are you getting answers to the many questions stimulated by world events? Ultimately, this is why God deploys so many resources to intercede in human affairs: He is giving human beings the opportunity to see Him, learn about His truth, and repent.

Mankind shows no signs of widespread repentance, but “the opportunity is still open for *individuals* to turn to God in repentance before it is too late.” You can be one of these individuals. ■

## God is starting something great.

Dive into Bible prophecy to understand what God is doing in the world right now. Request Gerald Flurry's free book ***The New Throne of David***.



**C**ORONAVIRUS COULD BREAK the EU,” declared *Politico*. “With Borders Going Up Around Europe, Coronavirus Is Devastating the EU’s Superstate Pretensions,” wrote the *Telegraph*. “Coronavirus Tests Europe’s Cohesion, Alliances and Even Democracy,” wrote the *New York Times*.

Will the European Union—a grand political experiment welding together dozens of countries—succumb to the coronavirus?

Those saying *yes* make good points. Coronavirus is exposing some massive flaws in the EU. The *Trumpet* has consistently forecast the development of a European superstate. Does the way Europe’s governments are responding to coronavirus prove us wrong?

### Financial Crisis

Italy is Europe’s most troubled economy. By some measures, it is the fourth-most indebted economy in the world.

Then it became Europe’s first country wracked with coronavirus. Thousands died. The entire country locked down. “As if deliberately, COVID-19 has hit the eurozone just where it hurts





## Leadership Crisis

At the start of the coronavirus outbreak, China's authoritarian government looked bad for having suppressed news of the virus. Once Europe's fatalities increased, China advanced a new narrative: The EU has no strong leader. The weakness of Europe's governments enabled coronavirus to spread, whereas China's authoritarian regime took swift action to wrestle the disease under control.

This narrative overlooks many unpleasant truths—including the government's heavy-handedness and brutality in enforcing its policies, and the fact that it may simply be lying about how many Chinese have died. But it also contains a kernel of truth: Europe *has* been weak and divided, and its lack of leadership did worsen the problem.

Those who want stronger politics and leadership within Europe have been quick to take advantage. Italian far-right leader Matteo Salvini blamed Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte for the crisis and called on him to resign. Another far-right party, the Brothers of Italy, has also been rising as the emergency unfolds. Combined, the two parties could win enough seats to lead a coalition.

French President Emanuel Macron's party was punished in municipal elections, to the benefit of the Green Party and the Socialist Party. The extremist National Front held on to previous gains. But the political picture is not yet clear, since this was merely the first of two rounds of elections, and the second has now been canceled—due to coronavirus.

Across Europe, extremist parties are rising, but none leads a government. Whatever damage coronavirus causes, these parties will blame mainstream leaders for any failings and explain that they could have done things so much better.

## Every Country for Itself

EU officials talk a lot about “solidarity” and “cooperation.” The EU is not about “narrow national self-interest,” they say; it is a community of nations working together for the betterment of Europe and of mankind.

Coronavirus exposed that lie. When the stakes were high, it immediately became *every country for itself*.

As Italy struggled, it asked for emergency medical supplies. No European

country responded; instead, they hoarded their own resources. Germany banned the export of medical masks and other protective equipment before later relenting. China won a diplomatic and public relations victory by sending Italy 34 tons of supplies.

Borders went up in Europe's supposedly borderless Schengen zone. Austria cut off Italy. Germany cut off Austria, France and Switzerland. Spain closed its borders.

Italians are irate. Eighty-eight percent believe the EU hasn't done enough to help them. Last November, well below half of Italians said EU membership was a disadvantage to their nation. Now, *more than two thirds* believe that.

No wonder people have begun writing the EU's obituary. Push has come to shove, and the EU is behaving less like a superstate than like schoolkids in the cafeteria when the food runs out.

## 'Forged in Crises'

But the EU's obituary has been written many times before. The EU has faced the 2008 financial crisis and the 2015 migrant crisis. But rather than causing it to fall apart, these challenges have prodded this political experiment toward even greater unification.

Take the euro. “So much political capital has already been expended on European monetary union,” wrote Warner, “and so much pain has been suffered trying to make it work, that even though it may not deserve to survive, policymakers cannot allow the latest seizure to succeed where the last one failed. They are too heavily vested in it to let go, so the euro is cursed to stagger on, whatever the coronavirus has to throw at it” (*Telegraph*, March 10).

European leaders have faced the same decision many times: Allow the euro to collapse, or take any step necessary to keep it together. Every time, they have chosen the latter, even if only by doing the bare minimum.

Forging a group of historically warring nations into one superstate is a huge task. Europe's founding fathers knew it would be difficult to strip power from national governments and funnel it to a shared authority. They knew that national populations would only surrender this power if forced to—*by crises*.

most—Italy,” wrote Jeremy Warner in the *Telegraph* (March 10).

Italy's bank stocks tanked. “It's likely that banks will need to be rescued,” said Prof. Nicola Borri of Luiss University. “The economy has basically been stopped. We are probably going to see massive defaults. Clearly, Italian banks will be badly hit” (*New York Times*, March 17).

The International Monetary Fund's former deputy director in Europe, Ashoka Mody, has warned that Italy will require between \$500 billion and \$700 billion to get back on its feet. This dwarfs any previous EU bailout.

And Italy is not the only country that has been hit. After hundreds died in Spain and France, countermeasures there also began harming these highly indebted countries. Slowing global trade hurt the world's third-largest exporter: Germany.

Some forecasters predict an unprecedented depression. Oxford Economics said the eurozone economy could shrink by 10 percent this year. David Owen from the investment banking group Jefferies said it could shrink 15 percent over the second quarter. That would be worse than the Great Depression that transformed Europe in the 1930s.

Jean Monnet, one of the EU's founders, wrote: "Europe will be forged in crises and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises." Former German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said in 2011, "[C]risis represents an opportunity. ... Europe always moved forward in times of crisis. Sometimes you need a little pressure for certain decisions to be taken."

In today's coronavirus crisis, some leaders have taken the same view. Robert Holzmann, governor of Austria's central bank and a board member of the European Central Bank, told *Der Standard*, "Every economic crisis is a cleansing. One can exploit it to emerge stronger."

Right now, the eurozone is a crisis-making machine. Europe is stuck in an awkward halfway state on its way to being a superstate.

Unlike the EU, there are lots of ways that American states pool resources to address a crisis. All Americans pay money into one federal pot, for example. The federal government oversees banks in all states and guarantees certain funds in an emergency. Europe lacks such safeguards. The eurozone shares a currency, but there is no federal taxation and only a weak federal government.

Coronavirus could change this. It could force Europe to finally put these nuts and bolts of a superstate into place.

According to former European bureaucrat Bernard Connolly, leaders knew that creating the euro without these other aspects of government would provoke economic crisis—and they proceeded deliberately. He wrote, "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" (*Telegraph*, Aug. 20, 2007). These leaders were confident that the crises the euro provoked would provide the pressure necessary to create that superstate.

We saw this process unfold after the 2008 financial crisis. Greece, Cyprus and other governments had to forfeit enormous control over their economies to receive a bailout from the EU (principally Germany). But this process is not complete, and the coronavirus crisis could drive Europe toward further integration.

We are seeing this already. Faced with Italy's imminent collapse, the European Central Bank (ECB) announced its

biggest-ever money-printing exercise on March 18. ECB head Christine Lagarde announced that there "are no limits to our commitment to the euro. We are determined to use the full potential of our tools, within our mandate."

Lagarde made clear the ECB would tear up the previous rulebook regarding buying government bonds. The *Telegraph's* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote, "It took 20 years, but the eurozone finally has its own version of the U.S. Federal Reserve" (March 19).

may now accept "restrictions on liberties sooner than before. That the longing for the *proverbial strongman*, who finally takes action, will grow stronger" (emphasis added). If you have read the *Trumpet* or the *Plain Truth*, "strongman" leaps off the page. We have been forecasting for 80 years that a "strongman" will take control of a united Europe!

*Financial Times* commentator Gideon Rachman said China's new narrative—that strongman leadership saved the Chinese from more harm—could have



EU OFFICIALS TALK A LOT ABOUT SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION, BUT WHEN THE STAKES WERE HIGH, IT WAS EVERY COUNTRY FOR ITSELF.

Vehicles in Germany line up in a 46-mile traffic jam from the Polish border.

### Strong Leadership

The coronavirus is also acclimating Europe to much tougher, authoritarian-style government. Soldiers patrol the streets of France, Italy and Germany. In Spain, police drones patrol public areas, target any gatherings, and send people home. Across the Continent, populations are under virtual house arrest.

Whether or not coronavirus justifies such drastic measures, such an approach comes with grave civil dangers. *Zeit Online* published an article titled "Curfews in Austria: That's What Autocrats Dream Of," noting, "Austria has massively restricted civil liberties due to the coronavirus. This is understandable in this situation, but it is also dangerous. ... Suddenly, measures are socially acceptable that autocrats and dictators can only dream of: curfews, abolition of freedom of assembly, the greatest possible control of public life" (March 16).

This author warned that Europeans

global ramifications. "If it gains traction, the geopolitical effects of the coronavirus will linger," he wrote. "The belief that China is on the rise and the West is in inexorable decline will gain new adherents. And arguments for authoritarianism and against democracy will be made with increased boldness—in both China and the West" (March 17).

Europeans are already questioning their governments. Across the Continent, traditional mainstream parties have lost support to fringe parties and have struggled to form governing coalitions, which then govern poorly, decreasing support further. Satisfaction with democracy is at an all-time low, according to a Cambridge study from January. The report states, "Europe's average level of satisfaction masks a large and growing divide within the Continent, between a 'zone of despair' across France and southern Europe, and a 'zone of complacency' across Western Germany, Scandinavia and the Netherlands."

## Why Europe Struggles to Unite

The late Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the *Plain Truth* magazine, had an impressive track record forecasting events in Europe. Immediately after World War II, when Germany lay in smoldering rubble, Mr. Armstrong forecast it would rise again to lead a union of nations. You could call this *the* signature prophecy of Mr. Armstrong's 50-year ministry.

Consider the fractured state of Europe at that point, how weak postwar Germany was, and how unlikely Germany was to emerge as the leading nation on the Continent. Yet on May 9, 1945—the day after Germany surrendered—he told his listeners that Germany would rise again as part of a “European union.”

When the European Economic Community began in the 1950s, Mr. Armstrong knew it was the first stage of the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. The *Plain Truth* wrote in September 1967, half a century ago: “[I]f 300 million Europeans were united and could speak with one voice, this would excel any might in the world today .... One thing you can count on. In fact it is so sure you can bank on it: The cry of a political union in Europe will get louder and before long we will see the Common Market develop into a *United States of Europe*.”

Mr. Armstrong knew there would be a European Union. That happened. He forecast that East and West Germany would reunite. This was fulfilled just a few years after his death when the Berlin Wall fell on Nov. 9, 1989. Mr. Armstrong foretold that Europe would one day join together in a common currency. This became reality on Jan. 1, 2002, with the launch of the euro. He said a revived German power would dominate a union of European nations—exactly what we see today.

How could he foresee this so accurately? Because he relied on the Bible.

Many Bible passages describe a world power that rises and falls repeatedly. Revelation 17 portrays this power as a beast, symbolic of an empire. This beast is led by a church, which the Bible symbolizes as a woman.

The prophecies refer to the repeated attempts to raise up the ruins of the Roman Empire in Europe, to re-create a power that unites a substantial portion of the Continent under one empire.

“There is going to be a resurrection of

that old Roman Empire. Not very many people believe it because people have gotten completely beyond really believing the Bible means what it says,” Mr. Armstrong said on a *World Tomorrow* broadcast more than 50 years ago. “You’re going to have to live and see it, and you’re going to have to know that God was speaking when He said that this thing is coming.”

Revelation 17 describes this beast as having 10 horns. It explains that “the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (verses 12-13).

This is a united European superstate, ruled by kings, not elected representatives, and united under one overall strongman. This is exactly the direction the coronavirus crisis—just like earlier crises—is driving Europe.

But what about all the infighting among European nations, the “*every country for itself*” approach to problems?

Mr. Armstrong always said the process of forming this superstate would be hard. In the November 1965 *Plain Truth*, he wrote about one “hard, stern fact” that the nations of Europe must face: “The nations of Europe are utterly UNABLE TO UNITE THEMSELVES by their own political maneuvering,” he wrote. “For more than 31 years, the *Plain Truth* has said Europe WILL UNITE! And also for more than 31 years we have said these countries CANNOT AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES.”

Bible prophecy makes clear the EU has some trauma ahead. It describes a power consisting of 10 kings (nations or groups of nations). Currently the EU has 27 nations; 19 in the eurozone. Only a major crisis will reduce that number. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in February 2011: “Germany will use this crisis to FORCE Europe to unite more tightly. In the process, some eurozone countries will be forced out of the Union. When that happens, the pundits will say European unification is dead, that the European Union has failed. DON’T LISTEN TO THEM!”

The EU may become even more divided and dysfunctional before this power emerges.

And even when this power is revealed, the Bible reveals that it will still have serious divisions.

## What Is Next

Daniel 2 describes this same European power with different symbols. It depicts a giant human statue made up of four parts, each representing a different empire.

Its legs are made of iron—symbolizing the Roman Empire. But this empire has been repeatedly resurrected throughout history. The seventh and final resurrection of this empire is symbolized by the feet of this statue. These feet have 10 toes—another symbol of the 10 kings that will combine together. But this empire is not forged from pure iron, but rather is a mixture, “part of iron and part of clay” (Daniel 2:33).

The Bible explains the symbolism: “[T]he kingdom shall be divided,” states verse 41, “but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron ....” But the unstable mixture will mean that “they shall not cleave one to another” (verse 43) and that “the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken” (verse 42).

This is describing a marriage of convenience—proud, independent nations forced together by crises. They unite for a short period. But it’s not a solid and stable union: Each nation retains some of its individual loyalties.

But Europe is yet to achieve even this tenuous unity. How can it get there? It needs a common sense of self and purpose that applies to all the members of the Union. The EU has tried to do this, with its flag, anthem and talk of solidarity. But the current crisis proves it has been unsuccessful. It needs more.

“For years the *Plain Truth* has said these nations are going to have to realize their inability to unite themselves POLITICALLY—to choose a common political-military leader that ALL can trust,” wrote Mr. Armstrong. “They are going to finally face the fact they must look to a supreme authority they can all trust! That supreme authority cannot be a politician, or a general .... The only possible answer is a religious leader!” (*Plain Truth*, November 1965).

Europe has tried to unite without using religion (the Catholic Church), and has failed. Its response to the coronavirus crisis shows how much it needs that help. Mr. Flurry explained in 2006 how this would happen: “Throughout Europe’s history, what has helped it to overcome its division has been a

unity of purpose between *church* and *state*. Charlemagne showed how strong Europe could be when he formed a partnership between Germany and the Roman Catholic Church to create the Holy Roman Empire. That empire has risen up repeatedly since that time.

“But this church-state union hasn’t always been a happy marriage. Usually the two have been drawn together because of a *crisis*—an *emergency*. ...

“Herbert W. Armstrong believed the same pattern would occur again in our time—that European nations would unite suddenly because of a crisis, and that the Roman Catholic Church would play a huge role in solving that emergency. In times of *crisis*, religion has a way of pulling people together! ...

“Crises are developing that could lead to this ‘emergency’ that will cause Europe to look to a newly strengthened Germany and end up bringing church and state together—from the weakening of the U.S. economy to danger brewing in the Middle East” (*Trumpet*, April 2006).

