

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

Axis of authoritarians

**The inspiring truth
abortionists should know**

**God's miraculous work
and a wonder!**

Sodom and Gomorrah proved

What is true repentance?



**How German industry
is forging a military
superpower**

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**even a marvellous
work and a wonder:**
for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the
understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.”

—ISAIAH 29:14

THE KEY
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God's Miraculous Work and a Wonder

God wants your life to be full of wonder! This will energize and greatly motivate you. Here is how you can achieve it.

ISAIAH 29:14 IS A SPECIFIC FORECAST ABOUT THESE LATTER days—the times we are living in right now—regarding a terrible tragedy and a stunning success.

Both the tragedy and the positive news involve God's own people, those whom He has called to do His very work in this world. But the lessons of this powerful prophecy apply to anyone willing to listen.

The tragedy is that most of God's own people would *turn away from Him*. This teaches us something crucial about the human nature we all possess.



GERALD FLURRY

However, Isaiah also foretold that there would be a small remnant of faithful saints with whom God would be pleased. That remnant would accomplish something supremely important.

Notice what Isaiah wrote about these people: "Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid" (Isaiah 29:14). God is talking about His own Church here. He tells us that He is going to do something extraordinary with this little remnant.

He is putting *dual emphasis* on what this remnant Church would do by calling it not just a *work*—but also a *WONDER*.

The word *wonder* means something stupendously done or accomplished; a phenomenon; a miracle or act of God; an event causing astonishment, admiration and joy. It can refer to a feeling of amazement or wonderment. As a verb it means to be awestruck, to stand aghast, to be seized or filled with wonder. If something is *wonderful* it is awe-inspiring, extraordinary, astonishing, spectacular, magnificent, divine. The thesaurus gives several synonyms: thunderstruck, spellbound, amazement, startling, staggering.

The Bible is filled with wonders. And so is God's work on Earth today! God calls the work of His Church a *WONDER*! This work causes joy and wonder in people's lives. God isn't just saying that—He means it. His work is full of spectacular *WONDER*!

We need this wonder in our lives. God has created man to be successful, doing amazingly good deeds and accomplishing great things. Look at the Seven Wonders of the World. Yet they are physical wonders. We need God's *spiritual* wonder in our minds to be galvanized to do the great deeds God expects His people to do.

You can prove where this "marvellous work and a wonder" is. In fact, God *expects* you to prove it.

A Sealed Book

The context of Isaiah 29:14 is about the great majority of God's people going astray. "Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink" (verse 9). This is about God's people, who were spiritually sober but have become "drunk" on *false doctrines*. They are in a terrible spiritual condition in these latter days.

"For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered" (verse 10). Their eyes were once opened to God's marvelous truth—this *WONDER*! But God has closed their eyes because they are far from Him. This is a colossal change in God's own people that deeply disturbs Him.

"And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is *sealed*, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is *sealed*" (verse 11). These people *did* understand God's Word; they had His revelation. But they turned away from Him, and the Bible became *sealed* to them. After they had known so much, they could no longer understand it!

WHEN YOU HAVE THE BIBLE SEALED, THAT IS THE ULTIMATE CATASTROPHE! So many people today are confused, for example, about all the prophets of the Old Testament—the former prophets, major prophets and minor prophets. One man who was an evangelist in God's own Church said the prophets were mainly history. That is not true! Prophets wrote those books for the purpose of *prophesying*. They are *filled* with prophecy! God desperately wants us to understand this because, as Herbert W. Armstrong always taught, those books are for *OUR DAY*. *Ninety percent of prophecy is for today!* It is occurring right now. Yet right at the time when it is more relevant than ever, that truth has become *sealed* to many people who at one time understood it.

What a tragedy! In Revelation 5, there is a vision of the Bible being sealed, "And no man [one] in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon" (verse 3). And the Apostle John wrote, "And I *WEPT MUCH*, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book ..." (verse 4). Yes—the Bible being sealed is something to *WEEP* about!

But then, in verse 5, "one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof." The Lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ, could unseal the book. And He promises to do so in this end time.

Did you know that the book of Revelation has been unsealed? God has revealed the meaning of this book. If He hadn't, we wouldn't be able to prophesy from Revelation as we do. (Request a free copy of our booklet *Unveiled at Last: The Royal Book of Revelation*.)

Where has the Bible been unsealed? God says it is your responsibility to prove this to yourself. It's in the Bible. And the Bible interprets itself, so people can prove these truths if they are willing.

You are going to be a much more motivated person if you have this magnificent wonder. You will be inspired, stirred and moved to do something terrific in your life and for God!

Full of Wonder

Now notice the verse right before Isaiah 29:14: "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men" (verse 13). These people were *close* to God, but then they "removed their heart" from Him. This is terribly upsetting to God! Then He says, "Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people" Now, only a little flock, a small remnant, is doing God's work. Despite so many people leaving Him, God is still going to do amazing things with that group—so amazing it will be a mind-staggering wonder to your mind!

Are you a part of a marvelous work and a wonder? God's work is filled with excitement, vision and a vivid picture of the future! This is a spiritual phenomenon, and it should fill you with 10,000 times more wonder than the Seven Wonders of the World.

In the first-century era of God's Church, there was a deacon named Stephen who was "full of faith and of the Holy [Spirit]" (Acts 6:5). This man did a great work for God. Notice: "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did *great wonders and miracles* among the people" (verse 8). Stephen was full of faith and God's power! He was a human being, yet God was able to do great wonders and miracles through him!

God wants to fill YOU with wonder. That is what He did with Stephen, and that is what He does with His people today.

Do you have wonder in your life? Are you doing a work that fills you with magnificent vision and wonder? If you do, you become a visionary in the right way. We should want to understand Bible prophecy and all the visions of the Bible.

God's work is a **WONDER WORK**. This wonder is so much greater than even the Seven Wonders of the World because it inspires and motivates you to do great things for God and yourself all the time.

What a tragedy that so many of God's own people have lost that wonder in this end time.

Habakkuk's Double Wonder

Jesus Christ prophesied that there would be seven eras of God's Church from the time of Christ in the first century down to this last century. You can read about these eras in Revelation 2 and 3. (Prove this truth by reading my book *The True History of God's True Church*. All of our literature is free.)

Today we are in the last era, known as the Laodicean era (Revelation 3:14-22). God's people in this end time have become Laodicean, or spiritually lukewarm. God is going to correct

them severely if they do not heed His message.

These lukewarm people rejected the revelation that God had given to Herbert W. Armstrong. We fought a six-year court battle with them to receive the copyrights for Mr. Armstrong's works, primarily *Mystery of the Ages*.

Mystery of the Ages is the most important book on Earth next to the Bible because it is a synopsis of what is in the Bible. It reveals *seven great mysteries* that this world doesn't understand. The Bible is a mystery to the world. God wants to remove those mysteries. He wants everything to be **UNSEALED**. He wants to give us the truth—if we will only accept it! He wants to fill our minds with these visions and these wonders in His work and in the Bible. That is wonderful understanding, and it is made plain in *Mystery of the Ages*.



The copyright battle we fought for *Mystery of the Ages* was SPECIFICALLY PROPHESED in the book of Habakkuk, one of the minor prophets. This book is *not just history*—it is for OUR DAY! As it says in Habakkuk 2:3, "... AT THE END IT SHALL SPEAK."

Habakkuk wrote, "The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity [lawlessness], and cause me to behold grievance [injustice]? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife [or, a lawsuit] and contention [a personal or legal contest]" (Habakkuk 1:1-3). The language in this passage is that of a legal battle—a lawsuit. For six years, we had to strive at the law with the organization that owned the copyrights to Mr. Armstrong's works. Righteous men were being encompassed by unrighteous men, led by an evil man within God's own Church (verse 4). That was a contentious battle! And for six years, justice was perverted just as Habakkuk prophesied.

Yet in the midst of that contention, God's little flock, led by a man who was following God, did amazing wonders! The very next verse reads, "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and **WONDER MARVELLOUSLY**: for *I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you*" (verse 5). This verse is an important and inspiring verse. And remember, it is within the context of the legal battle over God's truth.

The Hebrew expression translated "wonder marvellously" means "WONDER, WONDER." It is about a *double wonder*! GOD'S

FAITHFUL REMNANT COULD NOT RECEIVE JUSTICE FROM THE COURTS—SO GOD DELIVERED IT PERSONALLY!

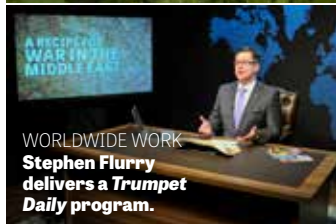
God is telling His rebellious Church that He will use a faithful remnant to deliver this “double wonder” in the last days—but they won’t have the faith to believe it! That is how alienated they are from God. God is warning them, and they ought to heed!

Habakkuk 1:5 is a fulfillment of Isaiah 29:14! It is a powerful message for all of us about a wonder work.

The Two Wonders, Explained

Another scripture expands on these wonders and helps you understand them more deeply. “For the STONE shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it” (Habakkuk 2:11). Physically, this verse doesn’t make sense; you can’t even understand it. But God’s faithful remnant *does* understand it!

Habakkuk 2:11 is very important to comprehend. God has to reveal to us what all this means. *It is the single greatest revelation God has given to His Church during this Laodicean era.* It inspires and stirs us as perhaps no other verse in the Bible!



As I wrote in my booklet on Habakkuk (request a free copy), the “stone” in this verse is Jesus Christ; He is “the stone of Israel” (Genesis 49:24).

Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church, and He is *crying out* to His faithful remnant. From where is He crying? “Out of the wall.” *Stone, wall, beam* and *timber* are all building materials. God actually has a physical *house* on Earth today from which He is crying out—but this is primarily referring to the *spiritual* house of God, which is the Church of God.

The Hebrew word translated “beam” means to join together or connect; it is derived from a root that means “to fasten” and signifies “a connecting girder.” The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says it is “the cross beam or the main rafter connecting the timbers

in the walls.” The beam brings everything together.

Prophetically, the “beam” in this verse is referring to *Mystery of the Ages*. Everyone needs to read and study *Mystery of the Ages* because that is how important it is!

The story of how we received the copyright to that book is truly a WONDER! (You can read about it in our free book *Raising the Ruins*.) In fact, that copyright victory is the *second* of the “double wonder” of Habakkuk 1:5.

The *first* part of that double wonder relates back to the “stone” of Habakkuk 2:11. Right at the end of our six-year court case we received a *physical stone*—a rock that Mr. Armstrong had used as a “prayer rock” at the beginning of the Philadelphia era of God’s Church. As I explain in my book *The New Throne of David*, that stone is a symbol of Jesus Christ. It is closely associated with the throne on which Christ will sit as King of kings, called “the throne of David” (Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32). That stone, and the vision it symbolizes, is truly a WONDER!

For generations, God preserved the throne of David in a royal line that ruled over some of the physical descendants of Israel. In this end time, however, God moved that throne to His own Church. He saw corruption and pollution in that throne, and He had to give a NEW throne of David to His Church to prepare for the return of Jesus Christ! Now, God’s own people will be able to present Christ with a throne, not from a corrupt source, but a throne that has been ruled from righteously and lawfully. That is how God wants it, so it can be presented properly.

The new stone is a symbol of the very throne of David. (Request my book *The New Throne of David* for more information. It is the most inspiring book we have ever written of the truths God has revealed.) Mr. Armstrong explained the “stone of destiny” in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (which we will send you free at your request), but you must follow that up with *The New Throne of David* to get the whole story.

This understanding, combined with *Mystery of the Ages*, fulfills the inspiring prophecy of Habakkuk 1:5. We are talking about a double wonder: Mr. Armstrong’s most important life’s work, *Mystery of the Ages*, and a new throne for Jesus Christ to sit on!

Read *Mystery of the Ages* together with *The New Throne of David*, and this will all be clear to you. I assure you it will. If you read and study these two books and truly understand them, it will fill you with an unparalleled wonder!

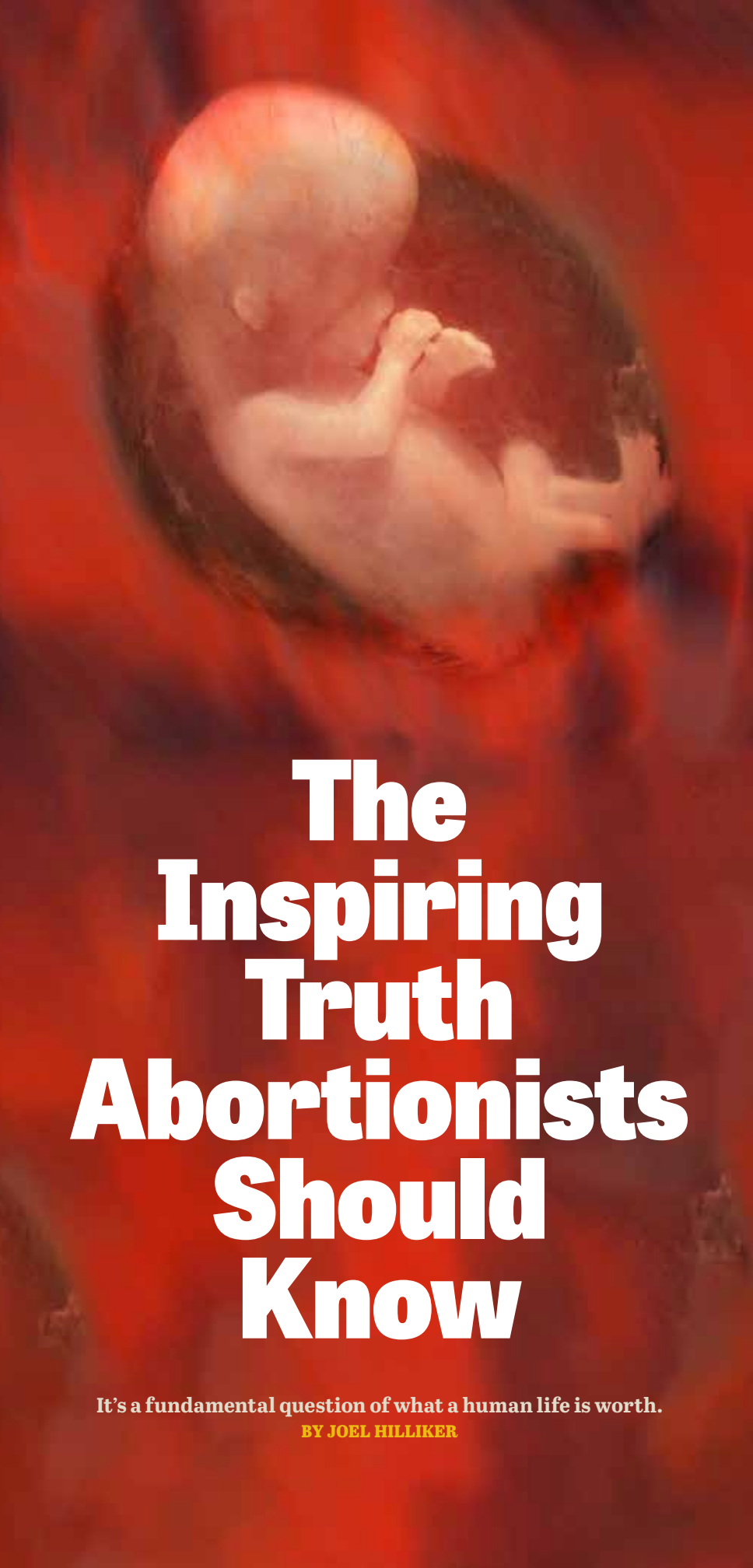
This is what God wants us to have: A LIFE FULL OF WONDER! He wants each person to be motivated, stirred and moved to declare this magnificent message to God’s people and anyone who is willing to hear it.

God’s faithful remnant today has the answers everybody should be looking for. God has removed all the mystery from the Bible. He has done that now as part of the final preparations for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! We are in the gun lap of this race to the very end! Jesus Christ is about to return! He MUST return to stop all of the devastating destruction and hate that is overtaking this world. And the *wonders* He is working within His faithful remnant today are a big part of the solutions He will bring to save all mankind! ■



WONDERING ABOUT THE WONDERS?

Order your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s *Mystery of the Ages* and Gerald Flurry’s *The New Throne of David*.



The Inspiring Truth Abortionists Should Know

It's a fundamental question of what a human life is worth.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

JANUARY 22 WAS THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. The New York State Senate celebrated the occasion by passing the Reproductive Health Act, liberalizing the state's already liberal abortion code.

This law essentially decriminalizes abortions right up to the point of birth. If a health-care practitioner decides killing a baby will be good for a mother's health or even her psychological or emotional well-being, he can now legally end that young life.

When Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the law, the New York Senate erupted in jubilant cheers.

Several other states are working to follow New York's lead, including Massachusetts, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Washington. Virginia legislator Kathy Tran proposed a new state law similar to New York's, aimed at lifting restrictions on abortions during the third trimester, even up to birth. She was questioned in a subcommittee whether her law would permit abortions during dilation—which is when the baby is beginning to emerge. She said yes.

Abortion advocates say they are defending women's rights. They're nobly crusading for "freedom," for "equality," for "health." But what Tran is boldly advocating, and what New York state leaders are openly celebrating, is not just that they are preserving current abortion rights. They are expanding them—and *strengthening abortion culture in America*.

