

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

How Muslims are making Europeans really angry

America's pro-Iran foreign policy

Train your brain for mental health

Why the Bible is so misunderstood



IRAN'S STRANGLEHOLD ON THE MIDDLE EAST



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ABOVE: WITH A LITTLE HELP

Houthi rebels overpowered the government of Yemen, but not on their own.

Iran Gets a Stranglehold on the Middle East

This terrorist nation has become the gatekeeper of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

YEMEN IS ONE OF THE MOST STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. Recent developments there have shocked many people and will have dramatic effects that extend far beyond the Middle East.

In January, the Houthis, a rebel group sponsored and directed by Iran, overthrew the pro-American Yemeni government. After they conquered the capital city of Sanaa, throngs of Houthis began chanting “Death to America!” and “Death to Israel!” These are exactly the same battle cries that Iran uses.

This stunned many people in Europe and terrified many of the more moder-

ate Arab states, especially those that rely on unlimited access to the Red Sea.



GERALD FLURRY

THE HOUSHI TAKEOVER IN YEMEN PROVES THAT IRAN IS IMPLEMENTING A

BOLD STRATEGY TO CONTROL THE VITAL SEA LANE FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THIS NEW SITUATION IN YEMEN!

In order to reach the Mediterranean Sea from the Indian Ocean, a lot of sea-faring trade—including 3.8 million barrels of oil per day—passes through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the southern gate of the Red Sea. Measuring just 18 miles across, this channel is the closest point between the two landmasses of central Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. The northeast edge of the strait is in Yemeni territory.

The strategic importance of controlling this passage is equal to controlling the Suez Canal, since both are part of the same thoroughfare.

Consider the global ramifications: Nearly 10 percent of global seaborne oil supplies pass through the gates of the Red Sea. Roughly 20,000 ships pass through the Suez Canal and Bab el-Mandeb each year—an average of 55 per day. About 15 percent of global maritime trade travels through the Red Sea.

NOW THAT IRAN CONTROLS YEMEN, IT CAN VIRTUALLY CLOSE OR OPEN THIS SPIGOT ON MIDDLE EAST OIL BOUND FOR EUROPE. And Europe is taking notice!

Historical Role of the Red Sea

By linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea has always played a key role in world affairs.

From antiquity until the 15th century, the Red Sea acted as the main thoroughfare for east-west seafaring trade. Goods from the

east were transported by ship through the Gulf of Aden, through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and into the Red Sea, continuing north toward the Gulf of Suez. Once these convoys made land, they transported the cargo north and west toward Mediterranean ports, where goods were again loaded onto ships for transport to southern Europe.

However, when the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa was discovered the 15th century, the Red Sea’s importance as a global trade route waned. Now that Africa could be circumnavigated, Portuguese and then Dutch sailors used powerful westerly winds to cut down on sailing time by taking the southern route toward Asia. With the invention of steam-powered ships, ocean traffic around the southern cape increased

even more dramatically in the 19th century, and Red Sea ports lost much of their strategic value.

But then in 1869, the Suez Canal opened. Suddenly, the distance between European and Asian ports was slashed by half to two thirds. The distance between Kuwait and Liverpool was reduced from 13,500 miles around the Cape of Good Hope to about 7,000 miles via the Red Sea. The route from Singapore to Liverpool was also nearly cut in half. This reinvigorated the use of the Red Sea passage, causing a huge surge in shipping and trade.

The strategic value of the Red Sea increased further in the 1930s, when oil began to flow from the Persian Gulf to Europe and the United States.

Since then, oil has become a chief commodity driving economic growth and military preparedness around the world.

YEMEN CRISIS TIME LINE

- **2009** U.S. begins air and drone warfare campaign in Yemen.
- **2012** This most active year included 47 drone strikes and 9 attacks from manned aircraft.
- **2014** In a September press conference, President Obama touted Yemen as a counterterrorism success story and said it would be a model for the U.S. partnering with local governments to defeat radical terrorists.
- **2015** In January, the U.S.-backed Yemeni government was overthrown by Iranian-backed Houthi extremists. On February 10, the U.S. closed its embassy in Yemen.



Syria going ballistic—and nuclear?

ON JANUARY 9, GERMANY'S *DER SPIEGEL* EXPOSED the construction of a nuclear facility in Syria. The German news source cited intercepted phone conversations, aerial and satellite images, and known facts about the construction of the facility that indicate its purpose.

Work on the site allegedly began in 2009 in the town of Qusayr, along the Lebanon-Syria border. Much like Iran's nuclear sites, the alleged nuclear facility is underground, shielded from air strikes and away from prying eyes.

After the news of the facility broke, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps commanders openly bragged about Iran's missile exports as well as its missile manufacturing facilities in Syria.

The nuclear facility and the missile factories indicate Iran's heavy commitment to involvement inside Syria. Iran considers Syria crucial to its plan for regional domination. That country connects Iran to southern Lebanon and its terrorist proxy Hezbollah, and it leads right up to the northeastern border of Israel.

Iran's western border is about 500 miles from the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Controlling Syria puts it 500 miles closer to the sea, closer to Israel, and closer to Europe. Iranian ballistic missiles can already threaten European cities, but manufacturing and deploying them in Syria suddenly increases their range by 500 miles and allows Iran to project power against its enemies in other ways.

The wobbling Western world is about to face an Iran that possesses nuclear bombs, missiles that can detonate those warheads over Israeli, Saudi and European citizens, and the fanatical mindset necessary to pull the trigger. And on top of that, the Iranian regime is willing to arm other nations—to the point of developing nuclear capacity in a nation as wildly unstable as Syria.

In spite of this dire situation becoming public knowledge, the United States government is offering no discernible reaction, preferring to continue negotiating with Iran about its nuclear program.

Europe will take a more realistic approach. Watch for the Continent, led by Germany, to finally unleash its reaction against radical Islam's pushy foreign policy. Daniel 11:40-43 specifically forecast what that European reaction will be: a violent whirlwind that will finally devastate "the king of the south," Iran.

Thus, ensuring stability in the Red Sea and its two gates—the Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait—became critical to global trade and economic activity—and for *maintaining the peace of the world*.

Yemeni Col. Hussain al-Yadoomi wrote for the USA War College in 1991, "One of the primary duties of the international community is to act as an ALERT GUARDIAN to ensure that the Bab el-Mandeb Strait is available to all navigation and at all times" (emphasis mine throughout).

Now, rather suddenly, Iran—the world's greatest state sponsor of terrorism—has basically become the gatekeeper to this strategic asset. THIS REALLY DOES THREATEN THE PEACE OF THE WORLD!

Western nations, led by Britain and the U.S., have tried to ensure that the Red Sea remained open by supporting relatively Western-friendly regimes in the Middle East such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Of course, the drawback to such a policy is that in the volatile Middle East, governments can change as fast as the shifting sands. But for many decades, this policy of supporting certain Middle Eastern regimes—together with a strong naval presence in the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea—worked. It kept the Red Sea open most of the time.

Today, the situation has changed radically. Britain is nowhere to be seen. And to its great shame, the United States is actually *supporting* the Iranian takeover of Yemen! You can read more about this in our article on page 6.

Iran's Red Sea Strategy

The Houthis' takeover of Yemen was not just a grassroots revolution. It was a part of a deliberate and calculated Iranian strategy to conquer the Red Sea. This strategy is revealed in a powerful prophecy in the biblical book of Daniel.

As astounding as it may sound, the Prophet Daniel foretold what just happened in Yemen! He even mentions names of individual nations along the Red Sea corridor that will be aligned with Iran.

Notice it: "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" (Daniel 11:40). This is an end-time prophecy. It concerns the time we are living in right now, and it directly concerns these Middle Eastern nations.

For almost 25 years we have identified the king of the south as a radical Islamist power led by *Iran*, and the king of the north as a German-led European power. This prophecy reveals that the Iranian-led power will *push* at Europe. It may be that this push could take place in the very area of Yemen or the Gulf of Aden.

Notice what Michael Segall wrote for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs: "If the Shia rebels gain control of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Iran can attain a foothold in this sensitive region, giving access to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, a cause of concern not only for its sworn rivals Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf states, but also for Israel and European countries along the Mediterranean. Arab commentators in the Gulf have warned in recent years about this *Iranian push*" (Nov. 3, 2014).

While Arab commentators may have speculated about this Iranian push in recent years, we have warned about this push



GERMAN CRUISES
A German Navy frigate
sails through the Suez Canal.



GERMAN EXPORTS
Crates of machine guns,
bazookas and ammunition in
Leipzig, bound for the Kurds

for almost a quarter century! Taking over Yemen puts Iran in an even stronger position to make this push.

The following verses in Daniel reveal other nations that will align with Iran, the king of the south. Those mentioned include Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya (verses 42-43). These nations are all situated next to the Mediterranean Sea or the Red Sea. In April 2011, I wrote that these nations are “THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE STRATEGY OF RADICAL ISLAM. ... They are on the two seas that comprise the most important trade route in the world! Whoever heavily influences or controls Ethiopia will undoubtedly also control the small areas of Eritrea and Djibouti on the Red Sea coastline. These areas only recently became independent of Ethiopia. Also, I believe the Bible view is that these small areas are included as a part of Ethiopia.” (My booklet *Libya and Ethiopia in Prophecy* explains all this in detail. Read it at theTrumpet.com/go/libya or request a printed copy; all of our literature is free.)

Recent reports also indicate that Iran has established itself in Eritrea. A January 27 Breitbart News report said Egyptian intelligence has found a secret Iranian base built “at the port of Assab in Eritrea on the Red Sea.”

Look at a map. Yemen is just a short 18 miles across the water to Eritrea, which was a part of Ethiopia until as recently as 1994. Controlling these nations could give Iran virtual control of the trade through these seas!

As I wrote in 2011, “Radical Islam could stop the flow of essential oil to the U.S. and Europe.”

It is not far-fetched to envision Iran using its power to control the flow of oil out of the Middle East. The supreme leader

of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, has threatened as much. And on January 17, the Iranian state-sponsored Tasnim News Agency published an article that said boldly: “Today, all the arteries of oil transport—from Bab el-Mandeb Strait to Suez Canal and the Strait of Hormuz—are under Iranian control, by means of Syria, Yemen and Bahrain, and within range of Iranian missiles” (translation MEMRI).

Iran is aggressively securing its foreign holdings along the Red Sea—and boasting about how it could use them!

Yet the United States is apparently allowing Iran free course in an effort to win it over in nuclear negotiations.

Many commentators recognize what this takeover in Yemen reveals about Iran’s overarching strategy in the Middle East.

Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer said this in an interview with Fox News: “Now, it’s true that the Houthis are against al Qaeda, but the real issue is that the Houthis are a client of, supported by, and in some ways advised by Iran. And as you saw on the map, the Saudis are looking at the Iranians in the north, the Iranian allies—which is essentially Iraq, Syria and Lebanon on one side and Yemen now—to the south and west under Iranian dominance, and THEY ARE SCARED TO DEATH. That’s why this is a double attack on us. It’s the loss of an ally against al Qaeda, and it’s a HUGE geopolitical gain for Iran, extending its influence over Arab states.”

He and others are sounding the alarm about Iran’s growing hegemony in the Middle East. But what these analysts and commentators DO NOT see is where this situation is ultimately leading. We need Bible prophecy for that.

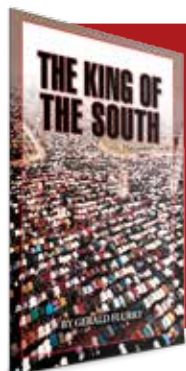
How It Will End

Daniel 11:40 shows that as these events play out with Iran, the United States won’t be a factor! It is *Europe* that Iran is going to push against. And it is *Europe* that will respond.

A European superpower is rising on the scene that will have the boldness and the power to deal with Iran’s pushing.

Europe is very worried about what Iran just did in Yemen. And unlike America, this European power will act!

Daniel 11:40 says Europe will come at Iran like a *whirlwind*. *Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* says the Hebrew word for *whirlwind* is “used of the commotion of a STORM or a TEMPEST; to



What’s next for Iran?

The Bible foretells of a power that will dominate the Middle East. See how Iran fulfills this prophecy and the effect it will have on the world.

Request our **FREE** booklet *The King of the South*.

SWEEP AWAY IN A STORM.” Europe is going to throw everything it has at the Iranian-led radical Muslims and utterly defeat them!

That drama all starts with a push from Iran.

This is the same nation that is about to get the nuclear bomb. Iranian leaders and many of their people believe the 12th imam—their version of the Messiah—is about to return. They think his return can be hastened by creating violence and chaos. Several nations in this world have nuclear weapons—but ONLY IRAN has leaders who harbor such dangerous religious thinking! What will happen when they get nuclear weapons? What sort of nuclear chaos would they stir up if they thought it would cause their messiah to return? In the thrall of religious zealotry, they would not even care about their own destruction if they use a nuclear weapon!

BUT WHO IS GOING TO STAND UP TO IRAN? IF NO ONE WILL STAND UP TO IT TODAY, WHEN IT DOES NOT YET HAVE NUCLEAR BOMBS, WHO WILL STAND UP TO IT WHEN IT ACTUALLY HAS THE BOMB?

The Bible does reveal that finally, after being pushed too far, the European power will stand up to the king of the south.

However, this prophecy about Yemen, the king of the north and the king of the south has a wonderful conclusion.

Reading into chapter 12 of Daniel, which is still part of this prophetic vision, we see that this clash will lead to catastrophic world war—“a time of trouble, such as never was since there

was a nation even to that same time” (verse 1). Many other Bible prophecies talk about this period. Jesus Christ described it as “great tribulation” (Matthew 24:21). This is the *dramatic climax* of this age of man—and once it is over, God will begin to intervene in world affairs in a powerful way.

Daniel 12:11 mentions an event toward the beginning of that “great tribulation,” when “the abomination that maketh desolate [is] set up.” Christ referred to this statement from Daniel in His famous Olivet prophecy (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14). He revealed that this “abomination” is actually “Jerusalem compassed with armies”—armies that are about to destroy the Holy City! (Luke 21:20). Putting all the prophecies together shows that these are the European armies of the king of the north *after* they have conquered the king of the south.


And notice the conclusion to Daniel 12:11: From the time that these armies are set up, “THERE SHALL BE A THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY DAYS.”

Think about that! THIS PROPHECY REVEALS WE ARE GETTING TO A TIME WHERE YOU CAN ACTUALLY START COUNTING DAYS UNTIL THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST! These events in Yemen show that we are almost able to begin to *count the days*. It was all prophesied thousands of years ago, and now every bit of it is being fulfilled before your eyes. These events are going to end with Jesus Christ’s return to Earth! ■

Storming Across the Mideast

Iran—the modern descendant of the ancient Persians—is seeking to revive its ancient empire, this time with an Islamic slant. With the Middle East in turmoil, Iran is expanding its power and influence faster than ever. Here are the nations feeling Iran’s presence the most.

BAHRAIN

 This home of America’s 5th Fleet has experienced significant Iranian-fueled unrest since the “Arab Spring” of 2011. If the Iranian-supported Shiite majority successfully overthrows the Sunni monarchy, it could lead to the ouster of the 5th Fleet. This would massively boost Iran’s influence over the Persian Gulf and 30 percent of seaborne oil. Bahrain is also located adjacent to Saudi Arabia’s most important oil fields, which are in majority Shiite regions. Expect more Iranian attention to be given to this tiny nation.


IRAQ

 The fall of northern Iraq to Islamic State terrorists has provided Iran the perfect opportunity. With Iraq’s government facing collapse, Iran was invited in as a savior. It now boasts unprecedented military involvement in the nation—its troops are on the ground; its air force patrols the skies. In Baghdad, Iranian cargo planes continuously unload military hardware and supplies. Iran’s generals command Iraqi forces, train Iraq’s recruits, and take credit for the victories.

LIBYA

 Following the ouster of Muammar Qadhafi, Libya was effectively divided among several warring tribes. Here again Iran is vying for influence. Control or influence in Libya would grant Iran influence over another major oil exporter. It would give it access to 1,100 miles of Mediterranean coastline and a major immigration causeway to Europe.


SYRIA


 To Iraq’s west lies the next link in Iran’s “Shia crescent.” The civil war in Syria long ago morphed into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Much like in Iraq, the Syrian regime has been propped up by finances, weapons and guidance from Iran. Without Tehran’s military aid and Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah fighters, Bashar Assad would have fallen to the rebel troops long ago.