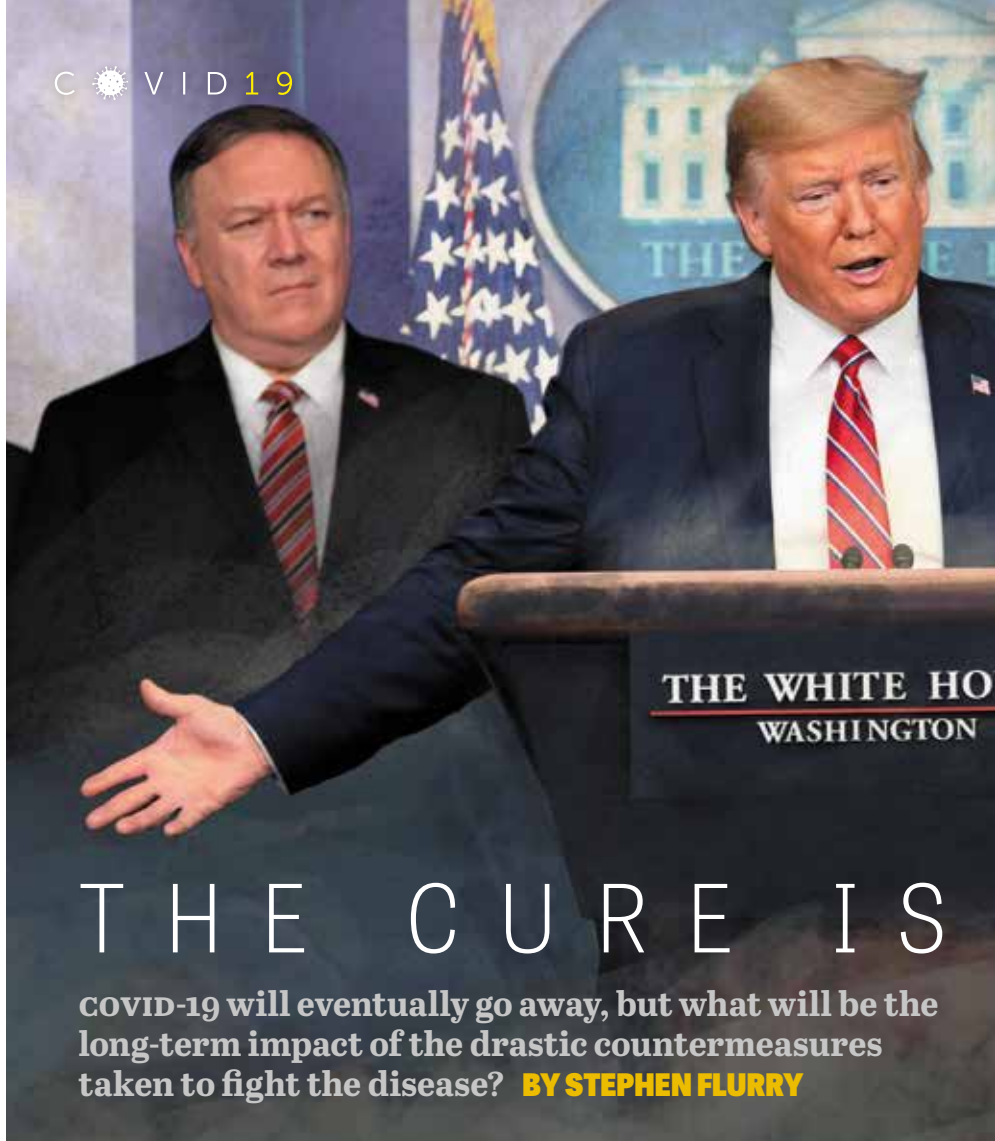
We are a long way toward the European superstate prophesied in the Bible. Several of the details—the 10 kings, the strong leader, the role of the Catholic Church—are not yet in place. But coronavirus portends future crises certain to push Europe closer to becoming the power pictured in the Bible.

Continue to watch. Not only because the Bible prophesies that this growing superpower will directly affect your life, but also for an even more important reason. When you watch as the detailed prophecies of your Bible are proved true in daily news headlines, you will realize that the Bible truly is inspired by God, a book you can rely on in every detail and every circumstance. ■

## Why does the *Trumpet* watch the EU?

Bible prophecy describes a “king of the north” to come in the last days. The *Trumpet* identifies this king as a unified European superpower, and this time period is right now. Learn why at [theTrumpet.com/15677](http://theTrumpet.com/15677).

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# THE CURE IS

COVID-19 will eventually go away, but what will be the long-term impact of the drastic countermeasures taken to fight the disease? **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**I**N TWO LIGHTNING-QUICK WEEKS in March, America, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Israel and other mighty nations worldwide went from *caution* to *hysteria* to *lockdown*. You’d have thought people were dropping dead in the streets by the millions.

Not so. Out of the 7.8 billion people on Earth, only a few thousand had actually died from the Wuhan virus. Yet these governments tilted into full-scale panic.

Granted, this particular coronavirus seems especially contagious, and it poses significant risk for people with chronic health problems. Initial expert projections about death rates were shockingly high, some of them in the scores of millions.

However, while politicians, the press and public fixated on infection rates and death counts, evidence that the virus’s lethality was *far lower* than originally

believed was ignored. When prominent authorities *backed away* from their worst-case scenarios, it went virtually unreported. The world was too busy executing the strictest response to a disease ever recorded.

Each day brought new and more heavy-handed restrictions and wilder interventions: Sports leagues, suspended. Flights, grounded. Schools, closed. Public gatherings, dispersed. Nonessential shopping, banned. Leaving home, illegal. Trillions of dollars, spent. Government emergency plans were more draconian than perhaps any modern peacetime measures, and more expensive than anything in history.

These measures will no doubt save lives that would have been cut short by this virus. But they are also coming at incalculable cost—to our economies, our livelihoods, our civil liberties and freedoms, our social cohesion, even



# KILLING US

mental and physical health. In many ways it appears the ramifications of the *reaction* to the coronavirus will dwarf and far outlive the virus itself.

## The God of This World

When people panic, they tend to do unreasonable things. To whatever degree this happened on a national and a global scale with this pandemic, it is important we understand why *this* danger is potentially so much more serious than the physical threat of a contagious virus.

To grasp this, you must understand a fundamental truth revealed in your Bible: *This is not God's world!* Yes, God created the Earth and human beings, and He intervenes in world events to ensure His will and prophecies are fulfilled, but God did not create this world's governments, institutions and laws. *You are living in Satan's world.* This is why the Bible describes our present world as EVIL and

says the WHOLE WORLD is deceived (Galatians 1:4; Revelation 12:9). Satan is its *god* (2 Corinthians 4:4). Unknowingly, our modern world actually *worships* Satan.

Ephesians 2:2 describes Satan as “the prince of the power of the air.” Herbert W. Armstrong likened the devil to a master broadcaster. It's as if Satan fills all the airwaves with his attitudes: selfishness, vengefulness, impulsiveness, recklessness, negativity, deception, violence.

“People have no realization of the tremendous POWER of Satan,” he wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*. “The human spirit within each human is AUTOMATICALLY TUNED to Satan's wavelength” (emphasis added throughout). *This* is why the world is what it is—a world drenched in sin and suffering all forms of physical and spiritual disease (see Isaiah 1:4-6; Jeremiah 17:9; Revelation 18:5).

In his March 2020 *Trumpet* article, “America Has Been ‘Fundamentally

Transformed” ([theTrumpet.com/21850](http://theTrumpet.com/21850)), my father wrote that while Satan brims with hatred for humanity, especially vicious and irrational is his hatred for physical and spiritual Israel. After he was cast down to Earth around the time of Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986 (Revelation 12:9-12), he immediately launched an attack on God's Church, which is spiritual Israel (verse 13). After wrecking the Worldwide Church of God and deceiving most of God's people, Satan then launched a barrage of attacks at the modern nations that descended from ancient Israel: chiefly America, Britain and the Jewish state in the Middle East.

The Bible shows that God has done His work through the ages through physical Israel and then spiritual Israel. Satan's principal objective, then, is to *blot out even the name* of Israel!

But Satan's hatred and rage are not aimed at Israel *alone*. As my father wrote, “Satan hates EVERYTHING God is about.” He hates God's plan of salvation. He hates that man is made in the image and likeness of God. He hates that man has the potential to be born into the Family of God. He hates that God is reproducing Himself through man. He hates that Jesus Christ has already qualified to replace him, and that Christ will soon establish God's Kingdom on Earth and rule all nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:26-27; 11:15; 19:15). This is the true gospel message Jesus proclaimed during His earthly ministry.

Satan HATES this truth. He wants to blot it out. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says Satan has BLINDED human beings to the TRUTH of Christ's gospel. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). He wants to hide the truth about God's soon-coming rule. He doesn't want this world looking to God and His law of love for solutions to its problems and troubles. He wants us to remain buried in rebellion and lawlessness (1 John 3:8). It is Satan who is behind mankind's built-in *hostility* toward God's law (Romans 8:7).

Knowing this revealed knowledge enables us to make sense of the hysteria brought on by this disease. These past few months have showcased a wild range of behavior stamped with the devil's imprint. It started with whatever wrong practices produced this disease in human beings. It continued with the disease spreading

due to ignoring biblical laws of health, sanitation, hygiene and quarantine. It continued with the cover-up by China's police state government, which worked harder to stop the spread of *news* about the virus than to stop the virus itself.

Once the virus spread beyond China, we saw the World Health Organization (WHO), an agency of the United Nations, provide cover for the Communist Chinese government. The WHO director general downplayed the disease's seriousness in January and said China's government had done an outstanding job of containing the virus.

Following the impeachment trial of United States President Donald Trump in February, we saw his enemies in the media pivot *immediately* to propagating coronavirus panic. An army of medical experts rushed to the spotlight, equipped with incomplete data, wild speculation and frightening comparisons. *Millions* were about to die, they said. At the breathless demands of medical and media experts, governments hastily began closing entire economies. Citizens' rights evaporated. One after another, like dominos, whole nations went into shutdown.

Panic ensued, not just because of the disease, but also because of government overreach. Hoarders and profiteers cleared supermarket shelves and loaded their pantries and closets with cleaning supplies and toilet rolls. Everyone, it seemed, exploited the crisis. Those who didn't seem content to follow the confused and disoriented herd off the cliff.

Buried deep beneath this mass hysteria, sensational and politicized reporting, authoritarian overreach, and audacious assault on liberty was the first casualty of this contagion: the TRUTH.

### Communist Cover-up

In mid-December 2019, the Chinese city of Wuhan began witnessing an uptick in pneumonia cases. Local doctors realized they were dealing with a new disease and began to sound the alarm. They were quickly silenced by the Chinese government.

By month's end, after a weeks-long outbreak, China finally alerted the WHO that it was dealing with an unknown contagious disease. During those crucial weeks, 5 million people had traveled

through Wuhan. On January 15, the first case arrived in the U.S.

On January 23, with the disease already far beyond its borders, China's regime decided to lock down Wuhan. It enforced the quarantine just as you'd expect an authoritarian government to: Police drones watched foot traffic and blared commands at people not wearing facemasks. The government started tracking smartphones to monitor individuals who may have been exposed to the virus. Those who'd been exposed

xenophobia and fear-mongering. Other detractors called the president a racist. Even the WHO director general criticized the travel ban. On February 4, he said, "Such restrictions can have the effect of *increasing fear and stigma*, with LITTLE PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT."

Meanwhile, mainstream media showed no interest in COVID-19. On February 1, *Washington Post* ran this headline: "Get a Grippe, America. The Flu Is a Much Bigger Threat Than Coronavirus, for Now." *USA Today* reassured



couldn't simply isolate themselves: Video footage revealed police dragging people from their homes to put them into quarantine camps.

On January 30, WHO Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, a Marxist from Ethiopia with no medical experience but a noticeable loyalty to China, declared a public health emergency. He tweeted, "In many ways, China is actually setting a *new standard* for outbreak response. Our greatest concern is the potential for the virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems ...."

The next day, President Trump took the first serious action to stop the spread of the contagion by restricting travel into the U.S. from China. One doctor quoted in the *New York Times* called this decision "more of an emotional or political reaction." Presidential candidate Joe Biden later said it was hysterical and accused President Trump of

us that "Coronavirus Is Scary, but the Flu Is Deadlier, More Widespread." At that time, the talking heads were too busy trying to convict President Trump of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress so they could remove him from office.

On February 5, the Senate acquitted Mr. Trump. The Democrat media complex *immediately* pivoted to the story it had ignored for weeks: coronavirus.

### Weaponizing the Crisis

On February 12, the Dow Jones Industrial Average peaked at 29,551, its highest mark in history. It didn't stay there for long. Around that time, COVID-19 was spreading rapidly in Iran and southern Europe. To that point, President Trump had been the one Western leader who took measured action to actually contain the outbreak. But suddenly, pundits began saying he wasn't doing enough.

At a campaign rally in South Carolina on February 28, President Trump accused Democrats and the major media of using the epidemic to try to destroy his presidency. “This is their new hoax,” he said. The radical left swiftly accused him of saying the virus *itself* was a hoax.

At the end of February, columnist Roger Kimball predicted, “No one knows exactly how far or how fast the coronavirus will spread. Nor does anyone yet know what its toll will be. ... But those predicting—at times, their eagerness makes it seem they are hoping for—something as deadly ... as the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 (when some 50 million were killed) are likely to be disappointed” (*Spectator*, February 28).

The day after his rally in South Carolina, President Trump called for calm. “We would respectfully ask the media and politicians not to do anything to incite a panic,” he said. “There’s no reason to panic at all. This is something that’s being handled professionally.”

In Europe, many talking heads were panicking for other reasons. Medical experts were saying the disease was spreading so fast that Europe’s nationalized health-care systems would be overrun with sick patients. Something drastic needed to be done to “flatten the curve.”

### **A Perfect Storm**

On March 3, WHO Director Tedros—who had praised China for containing the virus and criticized President Trump for the travel ban—made this shocking announcement: “Globally, about 3.4 percent of reported COVID-19 cases have died. By comparison, seasonal flu generally kills far fewer than 1 percent of those infected.”

It turned out that Tedros was frightening the world with dishonest math. He based the death rate for influenza on the *estimated* number of people infected with the common flu each year. He based the alarming 3.4 percent figure on the number of *known* cases of coronavirus—those who actually test positive for the disease. (The vast majority of those infected are never tested.) Other experts issued even more-ominous death rate predictions, some as high as 4 and 5 percent.

To his credit, President Trump dismissed these terrifying predictions. He said on March 5 that the 3.4 death

rate was a “false number” because of all the mild cases of coronavirus that are never reported to doctors. Regarding the actual death rate, Mr. Trump said he believed the number would be “way under 1 percent.” For this, he was castigated as being ignorant and irresponsible. *He doesn’t even believe the virus is real*, said the radical left.

On March 9, America’s anti-Trump media had seen enough. CNN chief medical correspondent Sanjay Gupta said, “Starting today, you will notice that CNN is using the term *pandemic* to describe the current coronavirus outbreak. It is not a decision we take lightly. While we know it sounds alarming, it should not cause panic”—which it immediately did. That day, the U.S. stock market plunged more than 2,000 points.

Why would CNN be *ahead* of the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in declaring COVID-19 a pandemic? Because like so much of what CNN now does, its organizational aim is not to report news, but to **MAKE** news—much of it to hurt the president.

Fox Business commentator Trish Regan noted this on her show the same day Gupta was inflaming coronavirus hysteria. She accused the radical left of weaponizing the health crisis against Donald Trump without regard to how much it might hurt the U.S. economy and ordinary Americans. This caused a storm of criticism, and by the end of the week, Fox News executives had suspended Regan, buckling under pressure from leftists who denounced the network for “downplaying” the crisis and covering up President Trump’s “mismanagement” of it. They later fired her.

The World Health Organization followed CNN’s lead on March 11, declaring COVID-19 a global pandemic. President Trump responded by broadening the travel ban to include incoming flights from Europe. On March 13, he declared a national emergency.

But the response measures, drastic as they were, had barely begun.

### **Junk Science**

Together with the radical left, the Democrat media complex, the WHO and China’s Communist government, plenty of Western scientists and medical experts

were available to create terrifying models, charts, graphs and reports to show that COVID-19 was a catastrophe in the making. For the United States and Britain, the most authoritative and influential team of experts came from Imperial College London. The *New York Times* wrote, “With ties to the World Health Organization and a team of 50 scientists, led by a prominent epidemiologist, Neil Ferguson, Imperial is treated as a sort of **GOLD STANDARD**, its mathematical models *feeding directly into government policies*” (March 17).

What did the “gold standard” of scientific research uncover about COVID-19 and its threat to society? According to the Imperial model, if we took no action to arrest the virus’s spread, *510,000 people* in Britain and *2.2 million* in America would **DIE** of the Wuhan flu. “These kinds of numbers are deeply concerning for countries with top-drawer health-care systems,” wrote the *Washington Post*. “They are **TERRIFYING** for less-developed countries, global health experts say” (March 17). In other words, if the U.S. and Britain lose 2.7 million people, think about what that means *for the rest of the world*.

Ferguson’s March 16 report began by saying the public health threat of COVID-19 “is the most serious seen in a respiratory virus since the 1918 *H1N1 influenza pandemic*.” It said that if the U.S. and Britain employed more ambitious measures to mitigate the spread (case isolation, household quarantine and social distancing of the elderly), the death count *could* be reduced to 1.1 million in the U.S. and 260,000 in the UK.

“Finally,” wrote the *Post*, “if the British government quickly went **ALL-OUT** to suppress viral spread—aiming to reverse epidemic growth and reduce the case load to a low level—then the number of dead in the country could drop to below 20,000. To do this, the researchers said, Britain would have to **ENFORCE** social distancing for the entire population, isolate all cases, **DEMAND** quarantines of *entire households* where anyone is sick, and close all schools and universities.”