Right now in America, on average, an abortion is performed every 30 seconds. That's nearly 3,000 abortions every day, 1 million abortions every year. Excluding miscarriages, 1 out of every 5 pregnancies ends in the poisoning, dismemberment or other method of destroying the baby before—or as—he or she is being born.

But Cuomo, Tran and others say we need *more*.

Everything is moving in the direction of more abortion, looser laws and fewer restrictions—yet liberals act like the *real danger* is a supposed assault on women's

rights. They're fighting the supposedly aggressive, dangerous efforts of those who would restrict those rights, most notably the Supreme Court's newest appointment, Brett Kavanaugh, whom they fear could overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Liberals warned that Kavanaugh's confirmation would mean that "millions of people will die," and are now pushing laws to counteract that. Meanwhile, since *Roe v. Wade*, abortion mills have killed more than 61 million unborn little boys and girls.

Here is an unmistakable reality: *These abortion advocates have a casual, even hostile perspective on human life.*

Opposing this trend are those who view human life as very special, uniquely worthy of preservation and protection.

These two perspectives could not be more different. Which is *your* view?

Rapidly Changing Standards

It was just 2008, during her first run for president, when Hillary Clinton—perhaps the most prominent champion of abortion in America—said she wanted to *reduce* the number of abortions. Her policy was for abortion to be "safe, legal and rare—and by rare, I mean *rare*."

That position—only a decade old—is like a relic of ancient history.

On January 30, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam spoke on a local radio program supporting Tran's proposed law. Explaining how late a baby could be aborted, the governor said, "[I]f a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen: The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. *The infant would be resuscitated*—IF THAT'S WHAT THE MOTHER AND THE FAMILY DESIRED—and then A DISCUSSION WOULD ENSUE BETWEEN THE PHYSICIANS AND THE MOTHER" (emphasis added).

There is no mistaking what he said. He is describing a child who has already been delivered—and a discussion taking place over whether to allow that child to live or die.

Lifetimes ago, the left abandoned the realm of absolute right and wrong when they committed to abortion.

Ever since, they have reasoned and campaign-promised their way through the logic. *Abortion should be done for a good reason*, they said. *It should occur early in pregnancy*, they said. *It should be rare*, they said just three presidential elections ago. But since there is no stage between conception and a baby's first breaths where he or she suddenly becomes a human being, they moved their demands. Not in the direction of making abortion earlier and rarer, but further and further toward the light at the end of the birth canal.

And now, *even after that*.

Governor Northam spoke with such humane terminology—keeping the infant comfortable and such ... before killing it. The language always sounds so honorable and principled.

He said this would be "done in cases where there may be severe deformities" or the child "is non-viable." Even if this

opposed they are to it. It ignores the *moral dimension* of this question entirely.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS when we come to view human life as nothing more than *matter*—atoms colliding with atoms. This is what happens when we say there is nothing sacred about human life.

Man's Place of Honor

Where does the view of the sanctity of human life come from in the first place? We may think the inherent, precious value of human life is self-evident. But the example of the abortionists teaches us that this is not so.

Most people don't stop to think about it, but our high assessment of human life comes *from the Bible*.

This Book reveals that human beings were created *by God*. Its very first chapter describes God renewing the face of the Earth, creating a beautiful environment that would support life—first the atmo-

Without the Bible, perhaps most or all of us would view human life as an accident, a product of blind evolution and altogether insignificant.

were absolutely true (likely not), and it was *only* done when there *absolutely were* severe deformities (what is "severe"?) or non-viability (for how long?)—we are still talking about *a form of eugenics*.

This is INFANTICIDE. This is MURDER.

Many people were horrified by what Governor Northam said. But what was the story in the mainstream media? According to the headlines, the real story was the overreaction by Republicans. Apparently anyone revolted by the idea of killing a child after delivery is just trying to deny women their rights.

That is always the story.

It's not about the fact that abortion is big business. It's not about the fact that abortion clinics are *encouraging* abortion and trying to move patients in and out as quickly as possible. That Planned Parenthood alone takes in \$1.7 billion a year in revenue, and that *American taxpayers* subsidize nearly a quarter of all abortion costs, no matter how morally

spheric and geological conditions, then plant life in spectacular variety, then animal life in the skies and seas, then land creatures of every kind, "cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind." Why did God do all this? For human life! As His crowning physical creation, "God said, Let us make man in OUR IMAGE, after OUR LIKENESS So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

The Bible's *first chapter* shows that human beings are unlike any other creation: We are made *in God's image and likeness*—after "the God kind." It further reveals that God gave us *dominion* over all the other creatures.

Without the Bible and its seen and unseen effect on our history and our society, perhaps most or all of us would view human life as an accident, a product of blind evolution and altogether insignificant.

The rest of the Bible reveals WHY God made man and what His *purpose* for us is—and it is a most inspiring truth. God took pains to reveal it in order to give us hope, inspiration and motivation to live productive, moral and purposeful lives.

Most people do not understand the Bible, but flip it open to almost any page and you will see evidence of the specialness and purpose of human life.

King David wrote, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; *What is man, that thou art mindful of him?*” (Psalm 8:3-4). Out of all His vast creation, why does God care so much for human beings? “For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast *crowned him with glory and honour*. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” (verses 5-9). David was

Mr. Armstrong showed that the passage in Hebrews 2 plainly reveals God’s purpose for man. God made human beings to actually help Him govern *not just Earth*, but the UNIVERSE! It describes God crowning Jesus Christ “with glory and honour”—and then intending to bring “MANY sons unto glory” the way He brought His Son Jesus Christ to glory!

The truth about God’s purpose for human beings is awesome and wonderful! Mr. Armstrong wrote an entire book about it, called *The Incredible Human Potential*, which shows that this inspiring purpose is in the Bible from beginning to end (request a complimentary copy). God wants us to *understand* this truth. It gives our lives meaning and direction.

And it gives us crucial perspective on just why it is so important to PROTECT and PRESERVE LIFE.

When we reject this truth, as modern secular society has, then we cannot see anything particularly special about human life. Humanism and other ideologies and religions provide poor

this is the *only law* that is repeated in all five books of the Pentateuch? (see also Genesis 9:6; Leviticus 24:17, 21; Numbers 35:16-18, 31; and Deuteronomy 19:11-13). Many people believe the death penalty is unjust and hypocritical—that it somehow degrades human life. God says it actually shows the *supremely high value* of human life! It forcibly demonstrates just how precious was the life of that innocent victim by demanding the severest of penalties for the one who took it.

(Now, you cannot understand human life and God’s plan for it without understanding the Bible’s teaching on the afterlife. The Bible reveals that God will *resurrect* all sinners who have never known Him—including murderers who were executed. *Each person* will receive the opportunity to repent and live forever—e.g., Revelation 20:11-12. So that execution for a crime is not an eternal death sentence.)

God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. But He demanded the death penalty, not only to put a murderer out of his misery (and then reserve him for resurrection) but also so that others would hear and fear, *to prevent more innocent life from being taken*. Such a serious command protecting life has a powerful deterrent effect: Fewer people commit murder, meaning fewer murder victims and fewer executed murderers.

In the law God gave Israel, even the punishment for manslaughter, *accidental* killing, was severe: The killer had to uproot his life and flee to a city of refuge, remaining there until the high priest died (Numbers 35). This too engendered deep respect for the life of our fellow man.

God’s law even commands that an *animal* which kills a human being is to be killed (Exodus 21:28-32). Many other ancient codes of law address the matter of an animal injuring or killing a human being—but only in God’s law was the *animal* subject to the death penalty and its flesh rendered unfit for human consumption. In Babylon, for example, the uppermost concern was to protect the property of the wealthy and powerful. In God’s law, the sanctity of a human life, formed in the image and likeness of God, was paramount.

Most relevant to recent events, God even gave a law to protect *the life of an unborn child in the womb*.

The truth about God’s purpose for human beings is wonderful. It gives us crucial perspective on why it is so important to protect and preserve life.

awestruck at God’s stunning creation, and the fact that God crowned human beings with such *honor* at the head of it all.

One New Testament author quoted studied David’s psalm. “But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him?” he wrote (Hebrews 2:6). He quoted the verses about God putting creation under human dominion—then expanded on them. Herbert W. Armstrong explained in his book *Mystery of the Ages*: “But now the writer of the book of Hebrews is inspired to expand David’s prophecy to add something radically *different*—something to happen in the world to come!

“This revealed knowledge of God’s purpose for mankind—of man’s incredible awesome potential—staggered the imagination. Science knows nothing of it—no religion reveals it, so far as I know—and certainly higher education is in utter ignorance of it.

“Nevertheless, it is what God says He has prepared for them that love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).”

substitutes. Left empty-handed, we descend into the type of thinking you see in America today in the abortion culture.

God’s Law Protects Life

Having created us for a wonderful purpose, God is serious about protecting human life. He gave several laws for that purpose, most powerfully the Sixth Commandment, “*You shall not murder*” (Exodus 20:13; New King James Version).

Throughout history, societies that departed furthest away from godly thinking have come to view murder not as a sin or a crime, but *as a valuable tool for getting what they want*. In the 20th century alone, governments helmed by Mao Zedong, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Hirohito, Pol Pot and Ho Chi Minh took a very *cheap* view of life, and they killed millions upon millions of people in pursuit of their political aims.

God considers human life so valuable that He commands, “He that smiteth a man, so that he die, *shall be surely put to death*” (Exodus 21:12). Did you know

In Exodus 21:22-23, the New King James Version reads, “If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows [meaning, no injury comes to the fetus], he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.” The perpetrator had only to pay damages for whatever inconvenience or hardship might have come on the parents. “But,” it continues, “if any harm follows, then you shall give *life for life*.” In other words, if his actions caused the unborn child to die, he was sentenced to death!

In the eyes of God’s law, *human life is sacred*. And the life of an *unborn child* is EQUAL to that of an adult.

This law gave the penalty for *accidentally* killing a fetus. How do you suppose the God who made that law views the doctors who perform abortions for profit, or counseling services that pressure pregnant women into killing their babies, or judges who decide it is “legal,”

The only reason there would be any disagreement over this point is that people want to carry on with their lives without an unwanted, unborn child—and *thus want to justify killing it*.

The Danger of Human Reasoning

This message about the supreme value of human life is consistent throughout the Bible. It is when we ignore that revelation from our Creator that we get ourselves into trouble—when we begin to rationalize acts of brutality toward other human beings, even *killing*.

Abortion advocates always use noble-sounding language like “freedom” and “choice” and “health care” and “equality” and “women’s rights” and “women’s health.” (They wouldn’t get very far proclaiming the virtues of “fornication,” “poisoning” and “dismemberment.”) However, the closer you look into the *actual reality* of abortion, the more shocking and grotesque it is. Once people remove God from the picture, once they discard absolutes and begin traveling down that road

We are using the laudable language of “rights” and “freedom”—even, ironically, “health”—but what are we talking about?

We’re talking about making it easier to *murder*.

A 2006 documentary called *Lake of Fire* included footage of an abortionist, holding a tub containing the contents of his latest procedure. He is washing out a tub of intestines and bones and organs and tiny hands, ensuring he evacuated everything properly. He is measuring the length of a tiny severed foot on a ruler to assess how far the child’s development had advanced. And this is the language coming out of his mouth: “Well the media attention is always directed for the fetus and the gory parts, if you will, of providing the procedure—when the really important thing is that we’ve been able to help this young lady get on with her life. She’s planning to go to school and she doesn’t have to take on the responsibilities of parenting. And here in just a few minutes we’re able to facilitate her decision to not be a parent at this time.”

How compassionate. How magnanimous and high-minded he is—as he holds a *tiny decapitated head* with his fingers. *Don’t focus on the gory parts*, he says. *Focus on the fact that we’re helping her live her life the way she wants to live it. And look—it takes mere minutes to turn that life into a tub of body parts.*

THIS is what the people passing these laws are really celebrating. Not “reproductive rights.” Not “protecting a mother’s health.” They are celebrating a woman gaining the freedom to walk away from parenthood—to make the same terrible choice that an irresponsible man can—by murdering her child.

How can they have grown so callous? What is really behind such thinking? The Bible exposes its true origin: “the god of this world,” a malevolent spirit that *hates* human beings and wants to *destroy*

ABORTIONISTS PAGE 36 ▶

Once people remove God from the picture, once they discard absolutes, they end up justifying actions that are more and more horrific.

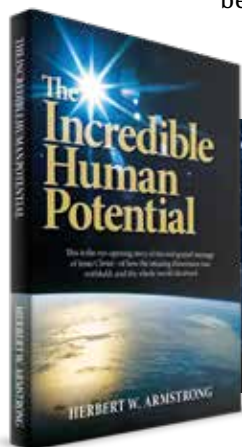
or politicians, lobbyists and activists who encourage such laws and debate the merits of intentionally leaving a newborn to die on a hospital table?

LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION. Not only is this true by biblical reckoning, *it is also the only SCIENTIFICALLY VIABLE view*. The question cannot be satisfactorily, definitively answered any other way. After conception, there is no stage of a child’s development, no moment of maturation, that suddenly makes him or her become a human being. He or she is a human being at conception.

in their thinking, they end up justifying actions that are more and more horrific.

When human beings discard the truth that God is our Creator, and hypothesize that His vast, spectacular, beautiful creation is a cosmic accident without meaning, purpose or inherent value—when we reject God’s revelation and begin reasoning our way through questions of life and death—then rationalization for all kinds of destructive behavior increases, even murder.

God says abortion is murder. Society **VEHEMENTLY** disagrees. We have disagreed for decades, but lately this view has gotten bolder and more aggressive.



INFINITE POTENTIAL.

Every human has a chance for eternity. To learn more, request Herbert W. Armstrong’s free book ***The Incredible Human Potential***.





Axis of Authoritarians

The Russia-China alliance is reshaping the world. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

“CHINA AND RUSSIA ARE MORE aligned than at any point since the mid-1950s.” That was the conclusion of a January report by the United States Director of National Intelligence.

Bloomberg took an even bolder view in November 2018, saying Russia and China are now “as close as at any time in their 400 years of shared history.”

Most analysts recognize the deepening relationship between the two most powerful nations in the world’s largest and most populous continent. But few realize that this new reality has major implications for every person alive.

The new Russia-China axis gives urgent cause for each of us to be sobered and take stock of our lives. Yet this new reality also points to a far greater development on the horizon that can fill us with profound hope!

Respecting Russia

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and China were often at odds. But the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, and for the next decade Russia was a defeated, depleted power outside the mainstream of world affairs. During this time, much

of the Western world looked down on Russia to a degree.

But not China. The Chinese recognized that they had much to learn from the Russians about armaments and warfare. And they understood that to stand up to the West in the future, they would need a partner. So during those years of Russian weakness and instability, China treated Russia with what Jeanne Wilson, author of *Strategic Partners: Russian-Chinese Relations in the Post-Soviet Era*, calls “scrupulous respect.”

In January 1992, when dust from the Soviet collapse was only starting to settle, Chinese Premier Li Peng met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in New York, where they agreed to boost relations. That December, Yeltsin accepted an invitation to visit Beijing, an event both sides said signaled a new phase in Russia-China ties. Intensive diplomatic activity over the next few years resulted in a massive reduction of troops on the former China-Soviet border and the formation of a “constructive partnership.” Wilson says China’s outreaches to Russia during this time went “a long way to assuage Russia’s wounded ego.”

Throughout the Vladimir Putin era, starting in 2000, China’s esteem for Russia has only increased. When Hu Jintao became China’s leader in 2003, his first trip abroad was to visit Putin. For the next decade, the relationship flourished. By the time Xi Jinping took the reins from Hu in 2013, China had become the world’s second-largest economy. And though Russia’s economy was smaller than that of New York, Xi’s first presidential trip abroad was also to Russia. He and Putin became fast friends, and have met dozens of times since.

On the foundation of China treating Russia as if it were still a superpower, and with a common goal of dismantling the United States-led international order, both China and Russia grew stronger. And their camaraderie deepened.

Marching in Lockstep

In international politics, Russia-China cooperation is accomplishing nothing short of reshaping the world. Whether allying to oppose Western interests in the Middle East, the Korean Peninsula and Venezuela, or supporting each others’ growing territorial appetites in the former Soviet nations and South China Sea, Russia and China are reshaping international politics.

Economic developments tell the same story. In 2010, China overtook Germany to become Russia’s largest trading partner. Five years later, Russia became China’s top supplier of crude. In 2018, Russia and China exceeded \$100 billion in mutual trade for the first time, part of which was China buying advanced Russian weaponry such as fighter jets and the S-400 anti-aircraft system.

The most meaningful manifestation of the Russia-China axis is in military cooperation. In 2003, the two started holding joint military drills. Beginning as low-level drills involving a handful of soldiers, the Russia-China exercises evolved over the years into complex maneuvers with thousands of military personnel on each side.

As these military exercises expanded in scope and complexity, references to the Russia-China relationship upgraded from “strategic cooperation” to a “comprehensive strategic partnership,” and upgraded again to a “privileged strategic partnership.” Yet the two still kept their

most important military secrets from each other.

But then came the joint air and missile exercise in 2017.

