THE PHILADELPHIA TO THE PH

Stocking up for world war

Legalizing marijuana? Oh, Canada!

Will China rule the waves?

Bitter truth: Kids on sweets

Australian drought

Europe looks to solve current crises by reviving its ancient heritage



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The Holy Roman Empire Goes Public—Big Time!

This story should be the headline of every news media on this planet! But it's hardly even noticed because this world is ignorant of Bible prophecy and history. That ignorance will cause them to be victims of the worst suffering ever on this Earth!

TREND IS UNFOLDING IN EUROPE THAT YOU SHOULD KEEP a close watch on. Europeans have been besieged by immigrants from the Middle East, growing Muslim populations within their midst, cityscapes filling with mosques and minarets, portions of their cities turning into Muslim enclaves that local police dare not enter, even Islamic terrorist attacks.

And more and more Europeans are looking for solutions in their own history. Specifically, their religious history.

A strong example of this trend is Austria's new chancellor,



GERALD FLURRY

Sebastian Kurz. He is a staunch Catholic, and OUTSPOKEN ABOUT THE FACT THAT HIS RELIGION GUIDES HIS POLITICS. That is the Holy Roman Empire! It has a religious history full of unparalleled, bloody warfare. And that is mild compared to what is coming. Bible prophecy tells us that empire is about to start a nuclear World War III!

Kurz is only 32 years old, but he cap-

tured the imagination of his countrymen, and they promoted him to lead the nation.

He is close to the archbishop of Vienna, Christoph Schönborn, whom several authorities believe could become the next pope. When he was foreign minister, Kurz sought the counsel of a Catholic priest on how to deal with the migrant crisis. The actions he took after that meeting actually stopped the influx of migrants into Germany and Eastern Europe. German Chancellor Angela Merkel opposed his actions, calling them anti-humanitarian. But Kurz Believed his actions aligned with his Catholic faith.

Until the end of this year, Sebastian Kurz is president of the European Council, one of the rotating presidencies leading the European Union. Kurz's main goal as Council president is summarized by his motto for the presidency: "a Europe that protects." He wants to protect Europe—mainly from unwanted refugees and a lot more. And religion directs his politics. He is bringing religious talk into the European Council.

This is hardly the first time that religion has been featured in European politics. In fact, Kurz is just trying to resurrect a role that his native Austria played for centuries: as the heart of the Holy Roman Empire—the most powerful and infamous Church-state combine in all human history.

Under Chancellor Kurz, this imperial heritage is again gaining emphasis through a giant publicity campaign. If you want to know what Kurz believes and what he is going to do, you need to study the history of the Holy Roman Empire.

Showcasing Imperial Heritage

For more than a thousand years, Europe has been home to emperors who claimed to be the successors of Roman emperors. Each worked to unite Europe under the imperial crown. From the mid-16th century until around 1800, the seat of these emperors was Vienna, Austria.

One of the earliest emperors of the Holy Roman Empire was Charlemagne. His empire included much of what is now France, Germany and Austria. Under threat from the east, Charlemagne founded the "Ostmark," a region where the Alps form a natural, defensive line against the eastern Slavic people. The Ostmark formed the core of modern Austria and is where it gets its name. This modest beginning laid the groundwork for Vienna to rise as the heart of the Holy Roman Empire.

"Charlemagne endeavored to bring unity and peace to his empire—whose borders corresponded roughly to what today is Central Europe—that was established through crusades and interest-driven politics," Vienna's Imperial Treasury wrote at the start of Austria's presidency of the Council. "As such, he may be regarded as the father of Europe, as is recalled annually in Aachen by the award of the city's International Charlemagne Prize" (emphasis mine throughout).

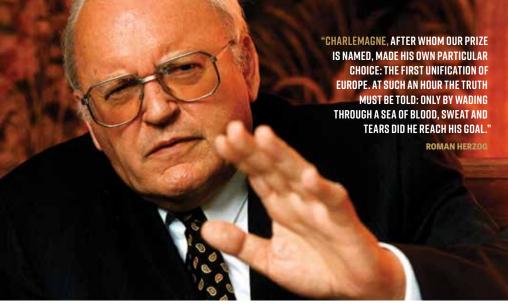
One of the EU's founders, Otto von Habsburg, said, "The [European] Community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it don't know by what heritage they live."

Now, this Holy Roman Empire heritage is on display. Not since Germany's sixth head of the Holy Roman Empire has it been so publicly promoted.

You must understand where this is leading!

Correlating with Austria's presidency, the Imperial Treasury in Vienna is offering tours between July 1 and December 31. The tours were advertised throughout Vienna with a large picture of the crown of the Holy Roman Empire. Vienna's Imperial Treasury explained that Austria's presidency of the EU Council "is the occasion for lively debate about WHAT EUROPE IS, AND WHAT IT SHOULD BE IN THE FUTURE. The Imperial Treasury in the Vienna Hofburg is well suited as a forum for this discourse, for many of the objects preserved here are directly related to Europe's past."

What objects—and what past? "For example, THE CROWN OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, dissolved in 1806, as well as the crown of the Austrian Empire. These two insignia are central symbols of Europe's history."





This exhibit is designed to showcase the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire. It is being promoted throughout Vienna with photos of the imperial crown. This crown is also the main symbol portrayed on the outside of the exhibit.

The exhibit acknowledges that many Europeans have forgotten their imperial heritage. "It is from the European perspective then that 12 objects are examined afresh," the Treasury wrote. "The intention is to elucidate the historic context in which these works of art were created, and thereby to make perceptible the diverse roots from which the 'European Idea' grew."

Austria's leaders want people to know about the Holy Roman Empire! There are 28 nations in Europe; some of those nations may dislike the emphasis on that empire. But watch—it is going to be promoted regardless!

Calling for Charlemagne

Kurier, a German-language newspaper, published an article on June 26 titled "Holy Roman Empire, Hallelujah!" Speaking of "the cultural program of the Austrian EU presidency," this paper called it a religious undertaking that Austria is helping to install in Brussels, European Union headquarters. It quoted Austria's Minister of Culture Gernot Blümel saying this about the exhibit promoting Europe's heritage: "[I]t is excellent to use the imperial crown as a possible symbol," as it embodies a European history (Trumpet translation throughout). They are promoting the crown of the Holy Roman Empire as a symbol of Europe's history.

Otto von Habsburg said of that crown: "We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally. This is the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne." This imperial crown, with its strong connection to Charlemagne, is the primary symbol of the empire.

That German-language article continued: "The name 'reich' [meaning 'empire'] is derived from THE CLAIM TO CONTINUE IN THE TRADITION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, LEGITIMIZING THE RULE AS GOD'S HOLY WILL" Yes—this was the view that drove the Holy Roman Empire's imperial conquests! Charlemagne had absolute authority and he used it like a dictator, supposedly with God's blessing. God commands, Thou shalt not kill. Yet Charlemagne went out and killed by the millions, thinking he was serving God!

Each year since 1950, the German city of Aachen, where Charlemagne lived and is buried, awards the Charlemagne Prize to an individual who has served the cause of European unification. I attended the award ceremony in 1997, when former German President Roman Herzog received it. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Herzog said, "Charlemagne, after whom our prize is named, made his own particular choice: the first unification of Europe. At such an hour the truth MUST BE TOLD: ONLY BY WADING THROUGH A SEA OF BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS DID HE REACH HIS GOAL."

What an unusually frank and true statement! The Holy Roman Empire is militaristic to the core! It has started some of history's bloodiest wars. But how many people really know about it? Why do so many Europeans today celebrate that?

Charlemagne waded through a sea of blood converting people to his religion. Encyclopedia Britannica explains, "[T]he violent methods by which this missionary task was carried out had been unknown to the earlier Middle Ages, and the sanguinary [bloody] punishment meted out to those who broke canon law or continued to engage in pagan practices [as he called them | CALLED FORTH CRITICISM IN CHARLES'S OWN CIRCLE."

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE KILLED 40 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE AGES. That is history we need to know. If we really knew this history, we would be deeply alarmed by what is happening in Europe today. Europe has a bloody heritage and an even bloodier future.

One of Germany's most popular politicians, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, told attendees at a 2017 campaign speech in Bavaria that if they don't "recall where we came from, what our history means," then other cultures will come in and define them. He urged them to remember their history "with its dark and bright sides" and to take a "non-apologetic stand for our culture." He was talking about the history of the Holy Roman Empire!

More and more Europeans are seeking to return to this history of Charlemagne. They have some gigantic crises and they are crying out for a strong leader like Charlemagne! Of course, they disregard the reality that Hitler also led a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire!



You cannot truly understand the Holy Roman Empire unless you understand history—and the Bible. Most are blinded and lack true understanding on both these vital sources. Having a good grasp of the Holy Roman Empire and what is happening in Europe today is vital if you are going to be prepared for what is coming in the near future.

Reviving the Empire

History has witnessed four world-ruling kingdoms. The final kingdom was the Roman Empire, which fell in A.D. 476. Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast? explains the imagery of the symbols for the empire in Bible prophecy.

Prophecy depicts the Roman Empire as a beast with 10 horns, symbolizing 10 successive governments. The first three horns were ruled by barbarians. The final seven were ruled by the Holy Roman Empire. Each of those resurrec-TIONS WAS SATURATED WITH BLOODSHED. DOES THAT SOUND LIKE A "HOLY" ALLIANCE OF CHURCH AND STATE?

The first ruler of the Holy Roman Empire was Justinian. Under his leadership, people were not unified and the empire was weak. But then Charlemagne came on the scene, and he harnessed the power of the Roman Catholic Church to unify the people. He formed the First Reich of that Holy Roman Empire.

Adolf Hitler looked to Charlemagne as a hero. He called his rule the Third Reich. Hitler started World War II, which led to the death of 60 million people!

Revelation 17 prophesies of a great empire rising in the end time, directed by a great false church. The Catholic Church will be allied with the European power as a church-state combine—as it has been repeatedly. Religion has been the driving force of the Holy Roman Empire's conquests.

"And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space" (verse 10). This is the central verse that expresses what is happening in the Holy Roman Empire in this end time. God says that after five are fallen, He would send a man on the scene: Herbert W. Armstrong. At that time, Adolf Hitler was leading the sixth resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, which is the "one is" in verse 10. The seventh

resurrection has "not yet come," but the revival of that empire is happening today!

And remarkably, as they are reviving it, Europeans are doing something they have never done since the vile and murderous sixth head: They are publicizing the Holy Roman Empire! They don't publicize what Adolf Hitler did; too many people remember that bloody history. Instead they cloak it in the tradition of Charlemagne. And yet it is the same story! Not as many people died in the first Reich because they didn't have the same military technology then. But it is the same ambition!

This beast has fallen and risen again repeatedly. After the terrible devastation of World War II, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill vowed to never allow Germany to rearm and become a militant people again. Germany was smashed

EUROPEANS ARE PUBLICIZING THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE. THEY DON'T PUBLICIZE WHAT HITLER DID-THEY CLOAK IT IN THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE. YET IT IS THE SAME STORY.

and almost every city was left in heaps of destruction. Hundreds of thousands of Germans were taking what sparse belongings they had and were trying to somehow survive. You would think people would learn a lesson from that. But most people have forgotten what happened.

Right after World War II ended, Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied that Germany would rise again in one final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

Verse 8 tells us this beast went underground, but then will "ascend out of the bottomless pit." When Germany was in ashes, Mr. Armstrong boldly proclaimed this prophecy. Sure enough, the Germans went underground, with most of the Nazis escaping through the ratlines of the Catholic Church! Brian Connell wrote that two years after their defeat, in 1947, the Germans were told to de-Nazify themselves. Then in 1996, a stunning intelligence document was finally declassified, revealing that German companies like Volkswagen, Messerschmitt and others actually planned to raise up another Holy Roman Empire.

That is incredible determination! Yet that is how the European powerhouse operates. Even after watching their own people suffer during World War II, they have the determination to resurrect their bloody ambitions once again.

Germany has repeatedly reemerged as a devastating military power. We are seeing that beast rise again today! Look at Europe: Germany is once again at the helm! A rearmed and militant Germany will prove to be one of the United States's biggest nightmares!

Revelation 17 tells us exactly what is going to happen in the last two resurrections of this empire. It is extremely sobering—yet we must see that God is orchestrating all this as correction for His people. "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" (verse 17). God has put it in the mind of this violent empire to straighten out America, Britain and the Jewish nation in the Middle East. That may seem strange, but it is what God has to do to get rebellious people to repent!

A King of Fierce Countenance

Bible prophecy makes clear: Soon, Europeans will get exactly what they are asking for, another Charlemagne-type leader. This man will come to power and set himself up as a strongman over all Europe. He will effectively hijack the European Union!

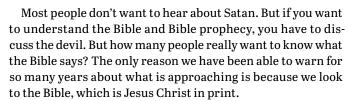
"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up" (Daniel 8:23). This prophecy is for our day today. Are we in a time when "transgressors are come to the full"? Can you think of a sin that is not being committed?

This man who is about to emerge on the scene will be a man like Charlemagne. He will be a man like Hitler. He will be a "king" sitting on the throne of the Holy Roman Empire! And the Bible makes clear, he will be led by Satan the devil!

Sebastian Kurz could possibly fill this role. However, I believe it will be a man like Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, who actually holds the title "Baron of the Holy Roman Empire." Daniel 11 describes this man as being eloquent and coming to power by flatteries. Merkel's coalition in Germany is very weak; it is on the verge of failing. I believe when Merkel leaves office, you will see the strongman of the Holy Roman Empire get control. Guttenberg is one of Germany's most popular politicians. He could be poised and ready to step in and save Germany from its weak and shaky government.

 $However, knowing \ the \ exact \ identity \ of \ this$

man doesn't matter. What matters is that he will get his power from Satan! Scripture reveals the spiritual force that will be behind this man.



Regardless of who the strongman is, it is clear that we are seeing a revival of the Holy Roman Empire in Europe in a way that has not been promoted before. Austria wants to bring that heritage back to life.

WHEN THIS MAN COMES TO POWER, IT WILL AFFECT EVERY HUMAN ON THIS EARTH IN THE MOST HORRIBLE WAYS—UNLESS GOD PROTECTS YOU! But God only protects those who repent.

Two Thrones

This strongman will sit on the throne of the Holy Roman Empire. With all the recent publicity of Charlemagne and the imperial crown, you are seeing the rise of that throne in Europe! At the same time that this throne is being resurrected in Europe, God is establishing a righteous throne in His Church! The throne in Britain today was once God's throne, but no longer. That may sound utterly fantastic, but it is true. And you can prove that. Request my free book *The New Throne of David* for more information.

God has given His very throne to this Church. There is a new throne of David! And you are seeing these two thrones rise at the same time. One throne is led and controlled by Satan the devil, and the other is in this Church led by Jesus Christ because it is the very throne that He is going to return to!

That king of fierce countenance will fight Jesus Christ at His Second Coming. Satan hates that we now have the throne that is going to replace his. He has great wrath against the people that are now sitting on that throne, and he is going to inspire his king to come against the King of kings and Lord of lords. When that happens, you'll finally see the destruction of the Holy Roman Empire forever. That is going to happen very soon! We cannot predict or set dates; only God the Father knows the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36). But God warns us that we had better know when it is at the door! (verse 33). We must be watching and praying.

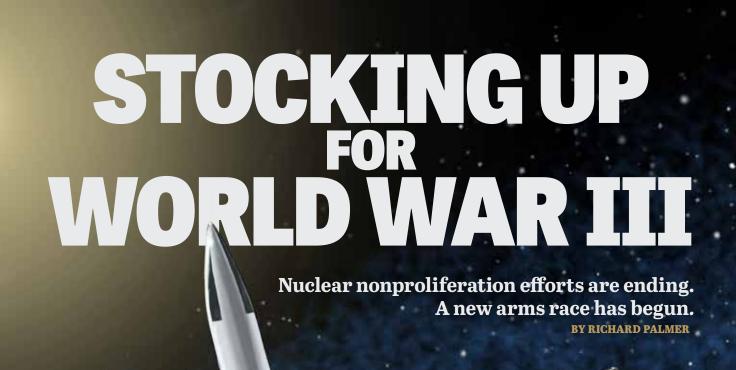
The great hope of all of this is that just beyond that time of tribulation is the greatest, most inspiring event to ever take place: "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:14).

God is going to smash that final resurrection. There will be peace, happiness and joy throughout the whole universe! He is going to plant the heavens and establish His throne forever!



Europe's past is a warning for the future.

European leaders are calling for a revival of Charlemagne's spirit to unify Europe, but Europe has only been unified through iron and blood. Learn more about that heritage, and you will better understand the Bible's warning about what is coming soon to Europe. Request our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.







INCE THE UNITED STATES and the Soviet Union backed away from the precipice of nuclear war in the 1980s, the world's stocks of nuclear weapons have declined from an estimated 60,000 to an estimated 10,000.

According to a 2014 study by science journal *Earth's Future*, however, it would take just 100 nuclear detonations to create a worldwide climate catastrophe causing massive famine and death.

Though the number of nukes is not (yet) rising, experts are saying that the world is in fact entering a new nuclear arms race. The race is moving ahead in ways other than sheer number of weapons. Around the world, new powers are considering launching nuclear weapons programs. For many of them, nukes have been taboo for decades—but that taboo is eroding.

Meanwhile, the established nuclear powers are racing to improve the quality of weapons and delivery systems—making them faster, stealthier and harder to shoot down.