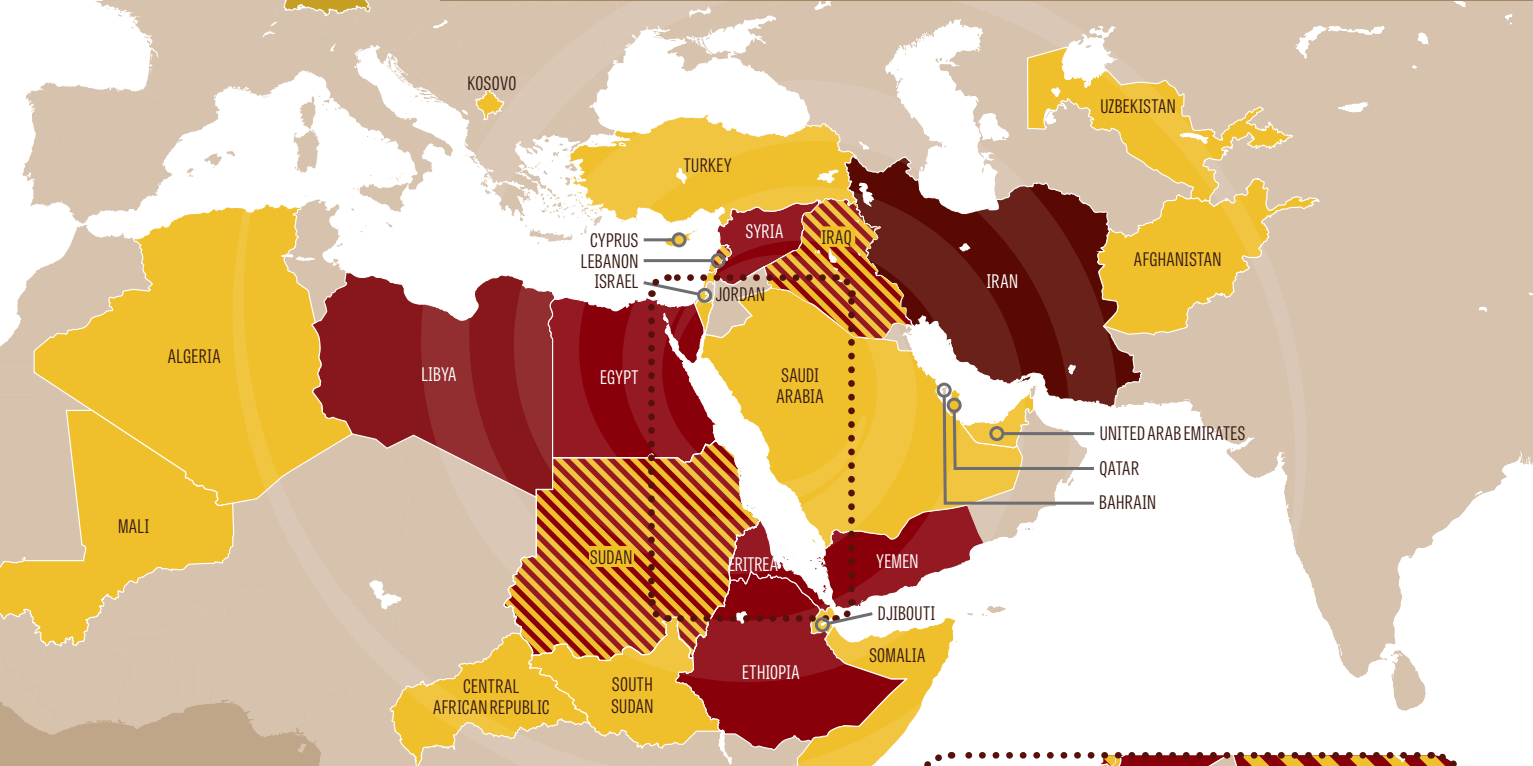
YEMEN

 In late January, Iranian-backed Houthi rebels took the presidential palace and demanded more control of the government. A week later the U.S.-backed government resigned. The U.S. government has since decided to work with the Houthis, thus giving its implicit acceptance of the coup.


Germany's 'whirlwind' military strategy

 Nations currently influenced by Iran or prophesied to be allied with the king of the south

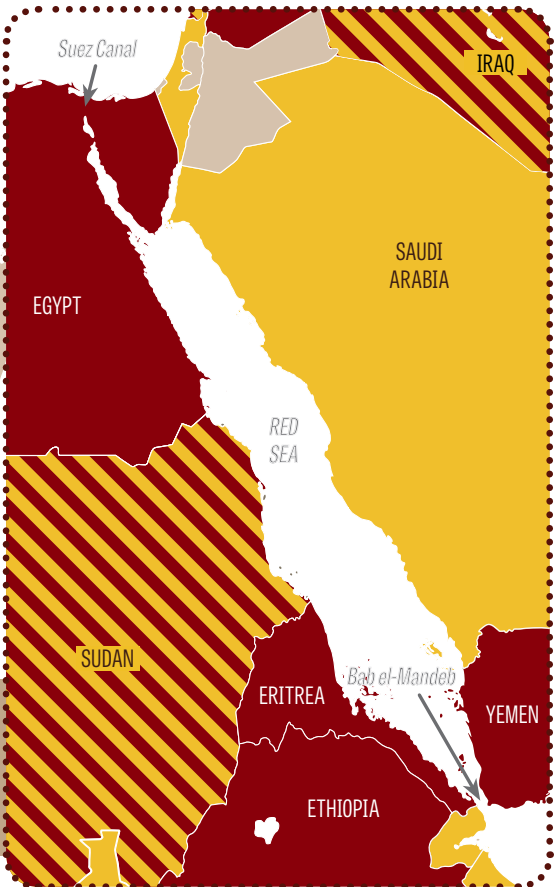
 Countries with German military deployments, outsourced arms manufacturing, and/or arms trading partners



LEBANON

 Beyond Syria lies Lebanon, currently another extension of Iran. Southern Lebanon is the home of Iran's most effective terrorist group, Hezbollah. This organization provides a key ally for Bashar Assad and is Iran's closest and most effective weapon for attacking Israel. It also makes up half of the Lebanese government. Relying almost entirely on Iran for its existence, Hezbollah plays a crucial role within the Iranian empire, giving Iran access to Syria and northern Israel.

The two points of entry to the Red Sea are the Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is only 18 miles across. Iran has positioned itself to control both points.



Three Ways to Identify the ‘King of the South’ of Bible Prophecy

Compare the news to the Bible, and you’ll realize this power bloc is making its move right now. **BY CALLUM WOOD**

WHY DOES SO MUCH TENSION AND violence trace back to the Middle East? Why can’t Jews and their Muslim neighbors have peace? Why has radical Islam swollen into such a global menace? Why is this region a volatile threat to the rest of the world?

All of these questions point to a common answer.

Would you believe that an accurate identification of the real cause appears in the *Bible*?

About 2,500 years ago, the Prophet Daniel recorded an extensive description of the major powers that would dominate this region. Then, over the course of four centuries, that description came to pass—in detail.

But there’s something else. Part of Daniel’s astonishing prophecy remains to be fulfilled “at the time of the end.” Compare what the Bible forecasted with history and with current events, and you’ll realize that this end-time period is the modern era we live in now!

Daniel 11 contains the main passage: “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. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon

the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps” (verses 40-43).

To prove the identity of the king of the north, request *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, or download it at theTrumpet.com/go/germany. This free booklet shows you where to look in the Bible, in history and in current events for the modern fulfillment of this power bloc. The modern-day king of the north is the developing German and Vatican-led European superpower.

The other big question is, *who is this “king of the south”?*

This prophecy discusses the location of this “king”: It is a Middle Eastern regional power. It also notes its alliances: The king of the south allies itself in some way with Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia—countries all recognizable by the same names today. The prophecy also shows the king of the south is aggressive enough to cause another major power to react against it with violence.

This prophesied king of the south is *radical Islam*, led by Iran!

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry first made this connection in 1994, just six years after Iran emerged from its devastating eight-year war with Iraq—a time when few paid any attention to this rogue Islamist nation. But Mr. Flurry based his identification on the Bible, and that perception has been more firmly proven with every passing month.

Here are three reasons why Iran is the king of the south prophesied in the Bible.

Undeniably Clear

The prophesied king of the south is a power that has a pushy foreign policy; rules an area located south of the Holy Land and south of the king of the north; allies with Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia; and excludes Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

When you carefully analyze world events and compare them to the prophecies of the end-time that are scattered throughout Bible, you can piece together the truth about whether there is, in fact, a modern king of the south—and *who* that king is.

More and more, it is becoming undeniably clear that the king of the south is *Iran!*

When you understand Iran’s biblical identity, many of the confusing events in the chaotic Middle East become understandable. You can see how Iran is aggressively disrupting any peace and assembling an alliance based on radical religion. You can see how it is challenging the West. You can see how it will ultimately provoke a much more aggressive power to its north. You can see why the Iranians are pushing so hard for nuclear weapons, and you can even see how other Muslim nations that are fearful of Iran are already seeking alliances with European nations.

This is just the beginning of Iran’s role in end-time climactic world events. To understand more about Daniel’s prophecy and about the past, present and immediate future of Iran, read Gerald Flurry’s free booklet *The King of the South*. ■

Prove Daniel’s prophecy out for yourself: Read our free booklet *History and Prophecy of the Middle East*.

1. Iran is the king of radical Islam

Since 1994, Iran has dominated headlines and destabilized the Middle East more than any other power. How? By leveraging its influence over violent Islamic extremism.

Iran's takeover of radical Islam dates to 1979, when Islamists overthrew the shah of Iran and developed the country into the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism. In the name of Islamic fundamentalism, Iranian leaders have sponsored abductions, assassinations, bombings and other acts of violence against soldiers, police and thousands of civilian men, women and children. They have supported terrorists from Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestine Islamic Jihad, the Taliban and al Qaeda, as well as Shia militants who attacked American and coalition troops in Iraq thousands of times. Iran also propped up the regime of Bashar Assad in Syria, who has waged a civil war against revolutionaries resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of Syrian civilians.



Iran has provided money, weapons, training and protection to terrorists and supported uprisings, coups and other violence in Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Kenya, Mali, Somalia, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, India, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Germany, Thailand, Malaysia and Argentina.

Iran has achieved its objective of becoming the most belligerent and imperialistic nation in the Middle East. Perhaps the best way to characterize its foreign policy is *pushy*. And that is exactly how Daniel 11:40 describes the aggression of the king of the south. Iran has appointed itself kingpin of radical

Islamism, the mortal enemy of the West, and the head of the terrorist snake. Now it is racing to construct nuclear weapons.

Even an objective look at the map today reveals that no power south of Europe has more potency than radical Islam, led by Iran.

2. Iran and its allies are located to the south

The ancient fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy of the king of the south corresponded to the Ptolemaic Kingdom located in Egypt, south of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. The king of the north was the Seleucid Kingdom located in the territory north and east of the Holy Land. But like many biblical prophecies that have a *dual* application, much of this prophecy in Daniel applies not only to those ancient fulfillments, but also to a far more important *modern* fulfillment.

Today, Iran's radical Islamist alliance is forming around Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Yemen, Ethiopia, Egypt and part of Sudan. While some of this territory lies east of the Holy Land, most of it is located to the south. The Bible calls this power the king of the south, and Iran already strongly influences or is allied with these nations south of Israel. And more generally speaking, all of these countries lie south of the king of the north, German-led Europe.

3. Bible prophecy eliminates every other possibility

Daniel 11:40 says that the king of the south will direct its terrorist-backed foreign policy against the king of the north, and that the king of the north will mobilize against this southern alliance and destroy it like a whirlwind. Verse 42 indicates that the king of the north will also attack Egypt because it is allied with the king of the south. Therefore, Egypt itself *cannot* be the king of the south.

Egypt has recently experienced considerable political and social turmoil. But under the brief leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood, Cairo grew much closer to the Iranians. Though it enjoyed a fairly strong relationship with former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Washington has alienated Egypt's new military rulers. Watch for radical Islam to continue to spread among Egyptians and for the nation as a whole to ultimately ally with the Iranians.

Daniel 11:43 shows that the king of the north will also conquer Libya and Ethiopia, because they are allied with the king of the south.

But what about the other nations in the Middle East? So far we have not covered such major powers as Saudi Arabia or Turkey.

The Bible contains another key prophecy that reveals what these powers will do in the latter days, during the *same period* that the king of the south is pushing against the king of the north.

Psalms 83 describes a mysterious end-time alliance that forms to destroy the modern descendants of Israel. Verses 6-7 list several Middle Eastern nations that *do not* ally with the king of the south, but instead with the European king of the north. Tracing the names of these ancient lands mentioned in Psalm 83 to their modern equivalents, you find that Edom is Turkey, the Ishmaelites are Saudi Arabia,

Moab and Ammon are both Jordan, the Hagarenes are located in Syria, and Gebal is Lebanon. No alliance composed of the powers listed in this prophecy has ever existed in history. Putting the prophetic pieces together, we see that this alliance will actually form *after* the king of the north destroys the king of the south. So none of these nations can be the king of the south.



Watch Gerald Flurry's video "The Psalm 83 Prophecy" at theTrumpet.com/go/10989 for more information.



INTERNATIONAL FRONT
Heads of state from Europe and
beyond defy violent Islamism
with a march in Paris.

Je Suis Charles the Hammer

The *Charlie Hebdo* attack and a thousand other provocations
are awakening Europe's crusading spirit. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

THERE ARE CITIES AND SUBURBS IN France, Germany, Britain and other European countries that look, sound and smell more like Riyadh or Damascus. Islamic communities are expanding across Europe that are choosing not to integrate, and instead are establishing Muslim culture in their host nations.

In some cities, minarets are as common as steeples. In some communities, the law is *sharia*. More than a few cities in Western Europe have “no-go” neighborhoods that are simply too dangerous for native Europeans to venture into.

Within Europe's Muslim communities exist pockets of radicalized Islamists. Generally male, young and unemployed, these men are easy targets for foreign and sometimes local terrorist organizations and radical preachers. Fed a steady diet of hatred and vitriol for

America, Israel and the West, these thousands and thousands of young men are a terrorist army waiting for a job.

Some have already found one. In the last 3½ years, Europe has suffered six major terrorist attacks and multiple smaller incidents, and many others have been thwarted. In November 2011, the headquarters of satire magazine *Charlie Hebdo* was firebombed after the magazine featured a caricature of the prophet Mohammed. In March 2012, radical Islamist gunmen linked to al Qaeda killed three Jewish children, a rabbi and three paratroopers. In May 2013, two terrorists decapitated a British soldier on the streets of London. In May 2014, a man linked to the Islamic State gunned down four people at the Jewish museum in Brussels.

In January, in the worst terrorism in France to date, five attacks occurred in

the Île-de-France region, including Paris. In what was clearly a well-planned attack, masked gunmen stormed the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*. Shouting “Allahu Akbar!” the two men fired 50 rounds, murdering 12 people and injuring 11 more. The next day, another terrorist with apparent links to the *Charlie Hebdo* attackers took more than a dozen hostages at a Jewish convenience store. All totaled, 17 people were killed and more than 20 injured.

Afterward, Europol director Rob Wainwright told Sky News, “We are dealing with a very serious threat spread around many European countries and propagated by thousands of suspects radicalized on the Internet and through conflict experience in Syria and Iraq. It is clearly an urgent and serious challenge we face now. The scale of the problem has increased over the last 10 years.”

But let's look back *more* than 10 years. Students of history should be very attentive when seeing friction between Catholic Europe and Muslims. These two entities have repeatedly clashed in some of the deadliest, most savage battles ever.

One battle in particular casts light on the present Muslim incursion into the heart of Europe: the Battle of Tours-Poitiers. This A.D. 732 encounter on a small road about 200 miles south of Paris was a turning point in world history.

Why take time to consider modern Europe in the context of eighth-century Europe? Because the forces that made Tours-Poitiers inevitable are the same forces that are churning in Europe right now.

Another defining battle between Islam and Catholic Europe is imminent.

Why Europe Isn't Muslim

Prior to 732, the Saracens, or Mohammedans, had conquered the southern shores of the Mediterranean and erected Muslim civilizations across the underbelly of Europe. Muslim peoples inhabited territory from Palestine, Syria and Egypt in the east, across North Africa, all the way to Morocco.

Sound familiar?

By the late seventh century, under the Umayyad Caliphate, the armies of Islam had conquered large parts of Spain and Portugal. But Spain was merely a pit stop. The goal of the caliphate was to cross the Pyrenees, defeat the Franks, and take mainland Europe. Why? Because Islam's goal always has been—and still is—to convert *everyone in the world*, kill them, or die trying.

By the third decade of the eighth century, Muslim ambition—hot, focused, menacing, and with decades of momentum behind it—was ready to make its move. Invading Muslim armies streamed from Spain into France to conquer the region of Aquitaine, then use it as a launching pad into the rest of Europe.