Showing Each Other Their Cards

Stephen Blank, a senior fellow with the American Foreign Policy Council, has called attention to this particular drill, saying it “suggests an alliance” between Russia and China. That’s because the exercise required both nations to “put their cards on the table and display their C4ISR,” he wrote. This term refers to command, control, communications and computer, as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance—among the most sensitive aspects of a military. The fact that Russia and China shared this information during the 2017 drills indicates a new and rare level of trust.

Vasily Kashin, a senior research fellow at Moscow’s Higher School of Economics, told the *Trumpet* on February 11 that this exercise was “a step forward.” But he said the Vostok-2018 exercise was still “more important.”

With more than 300,000 soldiers, 36,000 military vehicles, 1,000 aircraft and 80 naval vessels taking part, Vostok-2018 is believed to have been the largest military exercise ever held. China’s People’s Liberation Army contributed 3,200 troops, 900 combat vehicles and 30 aircraft, making it China’s largest-ever dispatch of forces abroad for military exercises.

Kashin told the *Trumpet* that the gargantuan drills show how closely the militaries of Russia and China have become, especially as both nations’ ties to the U.S. are increasingly strained.

Russia and China have now held more than 30 sets of military drills as they iron out the details of how to join their forces for potential conflicts. “If at some point Russia and China decide to jointly intervene in a local conflict,” Kashin wrote in a 2018 report for the Center for Naval Analyses, “their militaries would act as a very strong force multiplier for each other.”

Kashin wrote, “China’s superior surface navy, and its logistical and UAV [unmanned aerial vehicle] capabilities would be coupled with Russia’s battle-hardened ground and air forces as well as its air defense, submarine and long-range strike advantages.”

Some still believe Russia and China have too many differences to ever form a true military alliance. The skeptics say obstacles such as historical border disputes, current water scarcity issues, and conflicting interests in Central Asia are too contentious for Russia and China to unite.

On January 29, for example, Geopolitical Futures called the idea of a Russia-China alliance “a fantasy.” Kashin, too, wrote in his report that although Russia and China are laying the groundwork to be able to join forces, “currently there are no observable scenarios under which the two sides might undertake ... a joint action.”

But Bible prophecy shows that just such a scenario will soon emerge.

‘Tidings Out of the East’

The Bible prophesies of a civilization-threatening war that will erupt in the near future. Matthew 24:21-22 record Jesus Christ as saying: “[T]here will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive” (New Living Translation).

This could only be describing a nuclear world war with enough detonations to cause nuclear winter. It will have the potential to end all human life.

Daniel 11 shows how this civilization-threatening war will ignite. Verse 40 discusses a power called “the king of the south.” This “king” is described as *pushing*—enacting an extremely provocative foreign policy. Today, analysts worldwide label Iran as the world’s primary state sponsor of terrorism. This is among the “pushiest” strategies a country could adopt, and helps identify the king of the south as radical Islam, led by Iran. You can prove this identity by reading *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s booklet *The King of the South*.

Verse 40 says this Islamic power will “push at” another power called “the king of the north.” This northern power will be a united Europe, led by Germany and guided by the Vatican. You can understand the scriptures proving this identity by reading our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.

Daniel 11 shows that after the king of the south pushes at the king of the north,



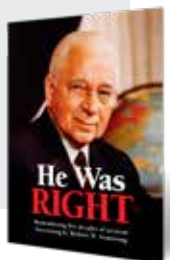
The *Trumpet* and its forerunner magazine, the *Plain Truth*, have forecast the establishment of a Russia-China axis for 85 years, long before there was evidence in the news of this happening.

Mr. Armstrong first prophesied that a Russia-China axis would form in the *Plain Truth*’s June-July 1934 issue: “[T]wo great military powers arise in the last days—one the revival of the Roman Empire ... the other ... Russia, with her allies ... possibly China or Japan.”

In the June 1957 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong examined Ezekiel 38. Verse 2 discusses “Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.” He explained the modern identities of these lands and peoples, writing: “‘Gog’ in the land of ‘Magog’ is Russia, Mongolia and China. ‘Meshech’ is Moscow, ‘Tubal’ is Tobolsk—the Great Russians today. The margin says ‘Prince of Rosh,’ which is [White] Russia.” He pointed to other Asian nations mentioned in verses 5 and 6, and concluded: “[T]his prophecy of Ezekiel 38 shows that it is RUSSIA and CHINA, who shall finally succeed in marshaling all the [Asian] races” into a unified bloc.

These are just a few of the numerous statements Mr. Armstrong made from 1934 up until his death in 1986, saying Russia and China would ally. In 1986, Russia-China relations remained strained. But the trend of the last three decades show that Mr. Armstrong was right.

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He Was Right.



the latter will unleash a fury of devastation on Iran and its Islamist partners.

This clash will rattle the world! Russia and China—both of which have significant ties with Iran and desire to exert great influence in the Middle East—will perhaps be more jolted than other nations.

The clash between Europe and Iran-led radical Islam will help create exactly the “scenario” that Kashin says is presently absent on the world scene.

Russia and China will see how powerful Europe has become, and how effectively it wields its power. They will see that to challenge this mighty United Europe, they must ally. The Bible shows that is exactly what they will do.

Verses 40 through 43 say that after that attack against Iran, the Europeans will dominate more and more of the Middle East. These campaigns are abruptly interrupted: “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him ...” (verse 44). Any good map shows that to the east of the region where these campaigns will be occurring is China and its neighbors, and to the north lies Russia. The Europeans will hear “tidings” from these nations and be “troubled” by them. They will be disturbed to learn that Russia and China have expanded and merged their militaries to challenge Europe.

The Bible provides details about this Russo-Chinese force, showing why Europe will be so “troubled.” Ezekiel 38:1-6 show that this force will absorb other Asian nations (sidebar: “Mr. Armstrong Was Right”). Revelation 9:16 says that with the bloc combining several populous nations, it will field an army of 200 million soldiers—an order of magnitude larger than any force the world has ever seen. Revelation 16:12 reveals what may be the most troubling “tidings” for the European

power: The Asian force, called “the kings of the east,” will mobilize toward the west! They will converge on the Euphrates and then cross its miraculously dried bed—en route to confront the Europeans.

‘Stunning Fulfillment of Prophecy’

In 2014, after Putin annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula, most of the world condemned Russia. But one country supported Moscow’s dangerous expansionist moves: China.

In our May-June 2014 *Trumpet* issue, Mr. Flurry called this “a stunning fulfillment of a biblical prophecy!” He was referring to the Bible passages cited above.

He wrote: “When these Asian nations—extremely powerful nuclear-armed countries—begin to show solidarity with each other regarding moves like that, what does that portend for the world? I tell you it is woe to the world. It will cause many serious problems.”

Mr. Flurry said the Russia-China axis “is going to affect everyone.”

Scriptures in Ezekiel, Daniel, Matthew and Revelation show exactly how the Russian-led force will “cause many serious problems” that will “affect everyone” in the near future. The coming war will threaten to end all human life!

But the Bible’s prophecies do not end with nuclear war eradicating mankind.

A New Government—Positions Open

Continuing in Matthew 24:21-22, just after Christ said the end-time war will be so devastating that it *could* end all human life, He added a crucial detail: “But it will be shortened” (NLT).

What happens next will be stunning.

Jesus Christ will return—before the chaos obliterates all human life. Daniel 2:44 says after Christ returns, His Kingdom will “break in pieces and

consume” all other world powers. Revelation 19:11-16 describe the scene as Christ returns to assume His office as KING of kings, ruling the entire Earth.

Revelation 11:15 states, “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” This describes the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the *Trumpet’s* forerunner magazine the *Plain Truth*, wrote of this future Kingdom. He said it will bring an end to present governments, including those in Moscow, Beijing and Tokyo, and also those in Washington, D.C., London and Paris. “The governments of Russia, China, Japan—yes, also of the United States, Britain and France—will be overthrown,” he wrote. “[T]here will be a different system of GOVERNMENT. It will be GOD’S GOVERNMENT” (*Plain Truth*, June 1964).

He continued: “Jesus Christ will return, having received the KINGDOM from God Almighty the Father. He will set up world government. It will be the government of God.”

Mr. Armstrong emphasized that Christ will not rule this Kingdom by Himself. He will enlist those who have learned to love God’s way of life to help Him. “Christ will assign some, who have *learned and lived HIS WAY*—the WAY of His government, during this life—to rule over one city, or perhaps five, ten or a hundred cities,” he wrote.

Mr. Armstrong went on to explain that as we see Russia and China rising and aligning, and as we see the world hurtling toward conflict, it should make us put our hope in this future righteous government. And it should make us take action NOW so we can help administer that future government of peace. “This life is the training period,” he wrote. “It is *only* those who are UNDER and OBEDIENT to the authority of God’s government now—who learn its LAWS, who overcome every other (and false) WAY—whose *real* citizenship is now reserved in heaven, who *then* will be assigned A POSITION OF RULE.”

Mr. Armstrong’s article concluded with these hope-filled words: “The real and true *Christian life* is, simply, THE WAY of GOD’S GOVERNMENT. It trains the true Christian to ADMINISTER that government. It trains him to BECOME A KING! Yes, you were born to be a KING!” ■

MARCHING TO ARMAGEDDON

Russia and China are stepping toward fulfilling biblical prophecies that will soon affect the entire world. To learn more, request your free copy of **Russia and China in Prophecy**.





A Real 'Bombshell': France and Germany Unite!

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

AMERICAN JOURNALISTS LOVE TO report “bombshells”—about celebrities or “miracle cures” or political scandals. But then a *real* bombshell event occurs and they fail to even notice.

On January 22, one of these bombshells went off: the Aachen Treaty.

This treaty includes “shared defense, foreign and economic policies in an unprecedented ‘twinning’ pact regarded as a prototype for the future of the European Union,” the London *Times* reported (January 10).

In some of the most important aspects of national power, France is bolting itself to Germany. And some observers think other EU nations should do the same.

The *Times* wrote that the treaty enables Germany and France “to present a united diplomatic front and act jointly in peacekeeping missions. ... Some officials regard these experiments as a petri dish for the integration of the EU” (ibid).

This is a real bombshell! Europe’s second-most powerful nation is giving its power over to its most powerful nation, and this might be just the beginning.

France Loves Germany

The Aachen Treaty openly advocates military cooperation. After signing the treaty, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said its provisions will build a “common military culture” between France and Germany and “contribute to the creation of a European army.” French President Emmanuel Macron said, “[A]uthoritarian powers are emerging everywhere. ... Let’s build a real European army to protect ourselves and have a real foreign policy.”

The treaty also contains a mutual defense clause: If either France or Germany is attacked, the other will come to its defense. The NATO alliance, which includes the United States, already provides these two nations with guaranteed defense in case of attack. So why an independent agreement? These countries are already looking past NATO. If America pulls out or NATO otherwise falls apart, Europe will have to protect itself.

My father’s February 2019 *Trumpet* cover article was “France Rejects America—and Empowers Germany!” In November and December 2018, he broadcast three *Key of David* programs on the subject, sparked by Macron’s

These countries are looking past NATO. If America pulls out, Europe will have to protect itself.

comments in November, when he called for a real European army, praised a Nazi collaborator from World War II, and publicly rebuked United States President Donald Trump as not being a true patriot. At the same time, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire called for a European “empire” and urged Germany to lead. Merkel joined the chorus and called for a “real, true European army.” Then Macron visited Berlin and told the German parliament, “France loves [Germany].”

France loves Germany! How true—and how historically unusual. “Never before in French history has there been a government so fixated on partnership with Germany,” *Deutsche Welle* wrote (January 22). France plans to lobby for Germany to receive a permanent seat

on the United Nations Security Council, which is where the UN’s real power lies. The five permanent Security Council members are the five victors of World War II—the U.S., United Kingdom, France, Russia and China. Now France wants *Germany*, the instigator of World War II (and World War I), on board. How soon we forget our history!

“France really does love Germany—you can see it in these important joint ventures!” my father wrote—before this treaty was even reported.

21st-Century Empire

Another key statement from the *Times*: “France and Germany also intend to speak with one voice in Brussels, drawing up common positions before pivotal European Union summits in an effort to make the bloc a more decisive power on the world stage” (op cit).

France and Germany are already the EU’s two strongest powers. If they hammer out their differences beforehand and join forces in every debate with other EU nations, they will dominate the rest of the bloc even more than they already do. Smaller, weaker EU states with dissenting opinions, especially those in debt to Germany, will face pressure to support projects like a “real, true European army” or face consequences, perhaps as extreme as getting kicked out of the bloc.

“The text bears the imprint of Mr. Macron’s desire to use Franco-German consensus to rally the EU into becoming more assertive as a global power” (ibid). In reality, there will be no “rallying”—the Franco-German consensus will IMPOSE its will on other members!

“There are concerns that the ever closer union between the bloc’s two most powerful economies could create a juggernaut capable of crushing dissent beneath its wheels,” the *Times* continued. “[The Aachen Treaty] lays the groundwork for a Franco-German defense and security council that would act as a ‘political steering group.’ ... Berlin and Paris will also frequently exchange diplomats and civil servants. Ministers

Christ's Coming Is 'At the Very Door'!

Six signs Jesus gave that He is about to return

BY GERALD FLURRY

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF THE Second Coming and of the end of the world?

Jesus Christ's disciples asked this question of Christ Himself, and He gave a *detailed answer*—MANY specific signs to watch for that would show when He was about to return to Earth in glory!

You can read His answer in Matthew 24. He explained that “all these things must come to pass” just before His Second Coming.

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, *when ye shall see all these things*, KNOW THAT IT IS NEAR, EVEN AT THE DOORS” (Matthew 24:32-33).

You won't know the day or the hour of Christ's return (verse 36), but you *can* know based on the signs when it is, as Moffatt translates it, “AT THE VERY DOOR.”

This is the single most important prophetic message Christ ever delivered. It takes study to understand it. But it is one of the most exciting studies of the Bible you will ever have! Pay close attention to this truth, and you will be stunned!

I want to point you to SIX SIGNS Christ gave that prove His return is *at the very door—right now*.

Two Commissions

Here is the context of this prophecy: “And as he [Christ] 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 [age]?” (Matthew 24:3). Christ's disciples heard His prophecies and believed them, but they were curious about *when* these prophecies would be fulfilled.

Look closely at that verse, and you notice *two questions*. These correspond with the last two eras of God's Church before Christ's return. (I explain this in my booklet *Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door'*; request a free copy or read it online at theTrumpet.com/go/arm.) “The sign of your coming” refers to Herbert W. Armstrong's work of preaching the true gospel of God around the world—as I will show you. And the sign “of the end of the age” refers to the work of God's Church today, which has been commissioned to prophesy again (Revelation 10:11) in this *last* era of the Church, the Laodicean era. (You can read Christ's prophecy of these eras in Revelation 2-3, and learn more by studying my book *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today*. All of our literature is free.)

What was the *sign* of Christ's coming? God's Work under Mr. Armstrong. What is the *sign* of the end of the age? The work

of the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) today! The commissions of these two eras are both *signs*. But only *one* belongs to the six signs I will explain in this article.

Mr. Armstrong's work was a sign to this world of Christ's imminent return. It fulfilled Matthew 24:14: “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.” That work was “the sign of thy coming.” It showed that Christ's return is *near*. But it is NOT a sign that this epic event is “AT THE DOOR”!

Compare verse 3 with verse 14. Both refer to “the end,” but the Greek words are different. Verse 3 relates to the *END of the age of man's rule over man* and Christ establishing God's government over the Earth. Commentaries tell us that the *context* must reveal which “end” is being discussed in verse 14. The context shows it is the “end” of the period during which the gospel of the Kingdom of God was preached around the world as the Church's primary commission. This “end” took place when Mr. Armstrong died in 1986.

The gospel being preached around the world was “the sign of thy coming”—but NOT a sign “of the end of the world” and of Christ's coming being *at the door*!

With that important distinction in mind, here are six signs that Christ's coming is *now* AT THE VERY DOOR.



NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF GOD'S OWN PEOPLE HAVE REBELLED

“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). This was Christ’s primary warning to His disciples! He foretold that just before His Second Coming, many false religious teachers would preach *a message about Christ the man* instead of focusing on the message He taught while on Earth.

There are many “Christian” churches that preach about Christ and ignore His message. But Christ was warning *His very disciples*, “Take heed that *no man deceive you*.” He is warning of a deception that would affect even His own disciples! That is how deceptive Satan the devil is.

Christ backed up this warning a few verses down: “And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity [lawlessness] shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (verses 11-13). “Love” here is translated from the Greek word *agape*, which is the very love of God. This can only be referring to God’s own people—those who have been begotten with the Holy Spirit, which alone gives us that love (Romans 5:5). But these saints lost their first love: They no longer love God or His message! They don’t hunger and thirst after righteousness as they did at the start of their calling to the truth.

Christ warned that “the love of **MANY** shall wax cold”—or as the Greek reads, the **MAJORITY!** After Mr. Armstrong died, *95 percent of God’s Church fell away!* This was a shocking event—likely the greatest falling away from God in human history!

How could this happen? Because they descended into lawlessness.