In other words, do what the Chinese did in Wuhan: **LOCK IT DOWN**. China’s crackdown, remember, was praised by Tedros as a “new standard” in confronting outbreaks. And Western officials see

# CAN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY RECOVER?

Whatever the final death toll, it is already clear the economic toll will be immense.

BY RICHARD PALMER

**F**ACED WITH A HIGHLY contagious virus with an alarming mortality rate, local and national governments began shutting the world down.

They ordered people to stay home by the millions. Almost overnight, travel ceased. Public gathering places like restaurants, cinemas, amusement parks, even churches, closed. Retail sales plummeted. Suddenly, firms the world over found themselves at risk of going bust. Millions of people faced unemployment.

Having essentially created this crisis, governments then volunteered to pay for it. Every major government unveiled a huge spending plan. The United States government cobbled together a \$2 trillion spending package. The United Kingdom unveiled a \$413 billion plan. That's over 40 percent of typical annual government spending—all poured out on just one crisis.

These measures undoubtedly stopped a lot of the immediate economic pain caused by this virus. But they could fatally damage these nations' economies, preparing the way for future collapse.

## Government, Help Us!

In past crises, people looked to their own resources. It wouldn't have even occurred to Britons or Americans 100 years ago to expect the government to save them.

But now we are *accustomed* to the government taking care of us. They pay us when we're unemployed, give us our health care, and bail out banks to keep the economy afloat.

In return, we pay hefty taxes. In the U.S., over 30 percent of the national income goes to taxation. In the UK, it's 40 percent. All the taxes make it hard to save up for a rainy day—and make us feel entitled to government handouts when our livelihoods are threatened.

The trouble is, our governments—even with their colossal levels of income—cannot afford to provide those handouts.

To survive the 2008 financial crisis, the U.S., UK and many other governments borrowed heavily. Prior to that, America's national debt was 65 percent of its annual economic output. By 2011, it had jumped to 95 percent as America buoyed its economy by borrowing at its fastest rate since World War II. Since then, instead of paying off that debt, America has continued to borrow. Debt now stands at around 105 percent of gross domestic product.

Harvard economics professors Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff

have concluded that any debt above 90 percent of annual economic output is dangerous.

But the unprecedented response to the 2008 crisis broke more than the budget. It also smashed a major taboo. Major government intervention became expected in *any* economic crisis. Imagine the public outcry if, when the coronavirus crisis hit, the government refused to help: *You spent trillions bailing out the banks—what about ordinary Americans? You'll help rich bankers, but not us?!* With its extravagant response in 2008, the government was

effectively committing itself to similar measures in any subsequent emergency.

And that is exactly what it is doing in response to the coronavirus. America's \$2 trillion bailout package will have to be financed by debt; it alone will add another 5 percent to the national debt. By the time this ends, America will have taken a giant leap toward equaling its highest-ever level of debt: 121.7 percent, reached during World War II.

The U.S. plans to give \$1,200 to every adult (or less, depending on income) and \$500 to every child. Japan is considering handouts of \$150 per citizen per month.

But borrowing has not been enough to meet these crises. If America borrows too much, creditors could get anxious about the government's ability to repay. That fear could destroy the economy. So the government is looking at another source of income: the printing press.

## Printing to the Rescue

The 2008 financial crisis began a great experiment with a new tool for central banks: quantitative easing. With this tool, central banks create money from nothing.

There is, rightly, a huge taboo on governments printing money and spending it. This practice can be catastrophic,



leading to hyperinflation that renders a currency basically worthless.

So in their quantitative easing experiment, central banks trod carefully. They didn't hand the newly created money directly to the government; instead, they bought government debt and other assets from banks. And they pledged to "wind down" this printing in the future: to sell the government bonds they had bought and then destroy the money they had created.

Twelve years later, it looks like the quantitative easing experiment worked. The extra money kept the financial system going. The central banks bought up government debt and kept interest rates on that debt at record lows, enabling governments to spend record amounts. But most central banks have destroyed only a fraction of the new money they had created. Yet the sky hasn't fallen in. You don't have to bring your money in a wheelbarrow to buy a loaf of bread.

So in reaction to the coronavirus, central banks are running the printing presses faster than ever.

The U.S. Federal Reserve announced on March 23 unlimited quantitative easing. After the 2008 crisis, the Fed has never done anything like this; instead, it announced quantitative easing within a huge, though specified, limit. The first round, from December 2008 to March 2010, for example, was capped at \$1.5 trillion.

Previously, the Fed also announced that it would inject \$1.5 trillion into the repo market—essentially where banks go to get cash. "It is effectively underwriting U.S. Treasury bonds and 'printing' money for direct fiscal measures," wrote the *Telegraph's* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard (March 18). The Bank of England also announced \$236 billion in quantitative easing.

The central banks may also drop many more of the restrictions that were placed on quantitative easing in 2008. The thinking is: *It worked, they got away with it, and so less caution is required this time.*

Even right-wing economists are now talking about "helicopter money."

"[W]e are certainly going to see some form of 'helicopter money,' the mechanism by which the state, via the central bank, simply prints money and hands it out to people," wrote finance journalist Matthew Lynn in the *Spectator* (March 17).

According to the *Telegraph*, Neil MacKinnon of VTB Capital said the "next logical step in the chain of unconventional monetary policy is helicopter money, and that is a direct liquidity injection into the heart of the real economy" (March 18).

These are just two of a great many similar statements. Helicopter money used to be a fringe idea, something only crazies or socialists talked about. Now, your freshly printed money may have reached you before this *Trumpet* issue did.

### Embracing Socialism

The response to coronavirus has led even people on the right to embrace socialism. "Boris Must Embrace Social-

## GOVERNMENTS PRINTING MONEY AND SPENDING IT CAN LEAD TO HYPER-INFLATION, MAKING A CURRENCY WORTHLESS.

would cost. "It is the most extensive intervention in the economy ever made by a supposedly free-market government anywhere in the world," wrote the *Spectator*. "In effect, we will all soon be working for the government" (March 20).

The extensive increase in spending globally is pushing all countries in the direction of socialism. Companies of all sizes are banging on the U.S. government's door asking for a bailout.

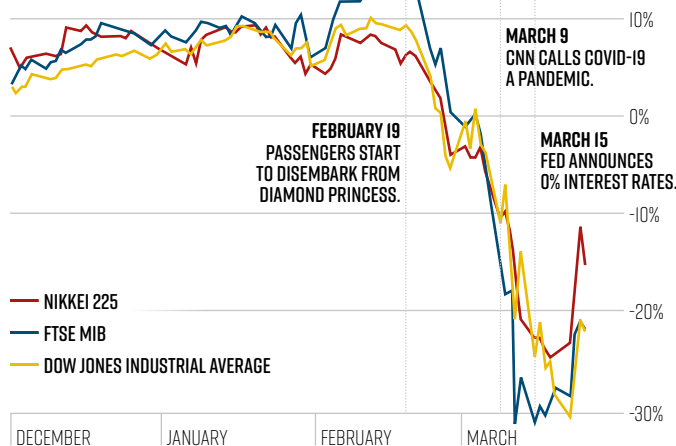
Government money could soon be flowing into more sectors of the U.S. economy than ever before.

The trouble is, it's very hard to reverse on the road to socialism. With each new government intervention, voters expect more. Once they receive handouts, they expect to keep receiving them. Anyone who tries to roll back the clock is taking something of theirs away. And once a government takes power over something, bureaucrats and politicians are very reluctant to give it back.

"When the UK economy last went onto a war footing in 1939, we didn't really shake it off until Mrs. Thatcher's reforms of the 1980s," wrote the *Spectator*. "It might take just as long this time. [I]t is a huge gamble—and it will be easier to start this rescue than to stop it" (ibid).

Even if we succeed and take a step back from socialism, what happens in the next emergency? The crisis in 2008 broke taboos, but 2020 has smashed them beyond all repair. Once again, there will be massive borrowing. Once again, the printing presses will be fired

### GLOBAL INDEX FUNDS



ism Immediately to Save the Liberal Free Market," blared a headline in the usually right-wing *Telegraph*. "Coronavirus Panic Buying Is Turning Tories Into Socialists," declared the *Spectator*.

On March 20, the British government unveiled a radical new program that turns most Brits into government employees. If people cannot work due to coronavirus, then the government will pay 80 percent of their wages—up to a cap of £2,500 (US\$1,900) a month.

In making this commitment, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak admitted that he had no idea what it

up—with even fewer rules than before. How long before government finances, the currency and our whole economic system collapse entirely?

### Preparing for Armageddon

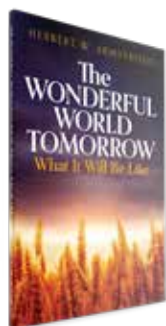
Britain, America and our whole financial system are in a tough position. Refusing to take these kinds of measures would mean a lot of immediate pain for a lot of people. But adopting them simply pushes the pain into the future and guarantees that, when it hits, it will be worse.

The problem isn't the bailout. This isn't about one bad decision destroying everything. It's the fact that our entire economic system rests on a foundation of debt. The government manages the economy by encouraging people to borrow. When a crisis hits, it lowers interest rates so people borrow more and spend more. With little savings, people cannot look after themselves in time of trouble and must turn to the government. But the government can't help without borrowing more.

The cycle continually builds up more debt. In the long run, it is unsustainable. Step by step, choice by choice, we are creating conditions guaranteed to produce an unprecedented, world-altering crash.

This is a crash we have warned about for years. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in 1984 that a banking collapse in the United States would have major consequences abroad, as well as at home. It "could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power, larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.," he wrote (co-worker letter, July 22, 1984).

The book of Revelation prophesies of a sudden revival of a power in Europe that is hostile to the U.S. Revelation 18 describes the vast wealth its merchants acquire as they take over the global trading system. The implosion of America's financial system could easily usher in this economic revolution.



## Real economic recovery is coming.

To get a sneak peek of the hopeful future prophesied in your Bible, request your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's ***The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like***.

The Bible also confirms that our financial practices are unsustainable. Psalm 37:21 says, "The wicked borrows, and cannot pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives" (Revised Standard Version). Borrowing money like this is "wicked" behavior—and it never ends well.

The Bible also forecasts a real solution. The smartest minds in finance have been unable to devise a working solution within our current system. It needs more than just a tweaking of interest rates or a different way of printing money—it needs something entirely new. And the Bible shows that is exactly what it is about to get.

### A New System

3 John 2 says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." God wants the world to have prosperity, and He has a plan to provide it. Soon, He will establish a fair, stable, prosperous financial system earth-wide.

Micah 4:4 prophesies of this future: "[T]hey shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it." There will be universal property ownership—not communism nor indebted mortgage payers. God talks about the ground producing so many crops they cannot be gathered fast enough (Amos 9:13). Jeremiah 31:12 paints a picture of this prosperity: "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all."

The coming financial crisis will help bring us to the point where we are willing to listen to what God says on finance and much more—where we will finally be willing to choose the way that leads to prosperity! ■



**W**HY IS THIS HAPPENING? Coronavirus has ground the world to a halt. Is God angry with mankind? Is this fulfilling Bible prophecy?

What can we *learn* from this extraordinary event? Such disruption and trial contains *lessons*. We shouldn't simply stumble through and hope everything ends quickly so we can return to life exactly as before.

What does the Bible say? What should a Christian's response be? You need to know how to react, physically and spiritually—because *even more-serious crises are coming*.

### Prayer and Panic

United States President Donald Trump declared Sunday, March 15, a "National Day of Prayer for All Americans Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic and for Our National Response Efforts." It was a fairly tame proclamation, asking that people pray for "added wisdom, comfort and strength," pray for those affected by the disease, "pray for God's healing hand

# YOU CAN SURVIVE THE NAPOCALYPSE

Is God angry with mankind? Does prayer help?  
How should a Christian respond? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

to be placed on the people of our nation,” “pray for the health and well-being of your fellow Americans, and to remember that no problem is too big for God to handle.” It said nothing about *why* God might be allowing this pandemic. It avoided talk of humbling ourselves before God or seeking to restore God’s favor. It didn’t mention repentance, or turning from sin. It merely recommended asking God for comfort, strength, protection, health and healing.

Still, many people reacted viscerally. They ridiculed prayer as being “anti-science.” One woman tweeted: “Wishful thinking isn’t going to make testing and care available to those who are sick. Wishful thinking isn’t going to feed people or pay their bills. It doesn’t keep us warm or safe from harm.” Others demanded separation of church and state, as if encouraging voluntary prayers is somehow enforcing a state religion. One woman tweeted: “This goes against EVERYTHING the founding fathers stood for”—ignorant that the deeply religious founders had often called for national days not just of prayer,

but also of humiliation and repentance.

In the overall national conversation on the news, God is not being talked about. Instead, it is all doctors, scientists, celebrities and pundits speaking about containment measures and projecting worst-case scenarios. Experts are speculating about mass infections, protracted shutdowns, and millions of deaths.

This is creating a lot of hysteria. Most of the shocks to stock markets have not come from existing problems, but from fear of *possible* problems. Shortages in groceries and general stores mostly aren’t resulting from disruptions in supply, manufacturing or distribution, but from fear, panic and hoarding. Plenty of food, toilet paper and other essentials still exist, but people are frantically grabbing more, looking after themselves and their own.

This is exposing some ugly truths about ourselves—truths certain to prove extremely relevant in the time ahead. We are getting a preview of how people react in crisis—and Bible prophecy says *far more* and *far worse crises* are coming.

What would happen if a more lethal disease or an environmental or

financial disaster actually disrupts the supply chain? What if earthquakes or other natural phenomena destroy infrastructure or wipe out food production, or long-term economic depression hits, or currencies collapse, or we suffer an energy embargo, or terrorists deploy biological, chemical or nuclear weapons in several cities? Such threats are very real.

Witness people’s behavior in this comparatively minor crisis. The world has *never* reacted to a pandemic as it is reacting today. Even if worst-case scenarios don’t materialize, this reveals how quickly an unexpected disaster can arise from nowhere and utterly alter the global landscape.

## Correction

This is a time we **NEED** national days of prayer. We need to be sincerely looking to God, not just for comfort, strength, protection, health and healing, but also for *guidance* and, yes, **CORRECTION**. We need to see this from His point of view. We must see how He is involved and what He is trying to teach us.

Yet the notion of God being involved in something like a disease pandemic is *entirely foreign* to people.

“For Christians, this terrible virus is not a punishment but a test of our faith and charity,” the *Telegraph* wrote on March 16. This author ridicules the idea of divine punishment, and explains how “Enlightenment” reasoning has overtaken “medieval” thinking. “Very few Christian leaders have blamed the coronavirus on sin (even if there is a lot of it about), and some clerics have been so keen to discourage us from going to church, lest we cough on the congregation, that one is left wondering what faith has to offer when nature goes mad.” The solution this author provides: Christians should look after other people.

Helping the needy is certainly noble—but can we casually dismiss the idea that a crisis like this may be a *curse from God*?

Suppose God *did* want to correct us. Suppose He *does* hate sin and how it harms us. Suppose He wants us to see how selfish, covetous, materialistic we are, how gluttoned on sports and entertainment. Suppose He *does* want us to change, to depart from sin, to turn to Him, and to live better lives.

Suppose God wants to show us that modern conveniences and luxuries are dominating our lives and drawing us away from the spiritual. Suppose He wants to help us see how we trust ourselves too much and to realize how *fragile* the civilization we have built really is, how tenuous the social fabric.

Suppose God wants us to get a hard look at our human nature and to help us see we aren't as good-hearted as we think.



Hardship and deprivation tends to reveal our true character; what if God wanted to show us *how little* hardship it takes to begin to expose our ugly tendencies like selfishness, tribalism, factionalism?

What if He wanted to warn us that bigger trials are coming, and to give us a taste of those—a dose of reality? What if God wanted us to *stop* our sports worship, to hit the pause button on our entertainment addiction—so we would slow down a moment, stay home with family, think, and consider our ways? What if God actually did want to correct His children for their sins, and to lead them to repentance?

Isn't it possible He could use a disease pandemic to do it?

### Our Navigational Guide

God makes the answers to all these questions and more plain in His revelation to mankind, the Bible.

God's Word tells us why events like this are happening. It explains why God allows such trials—at times on a mass scale—to accomplish specific purposes. It also tells us what God expects of us: what His standards are and how to recognize when we are astray. It un.masks

the evil in our hearts and explains how to combat it. It is also full of examples, both historical *and prophetic*, of God correcting people through trial—even diseases and health trials.

So the Bible is an invaluable guide through an event like this. It tells us what to expect and how to successfully navigate these choppy waters.

First let's see *why* God is allowing this ordeal.