The Umayyad's ambition was stymied only after it met the army of Charles Martel, king of the Franks and grandfather to Charlemagne. The army of Umayyad leader Abdul Rahman al-Ghafiqi was defeated, and the Muslims retreated.

The Battle of Tours-Poitiers shoved Islam from Europe and secured Europe's future as a Catholic continent.

If the outcome of Poitiers had been different, wrote historian Edward Gibbon, perhaps “the interpretation of the Koran would now be taught in the schools of Oxford, and her pulpits might demonstrate to a circumcised people the sanctity and truth of the revelation of Mohammed” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*).

That observation stands. Yet look again at Europe today—and see how many universities *do* teach koranic interpretation, and how many European places of worship preach Mohammed.

Islamist Imperialism

You don't hear much about the Battle of Tours-Poitiers anymore. It has largely been buried under masses of revisionist, politically correct, multicultural gibberish. Muslim imperialism is a taboo subject because of fear of being ostracized, prosecuted, stabbed or bombed—or igniting a global wave of riots on the Muslim street. This spirit of appeasement, plus a willing ignorance of history, prevents Westerners from considering where the obvious Muslim-European rift might end.

But the truth is, Islam today, much like it was under the Umayyads, is an imperialist entity.

More than 3,000 terrorists have returned to Europe after traveling to the Middle East to fight for the Islamic State. European police have arrested dozens of returning fighters, in many instances only after foiling a terrorist attack. In February, Islamic State documents were discovered that revealed that organization's desire to use Libya as a launching pad into southern Europe, where it would conduct attacks in European cities and attack maritime shipping.

The armies of Islam are on the march! The forces that made the Battle of Tours-Poitiers inevitable have returned. The same ideology and religious motivations that underpinned Arab imperialism in A.D. 732 are again flourishing. Islam and its doctrines are thriving globally: It is one of the fastest-growing religions in the world, including in many Western states.

Individual Islamic movements, even radical ones, have gained massive momentum. Muslim leaders and followers, including many of the so-called moderates, freely and regularly call for the destruction of Western civilization and the construction of a global Islamic caliphate.

The major difference is that today, those forces run deeper and more intensely than they did in 732!



'I AM CHARLIE' In January, Islamists massacred 12 people at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo* (*Charlie Weekly*), a satirical magazine known for its obscene depictions of religion. Immediately, the slogan 'Je Suis Charlie' ('I am Charlie') erupted around the world among people supporting freedom of speech.

Forty percent of Rotterdam is Muslim. In Belgium, the most popular boy's name is Mohammed—as it is in major cities across Europe. The demographic incursion of Muslims into Europe makes the forces at play worse for Europe than at the time of Poitiers: In A.D. 732, Muslims lacked a meaningful presence in the heart of Europe, which meant they had little demographic and military infrastructure to draw upon during their northward incursion. Today, the armies of Islam can count on support, or at least *sympathy*, from millions of devoted, disgruntled and alienated Muslims living in free, open, vulnerable cities across the Continent!

The lesson from the attacks in France, the cartoon crisis, the murder of Theo van Gogh, the ongoing construction of minarets on the European skyline, and hundreds of other pinpricks against Europe's Catholic establishment, is painfully evident: European Muslims have *not* integrated into European culture and society; they exist as a separate, opposing force within their host nations. And Islam's sights are once again set on Europe!

The critical history of Poitiers is repeating itself. Conditions are similar, and the strategy of today's Muslim leaders has barely altered from that of

Muslim caliphs in the Dark Ages. The religious and ideological motivations are identical.

Even the geographic positioning for invasion is largely the same: Since World War I, the demise of British and European colonies in the Middle East and North Africa has left the soft underbelly of Europe vulnerable to Islamic invasion. Now radical Islam permeates the territory from Pakistan in the east to Morocco in the west, and the region is again being exploited as a launching pad into Europe!

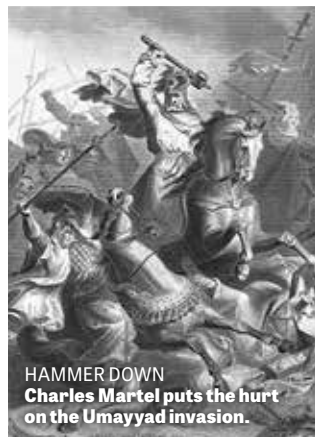
One big difference is that Muslim invaders have more than the humble sword at their disposal: Today they have access to some of the most sinister and deadly technology available to man. In addition, they have a host of Muslims *inside* Europe to draw upon.

Looking at the Islamist terrorist attacks that are almost routine in Europe, and the terrorist networks, and the growth of Muslim communities, and the number of European Muslims who

incursions into France. He was a courageous and fierce leader, a man with the vision to realize that unless he stopped Abdul Rahman al-Ghafiqi and his warriors, Europe's future as a Catholic continent was at risk. During the battle, Charles was a beacon of bravery, and it is said that this was where he was given the name Martel, a derivative of *marteau*, the French word for *hammer*.

After he pulverized the Saracens, Charles the Hammer was viewed throughout Europe as the king of the Franks and the champion of European Catholicism. After he died, his legacy as the protector of Catholicism grew as his progeny picked up the mantle and advanced his achievements and conquests.

Even today, many of Europe's prominent leaders and citizens admire, respect and seek to pattern European unification after the work of Charlemagne, the powerful, ruthless emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and grandson of Charles the Hammer.



HAMMER DOWN
Charles Martel puts the hurt on the Umayyad invasion.

THE SEVEN-DAY BATTLE OF TOURS-POITIERS

EUROPE	CALIPHATE
• Charles Martel	• Abdul Rahman al-Ghafiqi
• Franks and allies: Austrasians, Neustrians, Burgundinians, Swabians, Aquitaines, mercenaries	• Umayyad Caliphate: Arabs, Berbers
• Force: 15,000 to 20,000	• Force: 20,000 to 25,000
• Casualties: 1,100	• Casualties: 10,000

sympathize with the Islamic State, it's impossible to view these as small, isolated outbursts. Something larger and more dangerous is afoot. The armies of Islam—powerful and menacing, motivated and eager, ambitious and emboldened by their dominance of the underbelly of Europe—are seeking conflict.

They want a second chance at the Battle of Tours-Poitiers—another opportunity to set up a Muslim caliphate in Europe!

Europe's Hammer

Charles Martel was the Frankish general responsible for halting the Muslim

Bible prophecy says that a new Hammer will soon emerge in Europe, and that bloody history between Catholic Europe and Muslim incursion will repeat on a huge scale. With radical Islam posing a massive threat, begging for conflict, this powerful European leader, in conjunction with the Vatican, will resurrect the spirit that empowered Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours-Poitiers.

In A.D. 732, the fate of the world pivoted on a single battle waged on a small road about 200 miles south of Paris. Today we are about to relive that battle—and once again, it will prove to be one of the most decisive battles in history. ■



NETANYAHU

Breaking the

If Israel has 'no greater friend' than America, Israel has no friends. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

WHAT WE JUST WITNESSED between Israel and the United States might be the turning point. Or the breaking point. The ultimate significance of skirmishes between U.S. President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will emerge with time. But the American-Israeli brotherhood may already be broken.

Israel is a tiny country surrounded by enemies. One of its greatest weapons of self-defense has been its alliance with America.

Right now, though, that historically strong relationship is being ravaged. This puts Israel's security at deep risk and should alarm readers for a number of reasons.

Insults

Early in his presidency, Barack Obama delivered plenty of rhetoric in support of Israel. But over time, his administration's true feelings about Israel have become clear. At this



OBAMA

Brotherhood

point, the White House is taking every opportunity to humiliate Israel, to question its motivations, and to hamstring Israel's leadership.

Since 2009, Barack Obama has compared Israel's treatment of Palestinians to Germany's extermination of Jews during the Holocaust; rejected the legitimacy of Jewish settlements; demanded that Jews stop building in all lands claimed by Palestinians; and insisted that Israel apologize to its attackers after the Turkish flotilla incident.

In March 2010, President Obama admitted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House—by herding him through a side door under cover of darkness and allowing no photos to be taken. The administration turned the visit into a diplomatic slap in the face.

In May of that year, at the United Nations, the U.S. delegation broke a long-standing U.S.-Israeli agreement and endorsed a UN resolution calling on Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In May 2011, President Obama publicly stated that Israel should return to the indefensible armistice line borders from 1967, marking a significant shift in policy toward Israel.

The Obama administration's animosity toward Israeli leaders has also been

personal. During that 2010 visit with Mr. Obama, Mr. Netanyahu was handed a list of 13 demands. When he didn't immediately accept them, the president literally walked out on him. In September 2012, on another visit to America, Netanyahu requested a meeting with the president, who refused. Reuters recognized it as "a highly unusual rebuff to a close ally."

When President Obama visited Israel in March 2013, he remarked that "Israel [had] no greater friend" than America. Why, then, did it take *more than four years* for the president to get around to visiting Israel? And during the visit, this "great friend" refused to address Israel's elected leaders in the Knesset and chose instead to address a handpicked audience of left-wing university students.

If Israel has no greater friend than America, its situation is desperate.

More recently, when Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner invited Mr. Netanyahu to address a joint session of Congress in March, the White House publicly aired its extreme displeasure. The president stated that he and Mr. Netanyahu "have a very real difference around Iran, [and] Iran sanctions." He refused to meet with Netanyahu during the visit, saying, "I'm declining to meet with him simply because our general policy is, we don't meet with any world leader two weeks before their election." (However, key Obama administration officials including the vice president and secretary of state had just met with Netanyahu's Labor party rival; reports also surfaced of U.S. officials visiting Israel to undermine Netanyahu's attempt at reelection.)

Obama administration officials have voiced even more explicit hostility. The nadir came in October 2014, when an unnamed "senior Obama administration official" speaking to the *Atlantic* referred to Mr. Netanyahu with a disrespectful, profane epithet. The *Atlantic's* Jeffrey Goldberg explained that "this comment is representative of the gloves-off manner in which American and Israeli officials now talk about each other behind closed doors, and is yet another sign that relations between the Obama and Netanyahu governments have moved toward a full-blown crisis" (Oct. 28, 2014). Goldberg recounted the terms he'd personally heard from Obama's staff when talking about Netanyahu

and Israel: "recalcitrant, myopic, reactionary, obtuse, blustering, pompous, and 'Aspergerly.'"

U.S.-born Israeli journalist and writer Caroline Glick summarized the relationship this way: President Obama "wants to hurt Israel. He does not like Israel. He is appointing anti-Israel advisers and cabinet members not despite their anti-Israel positions, but because of them. ... Obama wants to fundamentally transform the U.S. relationship with Israel" (Dec. 16, 2012). That was written over two years ago. The relationship has since gone from bad to worse.

The Fate of Jerusalem

Continue to watch the U.S.-Israel relationship closely. Not only will a U.S.-Israel rift be a major geopolitical event, but it will also match a forecast recorded thousands of years ago in the Bible. It appears we are witnessing the prophesied breaking of the historic brotherhood between America and the Jewish state. Zechariah 11:14 states that in the end-time, God will "break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel." Judah is the ancient patriarch of the Jewish people (and the Jewish state). Israel was the ancient patriarch of Judah and of 11 other tribes, one of which ultimately became the United States.

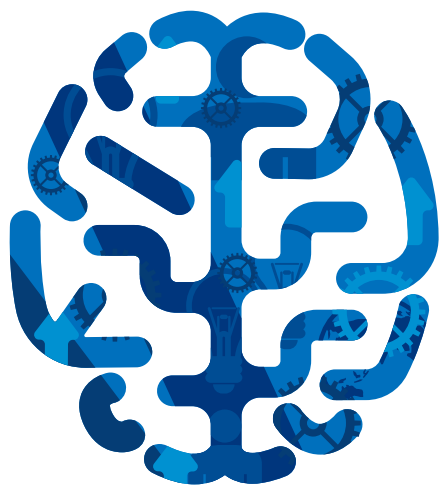
Regarding this prophecy, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote back in 2004: "This could be a prophecy of a rift between these two countries—one that would leave Judah very alone ..."

And what does Bible prophecy say will happen when America abandons Israel? Zechariah 14:2 forecasts that East Jerusalem will fall to the forces of radical Islam in the end-time. Mr. Flurry noted this and wrote, "If the brotherhood between superpower America and the Jewish state is broken, *that is probably when half of Jerusalem would be taken.*"

Watch closely what happens to the relationship between America and Israel. The *Trumpet* has forecasted and continues to forecast that this brotherhood is about to snap. ■

Read more about this prophecy by ordering a free copy of our booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy.*





Train Your Brain

Science is learning that you have a lot more control over your mental health than you might think. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

YOUR BRAIN IS LIKE A MACHINE—essentially fixed, unable to grow after a certain age. At least, that's what neuroscience long believed. Experts thought that, unlike other organs, the brain couldn't repair itself or regain lost ability once diseased or damaged. They also believed that different regions of the brain had specific, fixed functions. Underlying it all was the view that, like machines, the brain was destined to deteriorate and break down from use and aging.

New research shows that the opposite is true. Our brains are far likelier to deteriorate from underuse than from overuse.

Norman Doidge's new book, *The Brain's Way of Healing*, discusses the growing body of research disproving the old fatalistic view, and shows that we can seize control of our brains' destiny. He sums up the brain's endless ability to adapt by the term "neuroplasticity." The new understanding has major implications for how we maintain brain health and treat brain problems.

Use It or Lose It

For healthy brains, neuroplasticity's basic principle is "use it or lose it." Go easy on your brain as you age, and deterioration will be likely. But push hard with intensive learning, and you can maintain and even improve its power. "Physical exercise produces some new cells in the memory system, but mental exercise preserves and strengthens existing connections in the brain, giving a person a 'cognitive reserve' to fend off future losses and to perfect skills," Doidge writes.

Our brains can be thought of as being filled with "circuits" that constantly change in response to how we behave. "As we think, perceive, form memories or learn new skills, the connections between brain cells also change and strengthen," Doidge writes. "Far from being hard-wired, the brain has circuits that very rapidly form, unform and re-form."

Studies show that people who undertake brain exercises show benefits a decade later. Their cognitive ability improves not just for those brain exercises, but also in everyday life. Another study showed that those doing the exercises can process information with as much accuracy and speed as they had when they were 10 years younger.

Doidge says that the exercises don't always have to be abstract. Learning a language, dance or musical instrument often accomplishes the same thing, as long as the skill is a new one. "As we get older, and particularly as we enter middle age, we are no longer taxing our brains as much as we did when we were at school," he wrote in the *Guardian*. "Most of middle age is the replaying of already-mastered skills, such as reading the paper and repeating familiar tasks at work. To maintain an aging brain requires novelty and taxing exercise" (February 15).

Healing and Repair

The new principles are also being implemented to dramatically improve—and sometimes even cure—brain problems that were previously thought irreversible. "If an area is damaged, new neurons can often take over old tasks," Doidge said. "Nor are we just our neurons. Our memories and experiences are also

encoded in the patterns of electrical energy produced by our brain cells, like a musical score. As with an orchestra, when one member of the string section is sick, the show can still go on if a replacement has access to the musical score.”

Doidge describes a man with chronic pain who was cured by intensive visualizing. It worked because a brain region that regulates pain also processes mental imagery. The patient “forced himself to visualize imagery whenever he was in pain,” Doidge said. “It didn’t matter what he imagined, as long he engaged that map for imagery instead of pain.” For the first two weeks, the visualizations would give him only a few seconds of relief at a time. But after several months, he was enjoying significant pain-free periods. After a year, he was off all medications and totally free of pain.

He writes also of a South African man who significantly reversed the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease by forcing himself, over a grueling 20-year period, to relearn how to walk. With the intensive effort, the man effectively rewired his brain. “The physical and mental habits attacked by the disease were bypassed by a self-attentive walking program,” Doidge said. “New neural networks were brought in to play to enable the activity.”

Victims of stroke, brain tumors, autism, blindness, multiple sclerosis and other ailments have also experienced dramatic improvements or cures by applying the principles of neuroplasticity—remolding their brains.

The Keys Are in Your Hand

Imagine owning a truck that becomes stronger the harder you drive it. The steeper the hills you climb in it, the more torque and horsepower it develops; the further you push it on each drive, the faster it becomes. It’s difficult to envision because the opposite happens to technology: The more it is used, the faster it weakens and breaks down. But not so with biology.

Of course, we do age and degrade over time, and sometimes suffer injury or disease. But very often we are not powerless against it. God designed our bodies *and brains* to improve as a result of use, effort and labor. He gives us the power to improve ourselves, and commands us to do so (Matthew 5:48). ■

Three Drills Your Brain Will Love

You are not condemned to being a bystander of your brain health, helplessly hoping to remain mentally agile into old age. Dr. Norman Doidge’s research shows that you can take action to maintain and even improve your cognitive ability. Here are three things he recommends toward that end, which you can start doing today.