Mr. Armstrong gave everything he had to preach the true gospel message

around the world in dozens of nations and in front of hundreds of national leaders. At the same time, a “synagogue of Satan” within the Church fought against his work in secret (Revelation 3:9). When Mr. Armstrong died, they took over the Church and it became the Laodicean era (verses 14-22). God says He will spew these rebels out of His mouth (verse 16).

Matthew 24:12 is about rampant lawlessness. Moral and spiritual decay will abound. The whole world is infected, and God’s people have been swept up in it. Mr. Armstrong warned that such degeneration is more dangerous than the nuclear bomb!



NUCLEAR WEAPONS THREATEN TO DESTROY ALL HUMANITY

Still, many prophecies actually speak of nuclear bombs wreaking untold destruction—including Christ’s prophecy in Matthew 24: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, **THERE SHOULD NO FLESH BE SAVED**; but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (verses 21-22). This is *the crisis of all crises!* God is trying to get our attention.

What else besides nuclear weapons could wipe out all life on the planet?

There are more than enough such weapons on Earth to accomplish that, and they are in the hands of some very unstable people. North Korea likes to play deadly games with America. Its bizarre, extreme leader possesses nuclear warheads capable of reaching American cities, and at times he has shown an *eagerness* for war! Pakistan and India possess nuclear weapons, as do Russia and China, Brazil and other countries. Europe has the ability to use atomic bombs that America has stored on the Continent.

Do we really believe mankind is going to avoid any of these weapons being used? Isn’t it folly to think anybody could solve these problems except God Himself?



SOCIETY TODAY IS ‘AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH’

Christ continued: “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:37-39).

Noah spent 100 years building an ark and warning that God would send a great flood, which would drown the entire world. People taunted and scorned him and continued to rebel against God. “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Imagine people being so wretched as to think about evil *all day long*. The human mind of itself is incapable of conceiving anything righteous.

Christ said society would be the same way today. God is showing His love by trying to save mankind from their nuclear bombs, but they won’t listen! You can give them all the facts, information and proof they could possibly need, and they will still ridicule you for telling the truth. All who refuse to heed God’s warning will pay a heavy price.

We cannot save ourselves. It is already virtually guaranteed that nations as a whole will not listen to God. But God says to you individually, *Even if your nation won’t obey me, you can choose to do so and be protected from the coming punishment*. Just heed and obey God!



German industry is building the machinery for world war—again.

BY BRAD MACDONALD AND JOSUÉ MICHELS

GERMANY IS AN INDUSTRIAL heavyweight, more powerful than Russia, India and the United Kingdom. Its economy almost single-handedly keeps the European Union from going bust. But in military prowess, Germany is a lightweight.

At the end of 2017, the “Bundeswehr had 128 Eurofighters, of which 39 could fly,” the *Spectator* reported. “It had six submarines, none of which were working when the [February 2018 Defense Ministry] report was compiled. Of its 13 aging frigates, only five could sail. Of its 93 Tornado jets, 26 were ready for action. German Air Force trainees struggled to qualify because so few aircraft were ready for use” (June 16, 2018). This isn’t merely an issue of decrepit subs and broken jets. Germany’s army, the Bundeswehr, is woefully undermanned and in need of thousands of soldiers, officers and administrators.

Despite this bleak picture, the *Trumpet* expects Germany to soon transfigure into a terrifying military power that will spark another world war.

This is what the Bible forecasts. And improbable as it may seem, this transformation could happen much more easily and rapidly than most people know!

How? Ultimately it will come down to two key ingredients: industrial capacity and WILL. Germany already has plenty of the first. It is the world’s *fourth-largest industrial power* and *third-largest exporter*. German-made products, from cars to machinery to chemicals and pharmaceuticals, dominate global markets. Germany’s landscape, as anyone who has driven on the Autobahn knows, is a land of factories and cathedrals. Germany already manufactures masses of *military products* it sells all over the world.

Germany *has* the industrial capacity. It only needs the willpower, the incentive—and it could transform militarily from dwarf to formidable giant virtually overnight!

Why isn’t Germany more of a military heavyweight already? First, its power isn’t nearly as weak as many say. Second—and this is critical, given the nation’s history—the military is an exceedingly complex and sensitive topic, both domestically and internationally. Germany cannot simply build a powerful military. Until the last 10 to 15 years, the Bundeswehr couldn’t fire up a tank without being accused of starting World War III.

Germany has to be very careful with how it shapes its military identity. Since the nation reunited in 1990, the costs to its reputation, economy and politics

simply haven’t justified the expense of putting on serious military muscle.

But times have changed. The *incentive* to militarize is intensifying—and Germany is positioned to quickly become a military heavyweight!

Illustrious Military Legacy

Understanding Germany’s military requires historical context. While every race and nation has a long history with war and conflict, the Germans have a unique penchant for combat. This history can be traced all the way back to their forefather Asshur and the ancient Assyrians in Mesopotamia. But that is a story for another day.

The first to unite most of Europe’s Germanic tribes on a large scale was Charlemagne, the eighth-century French-German emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Less than a century later, the German war machine was operational again, this time under Otto the Great. His kingdom is referred to as the Holy Roman Empire of the *German* nation. Over the next thousand years, the land between the North Sea and the Adriatic Sea was some of the most war-torn territory in the world. The Thirty Years War (1618–48), for example, which began as a Catholic-versus-Protestant conflict but gradually engulfed most of Europe, caused the deaths of more than 8 million people and reduced the German population by 20 percent.



PERPOWER

Even modern Germany was conceived in the crucible of war. At the start of the 19th century, Germany was divided into 300 duchies. Then Otto von Bismarck arrived, and by 1871 he had united these states under Prussian leadership. How did he do it? He picked a fight with the French. The Franco-Prussian War (1870–71) was the glue that united Germany.

Less than 20 years after Bismarck died, Germany again went to war. In 1914, Kaiser Wilhelm started the First World War by manipulating Austria-Hungary into conflict with Serbia (and its ally Russia). Germany was defeated. Within 20 years, Adolf Hitler plunged Germany, and much of the rest of the world, into another terrible war. Germany was again vanquished.

The sheer destruction of World War II and the horrors of the Holocaust slowed the German war machine. But over time, Germany's military identity reformed. In the early 1990s, the newly unified German state, together with the Vatican, sparked the Balkans wars.

'Fertile in Military Surprises'

Time and again Germany has shown a proclivity for subterfuge and deceit over its military capacity and ambitions. At the time Hitler took power in 1933, most Western leaders considered him a peaceful leader seeking only to strengthen his nation's position in Europe. When war erupted in September 1939, many were

shocked by the sheer scale of Germany's military strength. In just a few years the nation had quietly but not secretly transformed from a hollowed-out power to a military giant, and most of the world had scarcely noticed.

Winston Churchill was one of the few men watching closely; he understood Germany's capacity for deceit. In a speech on Nov. 28, 1934, he warned about its growing air power. "So far I have dealt with what I believe is the known, *but beyond the known there is also the unknown*. We hear from all sides of an air development in Germany far in excess of anything which I have stated today. As to that all I would say is, 'BEWARE!' GERMANY IS A COUNTRY FERTILE IN MILITARY SURPRISES."

Poland was one of the first to experience firsthand the truth in Churchill's warning when, in September 1939, it was crushed under its martial assault. Poland's famed cavalry was no match for Germany's tanks. Next came France—conquered on June 25, 1940, after a mere six weeks of resistance. When the Luftwaffe began bombing London in September 1940, its 2,682 planes outnumbered the Royal Air Force nearly 4 to 1. Were it not for Churchill's inspired leadership and a series of divine miracles, Britain would have been defeated in 1941.

Remarkably, Hitler was able to build his massive navy, air force and army without Britain, France and America

really knowing until it was too late. Virtually the entire world slumbered as Germany prepared for war!

Could this history repeat itself?

Many of the best and brightest men in the West certainly believed it could. This is why Allied leaders gathered in Germany in 1945 and forged the Potsdam Agreement. This agreement demanded "the complete disarmament and demilitarization of Germany and the elimination or control of all German industry that could be used for military production."

These men recognized the deadly axis between Adolf Hitler and German industry. The Potsdam Agreement curbed Germany's industrial might, thereby preventing it from building another war machine. But the effort soon failed and within a few years the war factories were again thriving.

In the fall of 1950, Konrad Adenauer, the West German chancellor, gathered at the Himmerod Monastery with military leaders and experts who previously served in Hitler's Wehrmacht (the Nazi armed forces). The men discussed how to restore the nation's military following the war. Many of the attendees were later granted high offices in the Bundeswehr and NATO.

The substance of this discussion later became part of the "Himmeroder Memorandum" of Oct. 9, 1950. The memo's main thesis was that a future German Army required rehabilitating the Wehrmacht.

ARNE IMMANUEL BÄNSCHE/PICTURE ALLIANCE/GETTY IMAGES, SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES



This document served as the basis for negotiations with the West. Though Adenauer carefully negotiated and knew the demands had to be implemented in small steps, it is clear that Germany's military ambition still smoldered.

The embers of World War II hadn't yet been extinguished, and already top German leaders were plotting how to rebuild Germany's military!

By 1955, with the Communist threat rising, Germany was allowed to rearm and join the newly created North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There were conditions: Germany must waive the right to biological and chemical weapons, the Bundeswehr was to be capped at 500,000, and it was to operate under NATO command. On June 7, 1955, Theodor Blank was appointed minister of defense, giving Germany its first postwar defense minister.

The Allies also loosened their ban on German rearmament. Step by step, *the very same industry* that had built Hitler's war implements was allowed to restart operations. Their stories are told not just in hidden documents but in detail on the companies' official websites.

For example, the Rheinmetall website provides an extensive chronology of the company's history during the war. Concerning the years 1942 to 1944, Rheinmetall writes: "As the war progresses, the Nazi regime demands ever greater efforts on the part of industry to step up arms production. The requirements of the German Army, Navy and Luftwaffe for technical innovations force the development departments of Rheinmetall-Borsig to push ahead at full speed, too. By July 1944, the company has developed some 20 weapon systems that have been fielded by the Wehrmacht." What is Rheinmetall's intention here? *Some would say it is bragging about its support for Adolf Hitler!*

Many other arms companies recount similar stories. Even more interesting is how they returned to business after being banned in Potsdam in 1945.

Rheinmetall-Borsig AG split into two companies to make it easier to obtain production permits. In 1950 both companies received permission to manufacture civil sector products. In 1956,

Rheinmetall was authorized to resume producing military equipment. *Thus the Potsdam Agreement was undermined not long after its ink had dried!*

The story of Krauss-Maffei Wegmann is even more striking. The company's official website reads, "Krauss-Maffei Wegmann reflects on 170 years of history which is steeped in tradition and closely linked with the Kassel and Munich locations." The company is indeed "steeped in tradition"—but tradition to be proud of?

Krauss-Maffei Wegmann contributed to the building of the tanks that rolled into Poland and across Europe. In that tradition, the company today produces greater, faster and far more powerful tanks. It was Nazi tradition to name

Bundeswehr had become the "backbone of NATO's conventional defense in Central Europe." Mere decades after the Potsdam Agreement, NATO was relying on Germany to deter Russia on the Continent, and German industry was churning out tanks and other military supplies.

The Soviet Union's collapse in December 1991 had a direct impact on Germany's military expansion. But not in the way you might expect. Germany actually began to *reduce* military spending. Why?

Saving Money for the Third Round

When the Cold War ended, Germany largely stopped militarizing. Even as NATO officials demanded that Berlin increase its military budget, it refused.



A German soldier holds a G36 Heckler and Koch assault rifle.

tanks after big cats, such as Tiger and Panther. The war's end halted work on another tank that was to be called Leopard. But in the 1960s, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann started production on the Leopard 1 battle tank. The Gepard and Leopard 2 followed. (To learn more about where Hitler's arms manufacturers are today, see the infographic on page 18.)

The very arms industry that shocked the world in World War II rose rapidly during the Cold War. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) says Germany spent as much as 5.2 percent of its gross domestic product on its military in 1963. By 1982, 300 Leopard 2 tanks were manufactured annually. By 1990, the now-reunited German Army numbered 500,000.

NATO documents record that throughout the latter half of the 20th century, the

Did this mean Germany's military ambitions had been extinguished? On the contrary: It meant the newly united Germany was rejecting NATO's authority. Within NATO, Germany had reached its authorized military potential. To exceed these imposed limitations, it developed its own plan for military domination. This plan required first focusing on getting healthy and strong domestically, bringing Eastern Germany into the fold, and securing dominance over Europe economically and politically.

Rather than invest billions each year to safeguard Europe, Germany relied on the U.S.-sponsored security umbrella. The billions it saved were then invested in the civil industry and economy. Outside of NATO, however, Germany developed its arms industry, its integration with other EU armies and its foreign deployment.

Today, while many countries face bankruptcy, Germany has one of the strongest economies in the world.

The U.S. and Russia are still among the world's largest military powers. But what about the race for the *next generation* of weapon systems? Can the U.S. or Russia win that race? Technologically, they have the capacity—but both are in trouble financially and are having to cut military spending. Meanwhile, Germany's economy is comparatively strong, and is ready to finance a military upgrade!

In this age of cyberwarfare, artificial intelligence and technological advancement, it takes a lot of money and effort to keep apace with competitors. AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME IN HISTORY, THE U.S. AND RUSSIA ARE FORCED TO MAKE MILITARY CUTS—WHILE GERMANY CAN REARM.

“Germany has benefited from the fact that the strategic situation has remained calm for two decades, allowing it to invest in the civilian economy,” stated Swiss military expert Albert Stahel in an interview with Focus Online. “But that is now over: The whole orientation of the state must be rethought. The armament machine must be restarted” (Feb. 7, 2017; *Trumpet* translation throughout).

GERMANY TODAY IS READY—ECONOMICALLY AND INDUSTRIALLY—TO REENTER THE MILITARY ARMAMENT GAME. It has the technology, factories and industry. It also has decades of experience with producing world-class military hardware.

Secret Strategy Behind Exports

“At first glance,” wrote German public broadcaster ARD, “Germany looks like a deeply peaceful country. But that is only partially true. Since the mid-1950s, German armaments companies have been selling weapons all over the world” (Nov. 2, 2017). In 2016, *Handelsblatt* wrote that “Germany is one of the largest arms producers in the world” (Jan. 25, 2016).

Though Germany's military spending declined, its military production industry never stopped. In fact, it grew from strength to strength.

The March 2018 SIPRI Fact Sheet states, “The combined arms exports by European Union member states accounted for 27 percent of the global total in 2013–17.” Germany alone rose to become the

world's THIRD-LARGEST ARMS EXPORTER. Even after recent cuts, it remains in the top five, currently fabricating 7 percent of the world's total arms exports. That is impressive, especially for a nation that is such a military lightweight itself!

But why is Germany exporting weapons everywhere? It's not the profit. In 2017, weapons exports accounted for less than half a percent of its total exports.

Germany's Economic Ministry states on its website: “Arms exports are not resources for economic policy.” In other words, it has a *strategic* reason to manufacture and export arms. The government gives at least two reasons: It builds strategic partnerships and alliances, and it maintains Germany's arms industry and thus its national security.

Manufacturing and exporting weapons brings enormous strategic and military benefits. Germany may have neglected its military stock at home, but it hasn't neglected its capacity to manufacture military hardware. It has made profits by producing and exporting weaponry while others have spent money storing and upgrading weaponry. Germany may not have thousands of tanks and millions of machine guns in storage, but it has the factories, the plans and blueprints, the experience and the skill set to militarize!

Germany has tested its weaponry in various terrains around the world. Repeatedly the industry has been alerted to malfunctions in the equipment, and upgraded and perfected its weaponry in peacetime. For example, Turkey used German tanks against the Islamic State in Syria, giving the Germans feedback that helped them perfect their design. Had Germany overstocked its military warehouses with tanks, it would have had to upgrade thousands of malfunctioning tanks on its own dime.

Germany produces some of the most highly demanded tanks in the world. In cooperation with France, it is working on the next generation of combat systems. Newly designed tanks are predicted to outperform Russia's T-14. A joint venture of Airbus and Dassault Aviation aims for dominance with next-generation fighters and a Future Combat Air System. German-French fighter jets are predicted to excel America's F-35.

War Factories

Though Germany isn't a military heavyweight, the overall picture is strong. Its military budget is the seventh highest in the world. This rank could suddenly rise if Germany commits to rearm—for which its *capacity* is mighty.

Germany excels in the small-arms industry, which is a conglomerate of smaller manufacturers and other industry branches that also produce arms and security technologies. Among its greatest armories is Heckler & Koch, one of the world's five largest gun manufacturers, which produces handguns, pistols, rifles and machine guns. Its G3 is modeled after the Kalashnikov AK-47.

Another great manufacturer is Germany's photonics group Jenoptik, which produces mechatronic and sensory products for civilian and military markets. The company is present in more than 80 countries. In 2017, it generated about €748 million (US\$850 million) in revenue.

The Munich-based company MTU Aero Engines produces engines for combat aircraft, such as the Eurofighter, and the civilian Airbus A380. Founded in 1934, the company today extends worldwide to 14 locations, with 10,000 employees and revenue of €5 billion (\$5.7 billion).

Diehl Defense is the armaments division of the Nuremberg-based Diehl Group. The company specializes in the production of tank tracks, ammunition and guided missiles. The company is present in 18 locations, primarily in Europe.