God has a magnificent purpose for man. But that purpose requires that we have free choice; God will not *force* us to go His way. At the beginning of the Book, our first parents, Adam and Eve, were given that choice. God spelled it out for them and let them choose between the tree of life and the tree of death. They chose death (Genesis 3).

The rest of that chapter shows that because of their decision, God pronounced certain *curses* on them. He banished them from the Garden of Eden and cut off their access to the tree of life. Their decision cut *mankind* off from God, His truth, His knowledge and His guidance. Ever since, man has been building civilization apart from Him, trying to make things work on our own. *This* is why the world is so rife with misery: because, with few exceptions, we are not submitting to God. We are living a way that is leading to our own destruction.

It is a way God prophesied would actually end with our *annihilating ourselves from off the planet*—if He didn't intervene! Jesus Christ Himself prophesied this regarding the time just before His Second Coming: “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 ...” (Matthew 24:21-22).

God wants to restore to humanity the awesome potential that Adam and Eve turned their backs on. He wants to convert the heart of every person in the world, to help us see our error in going the wrong way, and instill in us a love for *His* way. “The Lord is ... not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL should come to REPENTANCE” (2 Peter 3:9).

That is His goal: to bring us to *repentance*.

### What Is Repentance?

Repentance means comparing ourselves to God's law of love to see where we are sinning and flawed, then changing direction and *obeying* that law.

God's law, for example, commands that you love God with all your heart, mind and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37). Repenting of not doing this means *striving to change*. God's law forbids putting *anything* before the true God (Exodus 20:2-3). Repentance means searching your life for areas where you are prioritizing other interests, people or things before God. God's law prohibits adultery (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-28). That means *turning away* from all forms of sex outside of marriage, including fornication, pornography and all lust and perversion (as *God* defines it, not as society does).

God's law is *perfect* and it is *liberating* (James 1:25). It is a law of *love* (Romans 13:10). God's law defines how He thinks, how He lives, and *who He is*. It is the way that Jesus Christ lived. “For *this is the LOVE OF GOD*, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS ...” (1 John 5:3).

Our own thinking, reasoning and ways are fatally flawed. The unstable, unjust, unhappy world we have built is abundant proof of that. God wants each of us to see reality, “the plague of his own heart” (1 Kings 8:38). He wants us to avoid the suffering that comes from relying on ourselves and comparing ourselves to others. He wants us instead to LIVE BY HIS LAW and to use *Christ* as our standard, because that is what is best for each one of us, and for the world we inhabit.

This is a soaring ambition for God to have, because each human heart is

plagued by wickedness (Jeremiah 17:9). But He will realize this ambition in stages: He is not YET trying to turn people to repentance on a mass scale, but His master plan *does eventually include everyone*.

God has an AMAZING future for all those who will be willing to come to repentance. True repentance *bridges the gap* between an individual and God. Thus, the very first step toward real, lasting happiness is a genuine, deep, complete *repentance*.

Have YOU ever repented before God? Very, very few people have. But that is the first step toward true happiness and fulfillment. We *must* recognize our own helplessness and inadequacy apart from God. This is the most fundamental lesson any of us can learn.

This is what was missing from President Trump's declaration for a National Day of Prayer. As 1 John 3:22 explains, "[W]hatsoever we ask [in prayer], we receive of him, BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." Prayer *alone* isn't enough: We must also turn to Him in repentance and obedience. His ears are open to the prayers of the righteous, "but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). That is a major reason so many prayers go unanswered—because people simply have not surrendered themselves wholly to God. They are still living in rebellion. (You can learn more about this in our free book *How to Pray*.)



FREE UPON REQUEST:  
**HOW TO  
PRAY**

### Blessings and Curses

Once you understand that God is trying to bring us to repentance, then many of the prophecies of the Bible make sense.

Consider Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, known as the "blessings and curses" chapters. They list the blessings God will give, even on the national level, to those who obey Him—and the curses that will come to those who do not. These chapters are specifically directed at the Israelites and their descendants (which today include primarily the United States and Britain), but the principle applies to us all, even individually.

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the

Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. ... The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do ... because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. The Lord shall make the *pestilence* cleave unto thee ..." (Deuteronomy 28:15-16, 20-21). The word *pestilence* describes various types of destruction and death; it could even be violence we commit against each other.

God then gets more specific, even discussing *disease*: "The Lord shall smite thee with a *consumption* [chronic degenerative diseases], and with a *fever*, and with an INFLAMMATION [communicable diseases like influenzas—coronavirus would be included], and with an extreme burning ..." (verse 22).

To be cursed by God, who has total power, is terrifying! Few take this warning seriously, but this is just one of *many* biblical passages showing how God corrects His children when we go astray. He is like any father who loves his children: He will step in when he sees them hurting themselves.

Throughout Deuteronomy 28, God repeatedly says these curses are aimed at turning us back to Him! If we would turn—and *as soon* as we turn—the curses would stop! Only because we *refuse* to *repent* will they grow worse and worse.

### Isolation and Idolatry

Amid this current crisis, how many people are *seeking God*? How many are examining themselves according to God's Word? How many are concerned about the sins of our peoples that are bringing these curses upon us?

Instead we see people hoarding, fighting over goods in stores, panic selling, and looking for entertainments to lose themselves in. Reports emerged of Internet traffic increasing dramatically, much of it because of apparently self-isolating individuals at home playing *online video games*.

So many of the things society loves are actually *idols*: sports, concerts, bars, comforts and luxuries, money and materialism, our work, our investment

portfolios. Not that any of those things is evil of itself—but *many* people put those things *ahead of God*, which is a form of IDOLATRY. Now, suddenly, many of these "gods" are being forcibly stripped from us.

Perhaps you are among the many people who cannot go to work. You have extra time on your hands. *Use* this opportunity to direct your attention to the *more important things in life* that are too often *neglected* amid the hurly-burly of everyday responsibilities and distractions.

God wants us ALL to see the error of our ways and turn our hearts to Him! He wants mankind to recognize just how failed and flawed the civilization we have built apart from Him is. He can use a crisis like this to try to drive people in that direction. But if people don't respond, what more can a loving God do?

If you look from God's perspective, you can see why these problems are virtually certain to intensify. GOD WANTS TO BRING PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE—so He can make the magnificent future He has for mankind possible. Thus, He is going to allow this world to endure even greater suffering.

### Why Pandemics

The Bible includes some grim prophecies about disease pandemics in the end time. Even secular news sources have been quoting some of them.

In that Matthew 24 prophecy, Jesus was forecasting the conditions that would precede His Second Coming. Among them He spoke of *pestilences*, or diseases, arising in various places (verses 6-8). The Bible's most detailed book of end-time prophecy, Revelation, portrays the four horsemen of the apocalypse, the fourth of which is a picture of *disease*: "And I looked, and behold a *pale horse*: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth" (Revelation 6:8). Among the weapons this horseman wields are disease epidemics. Along with the other three horsemen, this anemic-looking horseman on a haunting, pallid horse will slay "the fourth part of the earth." With today's population of 7.7 billion, that means nearly 2 billion people!

# A Dangerous New Age of 'WORSHIPING THE WILL'

American politics are in a state of hysteria. There is a deadly reason so many people are adopting insane ideas.

BY GERALD FLURRY



**I**T IS EASY TO FORGET, GIVEN THE all-consuming focus on coronavirus, but just weeks ago, America impeached its president. Democrats, by calling on false witnesses, relying on hearsay and criminalizing intentions, brought standards for impeachment to a historic low. Neither Robert Mueller's special counsel investigation nor the House Intelligence Committee found any impeachable evidence against President Donald Trump, but these facts did not matter. Radical leftists keep repeating the lie that he colluded with the Russian government to undermine U.S. security—and the lie that he threatened to withhold military aid from Ukraine if it did not investigate Joe Biden's family. In the end, this shameful absurdity ended

on February 5, when the Senate acquitted the president.

Lead impeachment manager Rep. Adam Schiff said this during his closing arguments at the impeachment trial: "You can't trust this president to do the right thing—not for one minute, not for one election, not for the sake of our country—you just can't. He will not change and you know it. A man without character or ethical compass will never find his way."

The *Merriam-Webster* definition of *slander* is "the utterance of false charges or misrepresentations, which defame and damage another's reputation." Representative Schiff slandered the president. Yet millions of people believed him. Why? They are *impervious to reason*. They don't see the world in terms of

logic or objective facts. As I will explain, they use a very different and extremely dangerous standard to govern their decisions.

When the Senate voted to not call additional witnesses to the impeachment trial in January, protesters gathered outside the Capitol building and called for the overthrow of America's system of government. The group Refuse Fascism—a joint venture between the Democratic Socialists of America and the Revolutionary Communist Party USA—organized these protests. One man used a megaphone to tell the crowd, "You can't rely on the elections that they are rigging." Then he led a chant, "Donald Trump is guilty; the whole system is guilty."

The Revolutionary Communist Party USA is a Stalinist organization that wants to abolish the U.S. Constitution and create a nation called "The New Socialist Republic in North America." This group only has a few hundred members, but these revolutionaries sound alarmingly like Representative Schiff and former President Barack Obama.

Last November, Mr. Obama advised politicians to be more underhanded in their attempts to "fundamentally transform" America, because "the average American doesn't think we have to completely tear down the system and remake it." (Read about this in my cover story from our March issue, "America Has Been 'Fundamentally Transformed,'" at [theTrumpet.com/21850](https://www.thetrumpet.com/21850).)

The average American doesn't think we have to "completely tear down the system," but *Mr. Obama does*. And because of blatant lies being told by the radical left, more Americans are starting to think like him.

What is happening in America? A haze of deception enshrouds our nation. It is stunning how easily journalists, politicians and other figures today deceive

people. We must understand the spirit behind this deception, as it is far more dangerous than most people realize!

### Hitler's Will Worship

Adolf Hitler started World War II, a war that killed 60 million people and inflicted some of the worst suffering in history.

Hitler believed that if you tell a big lie and repeat it enough, people would believe it. He wrote in *Mein Kampf*, “[I]n the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods.”

That may sound strange, but it did happen to the German people. Hitler and his followers told people that the German Army did not lose World War I on the battlefield, but instead had been stabbed in the back by the Jews. There was no evidence for this claim, but Hitler repeated it until people fell for it. He also blamed the unfair and ruinous Versailles Treaty and held the West responsible for the political and economic turmoil plaguing the Weimar Republic. Germans came to believe Hitler, elected him chancellor and supported his pogroms against the Jews. The Nazis exterminated 6 million Jews during the Holocaust.

We have not learned from this history as we should. Could something similar happen today? Could it happen in America? Could someone stir up a political revolution simply by repeating a blatant lie over and over and over till people come to believe it?

Well, this has *already* happened to a shocking degree!

Hermann Rauschning was the president of the Free City of Danzig in Germany from 1933 to 1934. He briefly joined the Nazi movement before breaking with it. He had many conversations with Adolf Hitler that he later wrote down in his book *Hitler Speaks*.

He wrote that during these various talks, Hitler talked a lot about the *psychology of lying*. “What you tell people in the mass in a receptive state of fanatic

devotion will remain. Words received under a hypnotic influence are *radical and impervious to every reasonable explanation*,” Rauschning recalled him saying on one occasion (emphasis mine throughout). On other occasions, Hitler said, “We are now at the end of the Age of Reason”; “A new age of *magic interpretation* of the world is coming, of interpretation in terms of the will and not of intelligence”; “There is no such thing as truth either in the moral or the scientific sense.”

Rauschning called Hitler a “master enchanter.” Hitler had an intense fascination with occult magic. Much of what he told Rauschning about “a new age of *magic interpretation*” came from the German occultist Ernst Schertel. Schertel’s book on magic was one of the most heavily annotated books in Hitler’s personal library.

Hitler’s annotations of *Magic: History, Theory and Practice* include highlights such as “the difference between ‘true’ and ‘false’ has disappeared,” and “quite a lot is gained with [magic]: namely the possibility to intervene in this structure, that is to say change the world according to our will. But this is magic, and on this basis we are able to create reality where no reality is.”

Hitler believed that he did not need to rely on reason, intelligence, reality, absolute truth or God. Instead, he WORSHIPED HIS OWN HUMAN WILL and believed HE COULD CREATE HIS OWN REALITY.

Consciously or subconsciously, many people today believe the same thing. They just keep lying until they convince

themselves and those around them that they are right.

### Attack From Within

We are seeing bold, blatant lies like the Russia collusion hoax become a bigger and bigger part of today’s political landscape. This dangerous trend began long before the impeachment trial.

Reporter Michael Hastings published a book called *Panic 2012: The Sublime and Terrifying Inside Story of Obama’s Final Campaign*. In it, he described the intriguing *personal effect* that President Obama would have on the journalists covering him on the campaign trail. On television, Hastings said these reporters “lose their minds sometimes. They start behaving in ways that are juvenile, and amateurish, and they swoon.” Because the media swooned over President Obama, he was able to amass enormous power to silence dissent. The media were simply unwilling to challenge him.

Many of Mr. Obama’s beliefs were unknown before he was elected because the media didn’t vet him. The press has a lot to answer for in the way they abetted this man and his ambitions!

Now, many of the same journalists who swooned over Barack Obama view everything President Trump does as proof of corruption and evil. The same people who conspicuously overlooked wrongdoing by the Obama administration are now *manufacturing* criminal accusations against the Trump administration. They are continually exposing their own rank bias and utter blindness.

We MUST be concerned about this. Without a free and truthful media, a republic cannot survive!

Radical Democrats are demonstrating that there is virtually *no limit* to what they will do to attack the president and undermine the last election—AND THE NEXT ONE. Representative Schiff even suggested during the impeachment hearings that President Trump might offer Alaska to the Russians in exchange for support in the next presidential election. This is unhinged fear-mongering, devoid of any evidence! What is this man talking about?

Isn’t this exactly what Hitler was describing? These people believe that if they *say* it, it is true! If they *will* it, then everyone should believe them.

**A HAZE OF DECEPTION  
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MUST UNDERSTAND THE  
SPIRIT BEHIND THIS.**

This is deeply troubling. Bible prophecy shows that *will worship* is going to lead to fierce, intense suffering—even worse than it did in World War II.

### The Bible's Warning

The Apostle Paul wrote about this very subject: “Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels [*demons*, it should read], intruding into those things which he [*has*] seen [that is the correct translation], vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind .... Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in WILL WORSHIP ...” (Colossians 2:18, 23).

This is exactly what Hitler was talking about—*will worship*, but on another level—“magic interpretation ... in terms of the will.” Hitler said, *This is how it works now: Your logic, facts, evidence and truth won't stop us. We follow a “magic interpretation” today.* Will worship is impervious to truth! That is the new age Hitler wanted to usher in. *There is no absolute truth*, it says. *Don't look to the Bible for answers. Just have a magic interpretation of things.* The implication is, *Just follow our WILL!*

Paul reveals what happens when you worship the human will: It leads to essentially worshipping *demons!* That is because the human mind is so vulnerable to Satan's broadcasting, deception and influence, especially when full of vanity. Following a *human will* really means following *Satan's will!*

British journalist Melanie Phillips makes a good point in her 2010 book *The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle Over God, Truth and Power* that the ability to think rationally comes from God. “Western science grew from the novel idea that the universe was rational; and that belief was given to us by Genesis, which set out the revolutionary proposition that the universe had a rational Creator,” she writes. “Without such a purposeful intelligence behind it, the universe could not have been rational; and so there would have been no place for reason in the world because there would have been no truths or natural laws for reason to uncover.”

Satan and his demons reject God's authority. They do not believe in absolute truth; everything is relative to their will. Christ said the devil “abode not in

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the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

When human beings reject God's truth, they start worshipping their own opinions. They start thinking like Satan. When this type of thinking becomes entrenched enough, *people stop even caring about the difference between true and false.* They start trying to magically “create reality where no reality is.”

This thinking is taking over America's political scene! Can you recognize it?

The radical left is casting aside the foundational law of the land, telling us that it is just getting in the way. *We don't need that old law*, they insist. *We know what justice is. You can trust us!*

SUCH REASONING PAVES THE WAY FOR TYRANTS! Tyrants hate facts and truths that limit their power. So they ignore reality in favor of their own “magic interpretation” of the world. Every tyrant is a tool that the devil can use to cast God's truth to the ground (Daniel 8:12).

We must recognize the evil spiritual force behind this push to undermine the law!

### Tearing Down the System

The late Herbert W. Armstrong pointed out that the difference between Adolf

Hitler's Nazism and Joseph Stalin's communism was simply the difference between *national* socialism and *international* socialism. The term “Nazi” is an abbreviation for the National Socialist German Workers' Party. Though the Nazis disliked the Communists, the two ideologies are pretty similar, and Hitler and Stalin cooperated at the start of World War II.

You can learn a lot about how the radical left operates by studying Hitler and Stalin.