Each new weapon that is manufactured has the potential to kill multitudes of people in an instant, and more in the aftermath. And each new regime or group that joins the club of nuclear-armed entities makes the likelihood of a detonation—or a string of detonations—more probable.

Russian Roulette

Russia has the largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Its government also boasts

about its nuclear weapons more than perhaps any other, using its existing and developing nuclear weapons systems to intimidate others.

It has deployed nuclear-capable missiles in Kaliningrad, on the border of Poland and Lithuania. It has threatened East European countries, saying that if they host United States military bases, Russia will target them for possible nuclear destruction. It has even carried out simulated nuclear strikes on Poland as part of a training exercise.

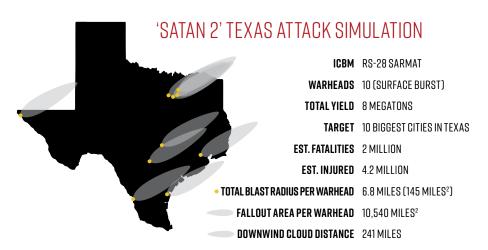
For several years now, Russia has been updating its missiles. And President Vladimir Putin recently announced several new weapons. Russia's new RS-28 Sarmat (popularly called the "Satan 2") is the largest superheavy intercontinental ballistic missile in history. Each missile can carry 10 large nuclear warheads or 16 smaller ones, enough destructive power to practically destroy an entire European nation or an American state as large as Texas.

But the high point for Russian nuclear intimidation came on March 1 of this year. "Russia still has the greatest nuclear potential in the world, but nobody listened to us," warned Putin in what amounted to a weapons presentation to the world. "Listen now."

He went on to announce a series of terrifying new weapons.

He claims that Russia has developed an "invincible" missile, a "fundamentally new type of weapon"—a nuclear-powered cruise missile that flies too low to be intercepted by any existing missile defense system.

He also announced a nuclear-powered torpedo—perhaps another attempt to ensure that Russia can circumvent America's nuclear defenses. The Russian press reported that it carries a 100-megaton warhead, which would release a devastating amount of radiation. "A single Russian submarine armed with these weapons would release more radiation than



the entire U.S. strategic force," wrote Mark Schneider for Real Clear Defense (May 7). The project seems similar to one proposed in the 1960s. Back then, the Soviets squashed it because the admiral in charge was "shocked and disgusted by the idea of merciless mass slaughter," according to the weapon's designer, Andrei Sakharov. But Putin's Russia is pushing forward with it.

Of course, Putin is not well known for his honesty, and taking his claims for granted would be foolish. But so too would be underestimating a nuclear-armed adversary that is publicly displaying renewed interest in weapons that can penetrate the defenses of the United States and its allies. Putin's March 1 presentation explicitly depicted a nuclear strike on Florida.

"Not everyone is sure that Russia is really this far along in developing a nuclear-powered cruise missile," wrote Ars Technica. "But there's plenty of evidence that they're trying hard" (March 22). Some of these higher-profile projects may be questionable. But Russia is also pouring money into much more basic yet terrifyingly deadly nuclear upgrades.

Chinese Checkers

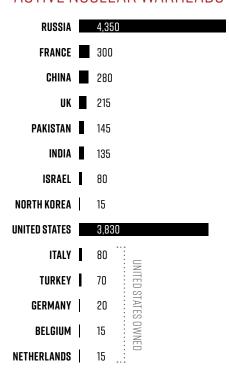
China is improving its nuclear arsenal as well. The U.S., China and Russia are all involved in an arms race to develop the next generation of nuclear missiles: hypersonic vehicles.

Intercontinental ballistic missiles have existed since the 1950s: They launch into space before returning into the atmosphere and speeding toward their targets. They're fast, but for most of their flight, they cannot be maneuvered. So you can see them coming, you can calculate where they will land, you have time to react, and you have a chance to shoot them down.

Still, shooting down one missile using another missile is much harder than most people realize. Even the U.S. military is not very good at it right now.

But a hypersonic vehicle can travel low and fast—three times faster than the world's fastest bullet. And it can be maneuvered. No missile defense system in existence today can stop one. U.S. Air Force Gen. John Hyten told the Senate Armed Services Committee in March, "We don't have any defense that could

ACTIVE NUCLEAR WARHEADS



deny the employment of such a weapon against us."

In August, China claimed to have successfully tested two hypersonic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear weapon. Western experts believe Russia has carried out two successful tests of a hypersonic missile. CNBC claimed on May 15 that "sources with direct knowledge of American intelligence reports" said that Russia's hypersonic weapon would be ready by 2020, though others dispute this.

America's hypersonic program is very secretive. But some experts worry that America is running behind. The Pentagon told Congress earlier this year that China had carried out 20 times more hypersonic test flights than America.

Just like Russia, China is also working on its arsenal in less sensational but quite deadly ways. It is building six or seven warheads a year. Since September 2014, it has carried out an average of five simulated nuclear blasts a month, compared with America's pace of just one a month. China may also be working on a "salted" nuclear bomb—a weapon designed to spread radiation as far as possible, rendering huge areas uninhabitable long after the blast. It is also working on new land-based

launchers and new nuclear submarines.

Wild Cards

Other countries that do not yet have operational nuclear weapons are increasingly desirous of getting them. The weapons program of Iran, the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism, is one of the most worrying. Despite (or perhaps even helped by) the quickly dying nuclear deal, the Iranians are still making progress toward a bomb. In June, they announced that they had nearly finished a new factory to make centrifuges. This will enable them to push toward a bomb more quickly.

This ambition is naturally making others nervous. In response, Saudi Arabia is working on its own nuclear-power plants. The International Atomic Energy Agency completed a 12-day review of the Saudis' nuclear infrastructure development in July. Ostensibly it is intended for peaceful nuclear energy, but Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told CBs in March that "without a doubt if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible."

New Players Enter the Game

Perhaps most remarkable is news from Germany and Japan—two nations that launched World War II and that have a taboo about developing nuclear bombs. Welt am Sonntag, one of Germany's top newspapers, asked on its front page on July 29, "Do We Need the Bomb?"

"National defense on the basis of a nuclear deterrent must be given priority in light of new trans-Atlantic uncertainties and potential confrontations," wrote Christian Hacke.

Politico noted, "It would be easier to dismiss the article as the ramblings of an eccentric academic were Hacke not a fixture of Germany's foreign-policy establishment and a respected university professor. That the debate is happening at all speaks to how unnerved Germany's security community has become in the face of [U.S. President Donald] Trump's threats, including his warning at last month's NATO summit that the U.S. might 'go it alone'" (August 3).

Hacke is not alone. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Spiegel Online, Tagesspiegel and public television channel ARD have called for Germany either to develop nuclear weapons or to at least open up a debate on the matter. This talking point is becoming increasingly common among defense experts.

As Politico pointed out, perhaps the most likely course for Germany is to push for some kind of shared European nuclear arsenal. But it is vital to remember that Germany already has access to nuclear bombs: American ones. They are deployed on German bases, compatible with German aircraft, and ready for German pilots to drop.

Japan is having a similar debate. The Japanese have built one of the world's most advanced nuclear-powered industries. They have the know-how and material to go nuclear but have chosen not to, so far. Channel News Asia reported in July that Japan has stockpiled enough plutonium for 6,000 atomic bombs.

"Japan appears to be caught up in the idea that in an emergency it can produce nuclear weapons with its reprocessing technology," said Hideyuki Ban, codirector of the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center in Tokyo. He may be right. Last year, former Japanese Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba said Japan should abolish its "three non-nuclear principles": not owning, not making and not hosting nuclear weapons in Japan.

And we cannot leave out the U.S. America is considering a \$1 trillion upgrade to its nuclear arsenal, which already exceeds 4,000 operational warheads.

Why Worry?

The nuclear arms race is on. But why should you care?

First, a nuclear arms race is a symptom. Nations don't spend billions on nukes merely for fun. They buy them because they want to threaten other nations or because they feel threatened. A nuclear arms race shows that nations are worried about war, or they desire to use the threat of war.

We are entering a

time when new technologies may convince nations that they can use nukes and get away with it. At the same time, nations that have never been trusted with nuclear weapons are building them, or thinking about it. And as nuclear weapons spread to more countries, the risk rises that they will be used.

"The issue of nuclear arms control is a literally vital issue, not only for the superpowers, not only for their allies, but for all of humanity," Hans Morgenthau, a top thinker in the field of international relations, wrote in his classic 1948 book Politics Among Nations. "For with proliferation now underway in earnest, there is little doubt that a nuclear arms race—no longer limited to two superpowers with cautious governments that are mortally afraid of each other-but spreading over the whole globe, is bound, sooner or later, to lead to an unspeakable catastrophe. For history shows, if history shows anything, that all nations have been governed at times by fools and knaves, and even a combination of both. That was bad enough before nuclear weapons existed. But imagine a fool or knave or a combination of both in the possession of nuclear weapons, and nuclear war becomes unavoidable." This, Morgenthau concluded, "makes nuclear arms control and, in the end, nuclear disarmament a question of life or death for all mankind."

Nuclear weapons are a problem we don't like to think about because we have no solutions. In the 73 years since the first two nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, no one has devised a way to eliminate nuclear weapons.

There is no hope for a solution from man's foreign-policy elite. But there is hope in the Bible, along with some sobering warnings.

The Bible contains many prophetic passages that describe the aftereffects of nuclear bombs. Jeremiah 2:15 mentions cities "burned without inhabitant." Habakkuk 3:17 describes plants that

do not blossom or give fruit, fields that produce no food, and stocks of animals wiped out. Verse 16 tells us this is the work of soldiers—not a natural catastrophe. Amos 5:3 describes an attack destroying 99 percent of a city's population!

Matthew 24:21-22 state, "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 ..."—that the Moffatt version clarifies that this means "saved alive." This isn't about being saved spiritually or being saved from suffering. The context makes it clear that no flesh would be saved from dying. It is a prophecy of mankind nearly wiping itself out.

The Bible is clear: Nuclear weapons will be used. Vast populations will be killed.

But the same scriptures contain great hope. Verse 22 in Matthew 24 finishes by stating, "but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." God won't allow mankind to destroy itself completely. Each prophet who forecast this destruction also described man's great hope. Amos 9 describes Israel rebuilding the cities destroyed in war. In fact, the people have so much abundance, they cannot gather all the food in fast enough (verse 13). Jeremiah says that despite all the trouble, "there is hope in thine end" (Jeremiah 31:17). "[T]hey shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord ..." (verse 34). Habakkuk writes of a time when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

This is the only hope in the face of nuclear proliferation. The world's best experts know that these weapons will be used. But God says that He will not allow mankind to annihilate itself. Instead, the suffering caused as mankind brings itself within inches of its own destruction will finally make human beings willing to listen to God. God will intervene and will finally be able to teach the world and lead all man in the way of real peace.

This is why it is so crucial to closely watch the development and proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is frightful, but it is also intimately connected with man's only hope.



Bible prophecy warns of a coming nuclear catastrophe, and it gives the only hope that can withstand the blast. To learn more, request Gerald Flurry's free booklet **Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door.'**





HE CULTURAL REVOLUTION HAS reached an advanced stage in the Western world. And the revolutionaries are winning. The battles over dishonesty, divorce, promiscuity, abortion and even same-sex "marriage" are over and won. The fighters are now advancing "racist microaggressions," transgender rights, Islamic autonomy and other extreme ideas, including easier access to mind-altering drugs.

Western nations tend to fight these battles at the local level. But not Canada.

Canada always seems to be one of the first nations willing to tackle these issues at a national level. In 2005, it was the fourth country in the world to legalize same-sex "marriage" after the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain. It was the 10th nation to allow its citizens to use an "X" option for their gender on their passports. It is also one of the few nations to criminalize treating transgender individuals differently.

Now Canada's government is taking the lead with implementing another major social change at the national level: It is legalizing recreational marijuana nationwide. This makes Canada the first Western nation and the second nation in the world to do so after Uruguay.

Challenging the Status Quo

Canada's strong push to legalize marijuana began before its last federal election in 2015. Justin Trudeau and his Liberal Party promised to legalize marijuana if they won. After winning, they began working on the first drafts of the new law. On June 21, Canada passed Bill C-45, the Cannabis Act. It has received royal assent and will become law on October 17.

"Obviously the current approach—the current prohibition of marijuana—has not worked," Prime Minister Trudeau said on June 20. Indeed it hasn't. The government's latest statistics show that marijuana use has steadily increased. From 1985 to 2015, cannabis use among those 15 years and older rose from 5.6 percent to 12.3 percent.

Now it's 2018, and in the first quarter of the year, studies found that 14 percent of Canadians age 15 years and older (4.2 million) have used marijuana. More than half of those (56 percent) said they used it daily or weekly.

A 2016 poll found that nearly 70 percent of Canadians favored legalization of the drug. With drug use on the rise, and public support for legalization, the government decided to regulate it rather than prohibit it.

'Protecting' Children

The popular defense of the bill was that it would "protect our children" and deprive organized crime of profits. Is this true?

The new national law establishes parameters for possessing and consuming marijuana. It states that marijuana can be purchased at licensed dispensaries by those 18 years and older. It is also now legal to grow it at home, with a limit of four plants per household. A person cannot possess more than 30 grams, and cannot consume it in public spaces. An adult is allowed to share up to 30 grams with another adult.

What about protecting children? Under the new law, it is still a criminal offense to sell marijuana to minors or to use a minor to commit a cannabis-related offense. The law seeks to dissuade youths from using marijuana by prohibiting products and promotions related to marijuana that appeal to youth. Violations of these laws have various consequences, from prison time to millions of dollars in fines.

While the harsh penalties for peddling to minors sound good, one clause undermines the entire law.

While the new law works to deter adults from supplying minors with

marijuana, it does very little to deter minors from getting it themselves. Under the law, individuals under the age of 18 will not face criminal prosecution if they are caught possessing and sharing what the government terms "very small amounts" of marijuana. How much is a "very small amount"? Five grams—the equivalent of anywhere from 5 to 20 joints.

For a law meant to protect minors from marijuana, this allows considerable leeway. Why? Marijuana possession is an offense that is added to a person's criminal record. It cannot be removed easily, and a Canadian with a marijuana possession conviction cannot travel to the United States and is disadvantaged when trying to secure a job.

The reasoning behind the law is that minors will probably break the law, but politicians don't want them to suffer significant consequences.

Thus, the law isn't protecting minors from *marijuana*—it is merely protecting them from legal consequences of using it!

marijuana possession charges on their criminal records? Already there is talk of the government exploring options to drop possession charges. Between half a million and a million Canadians are estimated to have marijuana possession charges on their records.

To this point, Canada has tried to use laws to check the spread of marijuana. But because the spread has continued, the federal government assumes that the solution is to simply throw out the law. This is proved in the wording of the bill itself: "The act is also intended to reduce the burden on the criminal justice system in relation to cannabis." In other words, everyone is doing it, enforcing the law is straining the justice system, so why bother having a law in the first place?

An Appetite for Drugs

Public views in Canada and the Western world concerning drug use are changing radically. Polls have shown that marijuana and drug use across the board is increasing among Canadians. While

same movement exists in the U.S. and around the Western world. There is a concerted push to change the public image of what historically was an uncontroversial issue. While it was once commonly believed that marijuana was a gateway drug, a battle now rages over the veracity of that claim.

The same battle rages over the "proof" of effects legalized marijuana has on a society. While Canada will be the first Western nation to legalize recreational use nationwide, a number of U.S. states have had legalized recreational marijuana for years. Colorado made it legal in 2012. Has this had a negative impact on the state? It depends on whom you ask. Those on either side of the issue have their set of data to "prove" the positive or negative impacts. In 2016, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said that its survey showed "marijuana use has not increased since legalization, with four of five high school students continuing to say they don't use marijuana, even occasionally." Yet

a study by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area said marijuana use had increased 12 percent in the three-year average (2013-2015) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the three-year average prior to legalization (2010-2012).

And so the battle continues. Those in favor of drug usage point to the fact that violent crime rates across Colorado and Washington have dropped since legalization. Those opposed point to the fact that arrests for black market marijuana production have skyrocketed in the same time period.

The law isn't protecting minors from marijuana only from legal consequences of using it.

If the law allows a young person to possess enough marijuana to make a small number of joints, and even to share them with their underage peers, does it really offer any deterrent at all? This provision specifically and the nationwide legalization of marijuana in general sends the message that marijuana is acceptable. And no legal restriction stops them from accessing marijuana from their parents and passing it to others or from getting it from a peer at school.

A Problem With Law

The Canadian government's will to devote manpower and resources to enforce marijuana laws has been weakening for some time. In the last six years, the number of charges has declined not because fewer people are using it (government data shows marijuana use has risen over that period), but because of relaxed enforcement. And when laws aren't enforced, it encourages more lawless behavior.

The next question then becomes, if it's legal, why should people still have

criminal charges for marijuana and cocaine have fallen, all other drug-related crimes have been rising. Heroin-related crimes have reached their highest levels in decades. The number of people charged with heroin trafficking in 2017 was up 300 percent compared to just 10 years before.

In addition, Canada is dealing with its own opioid crisis, much like the United States. In 2017, Canada saw a 34 percent increase in opioid overdose fatalities compared to 2016, setting a new record.

While it is yet to be seen if use of the remaining illegal drugs increases after marijuana becomes legal, polls show that marijuana use will definitely increase. The government found that of those who hadn't used marijuana in the first three months of 2018, 6 percent said they will likely try it once it's legal. Of those already using it, 24 percent said they will likely increase their usage.