Krauss-Maffei Wegmann specializes in manufacturing howitzers, troop transporters and tanks. Its famous Leopard 2 was built in cooperation with Rheinmetall. KMW has 3,500 employees in seven countries; 30 countries rely on its military technology.

Rheinmetall Defense is the armaments division of the Düsseldorf-based Rheinmetall Group. Its main products include tanks, anti-aircraft systems and ammunition.

Steel manufacturer ThyssenKrupp also operates an armaments division. The company produces world-class submarines and naval vessels.

Some of Germany's arms manufacturers have also expanded through



THE ROOTS OF GERMAN MILITARY MIGHT

Some of Germany's most successful businesses have a history of arming Germany with the tools of war, and they rebounded remarkably from their World War II defeat. After some mergers, splits and acquisitions, the same industrial conglomerates that powered Adolf Hitler's Third Reich have reemerged to dominate the modern European Union.

PROFILE

2017 REVENUE



Airbus A400M military transport planes of the Luftwaffe

AIRBUS

Headquartered in Leiden, the Netherlands, Airbus operates in 19 countries. It is now the world's second-largest aerospace company, manufacturing commercial aircraft, helicopters and military transports.

\$76,510,000,000



Puma tanks are assembled at a Rheinmetall factory

RHEINMETALL

Headquartered in Düsseldorf, Germany, Rheinmetall operates in 21 countries. It is the 10th-largest weapons manufacturer in Europe, primarily manufacturing combat vehicles like the Leopard 2 tank.

\$6,760,000,000

RÖCHLING

Headquartered in Mannheim, Germany, Röchling operates in 25 countries. It has the biggest portfolio of thermoplastics and composite materials in the world, manufacturing plastics, automotive parts and medical equipment.

\$1,800,000,000



Workers emerge from a submarine under construction at a ThyssenKrupp shipyard.

THYSSENKRUPP

Headquartered in Essen, Germany, ThyssenKrupp is divided into 670 subsidiaries worldwide, operating in 78 countries. It is the 10th-largest steel producer in the world, manufacturing trains, elevators, ships and submarines.

\$47,500,000,000

PARENT COMPANIES

WORLD WAR II ROLE

THE RED HOUSE REPORT

In 1996, a shocking World War II intelligence document went public. A French military intelligence agent compiled the document detailing an August 1944 meeting between top German industrialists. Several of Germany's elite industries were represented, including Messerschmitt and Volkswagenwerk. Representatives met at the Hotel Rotes Haus in Strasbourg, France, to discuss a secret postwar plan to restore Nazi power. When the U.S. declassified this document, it received sparse news coverage. More disturbing is that the U.S. government did not make it public until 1996—over 50 years later.

MESSERSCHMITT

Messerschmitt designed and manufactured the majority of the Third Reich's Air Force.



Bf 109 fighters on the assembly line at the Messerschmitt factory in Augsburg, 1943

COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Sinderen

RHEINMETALL

Rheinmetall was Adolf Hitler's second-biggest arms supplier, manufacturing nearly every important kind of gun the German Army used and exploiting thousands of concentration camp laborers.



Adolf Hitler speaks at a weapons factory in Berlin, in 1940.

Drs. Kopp, Vier and Beerwanger

RÖCHLING

Hermann Röchling was appointed the Reich Commissioner for Iron and Steel in the Occupied Territories. His company manufactured weapons such as the Röchling grenade.

Dr. Tolle

THYSSEN, KRUPP

Fritz Thyssen was an early supporter of Hitler. During World War II, his company was one of the Third Reich's major steel producers. The Krupp combine manufactured submarines, trucks, locomotives, warships, artillery and munitions for the Reich—using 75,000 slaves for labor.

In 1951, Alfred Krupp, along with imprisoned German industrialist, was officially pardoned and released. Later, he appeared on the cover of Time magazine as "the wealthiest man in Germany and perhaps the world." He died in 1959, and a copy of *Mein Kampf* on his night table.

Dr. Kaspar

"The battle of France was lost for Germany and now the defense of the Siegfried Line was the main problem. From now on also German industry must realize that the war cannot be won and that it must take steps in preparation for a postwar commercial campaign. Each industrialist must make contacts and alliances with foreign firms, but this must be done individually and without

attracting any suspicion. Moreover, the ground would have to be laid on the financial level for borrowing considerable sums from foreign countries after the war. ... Following this meeting a smaller one was held presided over by Dr. Bosse of the German Armaments Ministry and attended only by representatives of Hecho, Krupp and Röchling. At this second meeting it was stated



Volkswagens move along the assembly line in Dresden.



BASF headquarters



Bayer headquarters

TRIDELTA

Headquartered in Hermsdorf, Germany, TriDelta is a subsidiary of the Tokyo-based Meidensha Corp. It continues to manufacture surge arresters for high- and medium-voltage electrical systems.

\$45,500,000

VOLKSWAGEN

Headquartered in Wolfsburg, Germany, Volkswagen operates in 31 countries. It is the largest manufacturer of automobiles in the world, producing 11 million passenger and commercial vehicles in 2018.

\$272,000,000,000

BASF

Headquartered in Ludwigshafen, Germany, BASF operates in 80 countries. It is the largest chemical-producing company in the world. It is also involved in crop technology and crude oil exploration.

\$73,880,000,000

BAYER

Headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany, Bayer operates in 79 countries. It is the 15th-largest pharmaceutical company in the world, also making consumer health-care products and biotechnology products.

\$36,730,000,000

SANOFI

Headquartered in Paris, France, Sanofi operates in 100 countries. It is the world's sixth-largest pharmaceutical company, manufacturing both prescription and over-the-counter medication.

\$40,180,000,000

HERMSDORF & SCHOMBURG

Hermsdorf & Schomburg manufactured ceramic insulators for electronic components during the war.



Adolf Hitler and Dr. Ferdinand Porsche inspect a new Volkswagen.

BÜSSING, VOLKSWAGENWERK

Büssing manufactured heavy motor vehicles for the German Army—using inmates of several Nazi concentration camps. Volkswagenwerk built cars, military vehicles and munitions—using 15,000 slaves for labor.

IG FARBEN

IG Farben, the world's largest chemical group, played a key role in the Holocaust, manufacturing Zyklon B gas-chamber poison—using 80,000 slaves for labor.



IG Farben chemical plant

Faust and Himmler

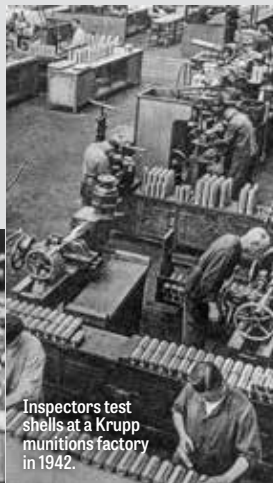
GERMANY'S MASTER PLAN

The Germans are building an empire. Their imperial goals catapulted in the 1930s when Germany recognized the independence of two little Roman Catholic republics in the Balkans. These events show anyone willing to take note that something dreadful is stirring in Germany. To learn more, request **Germany's Conquest of the Balkans**.

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Hitler greets Gustav Krupp, who led Krupp AG through 1940.



Inspectors test shells at a Krupp munitions factory in 1942.



Workers assemble tanks for the German Army during World War II.

Dr. Scheid

Captain Haberkorn and Drs. Ruhe, Ellenmayer and Kardos

that the Nazi Party had informed the industrialists that the war was practically lost but that it would continue until a guarantee of the unity of Germany could be obtained. German industrialists must, it was said, through their exports increase the strength of Germany. They must also prepare themselves to finance the Nazi Party, which would be forced to go underground as

Maquis (to go in mountain defense stations). From now on the government would allocate large sums to industrialists so that each could establish a secure postwar foundation in foreign countries. Existing financial reserves in foreign countries must be placed at the disposal of the Party so that a strong German Empire can be created after the defeat."





► **SUPERPOWER** FROM PAGE 17

mergers beyond national borders. MBDA developed into a European defense company with locations in France, Britain, Italy, Germany and Spain. The company specializes in guided missiles.

Germany's largest arms manufacturer is also a merger. The Airbus Group consists of the German DASA, the French Aérospatiale-Matra and the Spanish CASA. The company specializes in fighter jets, troop transporters, tankers and combat helicopters. European aircraft producer Airbus is ranked the second-largest industry in the field.

Europe's land and maritime production industries are undergoing similar mergers. Government reports published in November say Germany will lead the production of a new European super tank that involves the German companies Rheinmetall and KMW and the French Nexter. France's state-owned Naval Group also seeks to merge with ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems.

German industry has also formed business and strategic partnerships with industries worldwide. Take Rheinmetall: Beyond exporting its goods around the world, the company is known for investing in other countries directly. For example, it has been heavily involved in the construction of a tank factory in Turkey.

Rheinmetall's reach gives it power to subjugate competitors. In January, the British defense company BAE Systems announced that it is selling a majority controlling share of its Land UK division to the German Rheinmetall Group.

Andreas Schwer, a native German and executive for the Düsseldorf Rheinmetall Group, sits on the board of the Saudi Arabian Military Industries. Then there's Rheinmetall Italia and American Rheinmetall Munitions, the company's operations in Italy and America.

This manufacturer was banned after World War II, and today it is one of the top industrial companies in the world!

Combining the strength of its arms industry with its civil industry, Germany could soon be mass-producing tanks and other military vehicles instead of cars. Incidentally, Europe's great car and truck producers, Mercedes, Volvo,

Renault, Volkswagen and MAN, are all involved to some degree in the production of military equipment and parts.

These factors give Germany enormous military *potential*. It may not be brimming with tanks, fighter jets and guns, BUT IT HAS THE INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY TO CREATE ALL THESE THINGS. Indeed, it does manufacture them for others. It need only keep a few at home.

As peaceful as Germany seems because its army has shrunk since 1990, its military potential has grown *exponentially*. The stage for sudden rearmament is set.



The European Main Battle Tank, manufactured by Rheinmetall, KMW, and Nexter

European Strategy

When calculating Germany's military potential, it is important to also consider the capacity of its European neighbors. Why? Because, thanks to its economic and political position in Europe, Germany can tap into their assets. Moreover, Bible prophecy speaks of an end-time *European* superpower, led by Germany.

In time, we will see Germany gain more influence and even exercise direct control over France's air force, Italy's navy and Poland's impressive tank brigade. Indeed, the effort to streamline these disparate sectors is already underway. Germany is working to merge Europe's weapons industry, its military operational headquarters, its armies and its leadership. Most of the Dutch Army is already integrated into the German Army. The Czech and Romanian armies have also agreed to join the Germans. Our Trend article details the progress of the integration: "Europe's Push Toward a Unified Military" (theTrumpet.com/15727).

In 2017, EU nations launched a

military pact called Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) that includes logistics, transportation and training missions that will help coordinate member countries' operations.

But Europe's army and military would be largely ineffective without capable leadership at the officer level. This is why Germany is training military officers all over Europe.

The Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces, currently has 24 training facilities open to soldiers from other EU member states. It also has troops in 55

training facilities of other armies across Europe. Some Bundeswehr officers are attending the elite officers' school in Saint-Cyr, learning about the military structure, strategies, resources and mentality of France.

German officers are learning to work with and to command foreign soldiers. They are cooperating with the French on flying helicopters. German submarines could soon set off for patrol carrying joint German-Norwegian crews.

Preparing for World War III

In 1945, Herbert W. Armstrong told radio listeners: "From the very start of World War II, [the Germans] have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically planned, in such eventuality, the third round—World War III!" (May 9, 1945).

Between 1945 and his death in 1986, Mr. Armstrong delivered this same warning hundreds, perhaps thousands, of times. Like Churchill, he understood

that Germany “is a country fertile in military surprises.” But Mr. Armstrong had another advantage: He understood the *many* biblical passages prophesying the formation of an end-time German-led United States of Europe.

He knew the prophecy in Isaiah 10, where God says He will use the “Assyrian” as a corrective rod to punish the nations of Israel (America and Britain). Verse 6 says Germany (modern-day Assyria) will have the military might “to tread them down like the mire of the streets.”

He knew the prophecy of Daniel 7. Depicted in this chapter are four “beasts,” each representing a world-ruling empire. These empires rise and fall chronologically; that means the fourth is on the scene prior to the return of Jesus Christ. This fourth “beast” is the most destructive; verse 7 says it is “DREADFUL AND TERRIBLE, AND STRONG EXCEEDINGLY”

Mr. Armstrong knew the prophecies of Revelation 13 and 17. He understood the identity of the “woman” in Revelation 17 who rides the seven-headed, 10-horned beast. He understood that the seven heads of this beast represent the seven consecutive resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire, and that the 10 horns on the seventh and final head represent a united, German-led European empire.

He understood the prophecies in Ezekiel, Habakkuk and Matthew 24 that describe a time of intense violence and tribulation. Notice Habakkuk 1:8-10, which describe this end-time European empire: “Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat. They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.”

This passage is describing the single most destructive, most frightening military force in human history!

Remember Genghis Khan’s mass slaughter, Joseph Stalin’s gulags and purges, and the Nazi Holocaust?

THE DESTRUCTION INFLICTED BY THE GERMAN-LED EUROPEAN WAR MACHINE DESCRIBED IN BIBLE PROPHECY WILL ECLIPSE ALL THESE!

This is why we must closely monitor Germany’s military. The Germans are an industrious, disciplined people, with many wonderful qualities. BUT HISTORY SHOWS THEY HAVE A PENCHANT FOR WAR AND CONQUEST. It would be unwise to discard centuries of history in a moment of self-righteous political correctness.

The will, the incentive, for war grows almost by the week. Inside Germany, issues like migration, radical Islam and economic uncertainty are arousing nationalist sentiments. As anxieties and fears grow, the people will naturally begin to think more about the need for security and protection, and the need to defend their interests at home and abroad. The more threatened they feel, the more they will accept the *need* to militarize.

Nearly the entire international community is virtually *begging* for Germany to do more militarily—and not just in Europe, but also in the Middle East, in Central Asia and in Africa. How often in the past two years have we heard America’s president call on Berlin to spend more on the military and take more responsibility for Europe’s security? Now we see France and Germany making real progress on developing a European military.

Consider the mounting threats too. Europe faces pressure from Russia, which is unafraid to show force and is drawing ever closer to China and Asia. The problems in the Middle East, in Iran, Syria and Turkey, all ripple into Europe. The continued invasion by migrants from the Middle East and Africa is a daily threat. Meanwhile, the U.S. and Britain—once the guarantors of Europe’s strategic defense—are abandoning that role.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE INCENTIVE FOR GERMANY AND EUROPE TO MILITARIZE.

But there is also an *even more profound and inspiring reason* why Germany is militarizing!

In 2011, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, “But here’s the most astounding and inspiring part of Revelation 17: God put it in the minds of Europe’s leaders to do what they’re doing!”

(February 2011). He was referring to verse 17, which says, “For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.”

Will you believe what the Bible plainly states? Germany’s imminent militarization, followed by its initiation of World War III, is ACTUALLY GOD’S WILL.

But *why* would God allow another world war? This is hard for many people to fathom.

The answer? Through this coming conflict, God is trying to establish a connection with mankind, particularly with the end-time nations of Israel. God takes no pleasure in suffering. In Ezekiel 33:11, God says, “As I live ... I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; BUT THAT THE WICKED TURN FROM HIS WAY AND LIVE: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”

This is God’s great purpose for the coming tribulation: He is correcting the nations of Israel, *and all mankind*, to help them turn from their ways AND LIVE!

Since 1931, *especially since December 1989*, God has been telling Israel, “Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways.” God has been measuring Israel’s correction for many, many years. Some have listened, repented and changed—and these people will be protected in a place of safety when the tribulation comes (Revelation 12:14). But most people and nations reject God and reject His warnings.

Today, the only way God can get people’s attention is by getting tough. Mankind simply must see the consequences of their rebellion and repent. You might wonder: *Is there no other way that God could break through to mankind?* Sadly, God has tried every other option.

But there are a few, *and indeed only a few*, who understand what God is doing today. These few understand the prophecies and see the great hope in their fulfillment. They see God’s hand in world events. They see Bible prophecy as proof of God’s existence, and that His Word, the Holy Bible, is true and accurate. These few today proclaim God’s master plan. These few are striving to submit to God’s law and government, and they experience the happiness and blessings that result. ■

TRUE REPENTANCE IS ONE OF THE most misunderstood doctrines in mainstream Christianity today. It is also one of the most important for a true Christian to understand.

Before Jesus Christ's ministry, John the Baptist boldly proclaimed that mankind needed to repent. Christ started His ministry by emphasizing the exact same truth. And at the beginning of God's one true Church, Christ's apostles continued proclaiming the need for true repentance.

As a reader of the *Trumpet* magazine, perhaps you have thought about repentance. You may have heard this subject discussed at your local church. But do you really know what repentance is?

What does a person repent of? Who is repentance toward? It is vital you understand this subject. No person will inherit eternal life who has not truly repented. It is truly a matter of life and death.

Not Just Sorry

"Repentance is not merely being sorry for something one has done—or even many such sins," Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his book *The Incredible Human Potential*. "It is a real repentance of what one *is* and *has been*—of his whole past attitude and life apart from God." Have you ever thought of repentance to that degree and depth? This is what your Bible teaches.