A Novel Idea

When we are young, much of our time is devoted to learning new skills and developing new abilities. But as we age, especially as we enter middle age, we mainly just reuse well-established skills; we can essentially coast on previously developed ability. Because we are no longer taxing our brains as we once did, that can make them stagnate and deteriorate. One of the surest ways to remain mentally agile is to undertake unfamiliar challenges, such as learning a new language, taking up a new instrument or mastering a new dance. “These activities engage a part of the brain called the nucleus basalis,” Doidge says, “which is responsible for helping us to pay attention and to consolidate new connections in the brain when we learn.” For optimal results, the new activity should be practiced an hour each day, with high-quality concentration maintained throughout.



Don’t Defy the Tyrant

Sleep has been called the “gentle tyrant” because every man, woman and child must bow in submission to it. If you defy it, skimping on sleep, you might incur a whole host of physical and mental health problems. Taking sleep seriously, on the other hand, guarantees benefits, including some big ones for the brain. During sleep, our newly established neural connections—formed from the learning we did the preceding day—become stronger. Also during sleep, brain cells called glia open passages that flush out the brain’s waste products and toxic buildup—including the proteins that accumulate in dementia. In the 19th century, the average Western adult believed it was reasonable to get nine hours of sleep each night. Today, thanks in large part to epidemic technology addiction, the average American adult sleeps around seven hours per night—and the number is falling. Expert recommendations vary somewhat, as do individual needs, but most of our brains would benefit from getting more sleep.



Move It

Studies show that regular exercise such as walking, jogging, cycling or swimming can slash your chances of suffering from dementia by as much as 60 percent. “Imagine if there were a drug that could reduce the risk of dementia by 60 percent,” Doidge says. “It would be the most talked-about drug in history, but this astonishing finding has been fairly quietly received.” Physical exercise puts our brains “in a more neuroplastic state,” Doidge says, because it “releases growth factors, which act like growth-promoting fertilizer in the brain.” This exercise-induced “fertilizer” facilitates the brain’s ability to build connections between cells when it is learning.





Are These the ‘Last Days’?

Look at world events, and it’s clear why many are asking this question. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

ARE WE LIVING IN THE “LAST DAYS” described by the Bible? Some people will immediately answer: *Surely not! Where are the supernatural heavenly signs? Where is the global cataclysm? This generation hasn’t even experienced a world war!* So, because the biblical tribulation has not happened yet, neither is it going to happen. That’s how people reason.

But look at this world! Nuclear proliferation. Arms races. International terrorism. Mass beheadings. Sexual enslavement. Anti-Semitism. Racial division. Disease outbreaks. Economic implosion. Moral decay. Catastrophic storms, earthquakes and tsunamis. Then *look at the Bible*.

Compare the two, and you *will* begin to wonder: *Are we living in the last days?*

Westerners might soon forget about the unimaginable carnage of disasters like the Indonesia tsunami in 2004—but Indonesians haven’t forgotten. The people of China’s Sichuan province haven’t forgotten about the breathtaking loss of life caused by the massive earthquake of 2008. The people of Haiti still live with the scars of the 2010 earthquake that

killed between 100,000 and 300,000 of them. The people of Japan won’t soon forget about the megaquake and killer tsunami that smashed the coast of Tohoku in 2011. A few weeks before that disaster, a devastating earthquake literally flattened the city of Christchurch, New Zealand. In America—a superpower many people view as immune to widespread suffering—the widespread flooding that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005 buried the city of New Orleans and killed more than 1,800 people.

These are only a few of the “natural” disasters that have rocked our world in recent years. Think of the many *man-made* disasters you can stack on top of that! Just last year, ISIS raised its flag over large swathes of Syria and Iraq and announced itself a caliphate. Russia annexed Crimea and then thumbed its nose at the West. Pro-Russian separatists shot down a passenger jet over Ukraine, and the world did nothing. In America, Washington decided to open diplomatic relations with Communist Cuba. In the United Kingdom, Scotland nearly voted to dismember Great Britain from the inside out!

These are a few notable events from 2014. So far *this year*, we have seen Americans, Britons, Japanese, Jordanians, Egyptians, Iraqis, Jews and Christians gunned down, beheaded and burned alive. The barbarians calling themselves the Islamic State now control a territory larger than Great Britain. After gruesome attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, Israel’s prime minister has publicly urged Jews to flee Europe. Not Libya or Yemen—*Europe*.

Take a step back and what do you see? Over the past decade, several prophetic trends have continued unabated: The spread of terrorism. The rise of radical Islam and its number one state sponsor, Iran. The return of Germany as a world power. The political coercion by the Catholic Church. The moral, economic and political weakening of Britain, the Commonwealth and the United States. These are all specific, prophetic trends you can read of in your *Bible*!

There is nothing really to debate there. It’s just a time line of facts. But the question is, *Are these normal times in which we are living?* Or are we in fact living in what the Bible calls the “last days”?

More Than a Savior

The Bible is, without question, a *fascinating* book. Its writings have lasted for millennia. The *entire* Western world is linked to it on some level or another. This holy book has changed lives—it has shaped history. It's the most unusual book there is, to have been compiled over centuries by all different authors in all different circumstances, to have a unified message throughout, and to be so influential among so many different nations—nations that aren't even Hebrew!

There's something about this book.

Even the non-religious must admit that the fundamental foundations of our Western society are built on the Bible and the revolutionary teachings of Jesus Christ. *The supremacy of law. The judicial system. Morality. Virtues. The elemental role of family.* It's all tied to this book and to this man.

And this same man—*God's Son*—talked about “the end of days”! *Not some fringer.* Not some wild-eyed prophet nobody took seriously. Jesus Christ Himself described what the world would be like right before He returned. Do His descriptions match up with the days we are living in right now?

He said in Luke 21:28, “And when these things begin to *come to pass*, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth NIGH.” Yes, Jesus Christ SAID He would return. And He said that He would do it at a definite time—“*when these things begin to come to pass.*”

Jesus Christ, of course, is the supreme sacrifice and Savior. That is universally accepted within the world of traditional Christianity. But most Christians don't actually READ what He said. Those who do take the time to flip through one of the Gospels will *instantly* realize that Jesus WAS ALSO A PROPHET! And what He spoke of in Luke 21 and several other passages found in the Gospels were actually prophesied events that are NOW HAPPENING for the first time in human history!

'Perilous Times'

In looking at the world today, is it any wonder that so many serious-minded leaders and scientists are saying grave things about the dangerous drift in world conditions? In recent years, many journalists have even evoked the terms *last days, end times*—even

Armageddon—to emphasize how dire global conditions really are. These terms and phrases come from the Bible. They describe modern global catastrophes! And yet, precious few in this world will bother to look into God's inspired Word for answers to the problems we see multiplying around us.

The Apostle Paul warned, “This know also, that in the *last days* PERILOUS times shall come. For men shall be *lovers of their own selves*, covetous, BOASTERS, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, *lovers of pleasures* more than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

“We are entering a place that has no solutions. Such a place does have decisions, and all of the choices will be bad.” —George Friedman, CEO of Stratfor

Isn't that a striking paradox? Here we are facing a mountain of global catastrophes—rampant violence, disease and suffering—and yet God says mankind is, at the same time, madly in love with self and *addicted* to PLEASURE!

The Prophet Jesus said the same thing. In Luke 17, He said the “last days” would mirror those of Noah's day, just before the Flood. Wickedness was rampant in those days. *Every* imagination of the thoughts of men was on evil continually—and the Earth was full of violence (Genesis 6:5, 11). And yet, “They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that [Noah] entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all” (Luke 17:27). It was a wretched and miserable world, and yet people were living it up, partying hard—and oblivious to the existential threat about to destroy their civilization!

We are living in these same days.

BIBLE PROPHECY IS SPOT ON! It describes our world as being DRENCHED in sin—filled with indiscriminate violence, sexual perversion and unimaginable crimes. And yet, because of our maddening addiction to selfishness and

pleasure-seeking, most people have no idea that we are in grave danger!

In January, after the brutal terrorist attacks in Paris against free speech advocates and Jews, George Friedman of Stratfor wrote, “We are entering a place that has NO SOLUTIONS. Such a place does have decisions, and *all* of the choices will be bad” (January 13; emphasis added throughout).

In February, noted historian Victor Davis Hanson said that with America ceding more and more power and influence to regional hegemony, the world is fast turning into the Wild West! “There is a strange new and dangerous sentiment brooding below the spoken surface that whatever is going on in the world and in America today CANNOT GO ON

MUCH LONGER...” (PJ Media, February 15).

This matches what the Bible prophesied to happen just before the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

It's all unfolding EXACTLY the way the Bible said it would! It's *exactly* what Paul described in 2 Timothy 3—that in the last days, this world would turn into the Wild West. Every man for himself. Men loving selfish pleasures more than God. Religion having a *form* of godliness but being just a deceptive facade with no godly authority or power behind it (verses 4-5). *God's inspired Word doesn't guide people's lives.* Man refuses to submit to God's laws. People do not believe that God will supernaturally intervene in the affairs of man. They don't believe Jesus Christ is returning to this Earth to rule with a rod of iron. They wouldn't accept it if they did believe it!

“*Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth,*” Paul said in verse 7. The more gain in materialistic knowledge, the further the drift from God and His truth—and the more dangerously violent this world grows. “But evil men and seducers shall wax *worse and worse*, deceiving, and being deceived” (verse 13).

This WHOLE WORLD is deceived! (Revelation 12:9; Ephesians 2:2). And as long as Satan and his evil influence remains, the curses of crime, violence, terrorism and war will multiply. Despite man's best efforts to curb lawlessness and violence, *evil* and the MEN WHO PROMOTE IT will only increase and worsen—until God supernaturally intervenes to stop the madness!

'The End of the World'

Let's return to what the Prophet Jesus said about the *last days*. In Matthew 24:3, it says, "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?" Notice this! The disciples asked about the sign of Christ's RETURN—and of the

Notice the *first* and most important warning Christ gave His disciples: "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" (Matthew 24:4-5). You've heard of the four horsemen of the apocalypse from the book of Revelation; this is the first horseman! It is *not just about deception from false, non-Christian religions*. People are going to be deceived *about Christ* and His MESSAGE—about what *true Christianity* really is. And it gets so bad that *Christ's own disciples* are deceived. Christians will be deceived about Christ!

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (verse 14). The word *end* here

that capability—many times over, in fact.

Doesn't that alone date the fulfillment of this prophecy? Jesus said that if not for God's timely intervention, human civilization will perish. We are now staring that in the face.

In his booklet *Are We in the Last Days?*, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "God is not going to intervene or send Jesus Christ to set up a better civilization and the wonderful, happy, peace-loving World Tomorrow, until humanity and its leaders have had to admit their utter failure in providing peaceful, happy and useful lives on this Earth."

This is why the forces of evil continue to advance as rapidly as they have been. This is why the world is turning into the Wild West, as Victor Davis Hanson noted. *It's because man refuses to humble himself before God*. It's because man won't admit that without God, His spiritual law and His loving family government, it is IMPOSSIBLE to build a peaceful and happy civilization.

During the Great Tribulation, mankind will *finally* begin to swallow that bitter pill. The truth will finally begin to sink in. And then, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (verse 29). These are the heavenly signs! This is the sixth seal of Revelation 6:12-14. These supernatural signs are followed by the Day of the Lord—described in Joel 2:31 and many other prophecies.

After that: "[T]hen shall appear the SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN IN HEAVEN: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall *see* the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30). If you *see* the signs and KNOW we are living in the last days Jesus prophesied about, then you know that our Savior's return to Earth in power and glory is now just ahead of us!

Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth in the same manner He left almost 2,000 years ago (Acts 1:11). Only this time He's not coming as a Lamb sacrifice for the sins of mankind. He's coming to RULE as the resurrected and glorified Son of God. He's coming to forcibly put an end to human suffering and lawlessness and to set up the peaceful and happy Kingdom of God on Earth! ■

"Humanity and its leaders have ... to admit their utter failure in providing peaceful, happy and useful lives on this Earth." —Herbert W. Armstrong

end of this age of man's rule over man, as influenced by the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

In Christ's day, it was simply understood that *some* generation would experience "the end of the world." Notice that Jesus did NOT correct His disciples for getting caught up in all that prophecy stuff, like many preachers do today. *Don't worry about prophecy or nations or wars or signs, men say. Just give your heart to the Lord—live what you think is a good life, and leave it at that.*

THAT IS NOT HOW CHRIST ANSWERED HIS DISCIPLES. Instead, He directly confirmed that there WILL BE an end of this present evil world! He gave *specific* details we need to watch for so that we know when that end is upon us!

Now *if* these details, spoken by Jesus Himself, happen during our generation, thousands of years after Christ described them, shouldn't we be jolted by that? It means that the Bible you have on your shelf is actually a better news source than the entire Internet! And *if* these details are happening right now, during our generation, doesn't that mean we are living at the END OF THIS AGE?

has to do with the end of a work or an era. When Herbert W. Armstrong came on the scene in the 20th century, he started proclaiming the plain truth about the coming Kingdom of God to rule the world! He preached what Jesus Christ Himself proclaimed. "And if I go ... I will come again," Christ said in John 14:3. Why has traditional Christianity *utterly* failed to preach this message—the gospel of a coming King and world ruler to administer God's family government on Earth?

Just before the Second Coming, Christ said there "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" (Matthew 24:21-22). Again, these are Jesus Christ's own words: Without God's miraculous and powerful intervention, mankind won't survive. That's not what some wild-eyed fanatic once said. That's what the Prophet Jesus consistently warned. And it's only been in the last two generations or so that man has even acquired the weapons needed to destroy all human life. But now we have



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MAMMAL

Mouse-Deer (*Tragulus*)

If you shrunk a deer down to the size of a hamster, you might have something like the adorable *tragulus*, or “mouse-deer.” Adults of the smaller *tragulus* species are about the size of a small rabbit, weighing just 1.5 pounds. The young are closer to the size of a mouse. They are the smallest known ungulates in the world, and can be found in parts of Southeast Asia, China and the Philippines.



REPTILE

Green Basilisk Lizard (*Basiliscus plumifrons*)

Its astounding ability to run across the surface of water gives this species its most recognizable nickname: the Jesus Christ lizard. But unlike Christ’s physics-defying miracle, the lizard’s water walking is easily explained by toes on its rear feet that have fringes of skin that unfold, which it slaps against the water surface hard enough to create a small pocket of air with each step. Those pockets prevent it from sinking as it runs as far as 130 feet in a single jaunt. This lizard lives in rain forests from southern Mexico to Panama, and can sprint on water at about five feet per second.



MOLLUSK

Emerald Sea Slug (*Elysia chlorotica*)

Breatharianism is the belief by some Hindus that it’s possible for a person to live without consuming food, and survive solely on sunlight. For people such a bizarre idea is lethal, but for the emerald sea slug it really works! This “solar-powered” slug can use the sun’s energy to turn carbon dioxide and water into the nutrients it needs to survive. Unlike plants, the slugs are unable to synthesize their own chloroplasts, but after feeding on algae just once or twice, they can maintain the chloroplasts for up to a year—living only on photosynthesis. The tiny slugs are found in shallow pools and salt marshes along the east coast of the United States.

ng



Himalayan Monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*)

To complete this masterpiece—a member of the pheasant family—the Great Painter dipped His brush into a stunning array of colors on His palette. When the sunlight strikes the Himalayan monal's plumage, it lights up with breathtaking, iridescent radiance. It is not difficult to see why Nepal selected this beauty as its national bird.



BIRD

Decoy Spider (*Cyclosa*)

When scientists first discovered this spider in late 2012, they thought it was a fairly large species with a radius of about one inch. But a closer look showed that was just a decoy spider! The actual spider is less than

one fifth that size, and it arranges tiny bits of leaves and dead bugs in its web in the shape of a much larger spider. The tiny *cyclosa* can act as a puppeteer, shaking its web around to give the decoy spider the appearance of lifelike motion. Researchers believe the purpose of the decoy is to dupe damsel-flies, which feed on small spiders but leave larger ones alone. The spider represents the only known example in all of nature of an animal creating a larger, decoy version of itself.



ARACHNID



CRUSTACEAN

Mantis Shrimp (*Stomatopoda*)

Whereas human eyes have three types of color-receptive cones, the mantis shrimp has 12 to 16! It is impossible for a human brain to even imagine the vivid world this creature sees. But that is not its most remarkable characteristic. The shrimp, which grows to be up to a foot long, has a club that accelerates underwater faster than a 22-caliber bullet fired above water. In about three-thousandths of a second, it can hit prey with 1,500 Newtons of force. If it misses, the prey often dies anyway due to the undersea shock wave produced by the strike. The strike is so fast it superheats the surrounding water to temperatures nearly as hot as the surface of the sun. If a person could move his arm that fast, he could throw a baseball into orbit. If you keep an aquarium, it is probably best not to try to keep a mantis shrimp in there. The glass would be no match for that club.