The Battle Over Marijuana

The battle for the social acceptance of marijuana is not limited to Canada; the

Who's Right?

In this battle of defining drug use as right or wrong, which side is correct?

To define something as right, it stands to reason that the *outcome* of that thing must be right and good. We would not say eating cyanide is good because the effect it has on the human body is bad. What effects does marijuana produce on the human body? It does produce an immediate, temporary feeling of euphoria by chemically over-activating receptors in the brain. This causes the "high" that people experience. Those who support marijuana use enjoy the

sensation and label the drug as good.

However, marijuana negatively impacts brain development, especially in minors. Studies have found that the human brain develops until about age 25, and any use of marijuana before then permanently stunts brain development. "[A] study from New Zealand conducted in part by researchers at Duke University showed that people who started smoking marijuana heavily in their teens and had an ongoing marijuana use disorder lost an average of eight IQ points between ages 13 and 38. The lost mental abilities didn't fully return in those who quit marijuana as adults," the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported on June 22.

Even casual marijuana use has been found to change the brain. While it was once thought that infrequent use of marijuana didn't have any consequences, a 2014 study found that those who smoked only once a week showed brain abnormalities.

In addition, prolonged marijuana use leads to a host of other mental problems, including depression, schizophrenia and suicidal thoughts. Also, marijuana users tend to turn away from productive activities in pursuit of another high. The overwhelming facts prove the outcome of marijuana use is bad and wrong, even in limited amounts.

Dealing in Absolutes

Despite these proofs, the Canadian government has determined for its citizens what is good and what is bad. It has decided that 30 grams of marijuana is "good" and 31 grams is "bad"; that owning five marijuana plants is "bad" but that four plants is "good."

Some could argue that it is not defining good and evil, only regulating a difficult situation as best as it can. But therein lies the problem. The negative effects of marijuana are well known. It's unhealthy, it destroys lives and bodies, so why not just outlaw the drug?

Well we tried that and it didn't work, say the skeptics. Society's view of the drug changed, so we had to change the laws. Is the problem the law then, or the society? Is Canada's government to blame for the cultural acceptance and legalization of

marijuana, or are its citizens? What does it say about a citizenry when a majority willingly ignore the society-destroying outcomes of legalized drug use?

The issue of drug use gets back to morality. The public's view of morality has shifted dramatically away from a biblical standard in the last few generations. Instead, the evolutionary idea of moral relativism has taken its place: Everyone is entitled to his or her view and shouldn't be criticized for it. People want the freedom to choose for themselves. The reality is that this "freedom," such as taking drugs, enslaves a person to that drug.

But what is right, and who determines right versus wrong? As stated, defining something as right and good requires that it produce a right and good outcome. right or power to decide WHAT is sin but He compels us to decide whether to sin or to obey His law" (ibid).

Despite Canada's hope for a better outcome, legalized marijuana will not help the country. That is because it is contrary to God's law. God's law forbids harming our minds and bodies with substances such as marijuana. As a result, Canada will reap what it has sown. God says we are cursed for rebelling against His law. Biblical prophecy reveals that many more curses are on the way for this nation.

Still, there is a solution. God says through Isaiah, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly

"It is the prerogative of God alone to determine what is right and what is sin—what is good and what is evil. God has not delegated to man the right or power to decide what is sin—but He compels us to decide whether to sin or to obey His law." —HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG



Mankind does not have that power. Such ability would require godlike power. Man does not have the ability to define for himself what is good and what is evil.

As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "To rightly determine what is GOOD required the creative power to produce and set in motion such inexorable LAWS as this spiritual law and the laws of physics and chemistry—a law which AUTOMATICALLY causes good if obeyed, and EVILS when disobeyed!" (The Missing Dimension in Sex). Man does not have that power. Possessing 5 grams or 30 grams or 100 grams of marijuana does not change the negative effects it has on the body.

Because of this, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "It is the prerogative of God alone to determine what is right and what is sin—what is good and what is evil. God

has not delegated to man the

pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

God is looking for repentance. He is looking for man to obey His law. God has given mankind His law for our good. It produces tremendous happiness when obeyed. As Mr. Armstrong wrote, "God Almighty has never given you a single 'don't,' except those things that are going to harm you, tear you down, bring on unhappiness later. Oh, of course, some of these things give you a thrill or a little kick out of life temporarily, but there is always a boomerang. They exact a great penalty later, and the price is too high. It isn't good business" (Good News, August 1982).God wants mankind to be happy, and He gave His law to show us how.

We live in an age that encourages rebellion against law and custom. But God's Word reveals that His law is the only way to true freedom.

A perfect law of liberty

Addiction enslaves the mind and limits potential. But God's law brings joy and real purpose to a person's life. To learn more about why law is so important, request Gerald Flurry's free booklet No Freedom Without Law.

MERICANS ARE EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO A CHEMICAL attack. This ongoing assault has killed more than 700,000 people since 2000. The weapon is illicit drug use, and Americans are killing themselves with it.

In addition to these overdose deaths, roughly 100,000 Americans have been killed in drug-related homicides. This epidemic of illegal drug use is costing the economy over \$1 trillion per year and destroying the willpower of the millions of people who use these chemical weapons on themselves. Since 1 in 6 Americans under age 34 use illicit drugs on a monthly basis, America's self-inflicted damage is going to get worse and worse.

If a foreign enemy wanted to undermine America from within, facilitating the flow of illicit drugs into the country would be an effective way to do it. The People's Republic of China has adopted just such a strategy.

A Chemical Weapon

Drug overdose is now the leading cause of death for Americans under age 50. A third of these fatal poisonings are caused by synthetic opioids like fentanyl. In 2017, almost 30,000 people overdosed on fentanyl and fentanyl analogs. Since fentanyl is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin, it is only legally available to cancer patients with a doctor's prescription. But huge numbers of Americans are obtaining illicit fentanyl, most of which arrives from chemical laboratories in China directly through the mail or indirectly through Mexico.

According to a United States Senate report released in January, Americans illegally purchased nearly \$800 million worth of fentanyl pills directly from Chinese chemical labs over a two-year period. American customers used digital currencies like bitcoin to remain anonymous, and Chinese sellers mailed them fentanyl through the U.S. Postal Service.

Chinese labs have also partnered with Mexican cartels to smuggle fentanyl into America. Mexico's national security commissioner told the newspaper Reforma that most fentanyl entering Mexico from China comes through the Port of Manzanillo. Once the fentanyl is unloaded at the docks, it is smuggled into the U.S. by either the long-established Sinaloa drug cartel or the up-and-coming Jalisco New Generation cartel.

The deputy director of China's Foreign Ministry information department said in January that her nation stands "ready to

Chinese leaders know the devastating effect narcotics can have. The opium wars of the 1800s involved thousands of tons of opium pouring into China, which addicted millions of Chinese.

work with the U.S." to crack down on illicit drug shipments. But China has taken no meaningful action.

In November 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump asked Chinese President Xi Jinping to stop the "flood of cheap and deadly" fentanyl into America. But the deputy chief of China's National Narcotics Control Commission said that instead of blaming China for its drug crisis, the U.S. should examine the domestic situation of the nation. Former Mexican ambassador Jorge Guajardo told the New York Times in 2015 that in all his time working for the Mexican government, "the Chinese never showed any willingness to cooperate on stemming the flow of precursors into Mexico."

American users are demanding these drugs, and Chinese criminals are supplying them. Though the Chinese government is not sending them over itself, neither is it clamping down on the supply. Chinese leaders can plausibly deny that they have anything to do with weakening America through illicit drugs.

But if you examine recent history, you will find startling examples of the Chinese Communist Party actively pushing illicit drugs into the hands of its enemies, handing them chemical weapons to use on themselves.

China's Drug Offensive

Chinese leaders know the devastating effect narcotics can have. The opium wars of the 1800s involved thousands of tons of opium pouring into China, which addicted millions of Chinese,



China's Drug War-

The shocking story of China's strategy to use America's dr

devastated their economy, and contributed to their military loss against the British Empire.

In 1927, China erupted in a civil war between the Communist Party and the Nationalist Party. Communist leader Mao Zedong instructed his subordinates to grow poppies, create opium and traffic it into the non-Communist regions of China. As drugs became more readily available, people more readily used them. Opium weakened drug users, the people around them, their societies, their governments and their militaries. The Communists then conquered the area—and took draconian measures to stamp out drug use, destroying poppy fields, imprisoning millions and executing suspected traffickers.

After the Communist Party conquered mainland China in 1949, Mao actually nationalized opium production and started using narcotics as a chemical weapon to destabilize his rivals, primarily Japan and the United States.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai managed his nation's narcotics operations. In 1955, he allegedly told Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser that the Communists would use drugs against the morale of U.S. forces in Asia (Edward R. Slack, Opium, State and Society). Soviet statesman

Mikhail Suslov said in 1964 that Zhou's strategy was "to disarm the capitalists with the things they like to taste."

There is scant evidence that any premier since Zhou has actively managed China's narcotics trade, but Chinese strategy still incorporates "drug warfare" in a larger military strategy to destabilize rivals.

"Recent Chinese doctrine articulates the use of a wide spectrum of warfare against its adversaries, including the United States," said a 2014 report from U.S. Army Special Operations Command. "The People's Liberation Army (PLA) colonels Liang and Xiangsui outline China's vision on how China will attack the United States through a combination of military and nonmilitary actions. ... These methods include trade warfare, financial warfare, ecological warfare, psychological warfare, smuggling warfare, media warfare, drug warfare, network warfare, technological warfare, fabrication warfare, resources warfare, economic aid warfare, cultural warfare and international law warfare" (Sept. 26, 2014).

By turning a blind eye, at the very least, to Chinese fentanyl traffickers, the Chinese government enjoys the benefit of



Against America

ug addiction as a weapon against itself BY ANDREW MILLER

waging drug warfare against the Americans and weakening them. A Chinese military attack using actual chemical weapons would risk an overwhelming military response, but using the chemical weapon of illicit drugs is a subtle siege that tears at the fragile fabric of American society by attacking not its strategic vulnerabilities but its moral ones.

America's self-inflicted and China-facilitated fentanyl epidemic is ripping apart families, multiplying crime, crippling

the economy, and destroying the minds of the next generation of Americans.

Destroying America's Willpower

Amazingly, 1 in 10 Americans admits that he has used illicit drugs within the past month. Even many American leaders in business, culture and politics have admitted to using drugs in the past. The Chinese Communist Party and Mexican cartels are facilitating and profiting from this American self-destruction, but the blame ultimately lies with the depravities of the American people.

Drug pushers may be putting this chemical weapon into the hands of the Americans, but it is the Americans who are using it on themselves and demanding more and more "things they like to taste."

Mexican cartels and Chinese labs would have no effect on American society if people knew and clung to God's laws of morality and health. But the American people have rejected God and given themselves over to pleasures they know are destructive. And those who are not drug users themselves fail to eradicate, continue to tolerate, and have surrendered to the effects of this chemical weapon on society. Drug addiction, crime, gang violence and family breakdown are tearing the United States apart from within.

Some argue that the solution is to legalize and regulate drugs so that people can indulge in their addictions and get high "safely." But those who are devoted to bringing down America know that pushing drugs into the hands of an enemy is an effective way to destroy him. Over 77 million Americans have sniffed, smoked, swallowed or injected themselves with drugs for so-called "recreational" purposes. Their drug use has not brought them freedom. It has enslaved many to a destructive habit and allowed criminal organizations to overrun large portions of the country.

Regarding those who have the wrong idea of freedom, the Apostle Peter wrote, "They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for whatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved" (2 Peter 2:19; Revised Standard Version).

More Americans are now dying from drug addiction each year than died during the entire 20-year Vietnam War. It is destroying the willpower of a generation. And it is leading to a prophesied time when foreign enemies will enslave this nation. Only repentance can dismantle America's culture of escapism and turn people to God's pure, wholesome, happy way of life.

A Nation Enslaved

Why do children want to take drugs and destroy their minds? The mind is the only thing that really sets us apart from animals. What is lacking in their lives that would make them want to do that to themselves? Why even take a chance on something so destructive? Because their wills are so weakened, they must have something to fill the void their parents have left—in most cases. Of course, drugs don't truly fill that void at all—they only bring people into slavery of the worst possible kind.

(Excerpt from No Freedom Without Law, by Gerald Flurry)

Drug addiction destroys the WILL! Sex addiction destroys the WILL! The worse the addiction, the weaker the will to resist, to fight evil.

Our young people today have even lost the will to participate in the military to protect our nation's freedom. History shows the terrible consequences of a damaged will: When a nation's will is broken, it becomes weak and ineffective—and, oftentimes, enslaved by an enemy nation!





CHINA EXPORTS
16% OF ALL THE
WORLD'S EXPORTED
GOODS—MORE THAN
ANY OTHER NATION.



OUR EVERYDAY LIVES DEPEND ON A CONSTANT FLOW OF MATERIALS AND GOODS FROM OVERSEAS. AND THIS FLOW DEPENDS ON FREE PASSAGE THROUGH SEA-GATES. ONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND. And that money often flows through maritime passageways.

These passages seem remote and uninteresting. Yet they affect our lives in very direct ways.

Ninety percent of the world's trade travels by sea. In the United Kingdom, 95 percent of the products we use come from overseas, according to the Maritime Foundation. Electronic devices, clothing, raw materials and so many other things come to us via ships.

Shipping provides not only products but the literal lifelines of modern nations. Most of the UK's food comes from overseas. Oceangoing tankers carry 60 percent of the world's oil.

Most maritime trade travels through narrow waterways that the *Trumpet* often refers to as sea-gates.

About one third of all oceangoing trade sails through the South China Sea, within range of weapons China has stationed on its newly fortified islands. Thirty-five percent of all oceangoing oil exports sail through the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway controlled by Iran. A quarter of all oceangoing oil sails through the Strait of Malacca, just northeast of Singapore. Around 10 percent of that oil goes around the southern tip of Africa. About 15 percent of the world's maritime trade travels through the Red Sea. Five percent of it goes through the Panama Canal.

Our everyday lives depend on a constant flow of materials and goods from overseas. And this flow depends on free passage through sea-gates. Close these gates using warships, warplanes, mines, shipwrecks or other means, and the oil market will panic, global economic chaos will result, and the UK will quickly begin to starve.

"Disruptions to global supply chains are, in fact, more devastating than a traditional military attack," wrote Elisabeth Braw in Foreign Policy. She warned that even a cyberattack on a port or shipping facility could be deadly. "An adversary could bring a country to its knees without dispatching a single soldier," she wrote (August 7).

Which is why sea-gates and empire—or even seagates and world domination—often go hand in hand.

A new power is quickly moving to take control of sea-gates. The history of these gates shows the importance of its moves.

The Gates of Empires

The first truly global empire was the Portuguese Empire. And it was an empire of sea-gates. Vasco da Gama returned in 1499 from his discovery of a sea route to India. Just six years later, Portugal was thinking about sea-gates. In 1505, one Portuguese explorer wrote that there was "nothing more important for the country than to have a castle at the mouth of the Red Sea, or very near to it."

Which is exactly what the Portuguese did. In 1507, they captured an island near the Bab el-Mandeb and built a fort.

The key sea-gates of the East fell with dizzying speed. Portugal established a base in India in 1510. It captured the Strait of Malacca in 1511, Hormuz in 1515, and built a fort in Sri Lanka in 1518. It failed to control the Red Sea and was quickly kicked out of its Bab el-Mandeb base. Nonetheless, its dominance of sea-gates made it one of the world's most

powerful empires. By 1571, Portugal controlled 40 forts or trading posts.

But competition was not far behind.

The Dutch Empire began as an economic enterprise: the Dutch East India Company. It aimed to make a profit trading with the East Indies, though it was authorized to set up "fortresses and strongholds" and employ military personnel.

The merchants certainly needed strongholds. The Dutch had been at war with Spain for most of the second half of the 16th century. In 1580, Spain absorbed Portugal—meaning the Dutch were now also at war with Portugal. Portuguese forts and trading posts became a prime target for the Dutch.

The Dutch East India Company captured Jakarta in 1619. It established a colony in Taiwan in 1624. The Strait of Malacca fell in 1641, and the Portuguese were driven out of Sri Lanka by 1658.

England had its own East India Company. The company initially set up trading posts rather than forts. By 1647, it had 23 of them. But trading posts need protection, and England was at war-with Spain at first and later with the Dutch and French. The major trading posts became forts: The first was completed in 1644.

England also fought back against rivals over seagates. In 1622, the English and Persians attacked Hormuz, opening the strait and allowing England to trade with Persia.

England ended up pushing the Dutch out of India while the Dutch held on to Indonesia. England captured Colombo in Sri Lanka in 1796. The Dutch handed Malacca over to Britain in 1824.

At the same time, Britain was capturing other gates. It took Gibraltar in 1704. It occupied Egypt in 1882, gaining control of both ends of the Mediterranean.

"At the peak of its imperial power around 1900, Great Britain ruled the waves with a fleet of 300 capital ships and 30 naval bastions—fortified bases that ringed the world island from the North Atlantic at Scapa Flow off Scotland through the Mediterranean at Malta and Suez to Bombay, Singapore and Hong Kong," writes Alfred W. McCoy in his book *In the Shadows of the American Century*. "Just as the Roman Empire had once enclosed the Mediterranean, making it mare nostrum ('our sea'), so British power would make the Indian Ocean its own 'closed sea,' securing its flanks with army forts along India's northwest frontier and barring both Persians and Ottomans from building naval bases on the Persian Gulf."