In 1956, Mr. Armstrong wrote that Russia was waging psychological war on America. “A psychological warfare of propaganda, infiltration, subversion, demoralization—it is a warfare that has attacked our minds and our moral and spiritual values, rather than our bodies and our earthly possessions. ... It's a kind of warfare we don't understand or know how to cope with. It uses every diabolical means to WEAKEN us from within, sapping our strength, perverting our morals, sabotaging our educational system, wrecking our social structure, destroying our spiritual and religious life, weakening our industrial and economic power, demoralizing our armed forces, and finally, after such infiltration, overthrowing our government by force and VIOLENCE!”

Like the Nazis, Communists believed that *the end justifies the means.* In other words, they can do whatever they WILL, and the *results* will justify it. How terribly dangerous and disastrous! Look at the results: In pursuit of a twisted, anti-Bible, anti-God goal, they committed unspeakable atrocities!

Communists in America have organized themselves into a couple different political parties, but communism is not really a political party. Their goal is to destroy America's constitutional republic!

Those Revolutionary Communist Party protesters outside the Capitol building were quite honest about their aims. They chanted, “Donald Trump is guilty; THE WHOLE SYSTEM IS GUILTY.” And they lauded a new Stalinist constitution posted on their website, which says: “In order to bring this new socialist state into being, it would be necessary to thoroughly defeat, dismantle and abolish the capitalist-imperialist state of



the U.S.A.; and this in turn would only become possible with the development of a profound and acute crisis in society and the emergence of a revolutionary people, in the millions and millions, who have the leadership of a revolutionary Communist vanguard and are conscious of the need for revolutionary change and determined to fight for it.”

The policies that Barack Obama worked to implement had far more in common with these activists than most people realize. But as he said last November, “Even as we push the envelope and we are bold in our vision, we also have to be rooted in reality. The average American doesn’t think we have to completely tear down the system and remake it.”

Most Americans do not want a Communist constitution! So Mr. Obama advises Democrats to lie about their beliefs and conceal their goals. Few media outlets today are covering the radical left’s relentless efforts to tear down the system. Instead, they are obsessed with falsehoods about how Mr. Trump works for Putin.

This movement is *lawless* beyond words to describe! It is WORSHIPING THE WILL and ushering in a dangerous new age of MAGIC INTERPRETATION. And this WILL WORSHIP philosophy is consuming the nation! Where will this lead? Most people don’t realize it, but it will soon become painfully clear that it is leading to UNPARALLELED SUFFERING if we don’t wake up!

We don’t like to think about this, but we MUST! The type of revolution the radical left is promoting usually causes MILLIONS TO SPILL THEIR BLOOD!

### Civil War

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said in a 2017 *Fox News* interview, “I think we should take the threat of civil war very seriously. ... What you’re seeing with Antifa, what you’re seeing on college campuses, what you’re seeing, to some extent, in the bureaucracy, is a real division of the country. ... As a historian, my view is pretty straightforward: One side or the other wins.”

Yet in America’s civil war, NEITHER SIDE WILL WIN.

In an article titled “There Will Be No Winners in the Second Civil War,” Newsmax.com concluded: “[M]any

people see war not only as imminent, but as virtually inevitable. If that’s the case, we’d better get busy digging ourselves bunkers ... and *graves*” (Aug. 25, 2017).

How serious is this issue? America’s first Civil War cost almost as many American lives as all other American wars combined! But another eruption of violence between Americans would be far worse.

And if the country plunges into infighting, many foreign nations will be ready to pounce. America is the wealthiest nation in history. If it continues to destroy itself, nations like China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and others will destroy whatever the civil war doesn’t as they vie for the loot. The American superpower will become history, and a *third world war* involving multiple nuclear powers will follow!

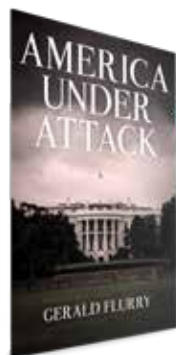
The *Trumpet* and, before us, Herbert W. Armstrong have warned of World War III for over 85 years! This war is prophesied in your Bible. America’s division is hastening the fulfillment of what God forecast thousands of years ago!

### Rooted in Christ

To be protected from this coming calamity, we must learn from our history. The Apostle Paul warned not to let any man beguile you with enticing words; you must be ROOTED IN CHRIST. “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Colossians 2:6-8).

The Good News Bible translates the expression “rudiments of the world” as “RULING SPIRITS OF THE UNIVERSE.”

*Thayer’s Lexicon* says it means “to invade, of evils coming into existence among men and beginning to exert



### It’s not just you.

Leaders and regular people all around you really are adopting radical and crazy ideas. It makes no sense, unless you understand the single unseen source. To learn more, request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet **America Under Attack**.

their power.” What is worshipping the will? It means being ruled by THE DEMON WORLD! That is what Paul is saying!

There is an *evil spirit world*, and these spirits have power! Scripture makes this reality exceedingly plain. Read the Gospels, for example, and you see that Jesus Christ went around casting out demons routinely! Where did those demons go? They didn’t die! Millions of them are cast down and confined to this Earth along with Satan the devil (Revelation 12:7-12).

If you are not rooted in Jesus Christ and God’s Word as revealed in the Bible, you are “easily corrupted in the deeper strata of [your] emotional nature.” Satan, “the prince of the power of the air,” broadcasts in moods, attitudes and impulses that make us *impervious to reason—if we allow it* (Ephesians 2:2).

There is always somebody out there who wants to get us to worship the WILL. But the only way to escape the devastating catastrophes prophesied to engulf America is to be rooted in TRUTH—based on the *Word of God*.

Even those who see there is a real problem in America today don’t recognize its full extent. There is an *evil spiritual force* that seeks to destroy America. That spirit is working in the radical left to fulfill that goal. A great evil spirit is leading these people to accelerate this nation’s death! People are surrendering to hateful, evil thinking. They think they are embracing socialism and communism—but in fact, they are aligning with *satanic will*!

If you want to prove this more deeply, we will gladly send you a free copy of my booklet *America Under Attack*. This will help you recognize the dangerous direction this nation is heading.

God doesn’t want people to suffer through the calamities that are coming. Those individuals who respond and heed God’s warning, He will protect. And we must all see that these calamities are prophesied to occur in the *very last days* of America’s existence as a strong world power—which is actually right before the Messiah comes to this Earth to rule it! ■



# Time to Stop Calling Putin 'President'?

Russia's leader is resetting the clock on his term limits, clearing the way for him to rule until 2036. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

**“I FULLY RECOGNIZE MY OWN PERSONAL responsibility toward the citizens of this country.”** With these words spoken on March 10, Russian leader Vladimir Putin began answering a question that had been vexing Kremlin watchers for years.

The question was: How will Putin stay in power after 2024?

The Russian constitution forbids a person from holding presidential office for more than two consecutive terms. Putin's current six-year term is his second in a row and ends in 2024.

Yet Putin has broken far too many laws and made far too many enemies to willingly relinquish the power that protects him. Experts have been expecting him to game the system, because that is exactly what he has successfully accomplished before.

In 2008, as Putin completed two consecutive four-year presidential terms, he and most Russians felt he was just getting started. But then he came up against the constitutional term limit and let go of the presidency.

But he did not let go of political power.

## An Artful Dodger

From 2008 to 2012, Putin handed the presidency over to Dmitry Medvedev,

his subservient protégé, and he stepped into the office of prime minister. With this ploy, Putin remained the true leader of Russia while essentially pretending to be second in command.

During that era, Putin's forces invaded the former Soviet republic of Georgia and assumed control of a fifth of its territory. This showed Russia and the world that though the Soviet Union had collapsed,

**More appropriate, now that his dictatorial colors are on full display, may be “supreme leader,” or “paramount leader.”**

under Putin Russia was back. Once again, it was a power to be feared and respected.

Putin also changed the constitution to extend presidential terms to six years, effective upon the next election. In 2012, he returned to the presidency with a newly extended six-year presidential term. In 2018, he surprised no one by clinching yet another term in office. But

he knew he would want to stay in power beyond 2024.

There are indications that Putin considered staying at the helm of Russia beyond 2024 with another rendition of the “Medvedev Shuffle,” perhaps with a different protégé this time around. He also considered ruling Russia through parliament or from the post of Russia's State Council. He also considered merging neighboring Belarus with Russia, then leaving the Russian presidency for a more powerful office at the head of a new Russia-Belarus supranational state.

But on March 10, after those various options had been weighed in the balance and found wanting, Putin told Russian lawmakers during a session of the Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, that the clock should simply be reset to zero for his presidential term limits so he can remain president after 2024.

“We need it for stability,” he said.

Putin added that he did not wish to scrap constitutional term limits for everyone: The nation should not return to czarist- or Soviet-era models when no elections were held, he said, because “Russia has had enough revolutions in its history.”

But he stressed that his own unique situation is different. In order for Russia to secure the level of stability needed to have rotating leaders, it first needs several more years of Putin's rule. Then, once the nation has been stabilized by his hand, enforcing the constitutional term limits “takes priority,” he said.

After Putin spoke, the Duma applauded and voted overwhelmingly to pass a package of constitutional reforms that included the clause resetting his term limits. The bill then sailed through the upper house and was approved on March 16 by Russia's highest court. On April 22, an “all-people vote” will give Russian citizens a chance to accept or reject the reforms. But that measure, like the others, is mainly a scheme to give Putin's power grab a veneer of legitimacy because of his tight hold on the media and the organizations that conduct and count the votes.

## A More Fitting Title

So Putin has done it again. After 20 years in power, he has cleared the path to keep the title of president potentially

through to the end of 2036, when he will be nearly 84 years old. Yet it may be time to stop calling him by that title.

More appropriate, now that his dictatorial colors are on full display, may be “supreme leader,” as the heads of North Korea and Iran are called. Or perhaps “paramount leader,” as Putin’s fellow strongman in China is labeled. Maybe “leader of the nation,” as Kazakhstan’s longtime dictator is known.

Or there may be a different title for Putin that is more fitting still.

“We need to watch Vladimir Putin closely. He is the ‘prince of Rosh’ that God inspired Ezekiel to write about 2,500 years ago!”

Those words were written by *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in the September 2014 issue.

Mr. Flurry’s article examines the Bible’s prophecies about a multinational Asian power that will form in the end time and field an army of 200 million soldiers. He calls special attention to Ezekiel 38:2, which calls the man who leads this Asian army the “prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal” (Ezekiel 38:1-2; Young’s Literal Translation).

*Meshech* and *Tubal* are ancient names that correspond to modern Russian cities. *Rosh* is a variation of an ancient name for Russia, which was anciently called *Rus* (see the *Benson Commentary on the Old and New Testaments*, the *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* and other sources).

The passage goes on to describe fierce military campaigns that will be waged by this power, led by the “prince of Rosh.” Placing these prophecies alongside Putin’s tightening grip on power within Russia and the aggressive foreign policy the nation has adopted under his command, Mr. Flurry wrote: “I strongly believe Vladimir Putin is going to lead the 200 million-man army.”

In light of these prophecies and Putin’s success in making himself an unchallenged, possibly lifelong ruler, the title “president” looks considerably less accurate than “prince of Russia.” ■

Order your free copy of ***The PropheSied ‘Prince of Russia,’*** by Gerald Flurry.



### ► PROOF OF GOD FROM PAGE 2

it be coronavirus or any other plague. People in this world could have light if only they would recognize it and begin to change their lives.

### Watchman Message

Christ gives His Church “the spirit of prophecy” and then gives this small group a big job to do just before the Second Coming: WARN the rest of the world of the *severe tribulation* that will precede His return.

Now, if you were to be a watchman for God, would you get your message from the news broadcasts on television or in the newspapers of this world?

God instructs His watchman, “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore *thou shalt hear the word at my mouth*, and WARN THEM FROM ME” (Ezekiel 33:7). God’s watchman must receive his message, NOT from news sources in the world, but *from the Word of God*—from the BIBLE. God will show us exactly what is coming.

In Jeremiah 23:16, God condemns false prophets. “Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you,” He says, “they make you vain: they speak a vision of *their own heart*, and not out of the mouth of the Lord.” That is all you are going to get from any source in this world: people simply devising their own visions. They are not looking to God for *His* message and *His* prophecy of what will happen.

Are you hearing the word from GOD’S MOUTH? He really wants you to *understand* His prophecies and to prove them!

Sadly, the world today is disinterested in the Word of God and what God has to say. They live in darkness and scorn God’s message. The Apostle Peter prophesied of such a time. He wrote that in the last days—the time we now live in—there would be scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-4). Many will question the proof of the promise of Christ’s Second Coming.

Ezekiel 33 continues by showing that eventually *everyone* will come to understand that God’s prophecies were sure: “And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them” (verse 33). The tragedy is that most people won’t come to recognize this until AFTER

the very WORST PLAGUES HAVE BEFALLEN US! Because human beings are so stubborn and self-willed, *that* is what it will take—plagues and violence that escalate to the brink of *human extinction*—before people will acknowledge that God was right!

God gives this urgent message to His watchman: “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 is pleading that we turn from our wicked ways! He is calling on all of us to REPENT. That is really the purpose of His prophecies. But tragically, repentance is not understood in this world.

When dealing with a false prophet, the Prophet Jeremiah said: “The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him” (Jeremiah 28:9). There *are* false prophets. You know he is a true prophet when what he says comes to pass! God sends prophets to warn, to give people an opportunity to escape and avoid severe punishment and plagues. So pay close attention, and you will be able to discern that God is behind him!

Prophecy is the proof of God. It shows that God is alive and active—He is bringing to pass today what He recorded thousands of years ago. PROVE those prophecies—and recognize that the omnipotent God who gave them wants to have a relationship with you! ■



## Can you prove it wrong?

The *Trumpet* claims that Bible prophecy is 100 percent accurate. Enroll in the **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**, study it alongside your own Bible, and prove it for yourself.

Thousands of migrants gather in the buffer zone at the Turkey-Greece border on February 29.

## EUROPE FACING MIGRATION SURGE

**S**yría's civil war entered a new phase late last year when Bashar al-Assad's regime ramped up offensives on the northwestern Idlib province. Idlib quickly became the center of one of the worst refugee crises in the entire war, forcing more than 900,000 Syrians to flee to the Syria-Turkey border—the largest

single wave of displacement since the war broke out nine years ago. Overwhelmed by the push for these new refugees to join the 3.5 million Syrians already in Turkey, Turkish authorities opened their border with Europe on February 28, allowing thousands of refugees into Greece. The Greeks tried to

block the mass migration with barbed wire and tear gas.

The crisis has raised the specter of a return to the 2015 migrant crisis, where Europe was overwhelmed by hundreds of thousands of refugees. Many of them refused to integrate, and some even formed migrant gangs, sexually assaulted

European women, and plotted terrorist attacks. Enraged Europeans set refugee centers ablaze and attacked incomers.

European leaders clearly don't want a repeat experience. But to avoid a crisis at home, they risk a humanitarian crisis at Europe's borders. The EU has offered Turkey more money, but Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is insisting Europe get more involved in Syria and the Middle East, establishing a "safe zone" in Idlib for the refugees. This would spark a clash with Bashar Assad and, potentially, Russia.

Psalms 83 prophesies that a confederation of moderate Arab nations will align with a German-led European superpower. Among others, the confederation includes the "tabernacles of Edom" (Turkey) and the "Hagarenes" (Syria). "Assur" corresponds to Germany. As Europe faces migration, terrorism, disease, financial instability and other threats, watch for it to form a unified alliance and exert itself aggressively. ■

## EU CONSIDERING HUGE FACIAL RECOGNITION DATABASE

**A** leaked European Union report seen by the Intercept sheds light on discussions between 10 member nations regarding the creation of a facial recognition database for use by police forces across the EU. Although the Intercept published some details on February 21, the November 2019 report has still not been released to the public.

Though it sounds like something out of a spy movie or George Orwell's *1984*, facial recognition is rapidly becoming one of the most powerful weapons in the arsenal of European law enforcement agencies. A French police officer searching for a thief, smuggler or terrorist would be able to match the



suspect's face to surveillance footage captured in Belgium, Germany, Italy and anywhere else in the EU—possibly even in the United States. European police forces already use facial recognition databases.

Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Slovenia already use facial recognition technology, and more nations are preparing to deploy it. Current databases can easily be linked

using existing technology. The only step remaining is to pass the legislation. If European databases are allowed to link to the Prum database, which facilitates visa-free travel between certain

European countries and the United States, then millions of Americans would also be accessible to the EU.

Although this technology is useful for tracking suspects and criminals across national borders, it can easily be used to exert authoritarian control over populations. The government of China has already implemented this oppressive system, using vast networks of facial recognition cameras to institute "social credit" systems.