AMPHIBIAN

Glass Frog (*Centrolenidae*)

If you're in the business of selling dead frogs for biology students to dissect, then you may not have been happy about the discovery of the "glass frog." After all, who needs to cut a frog open to learn about its organs when you can see right through its translucent skin? Glass frogs are usually small, ranging from 1.2 to 3 inches long, and there are several different species in the family. They live mostly in the region spanning from southern Mexico to Panama.



How to Be an Overcomer

I want to offer you a new booklet. It explains how battling your own flaws, weaknesses and sins becomes a lot more successful when you come to recognize your real enemy. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH procrastination? Or laziness? Overeating? Do you have to battle selfishness? Or an inferiority complex? Do you fight anger, impatience or losing control of your emotions? Do you struggle with lust? Do you suffer discouragement or even depression? Are you addicted to a harmful behavior or substance? Maybe all of the above?

Life is a struggle. If you are like most people, you have weaknesses, shortcomings, bad habits and destructive tendencies that you would like to overcome. You have probably tried to rid yourself of these flaws and failed, perhaps repeatedly.

Here is one of the main reasons people can work so hard yet still fail to overcome: They are not correctly identifying the problem.

The path to victory begins with recognizing your enemy.

Nobody is perfect—just accept your imperfections, people say. Deep down, you've got a good heart. It has gotten to the point that society wants to avoid saying *anything* is bad! Even serious problems like fornication and pornography

have become so common, many people see nothing wrong with them. Dark, perverted thinking that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago has grown mainstream.

THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SIN IS.

More and more people think the concept of sin is old-fashioned and irrelevant. Many say sin doesn't exist.

Even religious people have come to accept these ideas. For example, one book revered by many New Age Christians, *A Course in Miracles*, says sin is not real, and every person is perfectly innocent and guiltless. "The Holy Spirit will never teach you that you are sinful," it says. "When you are tempted to believe that sin is real, remember this: If sin is real, both God and you are not." The religious movement called Christian Science also says there's no such thing as sin: "Man is incapable of sin. ... God ... never made man capable of sin. ... Hence, evil is but an illusion" (*Science and Health*).

These ideas are terribly wrong, and terribly destructive.

If you don't understand what sin is— if you don't even believe it is *real*—you

are going to become more and more *enslaved* by sin! And the problems in your life will never go away.

What Is Sin?

We can eliminate a lot of confusion by going to the one true Source on this subject: the Bible. It tells us plainly what sin is, if we are willing to listen. Here is a clear, direct Bible definition:

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW" (1 John 3:4). "[S]in is LAWLESSNESS," the New King James Version says.

What "law" is it talking about? We find the answer in Romans 7.

There, in verse 7, the Apostle Paul wrote, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, *I had not known sin, but BY THE LAW.*" This is even plainer in the Moffatt translation: "Why, had it not been for the Law, I would never have known what sin meant!" THE LAW DEFINES SIN. Breaking the law is sin. But what law? Verse 7 continues: "... for I had not known lust, except THE LAW had said, *Thou shalt not covet.*"

So this is talking about the law that says "Thou shalt not covet." What law is that? You can find it in Exodus 20. "Thou shalt not covet" is in verse 17, the last of the Ten Commandments! It is a sin to break *the Ten Commandments*.

Romans 7 goes on to say, "[T]he law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good," and that it is "spiritual"—a law of spiritual principles of living (verses 12, 14). Jesus Christ summarized the whole law in two broad principles: love toward God and love toward neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). The first four of the Ten Commandments explain how to love God; the last six show how to love neighbor. The whole Bible expands on these basic points, showing how the principles of law should be applied to govern every aspect of right living.

God is the Lawgiver. Just as He set in motion physical laws that govern matter, He also set in motion spiritual laws that govern human relationships. "It is the prerogative of GOD ALONE to determine what is right and what is sin—what is good and what is evil," wrote Herbert W. Armstrong. "God has not delegated to man the right or power to decide WHAT is sin—but He compels us to decide WHETHER to sin,

or to obey His law” (*Why Were You Born?*).

When we obey God’s laws, we are blessed. An individual who follows God’s command not to covet, for example, will spare himself discontentment, heartache, financial problems, strained relationships and other suffering.

When we disobey God’s laws, we are cursed. All the problems in your life are the result of SIN—whether your own, knowingly or unknowingly, or someone else’s sin whose ripple effects hit you. In fact, every shred of human suffering in all the world in all of history has come from *sin*—from disobeying God’s law! The ultimate penalty for sin is death—eternal death (Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4, 20).

God Loves Sinners

As plain as the Bible is about what sin is, it is just as plain about this fact: GOD LOVES SINNERS.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son ...” (John 3:16). This was the greatest act of love ever in the universe. Jesus Christ died for you, to pay the death penalty for your sins. He sacrificed His life for you while you were yet a sinner (Romans 5:6-8).

Many people have heard of that sacrifice. But they fail to understand what it means and what its deep implications are. They don’t realize what it reveals about God and His plan.

Forgiveness of sin is a free gift. We cannot *earn* the grace of God. However, God does give us a spiritual formula to follow in order to receive it. Many people are willing to *accept* the blood of Jesus to cover their sins, but they don’t follow what God says in the Bible—so they *are not forgiven*. Is it possible that you are among those who have made this mistake?

Once God extends forgiveness, He gives *responsibilities* to the one He forgives. Like Christ said to the adulteress whom He forgave, “GO, AND SIN NO MORE” (John 8:11). This is essential to ultimately receiving eternal life.

God loves sinners—so much so that He wants to *free us* from sin and all its terrible effects. SIN ENSLAVES US. Jesus said, “Whoever commits sin is a SLAVE of sin” (verse 34; NKJV; see also Romans 6:16; 2 Peter 2:19). God wants to bring you *out of sin*, just as He delivered the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt. He wants

to purge sin from your life completely, to remove it as far as east is from west (Psalm 103:12).

God wants to empower you to live SIN-FREE—a totally different, God-centered way, walking in newness of life (Romans 6:4). A way free of greed, lust, dissipation, anger, hatred, depression, addiction and selfishness.

This is the life of a Christian. It is a life of blessings—of understanding, peace, fulfillment and joy. But it is *not* the broad, easy way. Jesus said that “*narrow* is the gate and *difficult* is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:14; NKJV). This way is full of challenges and trials. It requires learning God’s will and following it, even against temptation and self-desire.

It demands struggle and sacrifice. But it is not the struggle of slavery in Egypt—the bitterness of bondage. Rather, it is the struggle of journeying to the Promised Land.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A LIFE OF OVERCOMING AND CONQUERING SIN. The Bible backs this up from the first chapters of Genesis to the final chapters of Revelation. Scripture frequently describes it as a STRUGGLE, a FIGHT, a BATTLE. Anyone who has ever stepped through that narrow gate and undertaken a journey on the difficult path to the Promised Land can identify with that description: IT IS A WAR.

A Field Manual for Christian Soldierly

I have just published a new booklet that I believe will be an invaluable help to every *Trumpet* reader: *How to Be an Overcomer: Win Your War Against Sin*.

This is a type of field manual for spiritual warfare. This booklet contains abundant practical instruction and provides a clear guide for effective Christian soldierly. It helps orient you on the battlefield, equip you for the struggle, and guide you through every hardship, all the way to victory.

To conquer the enemy, you first must identify it. Our most relentless foe is our own human nature. This booklet will help you better recognize that enemy inside you. It shows how to see yourself the way you are, as God sees you. It reveals how to escape self-deception and self-righteousness. It shows how to search out the sin in your life—and how to destroy it.

Jesus Christ clearly said we must *repent* in order to be saved (e.g. Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15). The Apostle Peter said repentance is required in order to be forgiven of sin and to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 3:19; 2:38). *But what does it mean to repent?* Very few understand this lifesaving process as they should. This booklet gives you the right biblical perspective.

How to Be an Overcomer shows you how to properly understand and appreciate the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ for your sins. Shallow or flawed thinking on this subject makes it impossible for you to conquer sin. Right thinking gives you the focus you need for victory.

This booklet explains how to strategize spiritually. It shows you how you can win the ultimate victory: by taking the battle to the enemy. As Jesus said in Matthew 11:12, “[T]he kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” This booklet explains, from your Bible, how to become a victorious Christian soldier.

We are all sinners. God loves us and wants to help us eradicate our sin so that we can be close to Him and so He can give us eternal life. The war on sin is the noblest war you will ever wage. If you overcome, then in the end you will be able to say, like Paul, “I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day.” ■



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Why the Bible Is ‘So Misunderstood’

And how you can begin to understand it **BY DENNIS LEAP**

KURT EICHENWALD’S ARTICLE, “THE Bible: So Misunderstood It’s a Sin,” published in *Newsweek* in January 2015, got underneath most evangelical Christians’ skins and many others’ too. I personally was intrigued by the article’s title—I agreed with it! I also subscribe to one or two other observations he makes in his 16-page article. Yet, Eichenwald is flat out wrong on several key points that are very disturbing.

“The Bible is not the book many American fundamentalists and political opportunists think it is, or more precisely, what they want it to be. Their lack of knowledge about the Bible is well established. A Pew Research poll in 2010 found that evangelicals ranked only a smidgen higher than atheists in familiarity with the New Testament and Jesus’s teachings,” wrote Mr. Eichenwald. His reporting is correct here. Our archives show

that the *Trumpet* magazine has reported on Pew’s religious polls often.

It is always shocking to learn from Pew that while the Bible is the world’s bestselling and most widely distributed book, it is little more than a keepsake in most American homes. Many Christian-professing Americans do not read the Bible.

Eichenwald described my childhood experience with the Bible. I was raised in this world’s largest Christian-professing denomination. I was taught that I was a member of Christ’s one true church. Yet, I was pressured to not read the Bible. As to why, I was told that only the priests could understand it. I was sure to go crazy if I tried to.

Shining a Light on the Book

“*Newsweek*’s exploration here of the Bible’s history and meaning is not

intended to advance a particular theology or debate the existence of God. Rather, it is designed to shine a light on a book that has been abused by people who claim to revere it but don’t read it, in the process creating misery for others,” continued Eichenwald. This seemed to me to be a logical, straightforward approach to the topic discussed in his title.

While reading this paragraph, I wondered, is it possible a secular, prize-winning author, writing for a left-leaning magazine, could actually support the Bible? Alas, I was too hopeful. After wrestling through the article, I realized Eichenwald worked hard to toss the Bible into a garbage can and seal a lid on it to ensure it never again sees the light of day.

“No television preacher has ever read the Bible. Neither has any evangelical



“The Bible is not the book many American fundamentalists and political opportunists think it is, or more precisely, what they want it to be.”

Kurt Eichenwald

politician. Neither has the pope. Neither have I. And neither have you. At best, we’ve all read a bad translation—a translation of translations of translations of hand-copied copies of copies of copies of copies, and on and on, hundreds of times,” rants Eichenwald. What an audacious, nonfactual, nonhistorical statement! Top biblical scholars were justifiably fired up over Mr. Eichenwald’s lack of understanding and his obvious absence of research on how well the Bible has been preserved and meticulously translated generation after generation after generation.

Is the Bible Reliable?

The *Newsweek* piece drew immediate fire from Bible scholars, translators and the religious right. “[W]e are not reading ‘a translation of translations of translations of hand-copied copies of copies of copies of copies, and on and on, hundreds of times,’ ” responded Michael Brown in a 17-page article, “A Response to *Newsweek* on the Bible” (also printed by *Newsweek*). Though at times technical, this article cites

references and sources to prove the reliability of the English translations of both the Old and New Testaments in use today.

Focusing on questions raised about the English translations of the New Testament, Brown continued, “As Prof. Daniel Wallace, one of the world’s foremost authorities on ancient New Testament manuscripts, rightly noted, “This is rhetorical flair run amok so badly that it gives hyperbole a bad name. A ‘translation of translations of translations’ would mean at a minimum, that we are dealing with a translation that is at least three languages removed from the original. But the first translation is at best a translation of a fourth-generation copy in the original language. Now I’m ignoring completely his last line—‘and on and on, hundreds of times’—a line that is completely devoid of any resemblance to reality. Is it really true that we only have access to third-generation translations from fourth-generation Greek manuscripts? Hardly.”

Essentially Eichenwald attacks the oldest Hebrew and Greek texts we have

in our possession today. He would like *Newsweek* readers to believe that these priceless texts do not represent what was originally written, making them unreliable. Are they? “Actually, they are remarkably well preserved, to the point that we can say that, with the exception of changes in spelling of words (like *colour* vs. *color* in English) and the adding of vowels (which are not part of the original Hebrew text), for the most part when we read the Old Testament in Hebrew, we are reading the identical Hebrew texts that Jesus would have read in his hometown synagogue as a boy,” asserts Brown. Although the preservation of Greek texts is somewhat different than the Hebrew, the bottom line is the same. The Greek texts we have make Roman and Greek classic literature scholars jealous.

“The situation is very different when it comes to the Greek New Testament, since we have thousands of manuscripts, some of them dating back to the first few centuries after the time of Jesus, but because they were copied by so many scribes, they have not been copied with

as much precision, resulting in several hundred thousand textual discrepancies. But the vast majority of those discrepancies are inconsequential (akin to writing *Doctor vs. Dr.*), and as noted by Prof. Bart Ehrman, a foremost New Testament textual scholar and a well-known agnostic, ‘Essential Christian beliefs are not affected by textual variants in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament,’” explained Brown. (It is important to note that Eichenwald states that Ehrman is a “groundbreaking scholar” in his article. And he uses a quote from him to support his own views.) We can be guaranteed that the Bible’s message is the same today as it was thousands of years ago.

Who Misunderstands the Bible?

If you take the time to read Kurt Eichenwald’s article you will discover that

or Acts [or] Epistles or Apocalypses does the New Testament say it is the inerrant Word of God,” claims Mr. Eichenwald. Is his claim here *fact*? It is obvious Eichenwald hasn’t read much of the New Testament, or the Old.

“The Bible is a very human book. It was written, assembled, copied and translated by people. That explains the flaws, the contradictions, and the theological disagreements in its pages. Once that is understood, it is possible to find out which parts of the Bible were not in the earliest Greek manuscripts, which are the bad translations, and what one book says in comparison with another, and then try to discern the message for yourself,” concludes Eichenwald.

He is entitled to express his own opinion about the Bible—which by the way is not new; many people have publicly stated this same opinion of the

November 1983 *Plain Truth* article, “How to Understand the Bible.”

Mr. Armstrong knew without a shadow of doubt that the Bible is a critically important book for all mankind. It is the only book available on Earth that explains the *meaning* behind current chaotic and violent world events happening daily. It explains where our world is headed. While there is unthinkable terror coming in the near future, as Herbert Armstrong wrote, there is great good news coming just after that.

“The main course of history, up to now, was written before it occurred. What has happened to Egypt, Italy, Greece, ancient Babylon, Persia, modern Britain, America, Russia was all written 2,000 or more years ago What is now going to happen to the leading nations of the world in the next five to 20 years is also written in the same awe-inspiring Book—and is just as certain to happen,” Mr. Armstrong continued, giving more details of the most important knowledge provided by the Bible.

“The Bible contains history, prophecy, wisdom, spiritual knowledge and truth. If you want the most necessary, basic knowledge of all life—the very foundation of right knowledge—where would you go?” Mr. Armstrong challenged his readers. Although Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, that challenge is still as viable today as it was three decades ago. Where can you go to find the answers to life’s most important questions? Stores and libraries are chock full of books crammed with materialistic knowledge and the spiritual thoughts of men and women. But, what are the tried, true and tested guides that work? There is only one.

“The Bible is God’s divine revelation of basic needed knowledge that mankind is not capable of otherwise finding out. It is the starting point,” Mr. Armstrong assured us. “No tools or instruments of science can tell you whether you have a soul, whether you are a soul, whether there is life after death, what the purpose is for being alive, where you are going, or the way to a happy, abundant life and universal peace. Our scientists—our world leaders and statesmen—have failed utterly to tell us these answers or to lead us into the universally desired peace and happiness,” stated

“The Bible is God’s divine revelation of basic needed knowledge that mankind is not capable of otherwise finding out. It is the starting point.” *Herbert W. Armstrong*

when he states his purpose “to shine a light on a book” he doesn’t mean that he intends to shine a positive light on the Bible’s importance for our chaotic and violent world. He set out to expose all the errors he believes the book contains.