But others wanted a piece of the action. Germany especially wanted colonies; it especially wanted overseas bases near key sea passages.

The Germans were far behind in setting up naval bases, and they were reluctant to openly challenge the established powers until they were ready. They particularly desired a base in East Asia. In 1897, two German Catholic priests were killed in China. The local German naval commander sent a telegram home: "May incidents be exploited in pursuit of further goals?" he asked. Kaiser Wilhelm II's answer was, Yes, they could. Germany attacked Jiaozhu Bay, announcing a temporary occupation. The next year, a treaty with China extended that to a 99-year lease.

Germany also wanted a naval base in Latin America. Germany had strong commercial links with Latin America, which it wanted to protect. German cabinet papers show that the Kaiser and others hoped to one day attack the United States, and they needed a base to launch it from.

Venezuela owed Germany (and Britain) a lot of money, and in 1902 it refused to pay it back. Normally, America would refuse to allow an attack on a Latin American state by a European power. But United States President Theodore Roosevelt declared, "If any South American country misbehaves toward any European country, let the European country spank it!"

However, Germany told Britain that as part of this spanking, it was considering "the temporary occupation on our part of different Venezuelan harbor places." Roosevelt feared that this "temporary occupation" could turn into another 99-year lease, so he put a stop to the German attack.

This German plan to take a sea-gate failed. But the strategy is instructive. It shows how a nation that wants more of these sea-gates may try to acquire them without angering an established power.

Meanwhile, the United States controlled the Gulf of Mexico, built the Panama Canal, and sent its Navy and other military forces around the world, starting with Cuba and the Philippines. Cuba cemented America's control over the Caribbean, and the Philippines extended its control across the Pacific. World War II spurred America to station forces in hundreds of overseas bases, often near key choke points. The rise of the American empire coincided with its domination of global sea-gates.

Today, there is a new power on the block. This power is steadily moving in on ports and sea-gates around the world, especially in East Asia.

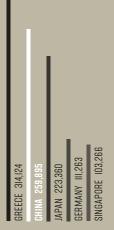
This power is China. Will it be the next global empire?

The Rise of China

Take Sri Lanka, an island whose harbors passed from the Portuguese to the Dutch to the English. Since 2005, China has invested \$15 billion into Sri Lankan infrastructure. And it has received a good return on that investment. Sri Lanka borrowed \$1 billion to improve the key Port of Hambantota. It is the headquarters of the Sri Lankan Navy and, after the investment, a modern port.

ON THE BLOCI THIS POWER THE WORLD

THE CHINESE OWN THE SECOND-LARGEST MERCHANT FLEET IN THE WORLD BY WEIGHT.



2017 TOTAL FLEET DEAD WEIGHT (1,000 TONS)

AS HUNDREDS
OF YEARS
OF HISTORY
HAVE SHOWN,
WHERE
TRADERS
TRAVEL, THE
MILITARY
ALWAYS
FOLLOWS
TO PROTECT
THESE KEY
NATIONAL
INTERESTS.

CHINA HAS THE SECOND-LARGEST NAVAL FLEET IN THE WORLD.



2017 NUMBER OF NAVAL VESSELS



But like Venezuela, Sri Lanka couldn't repay the loan. In December 2017, China took control of the port. Now China runs it—on a 99-year lease. "That port then gives them not only a strategic access point into India's sphere of influence through which China can deploy its naval forces, but it also gives China an advantageous position to export its goods into India's economic sphere, so it's achieved a number of strategic aims in that regard," Malcolm Davis, a senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, told CNN. This is "part of a determined strategy by China to extend its influence across the Indian Ocean at the expense of India," and it's using Sri Lanka to achieve its ambition (February 18).

Now experts think that Djibouti could be next. The country sits on the Bab el-Mandeb—the same vital sea-gate that the Portuguese and Ottomans fought over 500 years ago. Djibouti has debts equal to about 90 percent of its economy. Much of that debt is owed to China. Which is why *Foreign Policy* asked, "Will Djibouti Become Latest Country to Fall Into China's Debt Trap?"

"As Chinese President Xi Jinping continues to push lending to developing countries, policy analysts are sounding alarm bells about the fate of smaller nations biting off more than they can chew—and the strategic possibilities opening to China as a result," *Foreign Policy* wrote (July 31).

Djibouti is the site of China's first overseas military base. It is also home to Camp Lemonnier, America's only permanent base in Africa. *Foreign Policy* noted, "One concern is that the Djiboutian government, facing mounting debt and increasing dependence on extracting rents, would be pressured to hand over control of Camp Lemonnier to China" (ibid).

The port of Gwadar in Pakistan is all but a Chinese military base. Since 2011, China has poured in almost \$250 million to transform a fishing village into a key deep-water port. It is pouring in another \$46 billion to create a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The vast majority of China's current projects are nonmilitary. China is expressly forbidden from militarizing the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, for example. However, Gwadar shows how quickly it can change. With the port built up, Pakistan opened a naval base there. China kindly donated two warships. And Pakistan quickly noted that China was welcome to base its own military ships

there too. Then, in January this year China made it official, announcing that it would build its second overseas military base in Gwadar.

With many of these countries still getting deeper and deeper into debt to China, it's easy to see how they too could be forced to allow in the Chinese military. And as hundreds of years of history have shown, where traders travel, the military always follows to protect these key national interests.

One of China's most important sea-gates is the Strait of Malacca. About 80 percent of China's energy imports come through this 2-mile-wide waterway. In 2016, China announced plans to develop a major deep-sea port in the strait that could compete with Singapore.

The Maldives includes a strategic sea base that passed from the Portuguese to the Dutch to the British. And now the Chinese could be next. China has "expressed interest in building a port in the Maldives," according to the *South China Morning Post* (March 22). The Maldives has allowed Chinese ships to dock. And it owes almost three quarters of its foreign debt to China.

At the far end of the ocean is another sea-gate that could be falling into Chinese hands: Vanuatu. China has helped to build the nation's parliament building and the prime minister's offices. It is working on new official residences for the president, the Finance Ministry building and extensions to the Foreign Ministry building. It has given Vanuatu loans of over \$100 million to build a wharf.

No wonder the Australian press sounded the alarm bells in April over reports of "preliminary discussions" between China and Vanuatu about "building a permanent military presence in the South Pacific in a globally significant move that could see the rising superpower sail warships on Australia's doorstep," as Fairfax Media put it (April 9). China and Vanuatu both strenuously denied the reports. But it's a well-founded fear, given how much of Vanuatu is already in China's pocket and what China has done in similar situations elsewhere.

But China's reach isn't confined to the west Pacific and Indian Ocean.

America's Backyard

The Panama Canal is America's most important sea-gate. Not only do huge amounts of U.S. commerce travel through it, but it allows the U.S. Navy

Decipher the code words.

Israel, sea-gates—what do these words mean for you today? Unlock the meaning by requesting Herbert W. Armstrong's free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

to pivot its fleets quickly from the Pacific to the Atlantic and back.

China has full control of the ports at both ends of the canal. The Chinese company Landbridge has bought Panama's largest port. In October 2017, China Habor Engineering Company began work on a cruise ship port.

"The rate at which China is acquiring and establishing these commercial bases [in Latin Americal, they can easily turn a nonmilitary base into a usable, military one," Evan Ellis, a professor of Latin American Studies at the U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, warned in 2017 (emphasis added).

China is also investing in Brazil's ports. The Guardian called the Superporto do Açu "one of the most visible symbols of China's rapidly accelerating drive" into Latin America (Sept. 15, 2010). China also owns a 51 percent stake in a new port being built in São Luis in northeastern Brazil.

China has employed a similar strategy in Europe, where it has used the European debt crisis to go on a massive shopping spree. Piraeus is Greece's largest port. A deep harbor close to the Suez Canal, it is a key stopping point for international shipping. China's cosco holds a 70 percent stake in the port. It also has a controlling stake in Spain's container terminal operator Noatum Port Holdings. In addition, China operates the port of Venice, which it aims to transform into a hub of international trade. cosco also has complete control of Zeebrugge in Belgium, the world's largest car-handling port.

A Chinese Lake

And none of this takes into account the massive Chinese presence in the South China Sea. With a series of artificial islands and long-range missiles, the Pentagon has warned that China is turning the area into a "Chinese lake."

China completed its first domestically manufactured aircraft carrier this year, and it has a bigger one in the works. It has been churning out around a dozen large naval ships a year. It aims to produce three of its impressive new destroyers each year.

In just five years, China "will complete its transition" into a modern navy capable of "sustained blue water operations" and "multiple missions around the world," according to the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence.

By 2030, China's navy is estimated to be almost double the size of the U.S. active Navy. Those ships may not be of the same quality, but China is catching up quickly there as well.

U.S. Vice Adm. Thomas Rowden has warned of "a new age of sea power." "From Europe to Asia, history is replete with nations that rose to global power only to cede it back through lack of sea power," he warns.

A Serious Threat

China, then, is on the path toward riches and global dominance. It is a path many others have taken before; most recently, by the United States.

America's riches and dominance are a massive confirmation of Bible prophecy. And the Bible has a lot to say about how China's efforts will turn out.

In Genesis 22:16-18, God told Abraham that He would multiply his descendants "as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore." These descendants, He said, would "possess the gate of his enemies." Rebekah, Abraham's daughter-in-law, was told "be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them" (Genesis 24:60). What, in the context of "thousands of millions" of people, could the Bible be talking about? What gates affect millions of people? What is the closest thing international relations has to a gate?

This has to be about sea-gates.

The Bible says that one people would dominate the world's maritime passageways. And this is exactly what we saw happen.

But the Bible also prophesies that Britain and America will lose these gates. In Deuteronomy 28:52, God tells the recipients of these blessings that if they fall away, they will be besieged "in all thy gates." The gates they once owned will be slammed shut.

Britain has already given up nearly all of its gates. The U.S. has given up the Panama Canal, and it is watching its grip slipping around the world as other nations win control of these gates.

The Bible also indicates that China will be doing a lot of the slamming.

Isaiah 23 talks of a maritime alliance between China (biblical Chittim) and Europe. "Considering that China now possesses most of the world's strategic sea-gates (at one time held by Britain and America), the German-led Holy Roman Empire will need to form a brief alliance with the Asian powers identified in Isaiah 23 (Russia, China, Japan-the 'kings of the east')," wrote editor in chief Gerald Flurry in the July 2016 Trumpet issue.

That is a sobering forecast, once you realize how vital these gates are. But at the same time, this understanding makes the Bible come alive as you watch world news.

Watching sea-gates helps confirm that the Bible is a now book. It describes the world we live in, and it discusses real-world problems. Most of all, it shows that the bad news we see around us is just part of a positive and inspiring plan.

You can learn more about this plan in our free book The United States and Britain in Prophecy, by Herbert W. Armstrong. As he wrote, this book contains "the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living Creator."

IN 2017, CHINA BUILT **ALMOST 24 MILLION GROSS TONS WORTH** OF SHIPS, 36% OF **GLOBAL OUTPUT.**

CHINA 36% SOUTH KOREA 34% JAPAN 20% OTHER 10%

UP NEARLY A OF ITS GATE THE U.S. HAS THE PANAM*i* IS WATCHING ITS GRIP SLIPPING WORLD AS OTHER NATIONS

CHINA'S STRATEGY TO CONTROL WORLD TRADE

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The government of China has a plan to replace the United States as the world's maritime superpower. Besides upgrading the People's Liberation Navy, China has poured billions of dollars' worth of investment into a vast network of harbors, ports and sea-lanes. Chinese shipping companies now carry more cargo than those of any other nation. The Chinese Navy is beginning to establish overseas military bases to secure strategic trade routes. These developments are leading to a time when China will rule the waves.

MARGARITA ISLAND, PANAMA

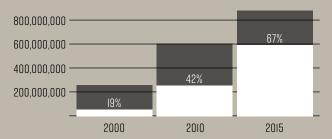
The Chinese company Landbridge Group purchased Margarita Island Port in 2016. Landbridge's effort to modernize this port is deepening the political relationship between China and Panama.

WALVIS BAY, NAMIBIA-

China's state-owned China Harbour Engineering Co. built a port in Namibia in 2017. Now China is in negotiations with Namibia to use Walvis Bay as a naval base for six Chinese warships.

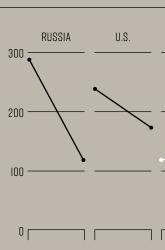
CHINA IS INVOLVED IN OVER TWO THIRDS OF CONTAINER TRAFFIC.

Twenty-foot equivalent units, and percentage of total cargo, passing through ports in which Chinese companies have investments (for world's top 50 container ports)



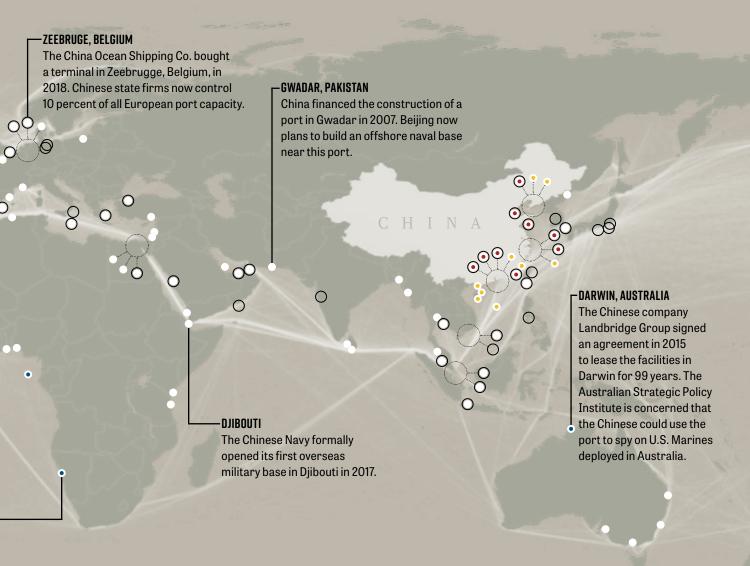
CHINA'S NAVAL FLEET IS THE ONLY MAJOR ONE GROWING.

Over the past two decades, China has added submarines and ships to its Navy. Meanwhile Russia, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and India have all downsized their naval fleets. China's naval strategy is aimed at denying U.S. aircraft carrier battle groups access to both the South China Sea and East China Sea.



2017 1997

1997

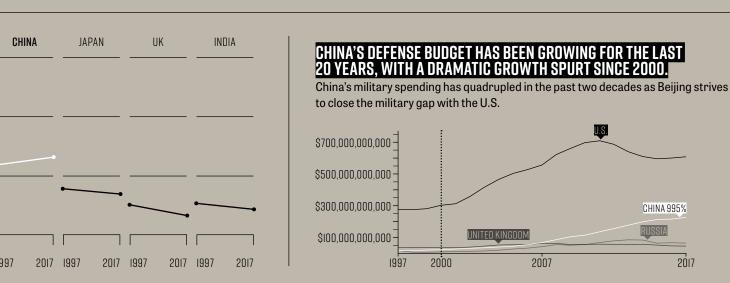


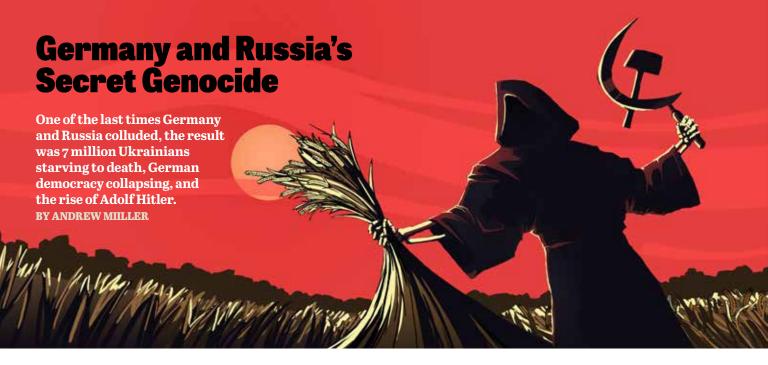
CHINA CONTROLS AND INFLUENCES CONTAINER PORTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

In addition to 18 naval bases, China has investments in at least 78 container ports around the world. Sixty-two percent of the world's top 50 container ports had some degree of Chinese investment in 2017, up from only about 20 percent in 2010. In addition to these major container ports, China has also invested in dozens of smaller harbors, including Darwin, Australia; Hambantota, Sri Lanka; and Walvis Bay, Namibia.

OTOP 50 PORTS

- **CHINESE-INVESTED**
- CHINESE-OWNED
- CONFIRMED CHINESE NAVAL BASE
- SUSPECTED CHINESE NAVAL BASE





ussia is attacking Ukraine. It has used flimsy excuses to invade the Crimean Peninsula with unmarked soldiers and to literally steal it from Ukraine. It has deployed many more unmarked soldiers to invade eastern Ukraine and add to the firepower of pro-Russian separatists. Over four years of fighting, these "undercover" Russian troops and their allies have killed 10,000 Ukrainians, shot down a passenger airliner, and caused 2 million people to flee their homes.

At the beginning of the conflict, Russia cut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine. However, since half of Russia's gas exports to Europe flow through Ukrainian pipelines, Russia soon resumed deliveries.