In London, the average person is caught on camera 300 times throughout the day. European cities have similar systems. Used by undemocratic, dictatorial governments, these systems could be used as part of a powerful security apparatus forcing obedience to draconian measures.

Daniel 8:23 prophesies of a fierce king who will rise up to lead Europe. "This soon-coming ruler could literally be called a *king*," writes *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in his free booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*. "Even if he is not, the Bible gives him that label. When the Bible talks about a king, in most cases it's saying that this is not a democratic government." Europe is already setting up the tools that can easily create an anti-democratic state. ■



A long-range Shaheen II missile is displayed at the Pakistan Day Parade.

## PAKISTAN ENHANCES NUCLEAR WEAPONS

**P**akistan successfully test-fired an upgraded Ra'ad II nuclear-capable, air-launched cruise missile on February 16. Its military stated that the "high precision" weapon's range is 375 miles, almost double that of the previous model.

The launch underscores how far Pakistan's nuclear weapons program has come since 1998 when it became the first Islamic nation to join the short list of nuclear-armed powers.

Meanwhile, parts of Pakistan have become hotbeds of Islamic

## ISRAELI LEFTISTS EMBRACE ANTI-ZIONIST ARABS

**O**n March 16, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin gave Benny Gantz four weeks to attempt to form a coalition government. On March 2, in the third election over the past 12 months, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party won the highest number of votes, but his coalition of right-wing and religious parties consisted of 58 seats, shy of the 61 seats required for a majority in the Knesset.

Gantz's Blue and White party, which won 33 seats, is attempting to form a coalition along with far-left parties Yisrael Beiteinu and, unexpectedly, the Joint List, a group of anti-Zionist Arab parties. Gantz and party members repeatedly said they would not form a coalition with Arab parties. But the Joint List won 15 seats in the election, and it has offered its support in an attempt to prevent Netanyahu from continuing as prime minister. Its strategy was apparently to block Netanyahu

with Gantz, then withdraw its support from the coalition, allowing Gantz to continue as the leader of a minority government. Among other things, this would likely continue the political gridlock that has plagued the country in recent months.

This political maneuvering has exposed Gantz's and others' shocking level of hatred for Netanyahu and the Jewish nature of the State of Israel. Of course, there is nothing wrong about welcoming an Arab into your government. Indeed, Likud and others have Arab representation inside their parties. However, the Joint List is made up of leaders whose stated goal is to destroy Israel's foundational status as a Jewish state.

Israel's current battle for its identity, as exposed by the recent election, is eerily similar to the battle taking place in the United States and even in the United Kingdom. These three nations share the same roots: the remarkable, civilization-defining

radicalism, and the Pakistani military routinely works with some of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups. Many fear that Islamic terrorists could gain control over Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

The *Trumpet* has often warned of this danger. In the January 2008 issue, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: "Pakistan also has the nuclear bomb and could be taken over by radical Islam, with plenty of help from Iran," adding that Pakistan's military could soon become a "proxy of the Iranian mullahs" ([theTrumpet.com/4493](http://theTrumpet.com/4493)).

Whether Pakistan's nuclear weapons fell under the control of Iran-linked jihadists, homegrown terrorists or some other faction, the results could be catastrophic. ■



## IRAN TRIPLES RESERVE OF ENRICHED URANIUM

**T**he International Atomic Energy Agency announced on March 3 that between November and February, Iran nearly tripled its stockpile of enriched uranium from 372 kilograms to 1,021 kilograms. Iran now has five times the limit set by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The IAEA also said Iran is refusing to answer questions about three potential undeclared nuclear sites, and denying any international observers access to them. Therefore, Iran could actually have a larger amount of enriched uranium than is accounted for.

The amount of progress Iran has made in less than three months indicates that if it wholly dedicates itself to the task, it can quickly produce a nuclear warhead. Experts say it might take three to four months for Iran to enrich its uranium to weapons-grade level.

Daniel 11:40 states, "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over." *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has identified "the king of the south" as radical Islam, led by Iran. He has consistently warned of the danger it is that this power, motivated by radical ideology, is pursuing nuclear weapons. ■



promises made to the patriarch Abraham by God Himself. And all three nations, and their leaders, are now under attack by radical leftists.

Wherever the election process and Israel go from here, it is clear that something unprecedented and undemocratic is taking place in the attempt to remove Netanyahu.

To understand these alarming developments in the context of Bible prophecy, including the motivating factor behind the unhinged attempts to take down elected leaders, read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's landmark article "Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily" ([theTrumpet.com/17092](http://theTrumpet.com/17092)). ■

A Russian Iskander-M missile is fired during military exercises.



### RUSSIA UPGRADING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Russia is replacing older nuclear technology with newer and deadlier options, in a trend that the Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace said on January 29 has Europeans "very concerned." As of December 2018, Russia had produced at least 100 SSC-8 "Iskander" intermediate

range, ground-launched cruise missiles. European leaders decried this as a violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. If deployed to Russia's Kaliningrad territory north of Poland or Crimea, the weapon will have all European NATO nations within range.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in 2004 that Europe's increasing fear of Russia will "cause 10 leaders in Europe to unite in a sudden and dramatic way" as the only way to safeguard against an aggressive and dangerous Russia. These 10 European leaders are "a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire," identified in Daniel 11 as "the king of the north." Verse 40 says, "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble" this united European bloc. Europe is being "troubled" right now. Russia's aggressive nuclear advancements are setting off a chain reaction prophesied in your Bible. Watch for Europe to unite. ■

### RUSSIA'S OIL WAR TARGETS AMERICA

With fears about coronavirus affecting demand for oil around the world, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met on March 6 to propose that total oil output be reduced by 1.5 million barrels a day to prevent prices from dropping too quickly. Russia refused to cooperate with OPEC, which prompted Saudi Arabia to also refuse and instead increase production by 2 million barrels per day. In an already oversupplied global market, this caused prices of Brent Crude oil to plunge 31 percent to a low of \$31.25 a barrel, its steepest single-day drop since the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

It only costs \$9.90 for Saudi Arabia to pump a barrel of crude oil out of an existing oil field, while it takes Russia \$17.20 to do

the same. So the Saudi government figures it can survive low oil prices far longer than Russia can.

But this dispute actually revolves around American oil and gas companies. Most U.S. oil is far more difficult to extract than that of Russia or Saudi Arabia. This increased difficulty means that few U.S. producers can turn a profit when the oil price drops below \$40 per barrel.

Saudi Arabia's response to Russia's refusal to cooperate with OPEC probably pushed prices lower than Russia expected. In the long term, the slashed prices may squeeze Russia's oil-dependent economy more than the U.S.'s diversified economy. But in the short term,

the precipitous price drop will likely hurt U.S. oil and gas companies.

In Russia's geopolitical calculus, anything it can do to prevent America from becoming a net energy exporter strengthens the Kremlin's influence over energy importers such as Germany. So for the time being, Russia seems willing to suffer through low oil prices to prevent America from developing its oil fields to the point at which it can start offering nations an alternative to Russian energy. ■



Russia's Gazprom oil refinery



Hong Kong volunteers prepare for a chicken-culling exercise.

### ASIA SUFFERING FOUR 'PLAGUES'

Asia started the year 2020 simultaneously suffering the COVID-19 coronavirus, bird flu, African swine fever and swine flu. In addition to the illness and panic caused by coronavirus, African swine fever has destroyed about two thirds of China's pigs. Herds in Cambodia, North Korea and Vietnam have been similarly devastated. At the same time, H5N1 bird flu is rapidly spreading. According to the *Daily Mail*, "China has reportedly seen an outbreak of a 'highly pathogenic' strain of H5N1 bird flu, which has already killed 4,500 chickens." Chinese authorities have culled more than 17,000 chickens. Unlike African swine fever, H5N1 bird flu can infect humans. Though this is rare, it has a human mortality rate of about 60 percent. (Coronavirus has a mortality rate of 1 to 2 percent or less.) Meanwhile, the H1N1 swine flu has spread to 100,000 people in Taiwan, where 13 infected people died in one week, including one who had been vaccinated.

Revelation 6 contains a prophecy of what are commonly called the "four horsemen of the apocalypse," representing religious deception, war, famine and disease outbreaks. To learn more about these coming disasters and the only sure way of escape, request your free copy of *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. ■

Ferguson's team of epidemiologists as the "gold standard" of scientific research and theory. Not surprisingly, the Imperial team, with its "ties to the World Health Organization," reached the same conclusion the WHO did.

Ferguson told the *New York Times*, "Based on our estimates and other teams', there's really NO OPTION but follow in China's footsteps and suppress." *Follow Communist China's lead, or millions and millions of people will drop dead.*

And *how long* would Western governments need to impose a Communist-style lockdown? The "gold standard" recommended up to *18 months*. Shutdowns, social distancing the entire population, quarantining the infirmed and their families—for *a year and a half!* And even then, the UK death count projection would be 20,000 people. According to the BBC, this scenario represented a "good outcome" for Britain.

COVID-19 task forces in London and Washington accepted the catastrophic Imperial forecast without objection. As the *New York Times* opined, "It wasn't so much the numbers themselves, frightening though they were, as *who reported them: Imperial College London.*"

The "gold standard" had spoken: LOCKDOWN is our only option.

### **The Rule of Experts**

Before Imperial spoke, governments in America and the UK both favored promoting commonsense guidelines: wash hands frequently, sneeze or cough into your folded arm, stay at home if you are sick, etc. Both President Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson were disinclined to use government agents to enforce more stringent guidelines. The virus might spread more rapidly without strict measures, they reasoned, but the vast majority of people survive and build up a greater "herd immunity," which helps shield the public from disease in case it returns next season.

Over the weekend of March 14-15, the Trump and Johnson administrations were briefed on the Imperial College forecast. The sudden, profound impact this model had on both countries, and indeed the world, was disastrous.

The president's own medical expert, director of the National Institute of

Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci, took to the Sunday shows on March 15 and said, "If it looks like you're overreacting, you're probably doing the right thing." Even if you are young and healthy, he said, you could be a "carrier" who might spread it unknowingly.

On March 16, President Trump's COVID-19 task force released its 15-day "stop the spread" campaign. During the briefing, the president emphasized the commonsense guidelines, but also admonished all Americans to avoid gatherings of more than *10 people* and eliminate discretionary travel; he also asked the elderly and vulnerable to self-quarantine.

Prime Minister Johnson also encouraged the British public to take more drastic action to arrest the spread. Then, after his public address, Johnson's team briefed reporters off camera about "jaw-dropping numbers from some of Britain's top modelers of infectious disease"—this would be Neil Ferguson's 20-page forecast of 2.7 million casualties in the U.S. and Britain alone. According to the *Washington Post*, Ferguson's forecast was "QUICKLY ENDORSED BY JOHNSON'S GOVERNMENT" and it was "also INFLUENCING PLANNING BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION."

In the Trump briefing in Washington, Dr. Deborah Birx referred to models the coronavirus task force had been working on with "groups in the United Kingdom." It was Ferguson's forecast, the *New York Times* wrote, that "triggered a sudden shift" in America's and Britain's "comparatively relaxed response to the virus." Thus, it was the Imperial College model, which was essentially based on the WHO model, which was essentially based on the Communist Chinese model, that "jarred" the U.S. and UK into taking the actions that would fundamentally transform the U.S. and Britain in ways a contagious disease never could.

### **World War Flu**

The week before the Imperial model was published, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte imposed a national quarantine on Italy. This followed earlier lockdowns in the regions of Lombardy and Lodi. On March 14, Spain and France closed their borders, shut down businesses, and chased people off the streets.

In the United States, the changeover was swift. On March 10, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said that for most people, this disease "basically acts like a common cold or flu" and that the elderly and sickly were most vulnerable. He gave commonsense guidelines for city residents to remember to protect the elderly. But on the whole, New Yorkers are "pretty tough," he said, adding, "We cannot shut down because of undue fear." Just *four days later*, this same mayor said his staff was on "full crisis footing" and had entered a "wartime dynamic."

Many state governors and city mayors followed a similar pattern. That same weekend, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered all bars and restaurants to close. He had to take this action because his chief medical adviser said the state already had 100,000 cases of COVID-19 and that it would double every six days. Hospitals, he said, needed to prepare for inundation. Just days into the crisis, COVID-19 was shutting down America in ways that the Second World War never did.

Media sensationalism played a significant role in stoking fear and panic. Columnist Peggy Noonan wrote, "'Don't Panic' Is Rotten Advice," on March 12, saying "Sometimes paranoia is just good sense."

On March 14, the *New York Times* "reported" that as many as *214 million* Americans could be infected, 21 million could require hospitalization and 1.7 million could die. This invisible killer would rampage for months, maybe more, and we would have to go to war to stop it.

"I think this could be a six-, seven-, eight-, nine-month affair, watching the trajectory of the virus," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on March 13. Coronavirus, said one Bloomberg headline, would change the way we shop, travel and work FOR YEARS.

### **The Solution: Socialism**

Is it a coincidence that these dire predictions have major *political* ramifications? Is it a coincidence that the solutions demanded by the press and the political left are massive *socialistic interventions*? Is it coincidence that disobeying COVID-19 guidelines feels like the new racism, and that governments are encouraging

people to report their neighbors for such “crimes” as taking a walk?

Is the coronavirus reaction *interrupting* the radical leftist agenda, or is it *part of it*?

In the week that followed the publication of the Imperial model, Prime Minister Johnson’s government laid the groundwork for a total lockdown in Britain. Every year, on average, 17,000 people in the UK die from influenza; experts said COVID-19 would be much worse. The *Guardian* reported that the health crisis might last well into next year and that 7.9 million people could be hospitalized. As many as 80 percent of Britons could ultimately be infected! And with a death rate somewhere between 1 and 3.4 percent, the number of COVID-19 deaths would fall somewhere between 500,000 and 1.8 million people *in the UK alone*.

The UK health minister said anyone over 70 may have to self-isolate in their homes for four months. Britain’s chief medical officer advised people to brace for months of emergency restrictions. “This is not *two weeks and we’re done*,” he said. “This is a significant period of time.” On March 20, Boris Johnson called on all pubs, restaurants, cinemas and gyms to close. At that time, only 177 people across the UK had died from the virus.

Meanwhile, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak hastily prepared Britain for a quick transition into a wartime economy. The *Spectator* called Sunak’s plan “one of the most radical experiments in modern economic theory” (March 20). It allowed companies to defer value-added tax, reduced taxes for the self-employed, and obliged the *government itself* to pay 80 percent of workers’ salaries who couldn’t work due to the government quarantine. “It is the most extensive intervention in the economy ever made by a supposedly free-market government anywhere in the world. In effect, *we will all soon be working for the government*” (ibid).

Liberals and conservatives alike called on Mr. Johnson’s government to fully embrace socialism to *SAVE* Britain’s economy. And did he ever! Economically, it took only a *few days* of COVID-19 hysteria to effectively turn Johnson and the Tories into an army of Jeremy Corbyns.

On March 23, Mr. Johnson then lowered the boom on British liberty. In a nationally televised address, he ordered

Britons to stay home, except for “very limited purposes,” and to avoid public gatherings of more than *two* people. As part of the nationwide ban, the prime minister also ordered all shops selling “nonessential” goods to shut down.

Incredibly, the nation of Magna Carta, Habeas Corpus and the Bill of Rights was put under house arrest en masse. Even more incredibly, the British public didn’t seem to mind. A YouGov poll found that 76 percent of people in Britain “strongly” supported the national lockdown. Most commentators and talking heads also commended the measures.

British online magazine Spiked marveled at the near-total absence of dissent over the decision: “The authoritarian instincts of the chattering classes have been on full display in this crisis,” wrote editor Brendan O’Neill. “You can see it in their daily pleas for Boris Johnson to turn the UK into a police state. You can see it in their sneering at people who visit parks or take a walk on a beachfront. And you can see it most disturbingly in their implacable rage against anyone who deviates from the COVID-19 script and asks if shutting down society really is the right thing to do” (March 23).

### **You’re ‘Supposed’ To**

The day after Boris Johnson locked down Britain, Narendra Modi locked down India. At the time, his nation of 1.3 billion people had suffered just *10 deaths* linked to COVID-19. Modi’s decree triggered an immediate run on stores across the country. The BBC reported, “Correspondents say it is not clear how—or even if—people will now be allowed out to buy food and other essentials” (March 25).

That same day, a reporter asked President Trump about the U.S.’s heavy-handed COVID-19 countermeasures. He pointed at the medical experts. He said that a “few people” walked into his office and said, “We have to close up the country.” The president added that had he not taken these draconian steps, America would have been “unbelievably criticized.” He then made this remark: “Somehow the word got out that this is the thing we’re supposed to be doing.”