He rants about the Bible’s many contradictions. He states: “[T]he Bible can’t stop debunking itself.” He discusses the “many, many” scribal insertions that influenced doctrine. Yet, all of the textual and translation issues that Eichenwald drags back into the light have been hashed over and *resolved* for decades. Brown’s article gives ample proof to what I am saying here.

Knowing his article would seriously upset and infuriate Bible readers, Eichenwald then amazingly begs for support of his dark opinions. “None of this is meant to demean the Bible, but all of it is fact. Christians angered by these facts should be angry with the Bible, not the messenger.” What egotistical bravado! Should Kurt Eichenwald be teaching people about the Bible? I don’t think so. There is more. “Nowhere in the Gospels

Bible for decades. But Eichenwald never gets to the real reason *why* the Bible is SO MISUNDERSTOOD.

What Is the Bible?

Basically, the reason people don’t understand the Bible is they think like Kurt Eichenwald. This is not meant to demean anyone. It is simply a statement of fact. Since Adam and Eve’s creation on Earth, people have had big trouble understanding *and following* the Word of God—even when spoken directly by God.

To understand the Bible, we have to first know: What *is* the Bible? Herbert W. Armstrong, the most important theologian and religious educator of the 20th century, taught millions of people not only how to understand the Bible, but *why* they should want to understand it. He explained clearly what the Bible is. “The *ADVANCE* news of tomorrow’s world is good news! This news is reported, before it happens, in the Bible. An entire third of all the Bible is devoted to foretelling world events. Why doesn’t the world know about it?” he asked in a

Mr. Armstrong with raw honesty. “But God Almighty did not hide from human minds the all-important answers.”

God committed His treasure trove of basic knowledge to writing. He accomplished this task through men of His choosing (2 Timothy 3:16). However, God did not stop there. God protected and preserved His revealed truth especially for the people of our generation (Acts 7:38; 1 Corinthians 10:11). Jesus Christ assured us that the Scriptures are the inerrant Word of God (John 10:35). All this incredible knowledge is waiting for you to uncover—in the Bible. Yet God is not going to force it on you.

Why People Don't Understand It

“But why do so few understand the Bible? Why do all the different church denominations disagree as to what it says?” asked Mr. Armstrong. After quoting

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Mr. Armstrong stated: “Every scripture is inspired by the Eternal God—not just those few verses or parts of sentences you wish to apply to suit your desires” (ibid). This is the same problem Kurt Eichenwald sees in modern Christians, but addresses them in a demeaning way. Pointing a finger at evangelicals, he states: “They are God’s frauds, cafeteria Christians who pick and choose which Bible verses they heed with less care than they exercise in selecting side orders for lunch.” His statement sadly is a fact. However, in 16 pages Mr. Eichenwald never explains why, or offers a solution to the problem.

“All of the Bible ‘is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,’” continued Mr. Armstrong. The whole Bible is useful for the purpose of reproof and correcting us. Yet, how many people

today are willing to be corrected even when proven they are wrong? Very few! “That is why it is so hard for so many people to understand the Bible and to agree on just what it says. The Bible is God’s great spiritual mirror. It shows up every flaw in our thinking and reveals every spot on our characters. It pictures us as we really are—as God sees us, not as we like to think we are or to have other men look upon us,” stated Mr. Armstrong. This is a statement we all need to think deeply about.

The number one flaw in human nature is our unwillingness to admit error. Admitting error is impossible without God’s help. God is willing to help anyone who truly desires His help. He offers His help mainly through the Bible. Read Hebrews 4:12. The Bible is a living and powerful book that, as Mr. Armstrong

BIBLE MISUNDERSTOOD PAGE 36 ►



7 TIPS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

1 SURRENDER TO GOD AND THE AUTHORITY OF HIS WORD

Forsake your ways, your thoughts and those of the society in this world. Then do as God says and begin to study the Bible.

2 STUDY TO FIND TRUTH AND TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD (2 TIMOTHY 2:15)

Ask God for guidance and to reveal the true meaning. Then believe God. Believe His Word. Accept its plain and simple meaning just as you would accept any other book in which you had confidence. Be careful to prove all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Be cautious. Avoid jumping to hasty conclusions or taking things carelessly for granted. And above all, do not try to interpret the Bible. The Bible interprets itself.

3 BE OPEN-MINDED AND TEACHABLE

Read without prejudice. But be careful to prove all things. Search the Scriptures to see whether those things you read are so. Briefly about the actual method of Bible study: The right spirit, the right attitude, being willing to be corrected and reproof—that is the main thing.

4 TRY STUDYING THE BIBLE ON YOUR KNEES

Pray as you study. Pray for guidance and for understanding. You'll be surprised at the results. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God” (James 1:5).

5 BE SURE TO GET THE CONTEXT OF WHAT YOU READ

Realize that the verses as we find them divided in the most-used translations are merely for convenience. Some verses are only part of a single sentence. Be sure you get the whole thought.

It is often necessary to read the whole chapter, or even the whole book, to rightly understand any one verse in its proper setting. Be sure you get the meaning intended in that chapter and book.

6 STUDY A SUBJECT AT A TIME

Find every passage in the Bible relating to that subject. To do so, use a good concordance and the marginal references in your Bible. All the truth on any subject does not necessarily appear in one place or one text. But you'll get it here a little and there a little as Isaiah said (Isaiah 28:9-10).

7 TREAT THE BIBLE AS GOD'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL TO MAN

Remember that the Bible provides the proper approach toward the acquisition of all knowledge that is discoverable by man. No one can be properly educated except by and through it. Be sure to do what the Bible instructs you to do (James 1:22).

—From “How to Understand the Bible” by Herbert W. Armstrong

Does It Matter How Hard You Work?

The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

“**W**ORKING, IN AMERICA, IS IN DECLINE,” THE *New York Times* recently reported. The title of the article was “The Vanishing Male Worker: How America Fell Behind.” It detailed how the number of men of prime working age—between 25 and 54 years old—who are not working has tripled since the late 1960s.

Polls show that an increasing number of men are simply choosing not to work. Among unemployed men between ages 25 and 54, only 45 percent have looked for a job in the last year. Forty-four percent say jobs are available, but they’re not willing to take them. “Many men, in particular, have decided that low-wage work will not improve their lives, in part because deep changes in American society have made it easier for them to live without working,” the *Times* continued. It cited causes such as increasing government handouts, the decline of marriage and the male-breadwinner role, and “the rise of the Internet, which has reduced the isolation of unemployment.”

Aside from having serious effects on the national economy, self-exemption from labor has serious effects on the *individual* as well.

Does it matter how hard you work? The Bible answers this question for us in clear, absolute terms.

Scripture contains more than 790 references to labor and work. God has a lot to say about the importance of work in developing godly character. The book of Proverbs is especially filled with references to work and industriousness versus laziness.

Jesus Christ was sent to Earth by the Father to WORK (John 9:4; 17:4). Christ describes Himself and the Father in John 5:17 by saying, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” God Almighty Himself and His Son are busy, active Beings who are constantly ACCOMPLISHING and WORKING! And their work is *perfect* (Deuteronomy 32:4). We must follow that example.

Learning this lesson of *diligent work* will provide great reward.

Let’s look to God’s Word for instruction on a right attitude toward work and the rewards that hard work brings.

Work Brings Prosperity

1. Does God want us to prosper in this life? 3 John 2. Does God want every aspect of our lives to prosper abundantly, including our physical health and finances, as well as our spiritual lives? John 10:10. Should we profit from our labors? Proverbs 14:23.

2. Can diligent work make you richer? Proverbs 10:4. But should the attainment of wealth be the ultimate goal of work? Proverbs 23:4-5.

God wants us to prosper abundantly, both spiritually and physically, including financially. The focus of our labors, however, must *not* be financial, because wealth is so short-lived—and wealth, in any case, does not bring happiness. If riches are our primary goal and events cause us to lose our money, such as in the stock market crash of 1929, then we see, for example, as happened then, people committing suicide to get insurance money for their families. If riches fail, we should still have our ultimate goal of obtaining God’s Kingdom securely in place (Matthew 6:33). We do this by keeping God’s commandments and following biblical principles of Christian living, including having a godly approach to and perspective on work and money.

3. Does God intend that we *enjoy* our work and the profits we receive from it? Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:22.

God Commands Work

1. Did God intend for mankind to maintain and beautify the Earth? Genesis 2:15. Was mankind charged with the responsibility of “subduing” the Earth? Genesis 1:26-28.

To “subdue” the Earth means to produce from, develop and care for the plants and animals on Earth; to keep them from getting out of control or overgrown, or falling into deterioration. Man was put on Earth to cultivate and beautify it. But through our sloth and laziness, many areas of the Earth are filthy, disease-ridden and chaotic. We must develop a *willing attitude toward work*.

2. Does God COMMAND us to work? Exodus 20:9.

Verse 10 shows that resting on the Sabbath is a command. But we must not ignore the command that precedes it: to LABOR the other six days of the week!

3. Does the Apostle Paul strongly support this command to work? 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12. If we are fit and able to work, but do not, should we receive public welfare? Verse 10. Is it a SHAME *not* to work when we are able? Verse 14.

4. Are we to become *self-sufficient* through our work? 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

The Revised Standard Version renders verse 12, “so that you may command the respect of outsiders, and be dependent on nobody.”

5. If we work hard in a godly manner, will that provide us the necessities of life? Proverbs 20:13; 28:19.

6. Where can mankind find a good example of an excellent, dedicated worker? Proverbs 6:6-8.

The ant has “no leader, no foreman or chief” (verse 7; Moffatt translation), yet is perhaps the most diligent worker on Earth, with a built-in, programmed

ability to literally *run* from job to job all day long! All of us would do well to learn the lesson God gives us about the ant. But instead, it seems most people have to be constantly supervised to do productive work.

7. What kind of attitude does God expect us to have toward our work? Ecclesiastes 9:10; Luke 17:10.

Benefits for Work, Curses for Laziness

1. Do the hard workers, the “diligent,” become rulers, or leaders, over the slothful? Proverbs 12:24; 22:29.

Good workers are SELF-STARTERS. They produce a good day’s labor for their wages, and require little supervision to do a good, thorough job. They are generally the ones who receive the raises and promotions and are given praise by the owners and upper management. Those who do *not* have a proper, godly work ethic and are lazy, slow, slothful workers are passed over for raises and promotions and end up jealous of their new bosses—the diligent workers who were promoted over them.

2. Do those who refuse to diligently work end up coveting the possessions of hard workers? Proverbs 13:4; 21:25-26.

As Herbert W. Armstrong often said, there are two ways of life: GIVE and GET. The righteous, diligent worker always has the ability to give, and he doesn’t hold back; the slothful, lazy person only greedily covets what others have, but refuses to work for what he wants.

3. Do slothful, lazy people always find an EXCUSE *not* to work? Proverbs 26:13-15. Do lazy people try to *justify* why they can’t work? Verse 16; Proverbs 14:23 (*penury* means *poverty*). Should a little physical discomfort be an excuse *not* to work? Proverbs 20:4. Is laziness habit-forming? Proverbs 19:15. Is a slothful person’s poverty actually caused by a lack of drive and a poor work ethic? Proverbs 6:9-11.

4. What is a “slothead,” or lazy person, like to his employer? Proverbs 10:26.

Employers are extremely irritated by employees who plod along in their job with a ho-hum, same-routine-every-day attitude. We need to work with ENERGY! We need to *grow* in our jobs, studying to *improve* our skills through night classes, books or other training. We need to *produce* and *accomplish*, really *applying* ourselves and showing our employers that we are *thankful* for the work and the income, and that we are trying to do an excellent job. If we will do this, then God will bless us. Otherwise we become “vinegar to the teeth” and “smoke to the eyes” of our employers, and we *lose* God’s blessings.

5. Can we tell how diligent a person is by the appearance of the physical things in his life—for example, his house and the yard or land around it? Ecclesiastes 10:18; Proverbs 24:30-34.

If the paint on the house is peeling, the fences are falling down, and the property is overgrown with weeds, it speaks of the spiritual condition of the owner.

Even in poverty, an able person can keep his property clean and orderly. If the person is handicapped or unable to work due to physical problems, then his family and friends should help maintain a godly and orderly home and yard. There are always proper answers to difficulties if we seek them diligently.

Judged by Our Works

1. Are we to be *obedient* to our employers and *please* them with our work? Titus 2:9-10. Should we *avoid* arguing with or *talking back* to our employers?



CRAFTSMANSHIP
The benefits of hard, high-quality work are many.

Verse 9. Must we be *loyal* to our employers, not *stealing* from them by slacking off in our work? Verse 10.

Purloining means to appropriate wrongfully and often by a breach of trust, showing disloyalty.

2. When we have a job, who are we actually working for? Colossians 3:22-24. Should we *fear* God if we are bad employees? Verses 22 and 25.

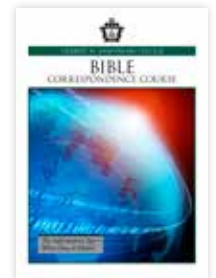
3. Does God know our works now? Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15. Does it matter what our “works” are in this life? 1 Corinthians 3:8-15.

4. We are saved by God’s grace (Acts 15:11; Ephesians 2:5, 8), but are we REWARDED with our eternal inheritance because of our “works” in this life? Matthew 16:27; Revelation 22:12.

Yes, eternal life is God’s gift to you *if* certain conditions are fulfilled, paid for by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But what you will be doing forever—what you are *qualified* for—depends on you! That’s why your future job in the God Family is the “reward” of the saved—it must be *earned*! God has eternal life, and He does good works. When He gives you eternal life, you will do good works too! What you do for all eternity depends on your spiritual works *now*, in this life!

We must work hard at our earthly jobs and develop godly character and good work habits. That hard work will pay off greatly in later years and set your feet right now on a path filled with God’s blessings!

Above all, it is through applying the work ethic in our *spiritual lives* that we will secure our individual places in God’s soon-coming government! As Philipians 2:12 says, “[W]ORK out your own salvation with fear and trembling”!



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 100,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.



Russia and China digging into Latin America

RUSSIA AND CHINA WANT business partners, resources and friends that share their desire to end the era of United States dominance. In Latin America, they are finding all three in abundance.

From 2000 to 2009, trade between China and Latin America increased by 1,200 percent. China is on track to surpass the European Union next year, becoming the region's second-largest trade partner.

On January 8, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to invest \$250 billion in Latin America. "China has taken over the inside lane of economic development in Latin America with an ambitious 10-year regional investment plan on the scale of the Marshall Plan," Latin America expert Juan de Onis wrote on January 14 (*World Affairs*).

China has also apparently broken ground on a \$50 billion canal through Nicaragua, billed as the world's largest engineering project. Its width and depth will dwarf the dimensions of the Panama Canal, several hundred miles south, allowing Nicaragua to accommodate modern freighters that Panama cannot.

Meanwhile, Russia has reestablished and surpassed the connections to Latin America that the Soviet Union held during the Cold War, especially during recent months as Moscow has been isolated for its violent intervention in Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin toured Latin America in July, visiting Cuba, Argentina, Brazil and Nicaragua, meeting with 11 regional leaders and signing major agriculture,

investment, security and military deals.

The Russian military has sent bombers on patrols over the Caribbean, landing them in Venezuela and Nicaragua, has held joint military drills with Venezuela, and has docked ships at Cuban and Venezuelan ports. Meanwhile, Russian gas giant Gazprom is investing heavily in Argentina and Bolivia, and Russia's state-run Rosneft oil firm is increasingly dynamic in Venezuela.

"It can ... be argued that Russia is more influential in Latin America now than it ever was during the Cold War," Moscow-based analyst Andrew Korybko wrote in August in the *Oriental Review*.

China and Russia are both driving deep into Latin America. But there are no major signs of the two conflicting. Instead, they are collaborating.

To support the China-funded Nicaragua Canal project, Russia has promised military backing to ensure safety during construction. Starting this year, Nicaragua will host a Russian base, and Moscow's fleets will patrol the country's Pacific and Caribbean coasts. In July, Putin and Xi crossed paths in Brazil to unveil a new-world "development bank" to challenge U.S.-dominated financial institutions.

This all adds up to a significant trend: a Russo-Chinese

advance into the Western Hemisphere. Yet the U.S. has reacted with indifference.

But many people are overlooking an even more important reaction: Europe's.

For more than five centuries, Europe and Latin America have been bound together as sister continents by both religion and language. This means European powers have enjoyed preferential economic treatment among most nations of the region. At present, the European Union remains Latin America's second-largest trade partner (after the United States). Yet Europe's influence in the region has slipped slightly as the ambitions of Beijing and Moscow have swelled.

Timed close to Putin's visit to Cuba, Pope Francis sent letters to the leaders of Cuba and the United States that helped normalize relations between Washington and the Communist dictatorship. The intervention also gave the Catholic Church renewed influence over Cuba and undercut some of Putin's leverage. In January, the pope appointed five new Latin American cardinals, which he said displayed "the indissoluble links" between Rome and Latin America.