Repentance is more than just being sorry. Many times, individuals have *thought* that they have repented of a sin. Yet merely asking God for forgiveness is not true repentance. It is important that we confess our sins before Him and ask for His mercy and forgiveness, but true repentance goes much deeper than that.

"It is a total *change* of mind and heart and direction of life," Mr. Armstrong continued. "It is a *change* to a new WAY OF LIFE. It is a turning from the *self-centered* way of vanity, selfishness, greed, hostility to authority, envy, jealousy and unconcern for the good and welfare of others to the God-centered way of obedience, submission to authority, love toward God *more* than love of self, and of love and concern for other humans equal to self-concern."

If you are to reach the deep level of repentance God seeks, then you need to pray about and meditate on what you just read. To truly repent, you must

What Is True Repentance?

Most people do not know—yet this vital truth is a matter of life and death! BY BRIAN DAVIS

honestly see yourself for what you are and who you are apart from God. This is what *we all* must do!

Human nature is *filled* with the evil fruits of "vanity, selfishness, greed, hostility to authority, envy, jealousy and unconcern for the good and welfare of others," as Mr. Armstrong wrote. We have to recognize this reality about ourselves, but can only do that if we get God involved in the process. Then, with His Holy Spirit and His perfect love shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5), we can begin to learn and think differently. We can have that "change of mind and heart" we so desperately need—the change that *is* true repentance.

What Do You Repent Of?

Mainstream Christianity today sometimes speaks about repentance. But do they really understand the kind of repentance God requires? Do they even understand what one must repent of?

Notice the answer in 1 John 3: "Whoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (verse 4). We repent of *breaking God's law*.

One of the greatest deceptions in so-called Christianity is the notion that God's law is done away. If that is the case,

then what do we repent of? If you think God's law is done away, then you cannot understand true repentance.

God's law is His way of thinking; it is His perfect way of life. Anything contrary to that is sin. *That* is what we must repent of. That is more than being sorry for doing something wrong. It is about changing—a complete turnaround and moving forward in the other direction. Repentance is about going in the opposite direction of sin.

The process of repentance *requires* that we know what sin is and that we come to recognize it in our own lives. Otherwise, how could we overcome it? Again, understanding the law of God is vitally important.

True faith—the faith of Jesus Christ—is critical as well. The Apostle Paul wrote, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Do you diligently seek God? Do you approach Him with faith? Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Elsewhere, Paul states that whatever is not of faith is SIN (Romans 14:23).

Not doing what God says to do is sin. Doing things that God says not to do is



sin. Not walking by faith is sin. Anything contrary to living and thinking like God is sin. That is what we must change. In all cases, the common denominator regarding sin is *God's law*.

True repentance has more to do with the future than with the past. Yes, we should have remorse. We should be sorry for the wrong ways of our past. But true repentance is about turning around and going in a different direction. It's about changing and moving in a new, different and right way.

God Leads You to Repentance

However, not one of us can do this on our own. Without God, we are woefully inadequate. To be successful, we need to beseech God for help. When we go before God, we must know that He will hear and answer us. Remember, as the Apostle Paul wrote, that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Notice what God can do for us: "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that *the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*" (Romans 2:4). God expects us to come to Him with a humble and teachable spirit. Then with the power of His Spirit, He will lead us to true repentance. We cannot work up

true repentance on our own. It can only be done by the power of God.

Humbly and diligently ask for God's help! Go before Him in faith with a humble and teachable spirit, desiring to learn to think and live like Him. If you want to live according to His way, then ask in faith for Him to lead you to repentance. That will lead to a total and complete separation from your former ways. Let it cut deeply to the point that you want to change your ways.

True repentance has more to do with the future than with the past. It is about turning around and going in a different direction.

Repentance Is Toward God

Another very important aspect we must understand is found in the book of Acts. "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). We must have faith toward Jesus Christ, yes—but OUR REPENTANCE IS TOWARD GOD THE FATHER. He is the great Lawgiver. When we break His law, our repentance must be toward Him. When we sin, we are violating His way of life and what He has established as right.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has written a booklet titled *How to Be*

an Overcomer. We want to send you this book free of charge. Take the time to study it deeply. It shows you the attitude you must have in order to totally repent. In fact, the first chapter is titled "Repentance Toward God."

That booklet highlights King David's example. David made some serious mistakes and committed some terrible sins. But he knew how to truly repent toward God. Because of his attitude and the changes he made in his life, God called him a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22). That is quite a reputation for this king! God would never have called David that if he didn't know how to repent.

We have all sinned, just like David (Romans 3:23). But do you want to be a person after God's own heart?

In the first chapter of *How to Be an Overcomer*, Mr. Flurry writes: "Sin is something that needs to *horrify us*. We must be aware of what Christ did for us. Grow in '*repentance toward God, AND faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*' Have faith in that sacrifice. Then repent toward God, who planned the whole thing. You know, especially if you're a parent, that the Father must have suffered horribly along with Christ.

"If you have problems that keep recurring in your life, evaluate yourself by this measure. ARE YOU REPENTING TOWARD GOD? Realize your *evil* before God!"

Think about what Jesus Christ and God the Father did *for you*. We need to come to a depth of repentance where

it is as though our own firstborn was pierced! (Zechariah 12:10). God the Father had His own Son brutalized, crucified and a spear pierced into His side. Sin should horrify us as it does our spiritual Father.

A Message Through the Ages

Even before Christ's earthly ministry, emphasis was placed on true repentance. "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:1-2). John the Baptist was

telling those gathered around (ahead of Christ's ministry) to repent. The time had come for God to begin preparing pillars, helpers and leaders for the Kingdom of God. It all starts with repentance. It starts with us recognizing who and what we are apart from God. It starts with us seeing the need to change and to begin learning how to become more like God. It is a complete change from sin to living and thinking like God.

We have to make that change permanent. Some in John the Baptist's day did not like his message. They did not want to change. "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (verses 7-8). They were told they wouldn't be baptized. No matter how much they tried to be righteous, they didn't show evidence that they

This theme of repentance appears over and over again. Clearly this subject is important to God.

were changing from their own carnal way. Where were the fruits? Where was the evidence that they were striving to change? Where was evidence that they were submitting themselves to God and He was leading them to repentance?

We have to ask ourselves those same questions today. What are your fruits? Are there fruits in your life to show that you are truly repenting and changing, humbling yourself and allowing God to lead you to repentance? As covered earlier, only by God leading you can you achieve true repentance.

Now notice how Jesus Christ began His earthly ministry: "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Christ's message was for people to repent first and foremost.

Otherwise, the full weight of the gospel couldn't be understood.

Why don't you hear people in this world talking about the Kingdom of God, a literal kingdom and government that is going to rule this Earth? After all, that is the message Christ brought (Mark 1:14-15). He instructed His disciples to do the same: to go out and preach "that men should repent" (Mark 6:12). That is instruction for anyone who serves under Christ.

After Jesus Christ was resurrected, the true Church of God was established. Christ had prepared leaders. The foundation was laid. Acts 2 describes the history of the very first Pentecost. This was a momentous event in Church history! Notice the message that was preached in the very first sermon: "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **REPENT**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus

Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy [Spirit]" (Acts 2:37-38). Once someone hears and believes the true gospel message that Christ brought to this Earth, he or she must repent! True repentance is the beginning of the entire process.

This theme of repentance appears over and over again! Think about how prominent repentance is in the verses at the beginning of the New Testament and at the foundation of God's true Church. Clearly this subject is important to God!

Paul wrote, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of *repentance from dead works*, and of faith toward God" (Hebrews 6:1). Here Paul is listing the basic doctrines of God's Church. At the top of the list, he points to *repentance!* Repentance is absolutely critical for any of us if we are going to have a future with God.

The Path to Joy

True repentance will bring joy into your life. Sin brings misery and complications. Remember this: Obedience to God and His law will simplify your life; disobedience will always complicate your life.

Mr. Armstrong said that it was in surrendering to God in complete repentance that he found unspeakable joy in accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and his present High Priest. *You can find that same joy!* But you must repent and accept Christ as your personal Savior. That is what God instructs us to do.

We must understand and be brought to true repentance in order to enter into God's Family and receive eternal life.

Remember this crucial point, as well—as you go through the process of being led by God's goodness to real repentance, never get negative, discouraged or depressed. Never give up! In *The Incredible Human Potential*, Mr. Armstrong wrote: "The truly converted Christian will find that he often stumbles, *under temptation*, and falls down—even as a physical child learning to walk often falls down. But the year-old child does not get discouraged and give up. He gets up and starts out again." You do not have to get discouraged. You do not need to give up. You do not need to be down. You need to *repent*. Then God will help you; He will lift you up and continue leading you to overcome.

Mr. Armstrong continued: "THE TRULY CONVERTED CHRISTIAN IS NOT YET PERFECT!"

"GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART—the inner *MOTIVE*—the real *intent!* If he is trying—if he gets up whenever he falls down, and in repentance asks God's forgiveness, and sets out to do his very best **NOT TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN**—and to persevere with renewed effort to **OVERCOME**, God is rich in mercy toward that man in his striving to overcome."

There is so much hope in true repentance! Strive to more perfectly repent toward God, reaping the abundant joy and blessings that come from true, godly repentance. ■



Unlock joy and blessings.

To study this profound and inspiring subject further, request Gerald Flurry's free booklet ***How to Be an Overcomer***.

Sodom and Gomorrah Proved!

Recent scientific evidence corroborates an 'impossible' biblical miracle.

BY CHRISTOPHER EAMES

FIRE FROM HEAVEN
Lot and his two daughters fled Sodom as God destroyed the city.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH—CITIES utterly destroyed by fire from heaven. So says your Bible.

And now, so says *archaeology*.

The biblical account of Sodom and Gomorrah's heavenly destruction is legendary. "Sodom and Gomorrah" is a term universally understood to represent sin, sexual license, immorality—and horror and destruction.

The biblical account is far from being merely a fable, however. Scientists have now found evidence of a catastrophic event unmistakably akin to the one described in the book of Genesis.

From Paradise to Sheol

The Dead Sea zone was once home to a thriving civilization—particularly the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, according to the Bible. Genesis 13:10 describes the location as a veritable "garden of the Lord," "well watered every where."

Archaeology has revealed flourishing prosperity in this area—right up until it came to a sudden, jarring end around 3,700 years ago. This is the same period at which the Bible places the "fire and brimstone" destruction. In the centuries following this abrupt end of civilization, the territory has remained lifeless and uncultivable. To this day it is utterly saline and quite literally *dead*.

According to the Bible, because of the widespread evil in Sodom, God condemned it to fiery destruction, sparing only Lot and his family. "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground" (Genesis 19:24-25).

God demolished the terrain, and fused Lot's wife into salt after she looked back longingly at the city. The Bible associates salt with total destruction; for example, after Shechem was conquered,

destruction was found at five nearby excavated sites, and indicated by ground surveys at 120 other, smaller settlements in the region. Excavation director Prof. Phillip Silvia recorded his team's discoveries in a detailed analysis: "The 3.7kaBP Middle Ghor Event: Catastrophic Termination of a Bronze Age Civilization." The details are almost incredible.

Mud brick structures were found to have suddenly disappeared, leaving only burned stone foundations. Bricks showed signs of incineration. Skeletons lay mangled. Clay pottery fragments were discovered to have *melted into glass*.

Excavations have revealed utter destruction and an instantaneous end of civilization, dating roughly to the 1700s B.C.

salt was scattered throughout the city (Judges 9:45). Appropriately, the area is home to what is known as the Salt Sea (Dead Sea), the world's deepest hypersaline lake—10 times saltier than the ocean.

Archaeological Evidence

Jordan's Tall el-Hammam is a possible location of biblical Sodom. Excavations there have revealed utter destruction and an *instantaneous* end of civilization, dating roughly to the 1700s B.C. More

Zircon crystals in the pottery, upon analysis, were shown to have formed within *one second*, the result of superheating to temperatures perhaps as hot as the *surface of the sun*. A "tidal wave" of boiling hot salt had swept over the land. There was evidence that mineral grains had rained down, carried by scorching, high-force winds. Ash and debris, several feet thick, were left behind within the wider 193-square-mile area of destruction—a scene of utter carnage of biblical

proportions. The estimated regional population of 40,000 to 65,000 people would have been killed instantly by the strange event.

What caused such a catastrophe?

An Exploding Meteor?

Silvia's team of scientists working at Tall el-Hammam has estimated that the scene of devastation was caused by an exploding meteor. They base this hypothesis on a massive airburst that occurred in 1908 in Siberia, leveling 772 square miles of forest yet leaving no crater. Scientists' best guess at what caused this Russian blast was a meteor breaking apart three to six miles above ground. In 2013, a fiery meteor streaked across Russia, causing explosions and injuring hundreds. The Tall el-Hammam scientists posit that a similar event must have occurred around 3,700 years ago, causing a dramatic fire-

description—directly matches the biblical event.

Fire and Brimstone

To this point, archaeology has confirmed dozens of personalities in the Hebrew Bible (53, according to this count), dozens of places, dozens of wars, etc. Here, at the northern tip of the Dead Sea, we have scientific corroboration for a biblical *miracle*. The New Living Translation of verses 24-28 read: "Then the Lord rained down *fire and burning sulfur from the sky* on Sodom and Gomorrah. He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out *all the people and every bit of vegetation*. But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt. Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had

also Deuteronomy 29:23). Even today, the region remains synonymous with death.

Given that much of the area was blanketed in boiling salt in the conflagration, it's not surprising that Lot's wife would also be cemented into a superheated column of salt for her sin of looking back in longing for the depraved cities. And certainly, the damage would have created billowing clouds of smoke visible for hundreds of miles around—such as what Abraham saw.

Why?

Why the utter destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? For thousands of years, it was believed that the cities were destroyed primarily for their sexual sins, especially homosexuality. However, due to the current popularity of homosexuality, some biblical apologists argue otherwise. They posit an alternative interpretation: that the prime sin of Sodom was the *lack of hospitality* toward foreigners.

Does this explain why Sodom and Gomorrah, above all cities on Earth, were wiped out? What about those like the Assyrians, who lined city walls with the heads and skins of foreigners? Why weren't they destroyed by a nuclear-like fireball?

Several scriptures make clear Sodom and Gomorrah were *glutted* with *sexual sin*—especially homosexual sin—and that this specific sin is directly related to the fiery conflagration. The context of Genesis 19 makes this clear. The men of the city demanded that Lot send his "male" guests out to them, "that we may *know* them" (verse 5), referring to sexual relations. This wasn't just one or two men. This was "the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, *all the people* from every quarter" (verse 4). Lot refused, and offered instead his virgin *daughters* to the mob, girls "which *have not known man ...* and do ye to *them* as is good in your eyes" (verse 8). The context makes clear what the men of the city wanted. The Moffatt translation (among others) renders verse 5: "Where are the men who came to visit you tonight? Bring them out to us *that we may rape them.*"

As a result of this exchange, the angels who were with Lot blinded the men outside his home—and *still* the sex-crazed men grappled for the door (verse 11).

Evidence shows the land remained uncultivable and inhospitable for the next 500 years.

ball, a superheated air blast, and a fallout that wiped out the region below.

Based on research by atomic energy researcher Samuel Gladstone, the Tall el-Hammam scientists have estimated that a 10-megaton airburst yield in the atmosphere would have been sufficient to cause the destruction evidenced on the ground. That is just over *666 times* the blast yield of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

While scientists can debate whether or not such extraordinary destruction was caused by a meteor-type event or other heavenly phenomena, what is not debatable is the effect. And that destruction—in location, time and

stood in the Lord's presence. He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like *smoke from a furnace.*"

The finds at Tall el-Hammam and the surrounding area have confirmed just such an event. Some kind of heavenly firestorm instantly incinerated not only the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, but all the "other cities and villages of the plain," carbonizing them with temperatures perhaps akin to the surface of the sun. "[E]very bit of vegetation" was wiped out, and evidence shows that the land remained uncultivable and inhospitable for the next 500 years (see

'It doesn't affect me'— oh, really?

Our free booklet ***Redefining Family*** examines the true effects of the modern proliferation of sexual perversion. It explains why it is harmful, why God is against it, how to extract yourself from it, and where the modern movement is taking us.



The idea that homosexuality isn't a sin contravenes several other scriptures that condemn the practice (e.g., Leviticus 18:22; 20:13). "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to *fornication*, and *going after strange flesh*, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 7). These are the chief sins identified with Sodom and Gomorrah—sexual sins—*going after strange flesh*. Of course, this was concurrent with many other sins that contributed to their downfall. The Prophet Ezekiel wrote of Sodom and "her daughters": "They were haughty and practiced abominable deeds" (Ezekiel 16:49-50; New English Translation).

The mortal danger of such sin is not only to those directly engaged in it, but to those exposed to it. The attitude of "as long as it doesn't affect me" is dangerous, as Lot found out the hard way. He detested the sins of the city, but the gross sexual immorality had rubbed off on his family—to the point that his betrothed sons-in-law refused to escape, his wife looked back longingly at the city as they fled, and his own two daughters raped him soon afterward in order to conceive children (Genesis 19). Such actions by Lot's daughters certainly aren't the result of a mere "lack of hospitality" rubbing off on them. They are the result of growing up in a society saturated in sexual sin.