It’s NEVER been done before, but *somehow*, this is what we’re all supposed to be doing. This is the new normal. This is World War Flu. We’re fighting for our

survival, and we’ve all suddenly decided that a sort of public health totalitarianism is our only hope.

The same week President Trump released his 15-day plan to stop the spread, the Department of Homeland Security began to distribute passes to broadcasters allowing them access to their facilities, to travel “during curfews and restricted travel periods,” during these uncertain times. Before 2002, Homeland Security *didn’t even exist*. Today, it has 240,000 employees and the power to decide which Americans are important enough to travel unmolested.

Then, the last week of March, Congress passed the \$2.2 *trillion* Cares Act—the biggest spending bill in the history of human civilization.

The act “cares” about ordinary Americans—and also the Kennedy Center, the National Archives, NASA, the Forest Service, the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, and the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development—all of which received generous coronavirus “relief.”

Kimberley Strassel wrote at the *Wall Street Journal*, “A rough calculation suggests the single biggest recipient of taxpayer dollars in this legislation—far in excess of \$600 billion—is GOVERNMENT ITSELF” (March 26). As liberals often say, *never let a crisis go to waste!* Strassel wrote, “This legislation may prove the biggest one-day expansion of government power ever.”

America’s “cure” for the crisis is not unlike Britain’s: Broaden the power of the central government, expand the welfare state, and mortgage our future and the future of our children.

Republican Rep. Thomas Massie made the mistake of clinging to some principle of constitutional representative government: He demanded that all members of Congress be *present* for the vote on the \$2.2 trillion bill, thus delaying the House vote. He said legislators should be in some small way *accountable* for the largest expenditure in human history by at least signing their names to it. Judging by the vitriolic reaction to Massie, you might have thought *he* was responsible for spreading COVID-19. President Trump called Massie a “third-rate grandstander” who



only wanted “publicity.” Republicans called on Massie to lose his primary to another Republican challenger during the next election cycle. Former Secretary of State John Kerry said Massie needed to “be quarantined to prevent the spread of his massive stupidity.”

Massie became the least popular man in Washington for demanding a *recorded* tally for the vote, rather than the anonymous “voice vote” directed by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and

predictions for COVID-19. To author Aaron Ginn, a Silicon Valley technologist with no background in medicine or infectious disease, the numbers didn’t add up. He said that as testing for the virus increased, the mortality rate would inevitably decline. And sure enough, the two nations that have tested for the disease the most, the United States and Germany, had mortality rates of 1.7 and 0.78 percent at the time of this writing. These rates were not as low as

Had Ferguson said any of this just a few days earlier, it might have prevented the U.S. and Britain from plunging headlong into the financial abyss.

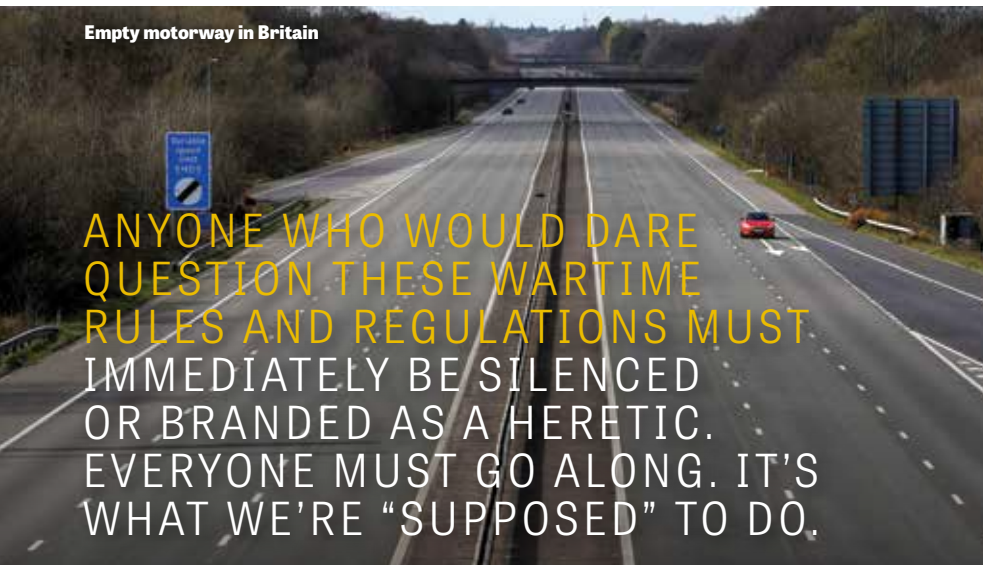
Even with his newly revised forecast, Ferguson believes the UK government was right to lock it down. He said it probably saved the National Health Service from disaster, but did acknowledge that because of the economic impact, we will be paying for this “for *many decades* to come.”

At some point, COVID-19 will go away. But the “cure” will remain.

The day after Ferguson quietly backtracked from his Imperial model, another study in America received a lot of attention. It was headlined “U.S. Virus Deaths May Top 80,000 Despite Confinement.” With most of America now glued to the daily death tracker, this study was used to incite *more* fear and hysteria. The truth behind the headline, however, is that it represented another rapid retreat from the original projections of Spanish flu-like devastation. Eighty thousand deaths from coronavirus is NOT a repeat of the 1918 pandemic. It’s more comparable to the ferocious flu season of 2017–18, when 45 million Americans were infected, 810,000 were hospitalized and 61,000 died (0.14 death rate). That happened *two years ago*. And no one cared.

CNN’s Sanjay Gupta also reversed course on March 27: “The vast majority of people, *even if you are elderly*, aren’t going to need hospitalization. The vast majority are going to recover. The vast majority are not going to die.” *Just one week before*, Gupta said U.S. hospitals were unprepared for what was about to happen. And the week before that, when Gupta declared COVID-19 a pandemic, he relied on case studies in China that said *5 percent* of those infected became critically ill.

Even Anthony Fauci, who had originally said COVID-19 was “10 times more lethal” than the common flu, wrote in the March 26 *New England Journal of Medicine*: “If one assumes that the number of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic cases is several times as high as the number of reported cases, the case fatality rate may be *considerably less than 1 percent*. This suggests that the overall clinical consequences of



preferred by almost every other powerful member of Congress. Pelosi quickly assembled enough representatives in the chamber to overrule Massie, and the voice vote easily moved the bill through to the president’s desk.

Rep. Peter King of New York later said that if anyone in Congress got infected with the virus as a result of having to be present at the capitol to overrule Massie, Massie would have BLOOD ON HIS HANDS.

This is how it works during this “war-time dynamic.” Constitutional norms are suspended. Lockdowns are commonplace. Big government determines who’s essential. And obscenely huge bailouts meet with zero resistance in Congress.

Anyone who would dare question these wartime rules and regulations must immediately be silenced or branded as a heretic. Everyone must go along. It’s what we’re “supposed” to do.

### The Still-Elusive Death Rate

On March 21, Medium ran an article questioning many of the outlandish

the seasonal flu, but nowhere near as high as Tedros predicted on March 3.

The death rate of 0.1 for seasonal flu is based on the *estimated* number of flu cases, not of patients who are actually tested. Since we don’t know the number of mild cases of COVID-19 that go unreported, the actual death rate for the disease is probably much lower than 1 percent. This was the main point of Ginn’s post. Soon, Medium deleted it for violating Medium rules.

As more information on the COVID-19 crisis emerges, it is not Ginn who is being proved wrong, but the public health experts.

On March 25, just nine days after releasing his frightening report, Neil Ferguson told British members of Parliament that the UK death toll could end up being “substantially lower” than 20,000. Furthermore, he testified that the overall impact on the deaths in the UK this year might be negligible because most of the COVID-19 victims would have died of other health complications anyway.

COVID-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza ... or a pandemic influenza.”

### After the Virus Dies

By the end of March, President Trump hinted at a possible end to the lockdown madness, sooner rather than later. “We cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself,” he said on March 22.

Two days later, during a virtual townhall at Fox News, the president spoke about how contagious and deadly *influenza* can be, but America never closes down. *We can't let this virus destroy our country*, he said. “We have to get back to work.” He suggested April 12 as a possible date for reopening the U.S. economy.

This statement alarmed the experts. Even as they were dramatically lowering their early death toll projections, America was still in grave danger. Fauci rushed to the media, telling them America might lose 100,000 to 200,000 people even under a strict lockdown. The president again decided to comply with their counsel and extended the social-distancing guidelines through the end of April. The experts, you see, are right, even when they get it spectacularly wrong.

As for the left-wing media, they are committed to sensationalizing this crisis for as long as possible. The longer it lasts, the more it benefits their ratings and their political objectives. Though early polls suggested that a majority of Americans were pleased with how President Trump handled the crisis, the Democrat media complex knows that the only chance for success at the ballot box in November is if the coronavirus death toll keeps rising and the stock market and the economy keep dropping.

Whenever America finally does reopen for business, the president seems confident of a turnaround: “We will come back strong,” he said. And that might be true, at least for the *short term*.

But what will be the long-term cost of all these “cures”? Once the virus subsides, will governments roll back the socialist programs and release the authoritarian reins? Will the radical left ease off on their unrelenting, irrational and vicious attacks against the presidency and America’s founding

principles? Will this be the end of sensational reporting and scaremongering? Will teams of experts return to the university and correct the mistakes that helped to incite a worldwide panic and economic meltdown?

We’ve seen large numbers of people whipping themselves into a frenzy before. The world has grown more and more radical, emotional and panicked, especially over the last few decades. But nothing has illustrated this quite like the reaction to COVID-19.

We shut down the world, suspended our constitutional republic, ground economies to a halt, drove millions to joblessness, drained the stock market, spent more money than ever before, massively expanded and empowered government, and ballooned the size of the welfare state. In the end, will it prove to all be in hasty response to the equivalent of, as Dr. Fauci said, a bad flu season?

None of this makes sense—unless you realize that it all traces back to one cause. I’m not talking about leftists in America or in other countries, I’m talking about the original source. That one source is Satan the devil.

Satan is a real, actual evil spirit being. He is active in the world. In fact, he has power to influence people, and he has successfully deceived the whole world. As Ephesians 2:2 says, the god of this world actually isn’t God the Father or Jesus Christ, it’s Satan! That’s what *your Bible* says. Isn’t that what you’re seeing on the news right now?

It is crucial to understand how Satan preys on out-of-control emotions! “Whenever people are fighting to survive and emotions are flying,” my father writes, “the devil is going to exploit that every time!” (*America Under Attack*).

Whether COVID-19 has affected or will affect your health, your livelihood or your freedoms, you need to take note of what has just happened to the world. The immensely powerful and self-destructive reaction to a bad flu season illustrates the power of Satan to prey on emotions. He can wreak havoc worldwide. And he can do it in your life too. The battle here is not just against a virus or confusion or misinformation or an agenda. For the world and for you individually, it’s against Satan. The world won’t see it until it’s too late, will you? ■

### ► CORONAPOCALYPSE FROM PAGE 19

Coronavirus is definitely a problem—but compared to the scale of what is coming, it is barely significant. God prophesies of at least *tens of millions* of people slain by pestilence!

But do not lose sight of the *reason*. God is not destroying indiscriminately: He is punishing the world in love and in measure—to help mankind ultimately turn from the paths of destruction to the way of truth and peace!

God is trumpeting His end-time warning message to this world through this work, literally fulfilling His prophecy in Isaiah 58:1: “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” But if God cannot bring us to repentance through words, then He will try to do so through trials, afflictions and disasters.

When trouble comes, some will finally cry out to God for His intervention in their lives. But physically, they may be *too late*. We must seek God “while he may be found” (Isaiah 55:6).

Must *you* suffer alongside this world? No. The same God who controls world events is altogether capable of protecting individuals. Act while the *warning* is still going out, not only after calamity strikes. Heed God’s words and turn to God *now*, and you will receive relief from His curses. He promises to forgive and then to protect each person who repents. Don’t wait until the Great Tribulation, the worst suffering mankind has ever experienced, to respond.

### Take Action

The Bible is filled with examples of individual repentance and individual protection. The Apostle Peter wrote that “the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2:9; Revised Standard Version). This lesson permeates the Bible: God protects righteous, obedient people who seek His protection.

God has power over diseases. He says in Exodus 15:26 that if we diligently hear Him and keep His laws, “I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.” God promises

# Why Quarantine Works

**E**VER SEE THE WORD “QUARANTINE” IN A HEADLINE BEFORE this year? Suddenly, it is the world’s biggest story, and could be for some time. As health authorities desperately work to limit the spread of COVID-19, their most urgent measure has been to isolate anyone who has been exposed to it. That means keeping people home to avoid other people.

Where did the idea of quarantine come from? It hasn’t been broadly practiced until very modern times. In fact, this is why so many plagues throughout the centuries and across the world have been so devastating. For example, when bubonic plague swept Europe from 1348 to 1359, *one third* of Europe’s population was killed! Yet a certain group was largely unaffected: the Jews. Why? Mostly because they quarantined the sick. The word *quarantine* actually comes from this period, from the Italian *quaranta giorni* (40 days) isolation of incoming ship passengers and crew. Jews were prominent in Venice, where this practice was implemented.

Where did the Jews get it from? From the same source of other health laws that drastically reduced the Black Death’s impact on their population, including washing hands and avoiding unclean meats. It was a code that had originated nearly *three millennia earlier*—long before scientists discovered bacteria in 1676 and viruses in 1892. It included rules for good hygiene and meticulous protocols to halt the spread of contagious disease.

*Thirty-five centuries ago*, there was a nation practicing good hygiene and medical quarantine: Israel, led by Moses. And the Israelites had received those health laws from *God Himself*.

This timeless, detailed instruction is recorded in the Old Testament. Leviticus 11 contains laws designating some animals as clean and some as unclean. This was not just ceremonial; it was principally for physical health. Bats, for example, are unclean—and breaking that law is the origin of Ebola and most cases of fatal rabies (some say even of possible origin of COVID-19). Deuteronomy 23 commands burying human waste, which many societies throughout history and even in modern times have neglected at terrible cost to their health and well-being. Leviticus 13 instructs those with contagious diseases to stay isolated outside the camp until they are well. When the ancient Israelites followed God’s hygiene and quarantine laws, they were spared from the plagues and epidemics that devastated other nations.

Many people claim the Bible is “unscientific,” but the truth is

it took science about three millennia to catch up to the Bible on this point! The scientists and doctors filling the airwaves right now advocating “social distancing” are—probably unwittingly, but unmistakably—emphasizing the reliability of the Bible as a guide in life! (It is worth noting, however, that there is no biblical instance of shutting down all of society, including unexposed healthy people, as a preventative measure. That is going beyond the biblical command.)

God’s Church has been practicing quarantine for decades. We know about incubation and contagion periods for different ailments, and a great many of us have stayed home even when we feel fine because of exposure to contagions, out of loving concern about unwittingly spreading them to other people. We were self-isolating before self-isolating was cool!

The fact that God’s commands on this point are proving so wise, so practical and effective, so ahead of their time, should cause people worldwide to look into the Holy Bible, including the Old Testament, and see that it really is the inspired Word of God!

But quarantine is also in the New Testament. This principle is expounded *throughout* the Bible as an important principle not only of physical health but also of *spiritual* health. Old Testament and New Testament consistently show the principle by which God deals with physical evil and especially *moral* and *spiritual* evil: He commands us to *get away from it!*

Isolating those who are sick *spiritually* is even more important, because spiritual health and spiritual life is at stake. But our societies have never caught up with God on this point. As seriously as they are treating the current pandemic, they take exactly the *opposite* approach to moral and spiritual pandemics. God commands that we remove sin from our midst and avoid it—but our societies accept it, promote it, spread it. Rather than quarantining and eliminating deceit, covetousness, sexual perversion, sacrilege and other sins, we ignore them, coddle them, encourage them—we glamorize them in our entertainment. Even those who don’t personally practice a particular sin fall all over themselves to show how “tolerant” they are of it. And evidence abounds that our failure to isolate spiritual sickness has caused it to thoroughly infect all of society!

Right now, nations that are applying the biblical principle of physical quarantine most seriously are having the greatest success at snuffing out this virus. If only we took the same approach to moral and spiritual contagions.

Most people aren’t putting two and two together, but I challenge *you* to do so. If the Bible was so far ahead regarding the best practices for limiting the spread of infectious diseases, what else is it right about? I put to you that this is powerful proof that the Bible was indeed written by the Creator of mankind, and that it can be trusted throughout. You can look to not only its laws but also its other directives on how to live your life successfully, how to avoid curses and receive blessings, and how to obey and please God.



THIS PRINCIPLE IS  
EXPUNDED THROUGHOUT  
THE BIBLE AS AN IMPORTANT  
PRINCIPLE NOT ONLY OF  
PHYSICAL HEALTH BUT ALSO  
OF SPIRITUAL HEALTH.