Watch for China and Russian's deep digging in Latin America to finally strike a nerve in Europe. Under Vatican guidance, Europe will come roaring back as the major power in Latin America.





Poor but happy

RUSSIA IS AT ODDS WITH THE West over the war in Ukraine, its currency has fallen by about 50 percent against the United States dollar in the past year, and inflation has sent consumer food costs soaring. But you wouldn't know any of this looking at the Russians' happiness index.

At the end of 2014, Russians were more than twice as happy as they were a year earlier, according to a poll by WIN/Gallup International. The poll calculated Russia's "happiness index" by subtracting the percentage of respondents claiming to be unhappy from those reporting to live happy lives. The number jumped from 24 percent in late 2013 to 59 percent in late 2014.

According to the *Moscow Times*, "The pollster suggested the spike in Russians' happiness may have been connected to a series of events that boosted many people's spirits last year—such as the Winter Olympics in Sochi and the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, accompanied by a 'general rise of patriotism,' a report on the pollster's website said" (February 4).

As the Russian ruble and the average person's standard of living have fallen, many in the West speculated that the

discomfort will become more than the Russians can withstand, turning them against President Vladimir Putin.

But the poll shows that Russians are not about to demand regime change. The timing actually implies that the country's surge in happiness is not in spite of Putin's increasingly aggressive foreign policy, but because of it.

Could Russia invade the Baltic states?

THE FORMER SECRETARY general of NATO has warned that Russia may invade Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania to test whether the West will uphold the North Atlantic Treaty and defend its allies with force.

The *Telegraph* reported the warning by Anders Fogh Rasmussen on February 5. Rasmussen detailed Russian President Vladimir Putin's desire to reach beyond Ukraine into the Baltic states to test the West's resolve.

Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that an attack on one NATO member is an attack on all NATO members, and that they will respond against that threat, potentially with armed force. Article 5 has been enacted once, following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S. Had Ukraine been a NATO

Will World War II finally end for Russia and Japan?

FOR SEVEN DECADES, RELATIONS between Russia and Japan have suffered due to a dispute over the status of an island chain off Japan's north coast, known in Japan as the Northern Territories and in Russia as the Southern Kurils. The dispute has prevented Moscow and Tokyo from signing a postwar peace treaty. But on February 7, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to resolve the argument and to sign a peace treaty that will finally bring a formal end to World War II for Russia and Japan.



"As I have agreed with [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, it is abnormal that Japan and Russia have not concluded a peace treaty," Abe said at a meeting in Tokyo. "I am determined to continue working tenaciously on this issue ... concluding a peace treaty with Russia."

Officially, Japan is still dependent on the U.S. for its national security. But Tokyo has seen what American security guarantees have meant to its other allies. It appears Abe wants to stake Japan's survival on Moscow, not Washington.



member when Russia attacked it last year, the treaty would require all NATO member nations to come to its aid.

The *Telegraph* said the fear is that Putin could stir up a foggy, unconventional conflict in Estonia or Latvia where large populations of Russian minorities live, using troops with no insignia like those who destabilized Ukraine. Some NATO countries could use the ambiguity to downplay the attack and thus maintain their commercial and cultural ties with Russia.

The *Telegraph* noted that Europeans can hardly defend themselves without America's help. Russia's defense budget has increased 80 percent since 2010, while that of

NATO countries has plummeted 20 to 40 percent over the same period.

European NATO members see the need to reverse this trend. NATO announced on February 5 that it will set up six command posts along its eastern borders, along with a rapid reaction force of 5,000 troops. Air and sea forces, special operations units, and two more land brigades will be tasked with supporting the rapid response force. This will devote nearly 30,000 NATO troops to the eastern border in the event of a major crisis with Russia.



NEW TERRITORY
German Defense Minister
Ursula von der Leyen speaks
with troops in northern Iraq.

Groundbreaking military mission for Germany

GERMANY'S PARLIAMENT agreed on January 29 to deploy up to 100 soldiers to Iraq to train Kurdish troops in the use of German weapons. The soldiers are authorized to defend themselves, but not to support the Kurds in combat. The mission received overwhelming support, with 457

out of Germany's 631 members of parliament voting in favor.

Germany sat out the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, making this military deployment there a groundbreaking decision. Not only that, but the mission marks the first time German troops have deployed to a combat zone

without a United Nations mandate or as part of a NATO mission. Germany's constitution states that German soldiers can only deploy abroad "under a system of mutual collective security." The lack of a UN or NATO cover for this mission has led some to say that it is illegal. Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said she has "full confidence in our constitutional department." However, some of parliament's constitutional experts have expressed concerns.

It is beyond dispute that Germany's Iraq deployment constitutes another relaxation of the strict controls Germany has imposed on its armed forces since World War II. U.S. President Barack Obama told a press conference fact that Berlin's equipping and training of Kurdish forces represents "a significant milestone in its foreign policy." Germany is gradually increasing the capability of its armed forces. For more information on where this is leading, read "Stepping Into America's Footprint" from our January issue. (theTrumpet.com/go/12251).

The de facto leader of Europe

GERMAN CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande forged a peace deal for Ukraine with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the early hours of February 12 after an all-night negotiating session in Minsk, Belarus. Merkel's role in the negotiations confirms her as the de facto leader of Europe. Ahead of the negotiations, Stratfor's George Friedman wrote, "In Europe, Germany is playing a leading but aggressive role. In Ukraine, it is playing a leading but conciliatory role. What is most important is that in both cases, Germany has been forced—more by circumstance than by policy—to play leading roles. This is not comfortable for Germany and certainly not for the rest of Europe" (February 10). For more on what these negotiations could mean, read "Is Angela Merkel Germany's Chamberlain?" (theTrumpet.com/go/12424).

EU steps up opposition to Islamic State

THE EUROPEAN UNION announced on February 6 that it has pledged \$1.1 billion over the next two years to fight the Islamic State and to alleviate the crises in Syria and Iraq. Brussels said most of the money will go toward humanitarian aid, but some will fund anti-radicalization programs to reduce terror financing and the flow of foreign fighters into the area.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the aid package "will strengthen our actions to help restore peace and security in a region that

is so close to us and that has been devastated by terrorism and violence for too long."

In recent months, the scourge of Islamist violence has terrorized Europeans in France, Belgium and Denmark, and the Islamic State has publicly murdered captives by beheading them and burning them alive.

Mogherini said the murder of Jordanian pilot Muath al-Kasasbeh on February 3 is "further proof that terrorism has no boundaries."

On February 9, Mogherini announced, "The

European Union is ready to step up its support for Lebanon to address these challenges." Syria's western neighbor, Lebanon, has been devastated by the Syrian civil war. About 3.2 million people have fled Syria, 1.2 million of whom are now in Lebanon.

The EU has already spent \$3.8 billion in this volatile region since 2011. Watch for it to increase its intervention in the Middle East as the



SOLIDARITY
Jordanians protest
the Islamic State.

Islamic State destabilizes an already out-of-control region.

The lack of action from the U.S. will drive Europe to amass power and project it. As Gerald Flurry explains in his article on page 1, Europe will soon replace America as the leading foreign power in the Middle East.



FALLEN HERO
Iranians mourn
Gen. Allahdadi.

it did,” and the head of the Guard Corps, Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, stated: “The path of the martyr Allahdadi is unstoppable. It will continue until the liberation of the sacred Quds [Jerusalem] and elimination of the Zionist regime as a disgraceful blot in the region. ... These martyrdoms proved the need to stick with jihad.”

Iran has recently become much more open about losing its generals in foreign conflict zones. And it is using those losses to justify further hostility against Israel.

Through its terrorist proxies, which include Hezbollah and Hamas, Iran is capable of sparking violence in Israel, especially Jerusalem. Watch Iran continue to use its fight against the universally hated Islamic State lunatics as a smoke-screen and a justification for increasing its power over the Middle East and intensifying its attack on Israel.

20,000 illegals enter Texas in seven weeks

MORE THAN 20,000 ILLEGAL immigrants crossed into Texas in the first seven weeks of 2015, Texas Governor Greg Abbott told CBS’s *Face the Nation* on February 22. “We all saw what happened on the Texas border last summer, but we need to understand that the problem is not going away,” he stated.

The governor is trying to secure the border by adding “more than 500 Department of Public Safety officers, more Texas Rangers, more technology.” Since the federal government has failed to secure the border with Mexico, the burden has fallen on the states. But as long as illegals feel that the welcome mat is out, they will continue to migrate from poorer countries.

Dozens of U.S. cities have embraced President Barack Obama’s amnesty program by organizing welcoming committees to help illegals adjust to life in America. The cities are working with a group called Welcoming America that helps illegals find employment and housing while “helping people who were born in this country understand and appreciate their new neighbors.” Cities include Chicago, Detroit, New York and St. Louis—but not cities in border states most directly impacted by illegal immigration.

This trend highlights a fundamental disregard for law. It exposes and exacerbates the loss of a common culture. It shows that the very things that define the U.S. as a nation are being chipped away. To learn more about the repercussions, read Stephen Flurry’s article “Borderline Breakdown” at theTrumpet.com/go/11976.

What was an Iranian general doing in Syria?

THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE carried out an air strike on Syrian-controlled portion of the Golan Heights on January 18, killing six Lebanese Hezbollah militants and six Iranian military officers, including Mohammed Allahdadi, a high-ranking general.

Iran claimed that its officers were in Syria only to advise Bashar Assad’s forces in the fight against the Islamic State. Israel asserts

that Iran was lying—and says high-level Hezbollah commanders meeting with high-level Iranian officials indicates future operations against Israel.

Iran has since used the alleged foiled plot against Israel to incite more attacks against Israel. Nasser Sol-tani, a senior commander in Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, vowed, “Israel will certainly pay for what

Britain’s romance with Europe is dying

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN Commission Jean-Claude Juncker compared Britain’s relationship with the European Union to a dying romance on January 18 and called for a “divorce.” This was Juncker’s first public mention of Britain leaving the Union. “People shouldn’t stay together if the conditions aren’t the same as when things started,” he said. “It is easy to fall in love and more difficult to stay together.”

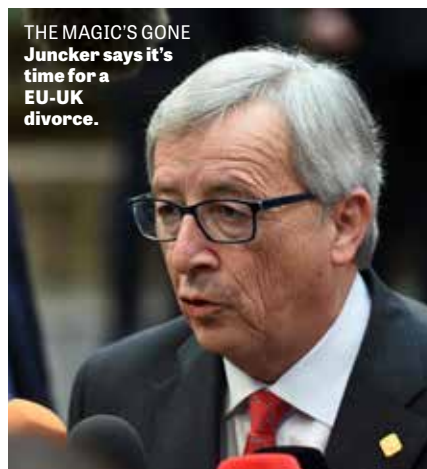
At a meeting with French delegates, Juncker said he was ready to discuss Britain’s demands for treaty change, but made clear that there are “red lines.” One “red line” includes any change

to immigration rules for migrants from Eastern Europe.

In response, Nigel Farage, the leader of UK Independence Party, said: “We want an amicable divorce and a trading relationship to follow.”

Polls show that Britons favor calling it quits too. A December survey found that 31 percent of British adults would choose to stay with the EU, and 42 percent would leave.

Based on Bible prophecy, the *Trumpet* has forecast a



THE MAGIC’S GONE
Juncker says it’s
time for a
EU-UK
divorce.

split between Britain and Europe for decades, as our predecessor the *Plain Truth* did before us. To learn more, read the chapter “Atlantic Rift” in our free booklet *He Was Right* at theTrumpet.com/go/hwr.

46 million: New baseline for food stamps?

FOR 37 MONTHS IN A ROW, more than 46 million Americans received food stamps, according to a February report from the Department of Agriculture. That means more than one in seven Americans rely on the program, at a cost of \$227 billion over that same three-year period.

In a typical month, more than 20 million families draw benefits from the program. The 46.6 million food stamp participants compose 15 percent of the population, a growth of 1,517 percent from 1969, when only 2.8 million people took advantage of the program. During that time period, America's population has only grown by 57 percent.

Ironically, the massive dependence on handouts from the federal government exists as President Barack Obama highlights recent job growth. President Obama claims to have added 10 million jobs since entering office, but the number of people depending on food stamps has increased by almost twice that.

Church of England ordains first female bishop

ON JANUARY 26, THE CHURCH of England ordained its first female bishop. Libby Lane was consecrated in a service at York Minster. Archbishop of York Dr. John Sentamu led the ordination service, which was briefly interrupted by a vicar who shouted, "No! Not in the Bible." This ordination ends the



Stoners rejoice: It's legal in D.C.

ON FEBRUARY 26, WASHINGTON, D.C., BECAME THE NEWEST frontier in the national movement for legalizing recreational marijuana. Adults in the District can now possess 2 ounces, grow up to six plants, and share their crop yields with others—but it is not yet legal to buy or sell the drug.

D.C. follows Colorado, Washington and Alaska in legalizing pot. But policymakers in those states are still working out regulatory structures, and marijuana remains a Schedule 1 narcotic under federal law. That makes its use a federal crime. However, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser says that doesn't matter because the people of the District favor legalization: "We would encourage the Congress to not be so concerned with overturning what 7 in 10 voters said should be the law in the District of Columbia," she said at a February 25 conference.

Concern abounds not just over the contradiction between federal and regional laws, but also over D.C.'s failure to open up legal channels to buy and sell cannabis. In the absence of customary commerce, a "social economy" is expected to take root, and aspects of the illegal trade will inevitably be seedy. "People are going to rush into the breach here and try to take advantage," says Allen St. Pierre, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). "And some will not do it right."

Anglican Church's long, divisive dispute over female bishops. Based on Bible prophecy, the *Trumpet* forecasts that the Church of England's liberal actions will motivate many of its conservative members to return to the Catholic Church. Read "The Church That Swallowed a Church" at theTrumpet.com/go/6760.



Time bomb: Student debt

THE FEDERAL RESERVE Bank of New York says more students are struggling to pay back their loans. At the end of 2014, student loan delinquencies (loans at least 90 days overdue) increased to 11.3 percent, up .2 percent from the previous quarter.

Today there is more than \$1.3 trillion in outstanding student debt, and the average borrower owes \$28,400 upon graduation, says the Project on Student Debt. Seven in 10 seniors who graduated from colleges in 2013 had student loan debt.

And much of that debt may be a time bomb waiting to explode.

In recent years, lawmakers have provided students with options that let them postpone repayment without triggering delinquency or default. And students have been availing themselves of those options like crazy.

One such option, called forbearance, allows students to ignore loans for up to three years. But at the end of the term the debt comes due—and with a nasty surprise for many: principle plus back interest for the forbearance period.

That is why the latest figures from the Education Department are so disturbing. Loan balances in forbearance were about 12.5 percent of the total in 2006. Today they are 16 percent—or approximately \$125 billion worth of the total.

And none of these forbearance loans make it into the Federal Reserve Bank's statistics on delinquencies. They are lying hidden, ready to explode and to wipe out a massive chunk of a generation's personal finances.

The hills 
are alive ... 

What the Mockingbird Taught Me

Sing the song God wrote you to sing.

SPRING HAS RETURNED; THE WORLD IS BURSTING WITH COLOR and light. One recent day, coming home from work, as I approached my front door something caught my attention. There, on the peak of the roof, was a mockingbird, sitting happily, proudly—and singing.

His song mesmerized me. He called a simple tune of perhaps three notes, and repeated three, four or five times. Then he sang a new tune—a single note followed by a trill—three times. Then he sang something else. Then something else again. Each new call delighted me for its uniqueness, its utter dissimilarity to what had preceded it.



JOEL HILLIKER

This bird was displaying—wittingly, it seemed—his unending capacity for new sounds: single chirps of every pitch; trills; warbles; melodies. Perhaps he was showing off—or just enjoying the sound of his own voice—or practicing

—or experimenting—or expressing his joy at the beauty of the evening—or singing to glorify the Creator who gave him a voice. Whatever the reason, it seemed this little creature was being ... *creative*.

Amazing that God took such care to provide this fragile, tiny part of His handiwork with such nobility, such magnificent capability. Later I learned that mockingbirds have a repertoire of some 200 songs. Listening to this one brought a tear to my eye.

I worship the God who made this bird. What an *artisan!* Creating is what God does for work, and He throws His whole heart into it. His ingenuity and creativity are boundless. He has filled His creation with special poetic touches.

He crafted butterflies as tiny marvels of flight engineering—then took pains to paint their wings with patterns of intricate beauty to transform them into fluttering, dancing artwork. To feed us, God developed an infinite variety of fruits and vegetables, each with its own shape, color, aroma, texture and flavor. To serve us, He propagated a multitude of animals with diverse anatomies, abilities and personalities. He raised up mountains that inspire us with their immensity and majesty, even while they shelter wildlife and alter weather patterns. He fashioned lakes to glow and shimmer with reflections of His brilliant skies, even while they sustain myriad aquatic organisms and supply us with life-giving water.