Now Russia's government-owned gas company, Gazprom, seeks to bypass Ukraine by building a \$12 billion pipeline under the Baltic Sea. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline would enable Gazprom to ship 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year directly from Russia to Germany. This pipeline is financed by a consortium of European companies, including PAO Gazprom, Wintershall Holding GmbH, PEG Infrastruktur AG, N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and ENGIE.

After Nord Stream 2 is complete, Russia will be able to pipe gas to the Europeans through Belarus, Germany and Turkey. It will be able to cut off gas to Ukraine, depriving its economy of at least \$2 billion in transit fees and forcing it to find another source to supply its

energy needs. Poland's prime minister has warned that Nord Stream 2 "will make the Ukrainian gas pipeline system obsolete" and permit Russian troops to "march into the interior of Ukraine."

Despite its past promises, the United States has provided Ukraine with very limited support. Many East Europeans are putting their trust in Germany to defend Ukraine from Russia. The chairman of the board for Nord Stream AG and for Russian government-owned oil company Rosneft is Gerhard Schröder, the former German chancellor.

Those trusting Germany to protect Ukraine should consider some little-known history. Just 90 years ago, German weapons manufacturer Gustav Krupp made a deal with Russian dictator Joseph Stalin. It led to the starvation of 7 million Ukrainians, the death of German democracy, and the rise of Adolf Hitler.

A Secret Pact

After Joseph Stalin became secretary general of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, he determined to wipe out all "enemies of the people." Among these supposed enemies was a class of Ukrainians called kulaks by the Soviets. Kulaks were wealthy farmers who owned at least 24 acres, or who used hired labor. The Soviet government considered them to be capitalists. Stalin thought that sometime in the future the kulaks would lead an insurrection against his dictatorship. But he could not simply kill or imprison the kulaks because they grew a fifth of the Soviet Union's marketable grain.

To break the kulaks' power, Stalin devised a Soviet land management system known as collectivization. Under this scheme, the Communist Soviet government would seize privately owned farmland and force peasants to work as day laborers on industrial farms. Then Stalin could rely on machines to produce the grain rather than the kulaks.

The problem was, the Soviet economy was not advanced enough to build such farms. So Stalin turned to Germany and to Baron Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach.

Krupp was the head of the heavy industry conglomerate Friedrich Krupp AG. His company had a near monopoly in weapons manufacturing in Germany. In 1922, Krupp built a 120,000-acre industrial farm for Vladimir Lenin.

Negotiations between the Soviets and the Union of German Industrialists took place in 1928. Many Russian files on these negotiations are still classified, but an agreement was signed in December of that year. The terms stipulated that Friedrich Krupp AG, Daimler Benz AG and Rheinmetall AG would build collective farms and supply them with tractors. Many of these tractors were actually tanks, delivered in violation of the Versailles Treaty. But they also supplied many farm machines to replace the need for kulaks. The Soviets paid them

the equivalent of \$2 billion. But what Krupp and the German industrialists really wanted was political concessions.

"Krupp was interested in tank production, and he was prepared to help modernize the Russian Army, on one condition," Sara Moore writes in her book How Hitler Came to Power. "He and his friends, like the military, detested the Weimar Republic. Yet democracy was becoming ever more rooted in Germany. Krupp was annoyed that despite their supposed friendship, the Russians had been meddling in Germany's internal affairs and fomenting unrest through various Communist organizations. The industrialists decided that, if they were to help modernize the Soviet Army, the German Communist Party (KPD) must never again vote with its sister left-wing party, the German Social Democratic Party."

In effect, Krupp told Stalin: Get the German Communists to dump the Social Democrats, so German nationalists can take over. Stalin accepted. The Communist International issued a statement accusing Germany's Social Democratic Party of capitalist sympathy. The KPD was ordered to oppose the Social Democrats as their primary enemy.

This deal heralded dark times for Germany and Ukraine.

Man-made Famine

Almost immediately after Stalin's deal with the Union of German Industrialists, he implemented his agricultural collectivization program. Between October 1929 and January 1930, the proportion of peasants forced from their land onto industrial plantations rose from 4 percent to 21 percent. This change allowed Stalin to call on the All-Union Communist Party to "liquidate the kulaks as a class." Anyone who resisted was arrested.

Over the next two years, hundreds of thousands were deprived of their land, 100,000 were sent to prison camps in Siberia, and 4,500 were executed. Thus began the Holodomor, a combination of the Ukrainian words for hunger (holod) and extermination (mor). But it was far from over.

Socialist agricultural practices caused Ukraine's grain harvest to plummet from 23 million tons in 1930 to 15 million tons in 1932. But Stalin kept selling grain to other countries. He imposed draconian grain quotas on Ukraine, demanding half their meager harvest in 1932. This left the average peasant family with 250 pounds of grain for the year.

Ukrainians begged for a reduction in the amount of grain they were forced to give up, but Stalin responded by sealing the borders and turning Ukraine into a gigantic concentration camp. Soviet police went house to house and seized any grain they could find, even if it was all a family had to eat.

All food was declared the property of the state, and anyone caught stealing grain would be shot or sent to Siberia. Food aid from the United States was declined. Ukrainians saw their grain supplies dwindle and vanish. Their other food was soon used up. They began losing weight. They started eating



dogs, cats, mice and, in some instances, their own children.

In the breadbasket of Europe, 25,000 people were dying of starvation each day. Nearly 25 percent of the population starved to death, roughly 4 million adults and 3 million children.

Then, just as easily as he had started the famine, Stalin ended it. After the harvest of 1933, Stalin gave orders to allow the starving Ukrainians to eat grain again. The kulaks had been destroyed, the resistance movement was stamped out, 7 million people were dead, and—most importantly to him—Stalin was the undisputed master of Ukraine.

In Germany, the government of the Weimar Republic was aware of what was going on in Ukraine. One German agricultural expert traveling through Ukraine wrote: "The poor children perished like wild beasts." But the Weimar government continued to deliver manufactured goods to the Soviet Union to keep German unemployment low.

German industrialists continued to modernize the Soviet Army, and Stalin's edict banning German Communists from supporting Social Democrats remained in place. After all, a deal was a deal.

Rise of Hitler

During the summer of 1928, the Social Democratic Party was the strongest party in Germany, with 153 of 491 seats in the Reichstag. It governed in a grand coalition with the German Democratic Party, the Catholic Center Party and the German People's Party. The Communist Party and the Nazi Party were still on the political fringe.

But the situation began to change on May 1, 1929.

Few Germans knew about Baron Gustav Krupp's deal with Stalin at the time. But in compliance with Stalin's new strategy of opposition against Social Democrats, thousands of Communists staged an aggressive demonstration against Berlin's Social Democratic police superintendent. In a clash with the police, six people were killed, 80 wounded, and 1,000 arrested. Bloody May Day marked an era of escalating political violence.

Over the next four years, the Weimar Republic was marred by street brawls. While the Nazis and the Communists often attacked each other, they also occasionally worked together to attack the mainstream political parties. In 1931, Stalin actually ordered Germany's Communists to work with the Nazis in an effort to bring down the Social Democratic government of Prussia. The attempt failed, but all this strife and infighting between Communists and Social Democrats ended up benefiting the Nazis tremendously. Between May 1928 and March 1933, the Social Democrats lost 33 seats in the Reichstag, while the Communists gained 27 seats and the Nazis gained an astounding 276 seats.

Russian historian Dr. Aleksandr Nekrich wrote, "Nowhere was the disaster greater than in Germany: At Moscow's order, the German Communist Party pronounced the Social Democrats 'enemy No. 1,' drove a significant proportion of the workers into the Nazis' arms. split the vote of democratic and socialist forces, and contributed to Hitler's triumph at the polls in 1932" (Pariahs,



HE MEN KNEW THEY HAD TO succeed," said Dr. Iddo Netanyahu. Speaking to the Trumpet during an August 9 telephone interview, Netanyahu was describing one of the most dramatic hostage rescue attempts in history: Operation Entebbe.

Operation Entebbe took place in southern Uganda on July 4, 1976. It has been called a "defining moment in the war on terror" by the Maariv Book Guild. It has inspired more than a dozen documentaries and feature films, including this year's 7 Days in Entebbe. Netanyahu (whose brother is Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) has studied the operation in depth, interviewing many of the commandos, hostages and others who were there that day, and writing several books on the event.

For each of us, what happened in Entebbe holds a lesson in resourcefulness, in integrity and in refusal to compromise with evil.

Hijacked

On Sunday, June 27, Air France Flight 139 was en route from Tel Aviv, Israel, to Paris, France, after a stopover in Athens, Greece. The Airbus A300 was carrying 254 men, women and children, around a third of whom were Israeli.

Shortly after takeoff from Athens, four passengers stood up and took out guns and grenades, seizing the cockpit, planting explosives along the aisles, confiscating passports and announcing that the plane had been hijacked and everyone aboard was now a hostage.

One terrorist announced over the

cabin microphone that the flight had been taken over in the name of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Two of the four terrorists were Arabic men belonging to a Popular Front breakaway faction. The two others were a German couple, Wilfried Böse and his female companion, Bridgette Kuhlmann. They were members of a German leftist terrorist group that supported the Popular Front.

When Flight 139 fell silent on the radio waves, Israeli intelligence forces immediately began investigating. Had the plane crashed? The Sayeret Matkal (referred to as "the Unit") went on high alert.

The terrorists had the plane refueled in Benghazi, Libya, then took off again.

Forced to keep their window shades drawn, the passengers flew for five hours, finally landing early on the morning of June 28.

Allowed to open the shutters, the hostages looked out. There on the tarmac stood a notorious figure that many instantly recognized.

Wearing heavily decorated camouflage fatigues was the 6-foot, 6-inch, 250-pound frame of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Amin had seized power five years earlier in a military coup, and was notorious for killing as many as 300,000 of his countrymen.

The title Amin gave himself grew progressively longer over the years, and ultimately became: "His Excellency, President for Life, Field Marshal al-Hadji Doctor Idi Amin Dada, vc, pso, MC, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Seas and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular." Amin also claimed to be the uncrowned king of Scotland. He sometimes made headlines for praising Adolf Hitler, and once said the German dictator was "right to burn 6 million Jews."

Now the hostages were in his territory, surrounded by his troops. Amin supported the terrorists and directed his soldiers to support them. "[T]here was complete collusion with the dictator Amin and his army," Iddo Netanvahu said.

Here at Entebbe Airport, three additional terrorists joined the four hijackers and dozens of Ugandan troops. The

terrorists herded the passengers into an abandoned terminal building.

The next day, the terrorists issued their demands: \$5 million and the release of 53 pro-Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel, West Germany, Kenya, France and Switzerland, one of whom had killed 26 people and injured 80 at an Israeli airport four years earlier.

The terrorists at Entebbe said if their demands were not met by 2 p.m. on July 1, they would begin executing hostages.

No Choice

Back in Israel, the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was in overdrive, considering its options. And its options didn't look good.

Entebbe was more than 2,200 miles away. It was in the heart of Africa, far beyond the region where Israeli intelligence and assets were strongest. Any rescuers would have to illegally fly near or through the airspace of enemy nations. If they arrived safely and undetected, they would be up against not just radical terrorists but also a national military under the command of a volatile dictator. And they would be attempting to rescue what Netanyahu said was "an amount of hostages that was unheard of in Israel before."

A rescue attempt would put political considerations, international support and somewhere around 100 troops at risk, in addition to the hostages.

The main obstacle facing the Israelis was the lack of information. "No real plan could be constructed, because there was no information about what was happening in Entebbe," Netanyahu said. He understands the importance of intelligence: He himself served in the Unit a few years before the Entebbe hijacking.

Giving in to the hijackers' demands would release dozens of murderous terrorists back onto the streets of the world and would encourage more terrorism and hijackings in the future. Yet it appeared that Rabin and the Israelis had no choice.

"Rabin felt that, given the fact that the hostages were far away, thousands of miles away in the middle of Africa, he had no plan that he could approve of," Netanyahu said. "And he felt that he couldn't just sacrifice these lives."

But Defense Minister Shimon Peres and others saw things differently. Israel had no choice—but to resist terrorism and dare to attempt a rescue.

The challenge was to present a viable rescue plan that Rabin could approve in good conscience—before the arrival of the hijackers' deadline for executing hostages.

Then something surprising happened. "[S]everal days into the hijacking, they let most of the hostages actually go," Netanyahu said. "Those who were not Israelis [nor] typical looking Orthodox Jews" from other nations were flown to Paris. The terrorists also agreed to extend the execution deadline until

2 p.m., Sunday, July 4.

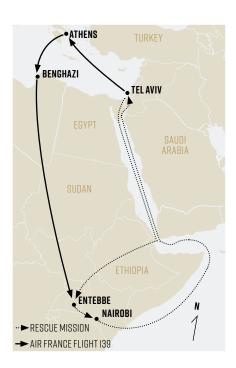
From the descriptions provided by these released hostages, the Israelis got some badly needed information: exactly where at the airport the remaining 106 hostages were being held, how many terrorists and soldiers were guarding them, and numerous other details. Netanyahu said all this information began filtering through to the Israeli leadership through the night of July 1-2.

As the prime minister, his cabinet and the military chiefs were furiously trying to formulate a rescue plan, one man was actually getting ready to carry it out: Lt. Col. Yonatan (Jonathan) Netanyahu. The brother of Dr. Iddo Netanyahu and current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, 30 years old at the time, was the commander of the Unit. He was the tip of the spear.

Jonathan Netanyahu and his team continued assembling every fragment of information available, formulating several possible rescue strategies.

Netanyahu, his commanders and Israeli leaders were intensely aware that any rescue would depend completely on taking the terrorists and Ugandan soldiers by absolute surprise. "[O]nce the terrorists realize that there is an enemy force coming to rescue the hostages," Iddo Netanyahu said, "that's when they start killing the hostages ... and of course they can be killed within seconds with a few gun bursts and grenades."

As the hours ticked by, government officials closely monitored the military planning and stressed that unless the proposal was extremely strong, the government would have no choice but



to break its policy of refusing to give in to terrorist demands.

There were now some 48 hours left before the terrorists would start their killing. Israel Defense Forces commanders presented the plan on which the lives of scores of people would depend. Flying six military transports, the rescue team would fly from the Sinai Peninsula all the way to Uganda at an extremely low altitude to avoid radar detection. A team from the Unit would land directly at Entebbe Airport, pretending to be Amin and his entourage returning from his trip to Mauritius. They would exit the C-130s in a motorcade of vehicles like those used by the dictator and his men.

Iddo Netanyahu said of his brother, "That was the plan that Yoni felt, straight from the get-go, was the only executable plan."

This plan was hastily formed and rehearsed, but Jonathan Netanyahu tried persuasively to convince the chief of staff to approve it.

For men like Jonathan Netanyahu, executing such a daring plan was the only choice. Compromise with evil was out of the question. But would the politicians make that choice?

Fighting Evil

The Unit did not yet have approval from the Israeli government, but they prepared as if they did. They obtained a Mercedes limousine similar to the

one Amin traveled in. But it was in poor condition—and the wrong color. "They got a beat-up Mercedes Friday morning," Iddo Netanyahu said. "They had to repair the engine. They had to change the tires. They had to repaint it also." The Israelis added a Ugandan flag and cardboard license plates similar to Ugandan military vehicles "to make it look like something presidential." He added that the Land Rovers that were to accompany the limousine had to be retrofitted to carry a dozen soldiers apiece. "They worked on them all night," he said, "and the next day they had it ready."

It was now Friday. If there was to be an operation, it would have to begin the next day. Jonathan and his team give in to terrorism, and that for the sake of Israel and the Jewish people, we had to succeed."

The commandos later said Jonathan Netanyahu's speech deeply impacted them. "Many of the men say this really changed their whole perception of the operation, and how they went into it. It gave them tremendous confidence that they were going to succeed," Iddo Netanyahu said.

The lead pilot, Joshua Shani, told Iddo Netanyahu that Jonathan "seemed like a hero out of our ancient past."

A few hours later, they were airborne once again. Flying over the Red Sea at low altitude to avoid Egyptian and Saudi Arabian radar, they reached Ethitransport touched down on the runway about a mile from the old terminal building.

"The cars quickly left the plane, and made their way with full headlights, you know: 'Idi Amin coming with a convoy," Dr. Netanyahu said.

"And about 200 yards before the old terminal, exactly where Jonathan Netanyahu had anticipated there would be Ugandan guards in the model exercises, indeed there were two guards," he said. The Israelis neutralized them and "drove very, very quickly at great speed to the old terminal," he said. Despite short bursts of gunfire, the Israelis still had their most valuable advantage over the terrorists intact: the element of surprise.

The commandos exited their vehicles, walking toward the building and scanning the area around them. But Jonathan Netanyahu sprinted ahead and ordered his men to run forward and enter the building. The men knew that each step and each door could bring Ugandan bullets, terrorist grenades and bomb trip wires, but they pushed ahead.

There, in the main hall of the old terminal, were the 106 hostages: 94 mainly Israeli passengers and a handful of others, including the Air France crew, who had refused to leave them. Terrorists and Ugandan soldiers fired on the Israelis, but the commandos killed all seven terrorists and dozens of soldiers.

At least five commandos were wounded; Jonathan Netanyahu was also hit.

"Somewhere in front of the glass wall of the old terminal, Yoni was shot in the chest, and basically could not go forward," his brother told the Trumpet. On the runway near the evacuation plane, two doctors and a senior medic attempted to resuscitate him, but to no avail. "He was the only soldier who died," Dr. Iddo Netanyahu said.