Today's world is fast approaching—or has already surpassed, in many cases—the saturation point of sin prevalent in Sodom and Gomorrah, especially in sexual sin. Isaiah 3:8-9, speaking of our time, condemn our people who proudly "declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not." Never in history has *sodomy* been so openly celebrated.

Homosexuality *does go beyond* affecting those who directly engage in it. Your Bible says society's sins are leading to another "fire and brimstone" event—this time **WORLDWIDE**. This coming calamity is going to be "*greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom*" (Lamentations 4:6).

Not only does the Bible present a witness of fiery judgment for sin, so too does archaeology. Perhaps these recent discoveries are actually an omen of what is soon to come upon us. ■

► **FRANCE AND GERMANY** FROM PAGE 11
from one country will regularly sit in on the other's cabinet meetings. On the military front, the treaty enshrines an ambition to form a 'common culture and common deployments' overseas."

This is real integration! This is a 21st-century **EMPIRE!**

This news story should be alarming to students of history. In the early 1900s, people felt the world was too modern and sophisticated for something like World War I to ever happen. In the 1930s, people thought the world was too modern and too sophisticated for World War II. Today, similar wishful thinking makes World War III unimaginable.

This should be a real bombshell to students of Bible prophecy. It is part of the fulfillment of a modern resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. Revelation 17:12 says this revived empire will consist of "ten kings," meaning 10 nations or groups of nations. It will be unified under the direction of the Catholic Church, and Daniel 8 states it will be led by a strongman. Other prophecies make it reasonable to deduce that this leader will be German. France will be followed by other Catholic-influenced nations giving their power to Germany.

Connection to Charlemagne

This coming Catholic European empire will follow the tradition of Charlemagne. Charlemagne united Europe politically and religiously, but he did it through decades of breaking agreements, raids, deportations, hostage-taking, brutally imposing Catholicism, and slaughtering people en masse. The *Times* noted that this new Franco-German treaty honors the memory of Charlemagne, since the two nations chose to sign it in Aachen—Charlemagne's capital, a location "heavy with symbolism."

The treaty was signed in the coronation room of the historic Aachen town hall, originally part of Charlemagne's palace complex. The room is filled with frescoes and images of the Holy Roman emperor, and holds copies of Charlemagne's crown and other regalia from his coronation.

Germany and France are getting serious about European unification. They want political action, they want to be together on the UN Security Council, and they want a real European army. Can you

begin to see how the EU alliance will be pared down to 10 nations? Eight other nations or groups of nations will also lend their power to Germany. Others will leave or be pushed out. Europe will have its core of nations that, like Charlemagne, are serious about political power, economic power, religious power and firepower.

Europe is uniting before our eyes!

Read my father's February cover story ("France Rejects America—and Empowers Germany!" at theTrumpet.com/18315). It shows the prophetic significance of France turning away from Britain and America, and toward Germany, which has repeatedly invaded it. France's attitude toward the U.S. and Britain today is often open rebuke. That article explains why this will soon turn into open *betrayal*.

"I think President Macron is just **GROVELING** before Germany and saying, 'Well, we'll be your servant. We'll do whatever we have to do just to be a part of your great power,'" my father said in his Dec. 7, 2018, *Key of David* program. "They just don't seem to have the **WILL TO FIGHT** like Winston Churchill did in World War II."

Macron might be willing to sign this treaty with Merkel now because he sees her as weak and hopes he can take advantage. But that is about to change! A strong German leader will soon take control, and Europe will unite under his leadership.

Dramatic events with huge consequences are occurring, and quickly! Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied this for years. In a 1980 *World Tomorrow* broadcast, he emphasized that this empire would appear **SUDDENLY**: "Gradually, and now faster and faster, a new power is being developed from underneath the surface. A new world power which the public now least suspects, which the world does not yet see, doesn't realize, doesn't dream is coming, but it is developing just as prophesied in Europe. A resurrected Roman Empire A power so mighty that our Western peoples will stand **AGHAST** when it flashes suddenly into full being. Yes, your Bible says that the world will be *startled*."

Watch this partnership between France and Germany. Prophecy is unfolding at an astonishing rate, and we must follow Christ's admonition in Matthew 26:41 to watch and pray. The world will be startled when this empire suddenly appears—but you don't have to be. ■

BROKEN TREATY
The Russian
Defense
Ministry
displays its
new cruise
missiles.

End of INF brings mankind closer to nuclear brink

The United States announced on February 2 that it is suspending compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty due to Russia's ongoing violations of the deal. The 1987 agreement between the U.S. and Russia bans both countries from developing or using land-based, medium-range nuclear missiles. Such missiles give even less warning than long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles or incoming aircraft, meaning decisionmakers have minutes or seconds to decide if an inbound threat is a false alarm.

Beginning in 2008, Russia began developing a new missile system that clearly violates the INF deal. "[T]he United States has ... raised Russia's noncompliance with Russian officials, including at the highest levels of government, more than 30 times," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on February 1. "Yet Russia continues to deny that its missile system is noncompliant and violates the treaty. The United States will therefore suspend its obligations under the INF Treaty"

The decisions were made by Russia and America, the effects are most dramatic for Europe. This treaty's demise

puts Europe's historic cities in the nuclear crosshairs. If intermediate-range nuclear missiles are launched, they will be inbound, not for Washington or Moscow, but for Berlin, Warsaw, Paris and Rome. The INF treaty covers shorter range, mobile missiles more suited to surprise attack than longer-range, larger counterparts. Russia has already developed and deployed new types of these weapons. "If you think Europe is under strain now, wait until it faces a new nuclear arms race," wrote Edward Lucas in the *Sunday Times* (February 4).

But Germany is already showing signs of a strong response. After the deal's suspension, a *Handlesblatt* headline read, "New Arms Race: As Nuclear Treaties Dissolve, Germany Wakes Up to New Responsibilities." Europe is no longer relying on America for its security, but on Europe—which means it is relying on *Germany*.

Sigmar Gabriel, Germany's former vice chancellor and foreign minister, wrote an article titled "Europe and the New Nuclear-Arms Race." He wrote, "Europe is now entering a potentially dangerous period and must play a much more active role in the nuclear-arms debate" (February 5).

Roderich Kiesewetter, a defense expert with Germany's ruling Christian Democratic Union party, said, "If Russia doesn't dismantle its systems, we must ensure Europe's security and shouldn't exclude any options, even nuclear ones" (Spiegel Online, February 5).

This is a controversial issue and could be another major headache for the coalition. But several in the CDU want Europe to strengthen its nuclear weapons. If Russian President Vladimir Putin continues to reject all forms of cooperation, "one must, if need be, consider nuclear retrofitting in Europe," said Elmar Brok, a CDU member of European Parliament (ibid). T-Online wrote that Germany is stumbling "into a debate about nuclear armament, reminiscent of dark times" (February 4).

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has long focused on the role that fear of Russia has played in uniting Europe. In the January 2004 *Trumpet*, he described how the rise of strongman Putin "strikes intense fear in Europe ... that will hasten the uniting of the European Union." Ten years later, Mr. Flurry described how Putin shocked Europe with his invasion of Ukraine. "Europe's dreadful fear of Vladimir Putin—its

next-door neighbor—is going to help shape and form the Holy Roman Empire rather *suddenly*," he wrote in the May 2014 *Trumpet*.

With the demise of the INF Treaty, that fear has grown. Watch how Europe responds. Watch the debate about nuclear power in Europe. This fear will bring some massive and long-propheesied changes to Europe.

The signing of the INF Treaty was a positive development for mankind. But it was never a guarantee of lasting peace, and now it is collapsing. None of man's various treaties and plans are able to secure sure and lasting peace. In all such ideas, there is no guarantee that unfathomably destructive weapons will not be used. And there is no cause for hope.

But there is hope in the Bible. "Only God can solve our number one problem: that of human survival," Mr. Flurry writes in his booklet *Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door.'*

Mr. Flurry makes the Bible's plan for a sure solution clear. But he shows that the Scriptures also say that man's peace efforts will increasingly fail and that nuclear war will soon erupt. Matthew 24:21-22 reveal that this future war will threaten to end every human life. The suspension of the INF Treaty brings this alarming prophecy closer to fulfillment.

But end-time prophecies do not end with war wiping out mankind. Matthew 24:22 says the nuclear war "shall be shortened." Before the nations detonate enough weapons to obliterate all people, Jesus Christ will return and cut the violence short. He will usher in an age of lasting peace.

"We are now at the edge of this nuclear abyss!" Mr. Flurry writes. But he adds that as these "horrible signs come to pass, we know Christ is about to return." To understand these prophecies and the profound hope at their core, order a free copy of *Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door.'* ■

China expands navy and air force, downsizes army

The Chinese People's Liberation Army is undergoing "transformational changes" to boost the size of its navy and air force and to downsize its land-based army by nearly half, the nation's official Xinhua news agency wrote on January 20.

China is using its expanding naval power to assert greater control over the South China Sea. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said its tightening grip on the region shows that "China is steering the world toward war." In the July 2016 *Trumpet*, he wrote: "[T]he American military is retreating, and other great powers are coming in to fill the

vacuum. ... China is intimidating the nations of Southeast Asia into submission to its will. ... Everything is headed in the direction of war."

Mr. Flurry's analysis is founded on Bible prophecy. Deuteronomy 28:52 records God warning the people of Israel that if they reject Him, He will give control of the world's maritime choke points, or "gates," to their enemies. Mr. Flurry wrote that this is "a prophecy for the *modern-day descendants* of Israel! Two nations in particular represent Israel in this end time: America and Britain."

Its naval expansion will soon enable China to block the U.S. and Britain out of not just the



PRIORITIES
China's Liaoning aircraft carrier and J-20 stealth fighters



Asian sea "gates" they once controlled, but even those that lie thousands of miles from China. To understand this Bible prophecy, and the hope that is tied to it, read Mr. Flurry's free book *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*.

'Long arm of the Islamic Republic'

On February 2, Iran successfully test-launched what Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Amir Hatami described as the "long arm of the Islamic Republic of Iran": the Hoveizeh cruise missile.

The long-range missile was manufactured by the Iranian Defense Ministry's Aerospace Industries Organization, but was derived from the Russian Kh-55, which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. During the test, held on the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the missile "accurately hit the set target" from a distance of 750 miles, according to Hatami. He said the missile "flies at a very low altitude" and "can be ready in the shortest possible time."

Five days earlier, Iranian Brig. Gen. Hossein Salami said that his nation's strategy was "to erase Israel from the global political map." Three days later, he vowed that a new war would "result in Israel's defeat within three days."

The test followed a particularly



'LONG ARM'
Iran exhibits its new cruise missile, Hoveizeh.

tense period: On January 20, Iran's Quds Force launched a ballistic missile from the outskirts of Damascus, targeting an Israeli resort in the Golan Heights. Israel successfully intercepted the Iranian-made rocket with its Iron Dome anti-missile system and retaliated the following day with three waves of air strikes against Iranian intelligence facilities, weapons warehouses and a training camp near Damascus.

Iranian leaders also threatened Europe, though less blatantly. "If today the Europeans or others try to plot and pursue Iran's missile disarmament, then we will be forced to resort to a strategic leap," General Salami said on the same day Iran tested the Hoveizeh. "All that hear me

today, come to terms with the new reality of Iran's missile might: There are no obstacles or technical limitations to us increasing [our] range."

All of Israel and parts of Europe are already within range of Iran's longest-range advanced missile. So far, Israel has borne the brunt of those missiles—and retaliated accordingly. While most of Iran's rocket and missile attacks on Israel have been conducted via proxies, Iran has proved willing to confront Israel more directly since Feb. 10, 2018, when it launched an armed drone into Israeli airspace from Syria. Bible prophecy shows that Europe will soon be the target, and when it retaliates, it will result in the end of Iranian terrorism.

Pentagon: Rising Chinese military targeting Taiwan

China has made major military advancements and developed new weapons as it improves its ability to wage war over places such as Taiwan, a January 15 report from the United States Defense Intelligence Agency said.

"Beijing's long-standing interest to eventually compel Taiwan's reunification with the mainland and deter any attempt by Taiwan to declare independence has served as the primary driver for China's military modernization," the report said.

For decades, the Taiwanese have lived in fear of military invasion from China. But they have managed to stay free due to the support of the United States.

But in 1998, after U.S. President Bill Clinton publicly opposed Taiwanese independence, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said it showed that Taiwan would eventually be forced under China's rule. In the August 1998 issue, he wrote that "Taiwan is ... going to be forced into the Chinese mold; and it is going to happen for one reason: because of a pitifully weak-willed America."

To understand China's increasing aggression in the context of Bible prophecy, order a free copy of our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

Venezuela chaos: Not just a problem for Venezuela

Venezuela has two competing presidents. One is the incumbent President Nicolás Maduro, who was sworn in for a second six-year term on January 10 after a dubious election result. The other is Juan Guaidó, who declared himself interim president on January 23.

Government officials in the United States, the European Union, Canada, Brazil and 10 other Latin American countries have recognized Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate leader. But Venezuela's military still backs Maduro, as do the



MADURO



GUAIDO

governments of Cuba, China, Iran and Russia.

Security experts are unsure how this situation will play out. The Bible, however, gives a strong indication of Venezuela's future.

A decade ago, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry forecast the formation of a brief economic alliance between a German-led

European Union and an Asian bloc. He based this forecast on a prophecy in the biblical book of Isaiah. These two economic powerhouses are going to team up against the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel (the U.S. and Britain, primarily). (All of these biblical identities are explained in Mr. Flurry's booklet

Isaiah's End-time Vision and the late Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

Logistically, the U.S. cannot truly be blockaded unless Latin America participates in the siege.

Venezuela's language (Spanish) and religion (Roman Catholicism) make it a natural ally of Europe. If Maduro is forced into exile, it is likely that opposition forces will realign their country toward Europe and the U.S., and away from Russia and China. But ultimately, the Bible reveals that Europe will turn its back on the U.S., make common cause with Russia and China, and use its Latin American allies to besiege and invade North America. ■

America negotiates defeat in Afghanistan

A report in the *New York Times* on January 28 indicated that America's longest-running war is about to end. After nearly two decades of fighting, the United States is about to enter into peace negotiations with the very enemy it sought to destroy in Afghanistan: the Taliban.



SETTLING
U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis visits Kabul in March 2018.

to destroy a far weaker enemy repeatedly over the past two decades.

How could we know that the Afghan war would end in such failure? It's because God prophesied that He would break the will of the United States. Referring to what God says in Leviticus 26, the *Trumpet* wrote in 2006, "It is time to remember that ancient prophecy God declared against a rebellious nation caught up in deepening moral and spiritual decline." Notice: "And I will break the pride of your power ... And your strength shall be spent in vain ... if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me" (Leviticus 26:19-21).

To understand the full weight of this prophecy and its ramifications for America, read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. ■

But before Americans rejoice over a possible end to the war, it's worth remembering that victory over the Taliban was one of the main objectives of the war in the first place.

The *Trumpet* forecast this shocking display of lack of will

America's Achilles' heel: EMPs

The United States Air Force released an Electromagnetic Defense Task Force report on Nov. 28, 2018. The report concluded that an electromagnetic pulse generated by a solar flare or a nuclear weapon could cripple communication systems that are crucial to the military.

Such an event would fulfill a major Bible prophecy that *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has highlighted for over two decades. In the January 1995 *Trumpet*, he said the U.S. military's Achilles' heel is its dependence on information technology. If an enemy could sabotage this technology, it could conquer the nation. One way to sabotage information systems is cyberwarfare. But there are others.

The high-altitude detonation of a nuclear weapon over North America would theoretically incapacitate power grids for months, crippling major cities. The U.S. military is ill prepared to respond, as it depends on the advanced electronics that would



be destroyed in such a scenario. Communication between military bases could be cut off. Many weapons systems could be rendered useless.

In 1995, Mr. Flurry described an end-time Bible prophecy that could be fulfilled by a cyberattack or EMP attack. Ezekiel 7:14 says, "They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof." The trumpet of war will be blown in the nations descended from ancient Israel (mainly America and Britain). People expect the military to mobilize, but nobody goes to battle.

To see what the Bible says concerning America's misplaced trust in military technology, read Mr. Flurry's updated article "*America's Achilles' Heel—and Germany*" (theTrumpet.com/1394). ■

JOIN THE RACE
Senator Warren
 declares her
 intention to
 run in the 2020
 presidential
 election.

Democratic Party swings hard left

The Democratic Party has drafted a new strategy to defeat United States President Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election: *Shift even harder to the left*. Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand announced her candidacy for president on January 15, followed by Sen. Kamala Harris on January 21, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren on February 9. Several others are seriously considering runs. This lineup is the most left-wing Democratic presidential field in U.S. history.

So far, Senator Warren is the biggest name in play. Unlike

some of her colleagues, she does not openly embrace socialism. She says she wants to “fix” capitalism, rather than replace it. Yet the details of her economic proposals would actually “constitute the largest seizure of private property in human history.” In August 2018, she introduced a Senate bill proposing that the government should manage every U.S. business with more than \$1 billion in revenue. That would turn more than 1,000 American companies (90 percent of American businesses by sales) into state-run entities.