Every millimeter of creation manifests virtuosity—the meticulous work of a Master Scientist, Designer, Engineer, Composer and Artist. All that God does, He does with abundant vibrancy and beauty.



The master Creator wants to build that same mindset *in you*, whom He made in His likeness. He tells you in Colossians 3:23, “Whatsoever you do, *do it heartily*.”

In all your work—in your family, your home, your chores, your job, your activities, your hobbies, your meals, your dress—you have opportunity to cultivate quality, to strive for the superb, and thus to elevate your thinking closer to the mindset of your Maker!

In this world, so often you see people doing things halfway. You see people lackadaisically scraping by, expending as little effort as possible, trying to get the maximum and give the minimum. *Do only what is necessary—and do so grudgingly*, they say. *If you can get away with it, cheat the other guy*.

There is no joy in that way.

God wants us to go *all out*—and then to add that extra creative touch, that splash of special. He wants us to take pleasure in doing *more* than is required (Luke 17:7-10). To view any task before us as a chance to beat back darkness, to reverse decay. To seize every opportunity to shine, to excel, to labor in a way that reflects God’s mindset and gives Him glory.

Think of a simple task like mowing the lawn. On one end of the spectrum is the lazy homeowner who, after complaints from the neighbors, resentfully hustles through the job, cutting corners and leaving mounds of dead clippings behind. On the other is the professional who sees the green within the baseball stadium as an artist views a blank canvas, who plans and executes his assignment with diligence and pride, and transforms that field into a marvel of geometric elegance.

In all your labor, make the effort to advance toward the godly end of that spectrum—and take note of how your thinking transforms as you do. Give your customer an added perk he didn’t pay for. Put some extra analysis into that paper. Add a special touch to that report for your boss. Surprise your family with a trip to the park. Light the candles for that special evening meal. Put a little flourish in the calligraphy on that thank-you note. Do the extra things that put smiles on other people’s faces.

Sing the song God wrote for you to sing, and sing it with joy! In all you do, look for ways to glorify the Creator who gave you a voice, and who wants to make you in His very own image—the image of the Master Artisan, who does everything with all His heart. ■



“These are leaders who live and think only in terms of the moment and are blind to the lessons history would have taught them.”

Paul Rooks Kentucky

The March edition of the *Trumpet* focused on four dangers affecting America: its diplomatic deal with Cuba, its nanny state mentality, its welfare abuse and its quiet infiltration by communism. Since we went to press, you’ve weighed in.

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The North Korean Threat Intensifies
theTrumpet.com/go/8490



King Abdullah’s Death Fulfills ‘End-Time Prophecies,’ Say Shiites
theTrumpet.com/go/12373



The Ogallala Aquifer: Is America Emptying Its Fuel Tank?
theTrumpet.com/go/10887

CORRECTION The soldiers depicted in “The Amazing Durability of the Russians” (March 2015) were German, not Russian. The *Trumpet* regrets the error.

A dangerous deal

This Cuban deal is another example of the childish thinking of leaders who have not been taught history (“The Deadly Dangerous U.S.-Cuba Deal,” March, theTrumpet.com/go/12381). These leaders live and think only in terms of the moment and are blind to the lessons history would have taught them. They seek, in far too many instances, to hold on to their own personal offices of power and source of wealth. Without a grasp of history we cannot know who are our enemies or our friends. This is dooming us to defeat.

Paul Rooks Kentucky

Communist tactics

This is an excellent summary of how a superpower has been brought down because her people have forgotten God (“Has America Been Influenced by Communism?,” March, theTrumpet.com/go/12385). The icing on this American Communist cake is the compelling evidence you mentioned connecting the current president with his real history and parentage to the big names of the Communist Party U.S.

David Wright Australia

This is a great article delineating the history of Communist tactics. They are, as J. Edgar Hoover said, “masters of deceit.” It is significant to me that the one major power to recognize Russia back then was the U.S. under Franklin D. Roosevelt in November of 1933, thus giving them breathing room to survive. He also opened our universities to Communist professors. This resulted in America’s cultural revolution of the ’60s—a generation of

influence. This influence, along with the nostrum of evolution, is most responsible for lack of faith in our Creator in this day and age. One might call it the advocacy of doubt.

Charles Orleans Wisconsin

Government cheese

My cousin works with the food program at the public schools that allows students free or reduced lunches (“Living on Triple-Crème Gourmet Government Cheese,” March, theTrumpet.com/go/12384). The strange thing is, you fill out a form with your wages, but you do not have to bring proof, and no one checks to make sure you qualify. My cousin said she knows several people living in \$150,000 homes (very nice homes in Kansas) whose kids are getting free or reduced lunches. My husband and I only qualified for loan on an \$85,000 home, but we did not qualify for food stamps. Something does not seem right! I definitely think there is a lot of fraud going on.

Lisa Yowell Kansas

Is hard work worth it?

Too many Americans are lazy and spend more time looking for handouts than jobs (“Choose: Hard Work? Or Comfy Gratification?,” March, theTrumpet.com/go/12393). The truth is that hard work doesn’t pay off as it once did. I see many who work three or four part-time jobs and still don’t make enough to live on. What this article fails to mention is that at one time people were paid what they were worth, but that is no longer the case here. As you alluded to, there are many reasons for intransigent poverty. “Laziness” is only one of them.

Mark Hicks Ohio

Seduced by *Fifty Shades of Grey*

How is a story about bondage supposed to be liberating to women? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

A NAIVE WOMAN IS DRAWN INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH A mysterious, sexy billionaire with a dark side. Against her better judgment, she allows him to seduce her deeper and deeper into his world and to coerce her into degrading acts.

The basic plot of *Fifty Shades of Grey* also serves as a metaphor for what is happening to millions of people entering its world of dark, abusive, demeaning, perverse sexual practices.

It started in 2012 with a self-published e-book that eventually became a trilogy. Overnight it became the United Kingdom's fastest-selling paperback in history. It has been translated into 52 languages, and has sold over 100 million copies.

Moviemakers rushed to cash in. The *Fifty Shades of Grey* movie smashed box office expectations. Released in time for Valentine's Day—as if it was the perfect date movie—it raked in more than \$94 million in the United States alone over the four-day weekend. Establishment news programs, respected publications and popular websites rushed for an audience share by reporting on the movie as if it were just another *Star Wars* installment.

If you want a snapshot of the moral climate in America and Britain, look at the frenzy over *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Just don't look too close. This entertainment juggernaut has quite suddenly brought sadomasochism into the morning shows, the newsmagazine on your coffee table and your local school hallways.

Women are collectively paying millions to absorb its message—a message that on its face is explicitly damaging to women. The story sends deeply confusing and toxic signals, glossing terrible evil with an alluring, mysterious veneer. It dusts violence against women with glamour. It entices women to subject themselves to unhealthy relationships and/or to participate in harmful sexual practices. A study published in *Journal of Women's Health* last summer found that readers of the series are much likelier than nonreaders to be in abusive relationships.

Somehow the purveyors of this entertainment say this is *empowering* and *liberating* women. That is ironic, when its overt theme is subjugation and bondage. Ask a woman who has been abused or raped how empowered she feels by it.

In a truly galling segment on its daily news show *This Morning*, CBS News audaciously conflated the twisted sexual “submission” depicted in *Fifty Shades* with the “submission” wedded wives give to their husbands under God's laws for marriage in the Bible. In reality, the Bible is absolutely contrary to everything *Fifty Shades* represents. This film exemplifies society's unrelenting stampede *away* from biblical morality and truth.

In a literal sense, *Fifty Shades* exposes the true nature of the sexual revolution: It is alluring—and it leads to bondage. As Romans 6:16 says, sin enslaves people. Evil is a drug. People

become hooked and constantly crave stronger doses. *Fifty Shades* is drawing millions deeper into that dark world.

The Bible commands men to curb our lusts. It directs us to commit to family. It commands us to *protect* women and children, to *safeguard* them from predators. *Fifty Shades of Grey* wallows in lust. It ignores family. It idealizes sexual predation. It sends the message that women want to be dominated sexually. It glamorizes abusive, repugnant selfishness. The success of this series demonstrates and accelerates society's efforts to exempt men from our biblically mandated responsibilities toward women and children, and to encourage us to gratify our appetites, however wicked, without thought to consequences.

The Bible contains the viewpoint of the Creator of sex. He commands that it express nothing but *love*, *outgoing concern* and *affection* between a committed husband and wife. (Herbert W. Armstrong wrote beautifully about this in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*—we strongly recommend this book and will send you a copy for free.) *Fifty Shades of Grey* is the exact opposite. *This* is the war on women.

The husband-wife relationship is a human-level embodiment of the beautiful relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:32). The “submission” enjoined in scriptures like Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18 and 1 Peter 3:1 has absolutely nothing in common with the perversions of sadomasochism—and if the people at CBS were honest, they would admit that.

The Bible *never* permits husbands to abuse their wives or treat them unlovingly. God commands a husband to *love* and *honor* his wife, to give himself in sacrifice for her (Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19 and 1 Peter 3:7). He is to be her self-sacrificing leader, putting her needs before his own. And his authority is *not* absolute. His wife submits “as is fit in the Lord,” within the bounds of God's law of love, never contrary to it (Acts 5:29).

Nothing upholds the honor and dignity of women like the truth of God. Right now, nothing is bruising and staining it quite like *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Society has discarded God's absolute morals and embraced a world where everything is a shade of gray. There is darkness in everything, and it holds the world in its thrall. But there is no darkness at all in God (1 John 1:5). He tells us to flee fornication, to come out of evil, and to walk in the light. He wants to break the chains of sin on your mind (Isaiah 61:1).

This truth *should* be self-evident: There is such a thing as evil—and *Fifty Shades* is wretched, dark evil. Don't be seduced by it. Stay away from bondage. As Jesus said in John 8, “[Y]e shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”



taught, “opens up and lays bare the inner man.” No human being naturally wants to experience that. Yet, that is precisely what we need most to be a success spiritually.

“Too often men have applied some different meaning to the scriptures that reproved them. They have passed right over some scriptures that have corrected and rebuked them. Instead they studied diligently to find some other scripture into which they could read a meaning that would justify their course of action,” Mr. Armstrong wrote confidently. This is a fact of man’s history with the Bible. What is the result? The mind-numbing confusion we see in religion today.

“Today we have hundreds of interpretations of the Bible. But you never hear of hundreds of interpretations of a biology textbook. Why? Because biology textbooks do not rebuke and correct men,” stated Mr. Armstrong with incredible insight. Every man, woman and child should see the Bible as the most important textbook in human history and then study it—not question it.

There is an important spiritual dimension of this issue that we must remember. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, “The natural man [speaking of the natural-born, unconverted mind] receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” God’s truth is revealed by God’s Spirit. It requires the Holy Spirit to open up a human mind to understanding God’s revelation (John 16:13).

“When we receive the Holy Spirit—when the mind becomes Spirit-led—then through this supernatural process of God, spiritual knowledge is revealed and the spiritual mind can begin to understand,” Mr. Armstrong explained. “And the conditions in the Bible for receiving God’s Holy Spirit are two: Repent and believe. But repent means more than being sorry. It means a complete yielding to the will of God expressed in his Word. It is a complete willingness to accept and to do what it teaches, no matter what the cost, the persecution, the sacrifice or the effort.”

Are you confused about the Bible, what it means and how it applies to your life? You can clear up the confusion. “First surrender to God and the authority of His Word. Forsake your ways, your thoughts and those of the society in this world. Then do as God says and begin to study the Bible,” Mr. Armstrong explained. You can understand the Bible if you procure one, crack it open and honestly and sincerely begin reading to be corrected, reproved and instructed. ■

How do we know the Bible was accurately preserved?

Which translation is the best to study? Find the answers to these questions in our article series at www.pcog.org/KingJamesBible.



Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief

Gerald Flurry appears each week on *The Key of David* explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. The program is also available at keyofdauid.com.



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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite

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

Direct TV

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

Dish Network

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

Nationwide Cable

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

Alabama, Birmingham

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

Montgomery

WBMM-DT/WVCF-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage

KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun

Fairbanks

KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau

KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix

KPPX 5:00, Fri;
KAZT 8:00, Sun

Yuma

KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, El Dorado

KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

Fayetteville

KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith

KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro

KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers

KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Springdale

KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield

KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

Chico

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

El Centro

KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

Eureka

KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles

KPXN 6:00, Fri;
TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Monterey

KION 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs

KCQW/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Redding

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

Sacramento

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

Salinas

KION 9:30, Sun

San Diego

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

San Francisco

KKFX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara-Santa Maria

KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Sun City-Menifee

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Colorado, Denver

KPXC 5:00, Fri

Grand Junction

KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Montrose

KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford

WHPX 6:00, Fri

Florida, Gainesville

WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville

WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

Miami

WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando

WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City

WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Pensacola

WFGX 7:30, Sun

Tallahassee

WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/
WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Tampa

WXPX 6:00, Fri

West Palm Beach

WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany

WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun

Atlanta

WPXA 6:00, Fri

Augusta-Aiken

WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick

WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus

WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun

Macon

WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun

Savannah

WGSA-DT 9:30, Sun

Thomasville

WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo

Chan. 54 6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed

Kauai Ho'Ike

Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Aka-

ku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Oahu

Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat
Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

Idaho, Boise

KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Idaho Falls

KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Pocatello

KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Twin Falls

KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington

WROI-DT 8:30, Sun

Chicago

WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU

9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.29:30, Sun
Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri
Des Moines KFPM 5:00, Fri
Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun
Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun
Kansas, Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun
Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun
Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA-DT 8:30, Sun
Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
Lafayette KADN 7:30, Sun; KATC-DT 8:30, Sun
Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland WPME 7:30, Sun; 7:00, Mon-Fri
Presque Isle WPBQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPX 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KWSW/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WBG 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WBG 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun
Helena KMTF-DT 8:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun; WPXN 6:00, Fri; WZME-TV 7:00, Sun; WZME-TV 8:00, Tue-Fri
Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun

North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGXP 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMM 8:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMM 8:30, Sun
Fargo WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMM 8:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KAUT 8:30, Sun; KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun
Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KBWB/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun; TVCLT-Bilingual, 9:30 Sun
Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVMY 10:00, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPRX 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 6:30, Sun; 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 9:30, Sun
Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Superior KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWYF/KFNB-DT 8:30, Sun
Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Riverton KWYF/KFNB-DT 8:30, Sun

BRITAIN AND EUROPE
Britain, Europe, the Middle East and Africa CBS Reality 8:00 B.S.T., Sun

CANADA
Nationwide satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21:11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Nationwide cable
 WGN 8:00 ET, Sun
 Discovery 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
 Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
 Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun
Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun
Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun
Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun
Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver
 CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; CILT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun
Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVMY 10:00, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon WUHF 8:30, Sun

CARIBBEAN
Regional satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun
Bahamas Discovery Chan. 26, 6:30, Sun
 FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA
Regional satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun
Mexico TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun; WGN 7:00, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

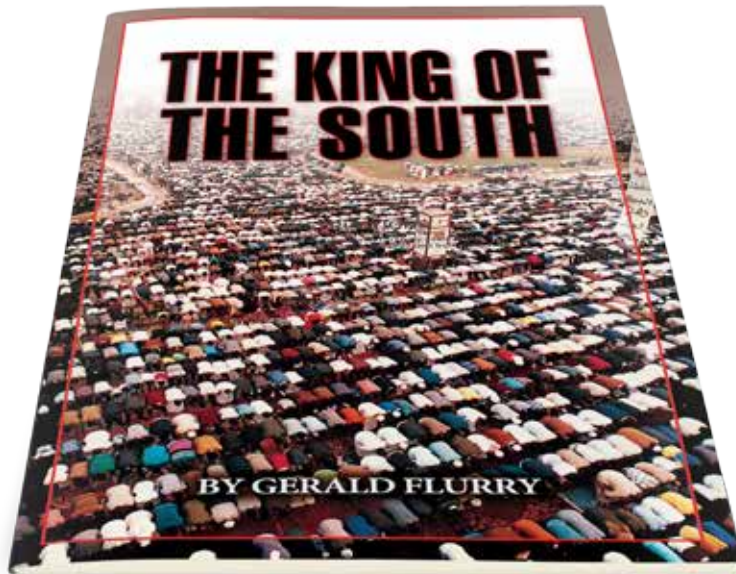
AUSTRALASIA
Australia
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 10:00, Sat
Perth WTV, 11:30, Sun/Wed
New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV49:30 PHT, Sun

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