But around him, as commandos refueled the transport planes and destroyed Ugandan Air Force fighter jets to prevent any pursuit, the lives Jonathan Netanyahu had helped save streamed onto the evacuation plane that would carry them to safety and freedom.

The operation had lost only three hostages and its exemplary commander. The intelligence had been patchy. The

HAPPY OUTCOME The squadron leader of the rescue planes is hoisted onto the shoulders of celebrating Jews upon the successful rescue of the hostages.

rehearsed the plan over and over again.

On the afternoon of Saturday, July 3, Jonathan Netanyahu and his team were in the air, flying toward Uganda. The government still had not approved the mission, and the Sayeret Matkal commandos thought their flight was merely a contingency: They would probably be recalled to Israel.

Jonathan Netanyahu was focused, determined and confident. As the commandos' C-130s refueled in the southern Sinai, he briefed his men, not just reviewing the plan and tactics, but telling them what they were fighting for.

"He motivated them," said Iddo Netanyahu, "and told them how important this kind of mission is, that you can't

opian airspace and bore south-southwest toward Uganda.

Somewhere over Ethiopia, a message was delivered to the Unit. Because Israel would not compromise with terrorists, largely because of Jonathan's confidence-inspiring preparations and his leadership, and because it was the right thing to do, the choice had become clear: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had approved the mission.

Israel would confront evil.

In the middle of the night, during the first few minutes of July 4, four C-130s and two other transports approached Entebbe Airport, carrying Netanyahu's assault team, reinforcements, commanders and medical staff. The first

EALTH RESEARCHERS AND PRACTItioners are beginning to warn more strongly that sugar is a major cause of some of our children's most significant diseases, behavior issues and learning problems. It is even more dangerous than most of us have realized.

Sugar Everywhere

Sugar is found naturally in various foods, such as milk (lactose) or fruit and honey (fructose). Added or "free" sugars include refined table sugar (sucrose) as well as fruit juice or syrups.

Consumption of added sugars often starts during gestation, where fructose and artificial sweeteners eaten by the mother can affect a developing baby in the womb (secondhandsugars.com). After birth, the infant is further hooked through affected breast milk, infant formulas or baby food.

Experts warn that children should not consume more than six teaspoons of sugar daily, but 1-to-3-year-olds consume double that amount, 4-to-8year-olds consume 21 teaspoons daily, and 14-to-18-year-olds consume 34 teaspoons daily, says the National Cancer Institute. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that the average American consumes 150 to 170 pounds of sugar per year.

Some common foods-including breakfast cereals, sports drinks, soft drinks and fruit juices—contain more sugar than your average candy bar. It only takes four average 12-ounce cans of sodas to equal a quarter pound of sugar! Many children easily consume this amount daily (bamboocorefitness.com).

Radical Health Effects

Sugar immediately floods the intestines and liver with large amounts of loose fructose and takes a devastating toll on children's health. Yet about 80 percent of all packaged supermarket foods contain some form of additional sweetener, states the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Francine Kaufman, director of the Comprehensive Childhood Diabetes Center at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, says a child with high blood



The massive effort to hook your kids on sugars is working. BY JORG MARDIAN

pressure could reach the advanced stage of heart disease, and ultimately a heart attack, as early as age 35 (Parents.com).

Nearly 57 percent of children in the U.S. today are destined to be obese by the time they turn 35. The current rate of obesity among adults is 35 to 40 percent (cbc.ca).

Type 2 diabetes, once considered an adult-only condition, now runs rampant in obese children. Consuming even one soda per day increases diabetes risk by 85 percent. Mayo Clinic researchers state that added fructose may be the number one cause of diabetes. This disease was the seventh-leading killer in 2015.

The link between sugar and cancer is also becoming clearer. A study in Nature Communications shed light on how tumor cells appear to make energy through the rapid breakdown of cellular glucose.

Then there's the link between sugar and the brain. More studies point to refined sugar and increased hyperactivity in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, with kids becoming addicted to the substance like a drug. They suffer mood swings, become overactive and destructive, and endure withdrawal symptoms (British Journal of Sports Medicine).

Such addiction can't happen with sugar from whole foods, such as apples. Their fiber content not only limits how much sugar is eaten, but also how quickly the sugar leaves the intestine and reaches the liver. The body's enzymes must first tear apart the apple's cells to reach the sugars sequestered inside, which is a slow process (Scientific American).

The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics says adolescents spend \$140 billion a year on foods high in sugar and fat, while those under 12 spend another \$25 billion and influence another \$200 billion in spending.

By the time children finish high school, they have spent nearly twice as many hours in front of the television than they have spent in the classroom (about.me/ luka.radunovic). Food manufacturers spend \$500 million per year advertising their sugary products. The bitter truth is that sophisticated forces are targeting your wallet through your children. Children cannot monitor and restrict their own sugar consumption. It is hard enough for adults to do so. Parents must remain firm and not give in to their children's pleas for sugary products.

If you are committed to your children's health, try to spend about 90 percent of your food budget on whole foods. Replace sugary snacks with naturally sweet foods like fruits. Replace fruit juice with water containing slices of cucumber, berries or orange. Rather than boxed desserts and snacks, make your own treats flavored with vanilla extract, cinnamon, nutmeg, fresh fruit or almond butter.

Eat your meals with your children so that you can show them an example of healthy eating and compel them to eat the healthier foods you serve. Parents must recognize the dangers and act as if our children's health hangs in the balance-because it does.

Australia's Worst Drought in 400 Years



Withering under a drought of biblical intensity BY CALLUM WOOD

USTRALIA IS DRYING UP. RED DUST has replaced green fields. Cracked and baked creek beds offer no relief to malnourished sheep and cattle. The stoic resilience of Aussie farmers is being tested. As News.com.au put it, "Some farmers say the only water they've seen in years is the tears on their pillows" (August 6).

Droughts are nothing new in Australia. The continent is the second-driest, second only to Antarctica. The national average rainfall is a meager 16 inches. Yet the severity of the current drought has burned its way into the history books.

The drought may soon become Australia's worst in 400 years. The nation just experienced its warmest and driest July since 1998. Some farmers have been enduring with little-to-no-rain since 2010. A handful of towns are now months away from having no water at all.

The national crisis is best summed up in the plight of New South Wales. The state has endured its fifth-driest July in history and has suffered seven consecutive months of below-average rainfall. Now 100 percent of the state is in drought. And this is all in the lead-up to summer—which promises even less rain.

"Most crops that have been planted are under stress," one New South Wales farmer told the Trumpet, "and if we don't receive two to three inches of good soaking rain in the next month, that crop will wilt and die."

The depleted water and food levels have left livestock languishing. Starved cattle jostling for food are common images on the nightly news. Across rural Australia, thousands of animals have already been culled. To keep animals alive in such conditions is expensive. "Some have reported churning through \$1 million in a year just trying to feed their livestock" (News.com.au, August 3).

Humanitarian companies supplying hay are now struggling to source it. According to one supplier, 60 bales of hay sells for AU\$2,500 (US\$1,800). Add to that an extra AU\$5,000 for transport to some properties.

Today's crisis will lead to greater crises next year. The New South Wales farmer said, "There is little-to-no hay and grain now for the stock feed, and if we don't get a crop this year, then there will be no grain to harvest and no grasses to bale for hav, which ultimately means no food to store for the animals for next season."

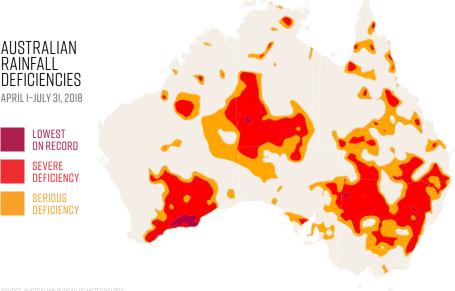
A Forgotten Source of Aid

The New South Wales government has pledged to spend more than AU\$1 billion to help farmers. The federal government has spent a further AU\$57 million. The cash will provide some relief, but it merely kicks the can down the dusty road.

No cash injection can make rain fall and grass grow.

But there are solutions. In living memory, for the briefest of moments, Australia glimpsed one. In April 2007, Australia was suffering in another drought. Farmers in the Murray-Darling Basin faced a near total loss of irrigation water for an entire year.

Then something extraordinary happened. Prime Minister John Howard urged Australians to pray for rain. "It's very serious, it's unprecedented in my lifetime, and I really feel very deeply for the people affected," Mr. Howard told ABC Television. "So we should all,



literally and without any irony, pray for rain over the next six to eight weeks."

By August, the Murray-Darling River, Australia's equivalent to the Mississippi, was flowing again. The drought wasn't broken, but rain came, and farmers were relieved.

A leader who looks to God, and people who pray for relief, are praiseworthy. But the Bible shows that we need to do more than pray as a last resort. First of all, we must understand why these "natural" disasters happen.

Why Drought?

Many scorn the notion that God influences the weather. They instead chalk up droughts as due to random weather systems, global warming, climate change or bad luck. They deny Biblebased understanding of why natural disasters occur.

Even those who believe in God and pray for an end to drought or other environmental disasters cannot explain why so many are suffering when God could easily cause rain to fall.

While Eastern Australia roasts, Western Australia is flooding. In similar fashion, America has recently suffered hurricanes and deluges on one side and terrible fires on the other.

As shocking as it might sound to both believers and unbelievers, God warned that He would inflict many of these disasters on mankind. Yet He also promised rain in due season and abundant crops.

So why are Australians and others experiencing so many disasters? God is not cruel, hoping to grind His creation back into the dirt He molded us from. God is teaching human beings a lesson. Good weather is a blessing in response to obedience. Destructive weather is a curse as a result of disobedience.

Two Steps From the Solution

Notice God's promises in Leviticus 26. "If ye walk in my statutes, and KEEP MY COM-MANDMENTS, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full ..." (verses 3-5).

God lays it out plainly: Obey me, and I'll make sure you NEVER suffer drought or any other natural disaster! Obedience requires repenting of our former way—the way that brought on these curses. Imagine the impact on the Earth if mankind heeded in repentance and obedience!

Now notice what God says will happen as a result of disobedience to His law: "And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant I will break the pride of your power; and I WILL MAKE YOUR HEAVEN AS IRON, AND YOUR EARTH AS BRASS: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits" (verses 15-20).

Again, God is explicit: Break my laws, and I will send drought so bad it will seem like the sky is made of iron. A sky of iron and earth made of brass sums up the parched Australian interior!

Leviticus 26 and a host of other scriptures reveal the ultimate solution: To end drought and other natural disasters, REPENT AND OBEY GOD'S LAW!

The Department of Primary Industries says there is no end in sight to Australia's drought. Short term, it could be right. Long term, it is most definitely wrong. While daily weather forecasts are known to be hit-and-miss, God's Word is absolute.

Isaiah 35 shows that the desert will soon blossom as the rose. This will occur once human beings learn that rejecting God and living their own way does not work. Right now, man is learning the hard way. But God promises blessings and abundance to those who turn to Him, and that includes you!

If you haven't already, be sure to order a copy of our free booklet *Why 'Natural' Disasters?* It explains in detail why these terrible events occur. It explains God's purpose behind them. And it provides the amazing solution.

If you want to see deserts blossom as the rose and the land bring forth its abundance, why not put God to the test? As God so clearly states, blessings are two steps away: repentance and obedience.

What Is the **Trumpet?**

Published in the public interest, the *Trumpet* newsmagazine discusses matters of social, family and environmental concern. It includes articles on international news, politics, philosophy, religion and education, especially where these have a bearing on the quality of life.

This magazine is not a political publication and is not backed by any political party or pressure group.

The publication rights of this magazine are owned by the Philadelphia Church of God, and the purpose of the *Trumpet* is to inform and educate, putting world events into true perspective and creating an awareness of the seriousness of the times in which we live. Direct emphasis is placed on the values of Christian morality and the social results of the increasing rejection of these values. Space is at times given to controversial ideas, which may help clarify to readers the different aspects of essential issues.

The *Trumpet* carries no subscription price. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from readers who have become convinced of its value and want to ensure that the *Trumpet* is available free of charge to an increasing number of readers. Your contributions are welcomed and gratefully received.

In a world continually confronted by problems and crises, the *Trumpet* strives to give *reasons* for the bad news and *answers* to life's dilemmas that, if applied, could bring good news and right results. This magazine also seeks to make plain the only option left to mankind if we are to survive. We announce that when mankind fails to avert the ultimate disaster, it will take a divine plan to save this Earth and establish a new order where all living will be able to enjoy lasting peace, happiness, security and prosperity.





uropol signed a working agreement with Israeli police on July 17, the first such agreement between the European Union and a non-EU country. Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency, said in a press release that the agreement will facilitate the cooperation and transfer of knowledge to fight terrorism, fraud and cybercrime.

"It is a major step forward in enhancing the relationship between Europol and Israel," said Europol Executive Director Catherine De Bolle. "The arrangement will multiply contacts at all levels and open doors to closer cooperation, making the European Union and Israel safer."

Israel is turning to Europe for help with its security. However, this relationship will provide

security only temporarily.

The Bible prophesies that the Jews will turn to Germany because of their "wound" (Hosea 5:13). Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has explained that the wound in this verse is actually the peace process that Israel has pursued with the Palestinians. Rather than trusting in God, the Israelis repeatedly turn to foreign powers for protection. The Bible says this will lead to their catastrophic defeat and captivity. Europe, led by Germany, will betray Israel.

Mr. Flurry writes in his booklet Jerusalem in Prophecy: "The friendship between Germany and Israel will lead to one of the biggest double crosses in the history of man!" This security agreement is a step toward that double cross.

Iran attempts terror attack in Europe

n Iranian diplomat has been charged with plotting a bombing at a June 30 political rally in Paris. The rally was for the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK), an Iranian opposition party. Belgian police arrested an Iran-linked Belgian couple as they were transporting explosives and a detonator in their car.

Police believe that the man who organized the attack and provided the bomb-making supplies was Assadollah Assadi. an Iranian diplomat and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officer stationed in Vienna and known to be the head of Iran's European intelligence network.

Iran rejects the accusations against "terrorist diplomat" Assadi, calling them "baseless." However, the MEK report about the incident alleges that all levels of the Iranian government were involved.

Iranian leaders claim that the bomb plot was a "false flag" operation, instigated by the MEK itself. But the U.S. has openly blamed Iran for the foiled attack.

The bomb plot comes at a complex time in Iran's relations with the rest of the world. President Donald Trump announced in May that the United States was withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear agreement. The U.S. administration has used

the foiled bomb plot in Paris as motivation for America's allies to take a harder stance against Iran, instead of pandering to it in an effort to keep the nuclear deal alive.

The foiled bomb plot clearly shows that Iran has an organized terrorist network established in Europe. The three people arrested in connection with the plot lived and worked in Germany, Austria, Belgium and France.

Whether or not Iran was behind this foiled bomb plot. prophecy indicates that it will soon step up its terrorist operations in Europe. Iran is already



the world's foremost sponsor of terrorism. The Bible indicates that Iran's "pushy" foreign policy will threaten Europe, causing Europe to strike back "like a whirlwind" (Daniel 11:40). Events like the alleged Iranian bomb plot are pushing Europe—and will soon push it too far.

Iran attacks Saudi tankers

ranian-backed, Yemeni-based Houthi fighters attacked two Saudi tankers carrying 2 million barrels of crude oil on July 25, just after the ships sailed through the Bab el-Mandeb strait into the Red Sea. One ship was lightly damaged, and Saudi Arabia subsequently suspended its



oil exports through the Bab el-Mandeb for three days.

Iran publicly claimed responsibility for the attacks initially, but later denied that it was responsible.

Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, and it has repeatedly threatened to close the passage. Through its control over the Houthis in Yemen.

Iran is now threatening trade in the Bab el-Mandeb as well.

"Yemen is one of the most strategically important countries in the world," wrote Trumpet editor

in chief Gerald Flurry in 2015. "We need to understand the gravity of this new situation in Yemen! ... The Houthis' takeover of Yemen was not just an organic revolution. It was part of a deliberate and calculated Iranian strategy to conquer the Red Sea. This strategy is revealed in a powerful prophecy in the biblical book of Daniel." Mr. Flurry explains this in detail in his free booklet The King of the South. ■



Venezuela's inflation rate approaches 1 million percent

he Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is suffering one of the worst hyperinflation crises in history. The country's annual inflation rate hit 46,305 percent in June as food prices doubled every 16 days. According to the International Monetary Fund. Venezuela's annual inflation rate is projected to top 1 million percent by the end of the year, making it as bad as Germany's in 1923 or Zimbabwe's in the late 2000s.

Government socialist policies, including price and wage controls, and the printing of money without economic resources to back it. have left Venezuela in economic ruin.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's failed economic policies are bringing him into conflict with the Roman Catholic Church.

The Venezuelan bishops' conference released a statement in April listing a series of grave problems afflicting the people and condemning the indifference of government officials. In a nation that is 70 percent Roman Catholic, the conference wields considerable political power.

After Venezuela implodes, the Vatican will be instrumental in shaping its new regime. After working to open U.S.-Cuba diplomatic relations in 2014, Pope Francis helped to end a conflict between Colombia's government and Marxist militant rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia last year. Many leaders are calling for him to be more involved in Mexican and Venezuelan affairs.

Using Bible prophecy, Herbert W. Armstrong predicted that the alliance between Vatican-influenced Europe and South America would grow extremely strong. This union, however, will not be a union of equals: The Latin American countries will again become vassal states to the Holy Roman Empire.