**I am not exactly certain how I came across your material, but I am in love with it! Much thanks! I have ordered two to three books and have received my first *Trumpet* magazine. What an eye-opener. I have to be honest: It doesn't feel right that you send these books out free of charge. I'd like to send in an offering. Can you provide me an address of where I could send in an offering?**

**Nick Knox** IOWA

**Absolutely, Nick:** Our mailing address in the United States is P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK, 73083. You can find additional contact information on the back cover of this magazine. You can also donate online by visiting [donate.pcog.org](https://donate.pcog.org).

I have been searching online for someone to speak up and lay out the link between the coronavirus and the message from God. You have explained it and supported it with the Word of God. Thank you for speaking up and revealing the true message behind this virus. The entire world is living the prophecy. I truly hope nonbelievers will turn to God and sinners will repent.

**Cynthia Perez**

I have been receiving the *Trumpet* for a few years. Even if I am agnostic, I read all the articles in the *Trumpet* with enthusiasm. I very often notice that the information in the articles by Mr. Flurry, and other authors, are confirmed later in media I am following—I do not mean CNN or *Washington Post*. The content of each issue is very informative and educational.

I can easily say that often it is impossible to read similar information elsewhere. And all is sent to me free of charge.

**Vladimir Cicha**

Last summer, I saw things developing in Europe that I remembered being discussed in some of my dad's *Trumpet* magazines from 2005, 2006 and 2007. Dad died about five years ago, but I saved his books and many magazines. I dug out those *Trumpets* and was amazed to see the events discussed there unfolding before me in 2019. I'm now receiving the *Trumpet* and love the truth found on every subject written about therein. The most recent issue mentions another magazine called *Royal Vision*. Could you please start sending that to me also? My eyes are open to mankind's need for Jesus Christ to return

and set up God's government over the Earth. We see in our day corruption throughout all human organizations. The return of our Lord is the world's only hope.

**David Hodapp** MISSOURI

The *Trumpet* is better than the *Christian Monitor*. I told everyone in our church to order and read the *Trumpet* because it's the best.

**Harry Norrie** CANADA

I'm addicted to the *Trumpet*.

**Ritza Attali** RHODE ISLAND

Thanks a lot. I am keenly following and reading the Bible. It fascinates me that everything is in the Bible.

**Sammy**

Yes, I've seen how people have become just over toilet paper.



It's awful, but I am grateful I have faith. God will protect me. I believe every word in the Bible and in the *Trumpet*, and other writings from the Philadelphia Church of God, Herbert W. Armstrong and Gerald Flurry. I watch *The Key of David*. I've read many of the booklets too, and *Mystery of the Ages*, and wow, I am so grateful. Seeing and hearing how panicked people have become and the hoarding and fights over toilet paper is scary. Worse is coming. I'm not worried, though I do worry for my family, my daughters and grandkids. It's funny because I had stocked up on foods over two weeks ago, not knowing this was coming, and I don't usually buy so much. I think Father God is looking out for me.

**Marsha**

I appreciate the high-quality magazine and information.

**Odon Szentkiralyi** OHIO

**THETRUMPET.COM HIGHLIGHTS**



TOP ARTICLE

**Coronavirus and Other Modern Plagues in Prophecy**  
[theTrumpet.com/22001](https://theTrumpet.com/22001)



TOP ARTICLE

**The Wuhan Coronavirus and the Bible's Prophesied Disease Pandemics**  
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# Coronavirus Teaches ‘the Greatest Lesson Mankind Could Possibly Learn’

You can remain positive during plague. Here’s how.

**I**CAN’T THINK OF ANYTHING THAT HAS PRODUCED MORE FEAR in recent years than the coronavirus. It dominates the headlines and has brought panic to supermarket aisles, as we fight over the remaining rolls of toilet paper.

The way we as a society respond when we are afraid reveals something powerful about ourselves.

In ancient times, when calamity struck, men would turn en masse to the gods or the priests. The gods, they believed, were in control; catastrophe meant they were unhappy and needed to be appeased.

As humanity entered the Enlightenment, men became less inclined to beseech the gods during crises. Instead, they turned to themselves. Especially in America, this was the age of self-reliance. If a flood, disease or fire hit, they would stoically accept the losses, rebuild and move on.

Times have again changed. Facing crisis, most men today are again quick to turn to the gods. Not Zeus or Jupiter. Today, we turn to the government and experts.

We saw this in the United Kingdom in February, when we were hit with unusually heavy flooding. News broadcasts continually insinuated that this was the government’s fault, without explaining exactly how. Locals affected by flooding appeared on television, explaining that the government wasn’t doing enough to help them.

In the past, flood victims may have tried to appease the river gods, or waited for the waters to recede and then dug in trying to repair the damage. Today, people look to London, expecting the government to step in and fix it.

In our modern worship, we believe our governments can solve anything. Therefore, when things go wrong, the government could have solved it but didn’t. It’s their fault. To stop the flooding, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson should have banned plastic bottles, or something.

The same thing is happening with coronavirus. In country after country, men blame the government. The media is full of accusations. *Why didn’t we do more here or there? Why did you make this or that cut?* Some of this, no doubt, is media bias against certain governments. But I think there’s more going on. The media can only use this tactic because *the public* accepts the basic assumption that governments can and should fix every problem.

They should fix it by looking to “the experts”—another priestly caste in modern worship. Experts have the solution to every

problem, if only people would listen. But on coronavirus, the experts can’t give clear answers. Will this get worse? How much worse? How can I guarantee I won’t get it? Experts don’t know.

Aside from taking common-sense steps of quarantine and advocating good hygiene and hand washing, governments and experts can’t do much to change where the coronavirus goes from here. As China and Iran show, there are things governments can do to make it worse. But they can’t make it better.

The government can’t fix it, and experts are limited. The panic unfolding in our headlines is society experiencing a crisis of faith. It is as if the ancients asked their priests, “How can we appease the gods and stop the plague?” only to be told, “No idea; hopefully it will go away soon.” The foundations we trust in are exposed as sand, and people are panicking.

Last month’s *Trumpet* cover headlined, “Coronavirus in Prophecy.” Even those who know little about the Bible know it speaks of plagues and pestilence. But the question of whom we trust gets to the heart of *why* the Bible makes those prophecies. Jeremiah 17:5 states, “Cursed be the man that trusteth in man ...” If we look to men to solve our problems—whether in the form of man-made religion (as almost all are) or governments, experts or even our own selves—we are under a curse. Mankind cannot solve the biggest problems facing it. Only God can.



This is why God sends plagues. “It pains God to know that the suffering is about to get much, much worse,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in that cover story. “It grieves Him to consider the diseases and other horrors soon to be visited upon Earth. But it is all part of His plan to teach man the absolute necessity of obeying His law.”

God can solve disease pandemics—and all our problems. Mr. Flurry wrote that soon “Jesus Christ will accomplish what the most brilliant doctors, scientists and other experts have utterly failed to do: He will bring lasting peace and perfect health to all men, women and children.” But to do that, we must invest our trust in Him. When He says, *This action is causing you to be miserable—stop doing it*, we must trust and obey Him.

The Bible says disease pandemics will get worse in order to stop our looking to men—to teach us that only God has the solutions.

“God is teaching men even as they rebel,” writes Mr. Flurry in his free booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*. “They are learning that man cannot rule himself—only God can bring men peace, prosperity, happiness and joy.” God rules, and man cannot, which Mr. Flurry says is “the greatest lesson mankind could possibly learn.” And God is teaching us that lesson, right now, through the coronavirus. ■

to heal upon repentance: “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; *who healeth all thy diseases*” (Psalm 103:2-3). This does not mean you will never get sick. In fact, this promise of *healing* wouldn’t apply to someone who never got a sickness or disease. God’s people can even get coronavirus. God may allow that as a test of our faith.

But we need not panic during times like these. The world is hysterical and fearful, and that panic is drawing people into ugly behavior and unnecessarily costly policy decisions. But those who put their trust in God are at peace. They are full of faith, hope and comfort. God promises these things.

He also absolutely promises *healing*. Yet sometimes God allows His people to get sick—even to die in faith, not yet having received the promise of healing in this lifetime (Hebrews 11:35-39). Healing is a sure promise, and many who claim that promise are healed, even immediately! But for some, that healing will take place *in the resurrection*. (If you want more information on this inspiring biblical doctrine, request our free booklet *The Plain Truth About Healing*.)



FREE UPON REQUEST:  
**THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT HEALING**

God does not promise that you will never die in this physical life. Actually, God promises that you *will* experience trials! But with Christ in you, you will be able to battle those trials with faith. That makes all the difference—whatever the outcome.

God guarantees peace of mind during the worst of crises. He is in control, and He promises in Romans 8:28 that “ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” We may experience some of the same troubles that descend on the world, yet we have a solid hope in the future God has promised as an “anchor of the soul” to stabilize us even in trouble.

Are you ready for crises to come? Start preparing by *repenting before God*. That is what God seeks above all. To those who turn to Him with supple hearts, He offers individual protection—*escape*—from the worst of the coming storms (e.g. Luke 21:36). That is the only sure place to invest your faith.

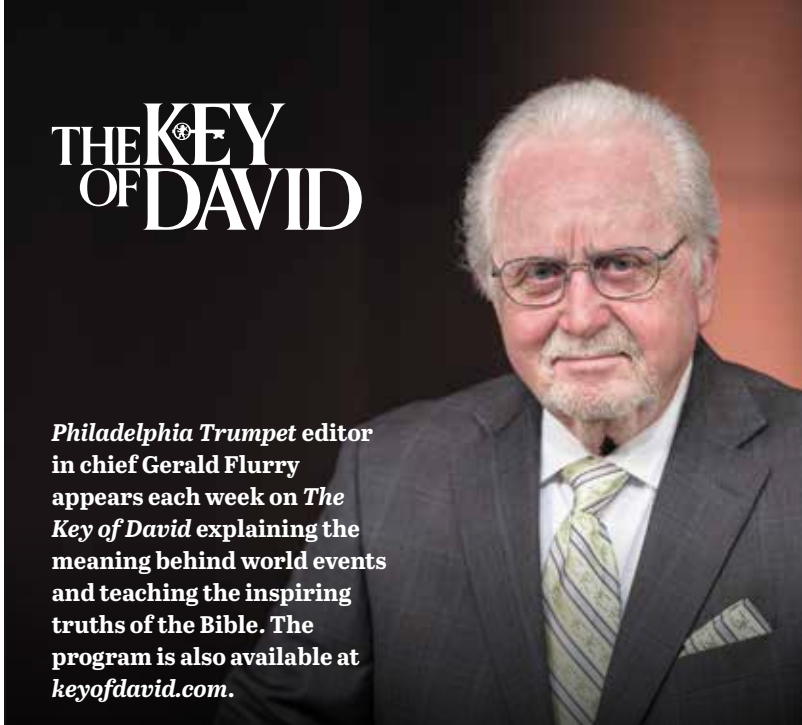
If you want guidance on *how* to repent and to act on what you are reading, we can help. We produce a lot of material aimed at helping you make God’s way of life *your* way of life! A good place to start is by reading our editor in chief’s booklet *How to Be an Overcomer*, starting with Chapter 1, “Repentance Toward God.” It gives vital, practical Christian-living instruction to help you make real changes in your life.

You can also find helpful, relevant education on our sister website, [pcg.church](http://pcg.church). ■

Study the true meaning of repentance with your free copy of ***How to Be an Overcomer***.



# THE KEY OF DAVID



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

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- Nationwide Satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
- Direct TV**  
10N, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri; Chan. 306, 9:00 ET, 6:00 PT
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CW Plus, 5:30, 9:30 ET/PT, 4:30, 8:30 CT/MT, Sun  
10N, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri
- Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00, Fri; WVUA 8:30, Sun  
**Dothan** WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Montgomery-Salem** WBMM-DT/WNCF-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Opelika** WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Alaska, Anchorage** KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Fairbanks** KATN-DT 8:30, Sun  
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- Arizona, Phoenix** KPPX 5:00, Fri; KASW 8:00, Sun  
**Yuma** KECY-DT 8:30, Sun
- Arkansas, El Dorado** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Fayetteville** KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Fort Smith** KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun  
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- Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed  
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**STAFF**

**PUBLISHER AND EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
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**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
Brad Macdonald, Richard Palmer,  
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**DESIGNERS**  
Steve Hercus, Reese Zoellner

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Andrew Miller, Brent Nagtegaal,  
David Vejil, Callum Wood

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS**  
Deepika Azariah, Aubrey Mercado

**ARTISTS**  
Gary Dorning, Julia Goddard,  
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**PREPRESS**  
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**INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS**  
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**FRENCH, ITALIAN**  
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**Greenville** WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
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**Fargo** KXJB 8:30, Sun

**Minot** KXMD/KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Valley City** KXJB 8:30, Sun  
**Ohio, Cincinnati** WSTR 8:30, Sun  
**Cleveland** WVPX 6:00, Fri  
**Lima** WBOH 9:30, Sun  
**Steubenville** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Youngstown** WYTV 11:30, Sun  
**Zanesville** WBZV 9:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lawton** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00, Fri  
**Tulsa** KTPX 5:00, Fri; KQCW 9:30, Sun  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Eugene** 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** WACP 9:00, Sun  
**WPPX** 6:00, Fri  
**Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00, Fri  
**South Carolina, Anderson** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Charleston** WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Florence** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
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**Myrtle Beach** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
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**Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30, Sun  
**San Angelo** KTXE 8:30, Sun  
**San Antonio** KPXL 5:00, Fri  
**Sherman** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sweetwater** KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tyler** KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Victoria** KVCT-DT3/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** WFFF 10:00, Sun; WVMY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Harrisonburg** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Norfolk** WPXV 6:00, Fri  
**Richmond** WRLH 8:00, Sun  
**Roanoke** WPRR 6:00, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WPXW 6:00, Fri  
**Washington, Pasco** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Richland** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Seattle-Tacoma** KWPX 6:00, Fri  
**Seattle** KCPQ 7:00, Sun  
**Spokane** KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun  
**Yakima** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Bluefield** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun

**Charleston** WLPX 6:00, Fri  
**Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Oak Hill** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Parkersburg** WCWP/WOVA-LD 2:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wheeling** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**La Crosse** WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Rhineland** WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun  
**Superior** KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Cheyenne** KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Riverton** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

**CANADA**

**Nationwide satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**Nationwide cable**  
Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun  
CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun  
**Atlantic Provinces**  
CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, 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** CTV Winnipeg 9:30, Sun; CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun  
**New Brunswick, Moncton** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Saint John** CKLT-DT 11, Sun  
**Nova Scotia, Halifax** CJCH-DT 11, Sun  
**Sydney** CJCB-TV 11, Sun  
**Ontario, Ottawa** CJOH/CTV 8:30, Sun  
**Toronto** WADL 10:00 Sun;  
WUTV 10:30, Sun;  
CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun  
**P.E.I., Charlottetown** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVMY 10:30, Sun  
**Saskatchewan, Saskatoon** CFQC 5:30, Sun;

**CARIBBEAN**

**Regional satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**Bahamas** FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun

**LATIN AMERICA**

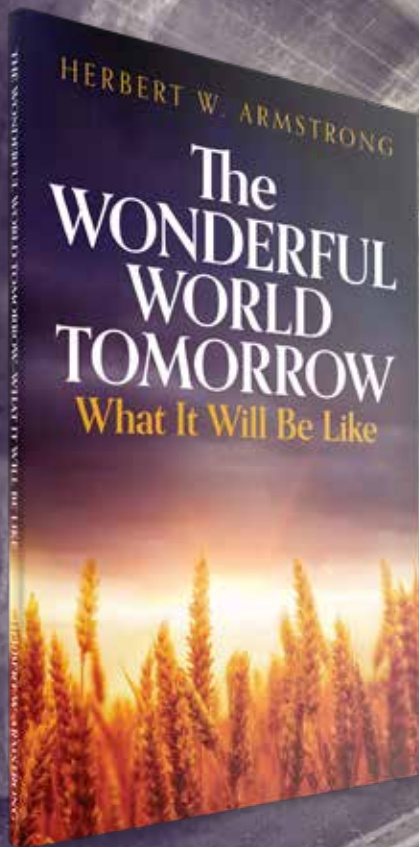
**Regional satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

**AUSTRALASIA**

**Australia**  
**Nationwide** BOLD 7:30, Sun  
**Adelaide** TV44 11:30, Sun; 3:00 p.m., Mon  
**Melbourne** C31 11:30, Fri; 8:30, Sat  
**New Zealand**  
**Nationwide** Choice TV 7:30, Sun

**CBS United Kingdom**

Station	Day	Time	sky			
CBS Justice	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 39	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 147	Ch. 197	Ch. 71	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135



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