Women run the military-industrial complex

Men no longer dominate the United States defense industry. As of January 1, women lead four of the nation’s five biggest defense contractors: Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Boeing’s defense division. The U.S. military’s top weapons buyer, the government’s top arms control negotiator, and the chief overseer of the nation’s nuclear stockpile are also women.

This historical first is “a watershed for what has always been a male-dominated bastion,” reports *Politico* deputy defense editor

David Brown, “the culmination of decades of women entering science and engineering fields and knocking down barriers as government agencies and the private sector increasingly weigh merit over machismo” (January 2).

Major news outlets are enthusing over the trend. In the past, some scholars, such as Francis Fukuyama and Steven Pinker, have argued that women filling such positions could make the world more peaceful. This hope will prove illusory. Bible prophecy reveals that female dominance in military industry

Senator Harris’s proposals on free college for households earning less than \$125,000 per year and “Medicare for all” are far from centrist. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, 2016 presidential candidate and self-described socialist, advocated both of these proposals. According to a George Mason University study, the “Medicare for all” program would cost about \$3.3 trillion per year (93 percent of the total projected 2019 tax revenue).

Senator Gillibrand called on Congress to abolish the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, effectively erasing the nation’s border. She has embraced legal marijuana and endorsed a plan for government-guaranteed jobs for all Americans. Taken together, her proposals would allow illegal immigrants to pour into the country, claim a guaranteed job, and openly indulge in drugs. All of these proposals would have been unthinkable just one election cycle ago.

To understand the biblical significance behind the Democratic Party’s shift left, read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s article “[Communism in America Today](#)” ([theTrumpet.com/go/communism](#)).



Social media addicts struggle to make real friends

A survey of 3,053 British adults commissioned by the French beverage company Pernod Ricard found that social media addiction makes it harder to make new friends and keep old ones. In the survey, released at the end of January, 55 percent of respondents agreed that spending time on social media has made their friendships more superficial.

The survey found that the average Briton has 12 “real” friends, but only feels close enough to four of them to confide personal details. The average respondent said he or she had drifted apart from seven friends, blaming time spent on social media as a primary cause.

Proverbs 17:17 says, “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” Social media is creating a world where people have hundreds of Facebook friends and few real ones.



will do nothing to prevent impending conflict.

A prophecy in Isaiah 3 refers to a time when God removes “the [men] of war” and “the captain[s] of fifty” from end-time Israel, and replaces them with women and childish leaders. This

change will not lead to a more enlightened, peaceful future, but will “destroy the way of thy paths” and leave the nation desolated by war (verses 1-12). To learn why God is removing strong leaders from America and Britain, read *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision*.



ONLY ONE OF GOD'S CHURCHES IS PROTECTED

► CHRIST'S COMING FROM PAGE 13

Christ said, "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matthew 24:40-41). In the Bible, a woman symbolizes a church. This passage is about two churches grinding, or doing a work, but one is lukewarm and materialistic, putting physical riches ahead of God, His Family and His Kingdom. God says that only the one that is faithful to Him "shall be taken" and protected.

God has not and will not protect the 95 percent of His Church who have become rebels. They will be left behind when God's loyal remnant is taken to a place of safety. This truth ought to sober us!

This is true during the coming Great Tribulation—but it also applies in the years leading up to it. God says He will protect, not only during the Tribulation, but even *up until* that time. What a wonderful blessing from God!

Why will they be protected? "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find **SO DOING**" (verse 46). The faithful Church receives God's protection *because they are found doing His work*. They remain vigilant, watching and praying about the fulfillment of Bible prophecy in end-time events (Luke 21:36).

This is definitely a time that demands spiritual vigilance. What a horrible time to fall asleep spiritually!



GOD IS PREPARING HIS LOYAL PEOPLE TO RULE AT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods" (Matthew 24:45-47). God will bless the tiny few who do His work before the return of Jesus Christ.

What does God mean by "ruler over all his goods"? Many other scriptures show the meaning: They will rule the universe!

Here is a promise God makes to those who remain faithful to Him during the Laodicean rebellion: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Revelation 3:12). Those who follow God today will not only become spirit-born sons of God, they will also marry Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7) and rule at universe headquarters for all eternity at the highest level of God's government! What MIGHTY BLESSINGS for obedience!



THE LAODICEAN REBELS HAVE LOST THE GOD FAMILY VISION

"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 24:48-51).

The Laodiceans have lost the faith and patience to wait for Christ's return and prepare for it. They had God's power; they understood His truth, but they couldn't wait. He didn't come when they thought He should, so they turned from God and compromised with this evil world.

How important it is to wait on God! Look at the punishment that awaits for this treachery! A *horrible* time is coming, a time of "weeping and gnashing of teeth"! And God is going to allow these people of His to go right through the middle of that nuclear tribulation.

God puts them through that crucible in an effort to turn them back to Himself! Many other prophecies show that when they experience that worst of all trials, **HALF OF THEM** will repent.

This is dangerous knowledge: Once God reveals it to us, He holds us accountable. But it is the most wonderful knowledge you could ever hear!

Christ gave these signs to put us on high alert for when He would return. He wants us to be watching and preparing! He wants us to be **READY**. We must listen and heed. The Second Coming is *so close*. The fulfillment of these six signs show that it is **AT THE DOOR**.

Heed Christ's warning, and obey Him. Learn to think like Him today, and you will sit on His throne with Him forever! There could be no greater reward! ■

DISCERN THE DANGEROUS DAYS AHEAD.

For a study on the signs Christ gave for His return, request ***The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse***.



Serve God With Passion

ARE YOU PASSIONATE? I BELONG TO A BOOK CLUB THAT HAS studied three dynamic personalities over the last two years: Winston Churchill, John Adams and Napoleon Bonaparte. We have found that these great leaders were active, assertive and *passionate*.

God is also passionate about what He does and about His plans. Bring more of God's passion and energy into your life, and you can conquer even your worst sins, weaknesses and obstacles.

The Holy Spirit is a spirit of *power* (2 Timothy 1:7). The Greek word here for "power" is *dunamis*—the root word for *dynamite*! God's Spirit supplies EXPLOSIVE spiritual power! And you need nothing short of that to win your spiritual war. Those who are so passionate that they *conquer* their sins are those who will rule with God on His throne (Revelation 3:21).



STEPHEN FLURRY

Military leaders sometimes sum up their ethos, their purpose, their passion in a single phrase. *Semper Fidelis. Invicta.* Duty first. Who dares wins. For king and country. God tells His Christian warriors,

"Fight the good fight of faith ..." (1 Timothy 6:12); "Strive to enter in at the strait gate ..." (Luke 13:24); "mortify the deeds of the body" (Romans 8:13); bring your body into subjection (1 Corinthians 9:26-27). These are the bold actions of passionate people!

Here are three areas to build more passion in your life:

1. Prioritize prayer and study.

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore SOBER, and WATCH UNTO PRAYER" (1 Peter 4:7). "The fact that Christ's return is so near should *change our behavior*. ... THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST'S IMMINENT RETURN SHOULD MAKE US URGENT SPIRITUALLY," my father writes in *The Epistles of Peter—A Living Hope*. "Because Christ is almost here, we must be very concerned about our prayer life."

Don't try to work up passion yourself. Stirring up human emotion leads to temporary and sometimes dangerous results. Your passion must come from God. Go to Him in prayer—not in a dreary routine, but drinking in energy, spiritual strength and inspiration from God. Our passionate Father will respond and fuel your passion, *energizing* your life and producing growth, excitement and more passion! Your prayers will get RESULTS (James 5:16).

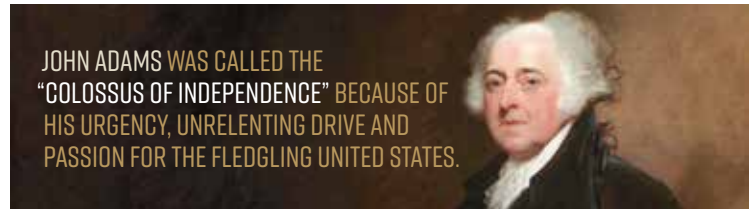
In Hosea 7:14, God corrected His people for their indifferent prayers: "[T]hey never put their heart into their prayers" (Moffatt translation). Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "[N]ever have I received an answer from God except when I prayed earnestly from the heart. I have never known of a real answer coming from God of a casual, routine prayer" (*Plain Truth*, August 1978). Make sure your prayers are not casual, listless or said while half-asleep. Psalm 62:8 tells us to *pour out our hearts* to God. Hezekiah "prayed and cried" to God (2 Chronicles 32:20). Christ

prayed to the Father with "strong crying and tears" (Hebrews 5:7).

In the same way, ask God to help you bring passion into your Bible study. Romans 10:1-2 describe people who are filled with misguided zeal that differs from God's knowledge. Studying the Bible fills you with God's knowledge and gives your passion *direction*. Pursuing your own desires and your own righteousness, causes you to miss out on the entire purpose for your existence. Ground your routine and your life in deep Bible study. The truth you learn will have you bubbling over with passion and pointed in the right direction. If you study God's Word with a humble, obedient attitude, it will become a *burning fire in your bones* (Jeremiah 20:9; 23:29).

2. Study the lives of passionate leaders.

Our book club has studied a prime minister, a president and an emperor—and all three were *voracious readers*. These great men studied great men. "Napoleon Bonaparte said that if you want to be a great general, you must study the great generals of the past," my father writes in *The Former Prophets*. "That is good advice for us spiritually as well. Bible history is the greatest history of all because it's God's history."



My father writes in his booklet on Chronicles that if we don't study history and the lives of great men, we are in danger of being caught up in the present and forgetting the prophetic and historic overview. As a young man, Mr. Armstrong studied the biographies and autobiographies of great men, as well as the stories of great leaders in the Bible. Studying passionate leaders teaches us how to be passionate ourselves.

3. Build passion for God's work.

John Adams was called the "colossus of independence" because of his urgency, unrelenting drive and passion for the fledgling United States. He was passionate for a physical goal. We should be far more passionate for our *spiritual* goal: supporting and doing God's work.

Jeremiah was. He did God's work by "rising early and speaking" (Jeremiah 7:13; 25:3; 35:14). He was urgent and hard-working about getting the work done.

Jesus Christ certainly was. He attracted huge crowds, not only because of His healings and miracles, but also because He had a powerful message that He delivered with POWER and conviction. His messages left people amazed and astonished (Matthew 22:33; Luke 2:47; 4:32). After Christ was gone, His disciples said, "Did not our heart BURN within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

Doing God's work effectively takes real passion! We should be bold and courageous in our mission, knowing God's Kingdom is the solution to the world's evils and troubles.

Use these three points. They will help you to become truly passionate about what GOD is passionate about. ■

I just wanted to tell you how much your magazine has kept me from feeling alone in a world of false religions. Since my childhood, my faith in our heavenly Father has been challenged, but the Church at that time was standing right with the Lord's holy, inspired words. It was almost 30 years later that my childhood church turned away from the truth. I wanted to express my sincere thanks for your magazine and Bible studies. It is so refreshing to hear the gospel the way I feel the Lord intends it to be today and forever! God bless you for your outreach and for doing the good works of the heavenly Father. And yes! I want to start the Bible correspondence studies!

Benjamin Guzman TEXAS

This is a great magazine. I pass mine on to a lot of different people, and they really enjoy it too. Tell them to keep up the great Work!

Larry Gilmore TEXAS

It is a very lovely and uplifting Christian magazine. You guys work really hard at what you are doing; I can tell.

Arnold Gross MANITOBA, CANADA

It is the nicest, most informed magazine I have ever gotten. I really appreciate the magazine!

Janice Coss VIRGINIA

I love the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. It helps me know what to expect in the world. Thank you. It helps to keep up on Israel so I know how to pray for it.

Glynmary Bateman CALIFORNIA

Thank you for the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine. You have the news that we need but that nobody else talks about. Glad for your service!

Larry Rueschhoff WYOMING

I have no phone or that Internet, but I LOVE your magazine. I look forward to it every month. I love to read. I'm 53 years old and



disabled and have started reading my Bible again. Thank you!

Michael Paulus PENNSYLVANIA

I love reading the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. It's the best magazine I have ever read. Thank you and have a nice new year!

William Bright MISSOURI

Please tell whoever does this that I really appreciate it. I get a blessing from it. I don't have a TV, and I don't want one, but your magazine really explains world events to me.

Lois Wilson KENTUCKY

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Why Has Emotion Replaced Reason in America?

The surprising answer **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

“FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS,” AMERICAN FOUNDING father John Adams famously said. But in modern America, facts are not so stubborn, and you don’t become famous by clinging to them. You become famous by being stubborn with your emotions. More stubborn than facts, truth and logic are emotions, feelings and “personal truth.”

“We no longer live in a democracy. We live in an ‘emocracy’—where emotions rather than majorities rule and feelings matter more than reason,” historian Niall Ferguson recently wrote. “The stronger your feelings—the better you are at working yourself into a fit of indignation—the more influence you have” (January 27).

Examples are everywhere. Consider just two.

Newly elected Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is a socialist and has been called the future of the Democratic Party by the party chairman. In a January 6 *60 Minutes* interview, Anderson Cooper challenged her regarding her use of inaccuracies to support her political views. Cortez condemned those who would dare call her out: “If people want to really blow up one figure here or one word there, I would argue that they’re missing the forest for the trees. I think that there’s a lot of people more concerned about being precisely, factually and semantically correct than about being morally right.”

It doesn’t matter if you make a few things up—what’s important is being morally right. She doesn’t define what makes something moral: Her views are “moral” regardless of facts. She is like many today who are less concerned with facts than with their narrative and their “truth.”

Take another example: the January 25 arrest of Roger Stone. No less than 29 heavily armed Federal Bureau of Investigation agents took part in the arrest of the 66-year-old former adviser to President Donald Trump at 6 a.m. at his house—on charges related to lies in an interview by Special Counsel Robert Mueller regarding Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Stone quickly made bail and was back out of custody. To say that he is not considered a threat to anyone is an understatement.

As former House Speaker Newt Gingrich put it, “Is this really America when at 6 in the morning somebody who is not violent, has no record of violence, has armed FBI agents in full

battle vests pounding on the door at 6 a.m.? While CNN covers it? There is something despicable about what’s happening in America today” (January 25).

Is this about facts? Is this about justice? Or is it about politics, ideology and *will*? The only reason this case was handled this way was because it supported the popular but false narrative, promoted incessantly by the media regardless of facts, of “Russian collusion.”

It seems that what matters most—more than facts, morals, or anything else—is simply *winning*, whatever the cost.

These and many other bizarre, unprecedented and dangerous trends are evidence of an unseen destructive influence on our society that few people ever think about.

That is the influence of the *invisible spirit world* on the spirit component of the human mind. Ephesians 6:12 states that we are not actually striving against other human beings but “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [evil spirits] in high places.” There is a real spirit world!

The Bible perfectly describes the conditions we see: 2 Corinthians 4:4 says Satan is the god of this world; Ephesians 2:2 says human beings walk “according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” “People

simply do not realize that there is an invisible spirit power injecting into their minds these hostile attitudes,” Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*. It’s not that the average person underestimates the power of Satan’s influence. *We don’t even realize it’s there.*

This destructive influence is worse now than in any previous generation. In these last days, the Bible tells us about a universe-shaking, spiritual “war in heaven.” Michael and his angels

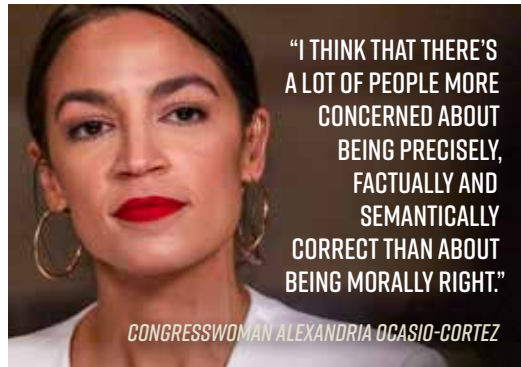
prevailed against Satan and his demons, and there was no more space in heaven for those evil beings; they are now *confined to Earth* (Revelation 12:7-9, 12).

Why is our world coming apart in so many ways? Why are nations rising up against other nations? (Luke 21:10). Because Satan is influencing human minds, and he has been cast down to Earth! He is the cause. He is the father of murder, lies and deception (John 8:44). And he surcharges the air with his spirit of unrestrained emotion: anger, bitterness, strife, jealousy and envy.

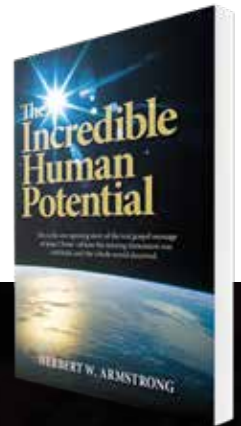
These are the emotions taking over America. The louder you are with your uncontrolled emotion, the more credible you seem! Yet uncontrolled, unbridled emotions lead to catastrophe.

God gave us emotion, but He also gave us His law to show us what is right and wrong, so we can *direct* our emotions. But people in the world today are not looking to the Bible or to God for answers. They are not seeking guidance from above. They are not interested in reasoning together with God (Isaiah 1:18). And they have made themselves deeply vulnerable to the influence of the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air.

That is why, in America today, facts are no longer stubborn things. Emotions are. ■



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