To understand the deep significance of the Vatican's involvement in Venezuela and the entire South American region, read the chapter "Europe's Inroads Into Latin America" in He Was Right (theTrumpet.com/go/hwr).



EU and Japan negotiate 'historic' trade agreement

he European Union and Japan signed a historic free-trade deal on July 17 that will remove or reduce all tariffs on exports between EU nations and Japan. When it comes into effect in 2019. this agreement will create the world's largest open economic area, covering about a third of the global economy and 600 million people.

The EU and Japan also negotiated a data protection agreement on July 16, which the European Commission said will establish "the world's largest area of safe data flows."

These agreements have been under negotiation for several years. However, the EU and Japan pushed the trade agreement forward in response to recent U.S. tariffs on steel. aluminum and other goods. U.S. tariffs have contributed to pushing nations like Japan and China to develop their economic relationships with Europe.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in Isaiah's End-Time Vision that a coming trade bloc consisting of Europe and Asia will not only create wealth for them but will also be used to besiege America and Britain by cutting them out of world trade. Today, we are watching Isaiah's "mart of nations" develop before our eyes.

Putin creates Soviet-style political wing for Red Army

ussian President Vladimir Putin established a new political wing within the Russian Army on July 30, designed to instill patriotism in soldiers during a time of rising tensions with the West. The move is a chilling echo of a Soviet policy that once indoctrinated troops in the principles of communism to ensure loyalty to the party.

"The role of the moral and political unity of the Army and society is increasing immensely at the time of global informational and psychological confrontation (with the West)," said Alexander Kanshin of the Public Council at the Russian Ministry of Defense earlier this year.

Some fear that the establishment of the new political wing could mark the beginning of a

broader revival of ideological education that could seep into schools and universities, and that the program could be used to target individuals viewed as too

pro-Western, "All of this is reminiscent of a gradual return to the USSR," wrote Dmitry Drize, deputy editor of the Kommersant daily.

In 2005, Putin PUTIN famously said the Soviet Union's demise was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." He has been working to restore Russian power to its Soviet levels, weaponizing energy exports, silencina critics, buildina up the military, invading Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014. restoring the Soviet Hero

of Socialist Labor award, a Stalin-era public physical fitness program, the Soviet anthem and a Soviet-style law against dissent.

In his booklet The Prophesied

'Prince of Russia.' Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains that Putin is mentioned personally in ancient Bible prophecies and his rule indicates that

"[w]e are entering into the worst crisis ever in man's history." But Mr. Flurry adds that these prophecies are "super-inspiring at the same time." To understand the details of Putin's role in Bible prophecy, and what it means for your life, order a free copy of Mr. Flurry's landmark booklet The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'



In late April, the Civil
Aviation Administration of
China instructed dozens of
international airlines to amend
their websites to refer to Taiwan
not as an independent country
but instead as "Taiwan, China."

In 1949, a Chinese civil war ended with Communist forces pushing nationalist forces off the mainland. However, the nationalists were able to control the island of Taiwan and remain independent of Communist rule. Both the nationalists in Taiwan and the far more powerful Communists on the mainland claim to be the rightful rulers over all of China. The Communists continue to view Taiwan as a rogue territory that needs to be reunited, by force if necessary, with the rest of China under Communist rule.

The airlines were allotted 30 days to make the change or suffer disruption of their operations throughout China, the world's second-largest aviation market.

Numerous airlines, including British Airways, Deutsche Lufthansa AG and Philippine Airlines, wholly and swiftly obeyed China. Japanese and South Korean carriers slowly and begrudgingly followed suit.



But the White House denounced the demand as "Orwellian nonsense" and urged U.S. airlines to ignore it.

U.S. airlines asked China for an extension, and were given until July 25. For two months they held out, hopeful that the governments of the U.S. and China would reach a resolution before the deadline arrived. But in the absence of such a resolution, on the final day before punitive measures would take force, American, United and Delta made the change demanded by the Chinese.

For decades, the people of Taiwan have lived in fear of military invasion from Chinese forces. But the island has managed to remain independent thanks to military equipment, political support and security assurances from its primary ally, the United States.

In recent decades, however, America's support for Taiwanese independence has weakened. In 1998, Bill Clinton became the first American president to publicly oppose Taiwanese independence. Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry said at the time that Clinton's statements meant it was only a matter of time before Taiwan would come under China's rule. "The Chinese leaders pressured the president and America to speak against our freedom-loving friends [in Taiwan]," Mr. Flurry wrote in our August 1998 issue. "How could anyone fail to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of mainland China? ... [I]t is going to happen for one reason: because of a pitifully weak-willed America."

To understand the significance of the rise of China in the context of Bible prophecy and to know what to expect for the future, request a copy of our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy.*

U.S. deficit to exceed \$1 trillion in 2019

he United States federal budget deficit will exceed \$1 trillion next year for the first time since the end of the 2008 financial crisis, the Wall Street Journal reported on July 18. That is a year sooner than the Congressional Budget Office predicted in February. This report was based on the office's annual statement to Congress on federal spending, which was updated in July. A \$1 trillion deficit is more than 5 percent of America's gross domestic product.

Since America's GDP is \$20.1 trillion and the federal debt is \$21.2 trillion, the U.S. government owes considerably more than it produces in a year.

America is going into debt at an unprecedented rate, yet its leaders do not acknowledge that this is even a problem. The nation is addicted to debt, and no one is serious about conquering this nation-destroying addiction, so the problem continually grows worse. People can pretend this can continue indefinitely, but there will come a day of reckoning. "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

Wildfires scorch California, including biggest in its history

alifornia has suffered major wildfire damage over the past two years. This year's blazes—including the largest one in state history—continue to rage with no immediate end in sight.

In 2017, wildfires scorched approximately 32,000 homes and 4,300 businesses across the state and killed 43 people.

Now, as the areas charred by last year's blazes continue to recover, new swaths of the state



are burning. At least 15 major fires have torched California so far this year, with the Mendocino Complex Fire, the largest in state history, having scorched more than 384,000 acres. The Carr Fire near Redding has burned more than 227,000 acres, destroying more than 1,200 homes and buildings, and resulting in the deaths of eight people.

"We are seeing more destructive, larger fires burning at rates that we have historically never seen," said Cal Fire regional battalion chief Jonathan Cox.

Our booklet Why 'Natural'
Disasters? explains what the
Bible reveals about God's hand in
weather calamities. The booklet
states: "Weather disasters, as
they increase in frequency and
intensity, are actually fulfilling
Bible prophecy." To understand
this vital truth, request a free copy
of Why 'Natural' Disasters?



he Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) gained 1,152 new members on June 27—the day after self-described democratic socialist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won an upset in New York's 14th congressional district. Over the last three years, DSA membership has grown from 6,000 members to 48,000. In addition to these official card-carrying DSA members, roughly 57 percent of Democrats now say they prefer socialism to capitalism.

Socialism refers to the government taking complete control of the entire economy: Marxists consider it a transitional stage between destroying capitalism and creating a Communist utopia. Socialists usually downplay this, but the aim of socialism in the United States is to overthrow its constitutional form of government, violently if necessary.

President Abraham Lincoln famously quoted Jesus Christ when he said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand" (Matthew 12:25). The growth in the number of Americans with extreme ideological views is leading to a time when Americans will have to learn this lesson the hard way.

Confucius Institutes infiltrate U.S.

he United States
Congress passed a
bill on August 1 that
limits Department of Defense
funds for Chinese-language
programs at U.S. universities
that host Confucius Institutes.
The defunding may have limited
effect, however, as these
institutes also receive funding
from the Chinese government.

There are over 100 Confucius Institutes in the U.S. Their primary purpose is to influence a new generation of leaders to support China. In addition to teaching about Confucianism and communism, these institutes teach future American leaders to take a more accommodating position concerning China's history of human rights abuses. If China succeeds in this propaganda initiative, it will remove resistance against its domination of Tibet. Taiwan and much of Asia.

The Bible describes a time when God will allow Gentile nations like China, Germany and Russia to rise to prominence because of a weak-willed America (Leviticus 26:19). You can prove this for yourself by reading Herbert W. Armstrong's free book The United States and Britain in Prophecy.



Rise of Americanstyle Buddhism

Buddhist meditation practice called mindfulness is taking over corporate America. According to a Business Insider report dated August 12, "Silicon Valley executives like Twitter and Square CEO Jack Dorsey are going on Buddhist meditation retreats, high-end spas in big cities are installing 'meditation pods,' meditation app Headspace has raised \$75 million, and each year hundreds of Wall Streeters are following Bridgewater Associates founder Ray Dalio's lead and paying almost \$1,000 to learn Transcendental Meditation."

The most popular forms of meditation in the U.S. are secularized versions of ancient Hindu and Buddhist practices that began in India and spread through Asia.

Like yoga, acupuncture and homeopathy, transcendental meditation is part of a new type of secularized, American-style Buddhism. These practices are contributing to the "spiritual but not religious" phenomenon that has pulled almost 1 in 5 Americans away from traditional biblical beliefs.

The Prophet Isaiah specifically corrected the ancient Israelites for forsaking God's law and embracing Eastern philosophies. "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers" (Isaiah 2:5-6).

Government cash handouts supported by 40 percent of British

Imost half of Britain's population supports the idea of a universal basic income, a policy where the government provides each citizen with a certain amount of money each year. A July 27–29 poll by Populus found that 41 percent of respondents supported what has historically been a fringe idea.

A report from the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce finds that universal basic income is "rapidly breaking through into the mainstream political discourse." Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell plans

to include a basic income pilot scheme in the Labour Party's manifesto for the next election.

But the Bible warns against a mentality of greed and dependence. King Solomon warned that poverty befalls those who



don't work (Proverbs 6:9-11), and the Apostle Paul commanded that if someone did not work, he did not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Britain's rejection of biblical economic principles is a major factor in its financial woes.

► GENOCIDE FROM PAGE 21

Partners, Predators: German-Soviet Relations, 1922–1941).

Once Adolf Hitler controlled 44 percent of the seats in the Reichstag, he promised the German National People's Party that he would restore the German monarchy, and he promised the Center Party that he would sign a concordat with the Vatican. These two parties formed a coalition with the Nazis and Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

One of Hitler's first acts was to make Baron Gustav Krupp the president of the newly formed Reichsverband der Deutschen Industrie—an authoritarian Nazi chamber of commerce. The German people later paid a great price fighting the Soviet Army that Germany's industrialists had helped build. But both Stalin and Krupp got what they wanted out of their deal: Stalin ruled Ukraine, and the Weimar Republic that Krupp reviled was dead.

Merchants of the Earth

History shows that deepening cooperation between Germany and Russia is a harbinger of dark times. International relations expert George Friedman gave a speech at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in February 2015. He explained that the U.S. government actively works to prevent a German-Russian alliance because the combination of German technology with Russian natural resources could create a Eurasian power bloc with the capability to challenge America's position as the world's lone superpower. The last time such an alliance occurred, it directly caused the Holodomor, the Holocaust, World War II, and the deaths of over 70 million people. The resulting Cold War was largely fought in an attempt to keep Germany and the rest of Europe from becoming part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

German industrialists are currently helping

Russian President Vladimir Putin build the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. These captains of industry are surrendering Ukraine to Russia. At the very least, Ukraine will become more economically dependent on Russia. And it may actually be invaded by the dictatorial police state that has already invaded Crimea and Georgia, murdered more than 130 journalists, and slaughtered more than 150,000 Russians in Chechnya.

The Nord Stream project is not unlike the deal that Krupp made with Stalin a few generations ago. Russia gets to crack down on Ukraine, Germany gets a stranglehold on Europe, and neither interferes with the aggression of the other.

"NORD STREAM AND NORD STREAM 2
ARE KEY COMPONENTS OF PUTIN'S PLAN
TO TIGHTEN HIS GRIP ON NATIONS IN
EASTERN EUROPE THAT USED TO BE PART
OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE," wrote Trumpet
editor in chief Gerald Flurry. "Since
these pipelines travel directly from
Russia to Germany, they enable Putin to
shut off gas supplies to nations in Eastern Europe—Ukraine, Poland—and the
Baltic nations while keeping supplies
flowing to Germany.

"This places a sharp edge on Putin's energy weapon! To the former Soviet nations that he is determined to bring back under Russia's power, he can say: Either obey Russia, or suffer cold winters with no gas to heat your homes.

"THIS IS WHY EASTERN EUROPE TRIED TO PREVENT RUSSIA AND GERMANY FROM BUILDING THE FIRST NORD STREAM PIPELINE. THEY KNEW IT WOULD GIVE RUSSIA MORE LEVERAGE AGAINST THEM. But Moscow and Berlin built it anyway. Now this second phase will boost that leverage considerably!

"What does Germany stand to gain? Well, once Russian gas flows through the Baltic Sea pipeline and into Germany, much of it can be shipped to France, the Netherlands, Belgium and other West European nations. This puts Germany in

a position of power relative to Western Europe very similar to that of Russia with Eastern Europe!" (September 2018).

The *Trumpet* and our parent magazine, the *Plain Truth*, have proclaimed for 80 years that Germany will lead a final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. And the Bible reveals that Russia will play a key role in Germany's rise to power.

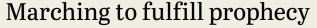
A prophecy in Ezekiel 27 describes a trading power called Tyre that exchanges merchandise with many nations. "The word of the Lord came to me: 'Now you, son of man, raise a lamentation over Tyre, and say to Tyre, who dwells at the entrances to the sea, merchant of the peoples to many coastlands, thus says the Lord God: "O Tyre, you have said, 'I am perfect in beauty.' ... Tarshish did business with you because of your great wealth of every kind; silver, iron, tin, and lead they exchanged for your wares. Javan, Tubal, and Meshech traded with you; they exchanged human beings and vessels of bronze for your merchandise"" (verses 1-3, 12-13; English Standard Version).

Tyre refers to an end-time resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, while the people of Tarshish settled in Japan, the people of Javan settled in Greece, and the people of Tubal and Meshech settled in Russia.

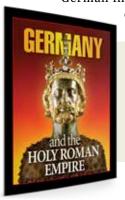
So this is a prophecy about German and Russian merchants exchanging human lives for merchandise. In the 1920s and 1930s, German industrialists traded the lives of 7 million Ukrainians in return for Communist support in bringing down the Weimar Republic. Today, German politicians and business leaders are again surrendering Ukraine in return for better relations with Russia and stronger leverage against the rest of Europe.

What other agreements might these two powers have made that they will act on?

Revelation 18 says that the "merchants of the earth" will weep when this trading empire falls because "no man buyeth their merchandise any more" (verse 11). That is the great hope in this prophecy: This empire of evil merchants dealing in human lives will finally fall. Jesus Christ will smash this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire at His return. To all who would escape from this empire, God says, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (verse 4).



A pipeline seems harmless, but in the context of Bible prophecy, it is an alarming development. To learn more about what the Bible prophesies about Germany, request our free booklet **German and the Holy Roman Empire**.





Dirty Jobs

Why it's important to get into the weeds with your children

T WAS A GLORIOUSLY BEAUTIFUL DAY. MY SON AND I WERE enjoying the outdoors, weeding our landscaping beds together. A neighborhood kid stopped by and watched us. "Would you like to help?" I asked.

"No-I don't want to get my nice clothes dirty."

He wasn't exactly dressed in formal wear. It looked like a perfectly good weeding outfit to me. I suspected there was another reason for his refusal: He was just not that stoked

about weeding.



JOEL HILLIKER

What is your children's attitude toward work? Do they hate getting their hands dirty? If so, you would do well to help them overcome that resistance.

God is a hard worker. "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work," Jesus said (John 5:17). A lot of people hate work. God loves it.

Are you a worker like God is? Some

people won't do something unless they enjoy it or until they happen to feel like doing it. Many people earn a living without ever getting dirty. There is still a lot of work, however, that might not seem enjoyable but *must* be done. Many jobs require handling things that are grimy or smelly, getting down on your hands and knees, doing hard or unpleasant things, using your muscles, getting sweaty, putting your hands in the dirt.

Notice Proverbs 14:4: "Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox." For thousands of years of human history, oxen were the tractors of the farm. They were also sources of fertilizer, leather, meat and other necessities and luxuries in life. They were worth the equivalent of thousands of dollars because they are extremely strong and a farmer can produce a lot of crops by working with them. A man with a lot of oxen is wealthy and productive.

Oxen are also dirty. They smell; they produce urine and dung. These days, few of us deal personally with them, but in many ways we benefit from the labors of people who are willing to get dirty by working with oxen.

A stall with no oxen will be *clean*—but what purpose does an empty stall serve?

To have "much increase," we have to be ready to do some dirty jobs. The best time to learn to embrace hard work, even enjoy it, is when we're young. Get your children involved enough with dirty, sweaty work so that they learn not to shy away from it or fear it. With some instruction, a good personal example and enough work (particularly, I have found, if there is monetary compensation involved), a young person's mindset can change from "Yuck!" to "Yes!" Or at least, "I'll do it."



Every kid needs chores, like taking out the garbage or raking the leaves in the yard. Every kid should learn how to clean things: dishes, windows, toilets, carpets, clothes, tiles, tools, gutters, cars. Teach your children skills like weeding, lawn mowing, edging and weed eating. Give them opportunities and instruction on how to take care of animals and, as they mature, even younger children. Every skill your child learns makes him or her more helpful to the family, the neighbors, potential employers and others they might meet and serve. Teach them to keep their eyes out for others' needs and to fill them.

Learning to embrace honest work is a tremendous pleasure. It teaches us how to be useful. It teaches how to be patient and to persevere through difficulty to complete a task. It teaches the right kind of independence and self-sufficiency. God wants every person to learn to work—and to be satisfied in our work (Ecclesiastes 2:24). Work makes you happy. When you accomplish something, you feel good. When you waste time, you feel unfulfilled and unhappy. When you finish an involved project, and when you accumulate skill and achievement over time, you can take great satisfaction from that.

Work teaches us to embrace a challenge. A young person ought never shy away from a job because it requires him or her to get dirty. After all, God made us out of dirt, and He made us to work the ground for our food and for our livelihood (Genesis 3:19; 2:15). We need to learn how to get the job done, no matter what is required.

When our children shrink from a challenge, they fail to mature. If they never pick up a heavy weight, their muscles remain weak. If they avoid hard mental work, their minds wither. If they avoid labor, they atrophy. God uses challenges to spur growth and prepare us for greater challenges.

Teach your children that hard work brings rewards, that good fruit is a product of quality effort, and that they reap what they sow (Galatians 6:7). God's law is "that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The sluggard may keep a "clean crib," but he won't have much increase.

Help your children learn to throw themselves into the dirty jobs and enjoy hard work. They'll reap good results throughout life.

I have been reading the magazine for some time, and I've really been enjoying it. The Trumpet gives me insight into what's going on around the world, but what I like the most is the truth in all of it.

Tyrone Kemp GEORGIA

I have recently started receiving your magazine, and I must be honest in telling you that it has changed me in terms of how I once used to see life. The articles and how they relate to the prophecies in the Bible are both mind-blowing and amazing. I have wasted a great portion of my life in doing nothing, but the Philadelphia Trumpet is beginning to reshape my morals and values because the blindfold of ignorance that had me in darkness since my youth is finally being removed. I am now beginning to see the light, which, in turn, is allowing me to realize that my life is both precious and worth more than I previously thought. Your magazine is making me stronger than what I once was. and I can't thank you enough for the great, inspirational information.

George Ruiz NEW YORK

Re: "Dining Through the Decades: 70 Years of American Food"

The *Trumpet* fell for American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) propaganda. Specifically this statement: "More than 10 billion animals are raised in American factories annually, with most never seeing daylight except on their way to slaughter. They live in dark, tiny, unsanitary conditions where diseases spread rapidly." Most beef are not raised that way. The only beef raised in the dark are veal calves that are purposely kept in the dark to keep them anemic. And they are fed just milk and not allowed to mature. They are so anemic that they are blind when they are killed. But that's what makes yeal, what it is. Wallie Clark

Response: True, that description applies more often to

commercially raised poultry and pigs, which are often raised entirely indoors, spending their lives in artificially lit, windowless, warehouse barns and cages. Cattle are raised primarily outdoors, starting on pasture or range land. Often they are then fattened in feedlots through high quantities of corn. soy-based protein supplements, antibiotics and other drugs, including growth hormones.

Jorg Mardian (author)

My husband and I were very impressed with your magazine; it is wonderful to see something non-liberal in this world.

Joann Pinson MISSOURI

I can't read the Bible because I don't understand it, but that is why your magazine is so great, because you break it down and you give scriptures. I can go



back to the Bible and see that everything you people print comes from the Bible. Thank God there is a *Trumpet*!

John Munson CALIFORNIA

It is such a blessing that I found you guys. I can't say enough good things about you really. I want you to send me all there is about you.

Randy Stewart MISSISSIPPI

I am blessed by the *Trumpet* magazine, especially in the area of prophecy. I enjoyed reading the article on the Hezekiah seals. Actions speak louder than words, and it was good reading that AC students soiled their hands in making this discovery possible.

John Muttiah ONTARIO

THETRUMPET.COM HIGHLIGHTS



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A Hit on Free Speech in America

Big Tech companies are deciding what information should be available to American citizens.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

HE TRUMPET DEPENDS ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH. FREE speech is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. But it also relies on Americans' willingness to hear voices from outside the mainstream. God's truth is definitely outside the mainstream. The Trumpet keeps a watchful eye on the ways free speech is being

suppressed and censored. Among them are legal challenges against religious freedom, draconian firings of employees with "politically incorrect" views, exclusion of nonconformist guest speakers from university campuses, calls for public shaming and ostracism, even violence aiming to intimidate and silence.

Now, tech companies are escalating this trend.

On August 5 and 6, Apple, Facebook, Google, Pinterest, Spotify and several other technology firms united to ban the content of firebrand radio host and

commentator Alex Jones. Apple removed five out of Jones's six podcasts on August 5. Early on August 6, Facebook removed four pages controlled by Jones, and Google banned the Alex Jones Channel from YouTube. Pinterest also removed its InfoWars board, and Spotify took down all episodes of The Alex Jones Show.

Jones has some very unorthodox views, including erroneous conspiracy theories. He also happens to be an outspoken critic of many politicians, policies and government agencies that these tech companies tend to support.

All claim Jones violated their hate speech policies. An Apple representative told BuzzFeed News, "Apple does not tolerate hate speech, and we have clear guidelines that creators and developers must follow to ensure we provide a safe environment for all of our users." Facebook also released a detailed press statement on the matter: "As a result of reports we received, last week, we removed four videos on four Facebook Pages for violating our hate speech and bullying policies."

Despite these reasons for censoring Jones's opinions, there is no single explanation for why all five companies suddenly chose the same two-day period to silence him. The move appears to have been coordinated by either social media executives or government officials.

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, expressed strong support for these moves and called on Silicon Valley to ban even more websites. "I know Facebook and Apple and YouTube have gotten so big they sometimes seem like the government. But they aren't. They are private companies that shouldn't knowingly spread lies and hate. They took a good first step today by removing InfoWars," Murphy tweeted on August 6. "InfoWars is the tip of a giant iceberg of hate and lies that uses sites like Facebook and YouTube to tear our nation apart. These companies must do more than take down one website. The survival of our democracy depends on it."

Jones's rhetoric is often controversial and inflammatory. But what happened to InfoWars is only the latest example of the broader, concerning problem of Silicon Valley censorship. As Senator Murphy says, Apple, Facebook, Google, Pinterest and Spotify are technically private companies. But their power over the flow of information is now enormous. And the line between them and the government is blurry at best. Silicon Valley technology companies spent over \$49 million lobbying Congress, federal agencies and the White House last year. And many Silicon Valley executives have taken senior government

> positions. Corporate lobbying gives Big Tech companies power and influence over government policy and behavior, allowing them to establish digital monopolies.

> The Internet moguls are now confident enough to blatantly restrict free speech.

Authoritarian governments in China and Iran regulate what information their citizens can access online. The First Amendment forbids Congress from enacting similar censorship laws. But that doesn't stop these tech companies from making decisions with similar effects. When you spend \$49 million to

improve your relationships with lawmakers and bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., you're wasting your money if you allow people to criticize the government using your platform.

"The companies list repeated violations of their policies as the reason Jones's materials are no longer on their sites," Holly Scheer wrote for the Federalist. "But this isn't about whether you like Jones or think he's a reprehensible human being. Rather, this is about what it means for our society if a few tech companies should be able to decide for everyone what information is available, and what is over the line" (August 7).

As America's "New Morality" grows more fanatical, powerful, stringent and hostile to biblical morality, the *Trumpet*, by standing its ground, finds itself more on the fringe. Amos 7:10, an end-time prophecy, describes a time when God's message is marginalized, as "the land is not able to bear all his words." We are watching society move inexorably closer to that time.

Soon, public antagonism will combine with political force to abolish that message. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11).

Heed God's message—and act on it—while there is still time to hear it.



▶ OPERATION JONATHAN FROM PAGE 24

planning had been precarious. And the lead time had been minimal. "They had really a day and a half to prepare the whole thing," Dr. Netanyahu said, "and that's the amazing part about the whole thing."

Amir Ofer, the first of Yoni's troops to enter the old terminal during the raid, told the *Trumpet* on July 30 that the rescue was "probably the most successful commando operation since World War II and one of the most successful commando operations ever."

The operation was an incredible example of taking on—and defeating—evil. It was code named Operation Thunderbolt, and is commonly known as Operation Entebbe. But it was later renamed Operation Jonathan after the man who gave his life to confront evil.

The Lesson

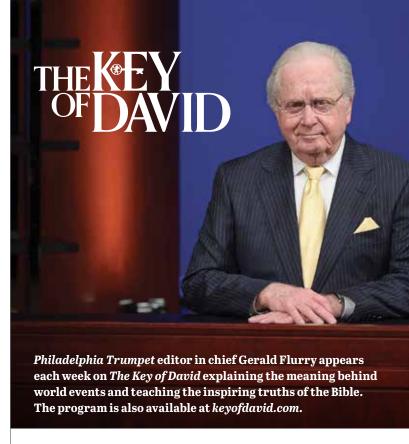
As the historic Entebbe rescue was taking place, world famous educator Herbert W. Armstrong was in the air, en route from California to Italy. After landing in Rome, he learned of Operation Jonathan and said the Israelis had "showed the rest of the world an example of how to deal with this international menace" of terrorism. "The Israeli policy of refusing to deal with skyjackers, if followed by all nations, would deprive terrorists of the goals they seek," he wrote. The rescuers gave the world "an example of daring, courage, and efficient execution in a lightning military operation" (Plain Truth, September 1976).

Mr. Armstrong said two months later that Operation Jonathan should teach all people a "supremely important truth" about compromise. "Sometimes, whether in terrorist skyjackings or handling the Word of God, temptations tend to sweep us off our feet," he wrote. "I have frequently been pressured to compromise—'just a little'—with God's truth. ... Wouldn't it be all right to compromise 'just a little' on some 'unimportant, minor point'?" He answered: "[I]f we begin to compromise with God's truth, even in the smallest, slightest manner," it can lead to destruction. "There is a striking parallel in the recent skyjacking" at Entebbe, he wrote (Good News, December 1976).

Mr. Armstrong's understanding of the dangers of compromise was rooted in the teachings of the Bible. The psalmist said: "Joyful are people of integrity They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths" (Psalm 119:1-3; New Living Translation).

Jonathan "Yoni" Netanyahu's legacy is of refusal to "compromise with evil," and of willingness to lay down his life to avoid doing so. His is a legacy of integrity. Gen. Sholomo Gazit, head of the Military Intelligence Directorate during Operation Jonathan, said: "It is, of course, difficult to know how Yoni would have continued and what heights he would have reached in whatever course he would have followed—military or academic. But whatever that course might have been, we have all lost one of the most wonderful, promising and outstanding young men of Israel."

Each of us could benefit from following the stellar example of Jonathan Netanyahu, becoming individuals of integrity, boundless courage and moving self-sacrifice.



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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Direct TV CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri Dish Network

ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri **Nationwide Cable** ABC Freeform, 6:30 ET/PT, Fri CW Plus. 9:30 ET/PT. Sun ION, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00, Fri; WVUA 8:30, Sun

Dothan WRGX 8:00, Sun; WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Montgomery-Salem WBMM-DT/WNCF-DT 8:30. Sun

Opelika WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun Alaska, Anchorage KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri; KASW 8:00. Sun

Yuma KECY-DT 8:30, Sun Arkansas, El Dorado KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun Fayetteville KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/ KH0G-DT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/ KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun Rogers KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/ KHOG-DT 8:30. Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun El Centro KECY-DT 8:30, Sun Eureka KECA-LD/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KCAL 6:30, Sun; KPXN 6:00, Fri Monterey KION 9:30, Sun Palm Springs KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;

KRCR 9:00, Sun Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri; Salinas KION 9:30. Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri Santa Barbara-Santa Maria KSBY-DT 9:30. Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri Grand Junction KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun Montrose KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri Miami WPXM 6:00. Fri Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/ WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

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

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

Macon WMAZ-DT 9:30. Sun Savannah WSAV-DT 9:30. Sun Thomasville WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;

8:30, Wed Honolulu KPX0 5:00, Fri Kaui Ho' Ike Chan, 529:30. Tue Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon Oahu Focus Chan. 497:00, Sat Idaho, Boise KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun Pocatello KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun Illinois, Bloomington WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun

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

Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Indiana, Fort Wayne WISE-DT 9:30, Sun Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Lafayette WLFI-DT 9:30, Sun Terre Haute WTHI-DT 9:30. Sun Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun Kansas, Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT8:30, Sun Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri Louisiana, Alexandria KALB-DT 8:30, Sun Lafayette KATC-DT 8:30, Sun; KLAF 6:30, Sun Lake Charles KPLC-DT 8:30, Sun Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun Portland WIPL 6:00, Fri Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun Maryland, Baltimore WBFF/WUTB 7:30, Sun Salisbury WMDT-DT9:30, Sun Massachusetts, Holyoke WWLP-DT9:30, Sun Springfield WWLP-DT9:30, Sun Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun Cadillac WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun Traverse City WF0X-DT 9:30, Sun Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri Rochester KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Hattiesburg WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun Laurel WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun St. Joseph KNPG-LD 8:30, Sun Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun Bozeman KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun Helena KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun

Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30. Sun Nebraska, Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun Lincoln KWBL 8:30, Sun North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun Scottsbluff KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun

New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun New York City WPXN 6:00, Fri; WWOR, 8:00, Sun

Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun

North Carolina, Asheville WYCW 9:00, Sun Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun

Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun North Dakota

Bismarck KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun Dickinson KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun Fargo KXJB 8:30, Sun Minot KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun Valley City KXJB 8:30, Sun Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri Lima WBOH9:30, Sun Steubenville WBW0 9:30, Sun Youngstown WYTV 11:30, Sun Zanesville WBZV 9:30. Sun Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri; KQCW 9:30 Sun Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30. Sun Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT

Philadelphia WACP 9:00, Sun WPPX 6:00, Fri Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri

Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri

South Carolina, Anderson WYCW 9:00, Sun Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun South Dakota, Rapid City KLCO-DT 8:30, Sun Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun

Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri

Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30 Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun

Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun Dallas KDAF7:00, Sun

Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri

Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Lubbock KJTV 8:00, Sun KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun

Midland KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Odessa KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun San Angelo KTXE 8:30, Sun San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri

Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun

Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:30, Sun;

WPTZ-DT 9:30 Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT9:30, Sun Harrisonburg WVIR-DT9:30, Sun Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri

Richmond WUPV 8:00, Sun Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun

CBS United Kingdom

Station Day Time sky Freeview CBS Action Saturday 8:30 am Ch. 148 Ch. 192 Ch. 64 Ch. 137 Ch. 134 7:30 am Ch. 149 Ch. 197 Ch. 74 CBS Drama Sunday Ch. 135 CBS Reality Sunday 8:00 am Ch. 146 Ch. 148 Ch. 66

Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00. Fri Seattle KCPQ7:00, Sun Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri: KAYU 7:30, Sun Yakima KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT9:30, Sun Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30. Sun Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun Weston WVFX-DT 9:30. Sun Wheeling WBW0 9:30, Sun Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30. Sun La Crosse WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun Superior KDLH-DT8:30, Sun Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30. Sun Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

CANADA

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

Nationwide cable Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun

Cheyenne KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun

Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

Atlantic Provinces

CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30. Sun Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun

British Columbia,

Vancouver CHEK 9:00. Sun: CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm. Sun

Manitoba, Winnipeg CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun New Brunswick, Moncton CKCW-DT 11, Sun

Saint John CKLT-DT 11, Sun Nova Scotia, Halifax CJCH-DT 11, Sun Sydney CJCB-TV 11, Sun Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun

Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:30. Sun: CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun

P.E.I., Charlottetown CKCW-DT 11, Sun Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:30, Sun Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun;

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Bahamas FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun Puerto Rico WSJX 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite

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

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Nationwide 9GEM 8:00, Sun Adelaide TV4411:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat

New Zealand TVNZ1, 5:30, Sun Philippines TV47:30 PHT, Sun

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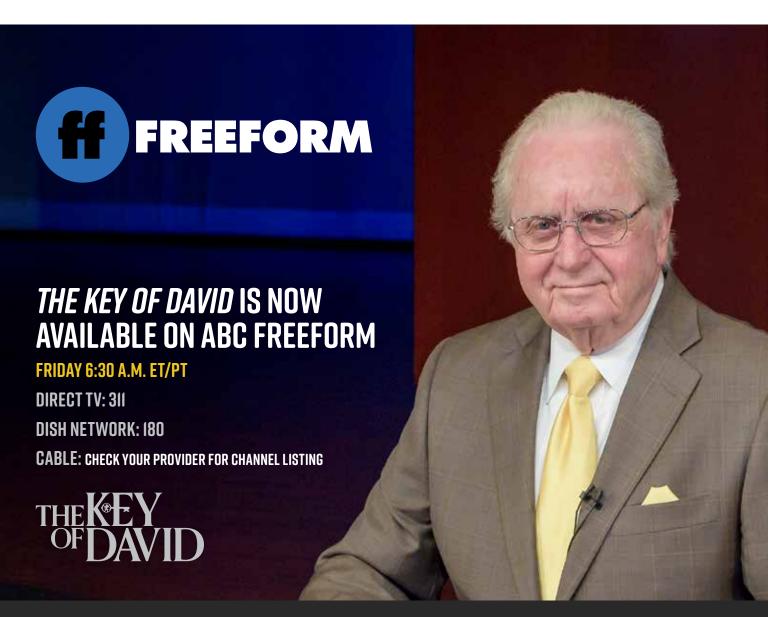
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