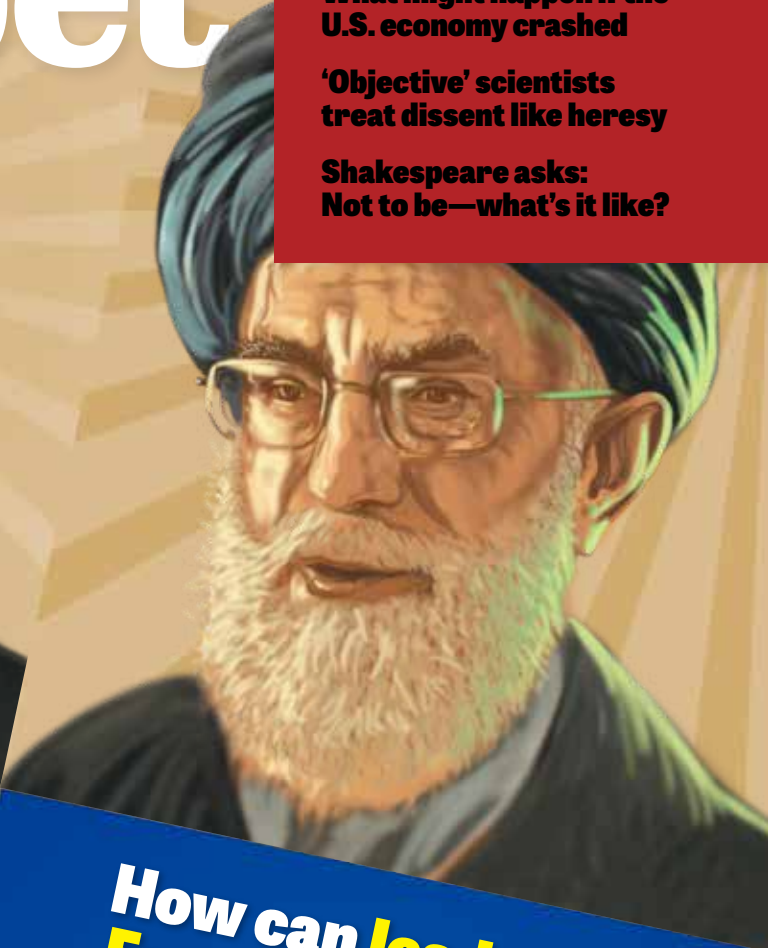


THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet



**America's dangerous
pro-Iran foreign policy**

**What might happen if the
U.S. economy crashed**

**'Objective' scientists
treat dissent like heresy**

**Shakespeare asks:
Not to be—what's it like?**

**How can leaderless
Europe survive in a
world of strongmen?**





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“My problem is today you have so many politicians lining up to become a new Chamberlain. Where are the Churchills?”

Garry Kasparov

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A Strong German Leader Is Imminent

Keep a close watch on Europe. Events are pointing to a dramatic change that will shock the world.

STRONG LEADERS ARE RISING ON THE WORLD SCENE TODAY in several nations, including Russia, China and Iran. But what about Europe? And what about Germany?

Germany is one of the top exporters of military armaments in the world, and the third largest exporter of goods. Its economy *dominates* the European Union. But Germany has no strong leader. Lately, many critics have pointed this out as Russia and radical Islam have gone on the attack against Europe.



GERALD FLURRY

However, several political trends indicate that a strong leader *is* about to rise to lead Europe. These developments match a forecast Herbert W. Armstrong and the *Trumpet* have made for a collective 80 years which is just about to come to pass.

A New Chamberlain

On February 6, the leaders of Germany and France traveled to Moscow on an invitation by Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the warfare in Ukraine. The leaders of these three nations forged some kind of a deal. Critics called it a **TERRIBLE** deal. They said it was so bad that they likened German Chancellor Angela Merkel to Neville Chamberlain.

Leading up to World War II in 1938, Neville Chamberlain went to Munich to inform Adolf Hitler that Britain and France had pressured Czechoslovakia to give up part of its country, the Sudetenland, to Nazi Germany. A peace treaty was signed to that effect. Winston Churchill called it the “Munich Surrender” and said it was a disgraceful, shameful act. He warned the Britons that it would lead to **WAR**, not peace.

Ms. Merkel doesn't believe that the West should supply lethal weapons to the Ukrainians. She thinks that might cause the war to spread even more. Yet without help, the Ukrainians can offer little or no resistance against the Russians. That is why critics began to attack Chancellor Merkel for the deal she made with Russia, saying she repeated Chamberlain's mistake with Hitler before World War II.

Former Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk tweeted, “Once again, appeasement encourages the aggressor to greater acts of violence. Time to step up our policy based on cold facts, not illusions.” Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius tweeted: “‘Sudetenland’ in 1938 was supposed to appease aggressor. We know the results. Why these thoughts arising in time of #Munich conference 2015?”

At the Munich Security Conference, just days after the deal with Russia was made, U.S. Sen. John McCain made the comparison even more explicit: “History shows us that dictators will always take more if you let them,” he said. “They will not be dissuaded from their brutal behavior when you fly to meet them to Moscow—just as leaders once flew to this city.”

When Chamberlain returned from Munich after giving away a big chunk of Czechoslovakia, he waved a piece of paper and declared, “Peace for our time!” The British people were almost *hysterical* with joy.

Eleven months later, *they were at war*. A year after that, Germany was bombing the British homeland.

A Strong Sign

Toward the end of last year, Garry Kasparov, the former chess grandmaster who has become an outspoken critic of Vladimir Putin, said this: “My problem is today you have so many politicians lining up to become a new Chamberlain. Where are the Churchills?”

Churchill warned throughout the 1930s that Western Europe was going to have war with Germany if it didn't stop the aggression of the Nazis. Western Europe could have *easily* stopped Adolf Hitler. But Europe's leaders wouldn't stand up to him. This produced the worst war in human history!

Today, an eerily familiar situation is developing. And another war is coming that will be far worse!

Calling Ms. Merkel a Chamberlain is a severe criticism! If leaders are criticizing her this terribly in public, what are they saying in **PRIVATE**? This criticism is a *strong sign* of the present mood in Europe, especially in Germany.

IT IS ALSO A SIGN THAT A STRONG RULER IS ABOUT TO COME ON THE SCENE IN GERMANY.

When Germans become anxious about world events, they call on a **STRONGMAN** to lead them! They have done so time after time throughout their history, and they are about to do it again.

To make matters worse, after Merkel made this peace pact, Mr. Putin broke it **IMMEDIATELY**! It didn't even really go into effect!

VLADIMIR PUTIN IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MERKEL AND THE WEST. He sees the ENORMOUS LACK OF LEADERSHIP in Europe and the West. He is marching through Ukraine, taking vast areas of land that don't belong to him, just like Hitler did leading up to and during World War II. History is repeating itself. The West is giving away chunks of Ukraine just like it gave away chunks of Czechoslovakia.

Another sign that this will bring on a strong leader in Germany is that Britain and America, the victors of World Wars I and II, were not even INVITED to that February 6 conference. That is quite a slap in the face to these countries. It shows how out of touch they are with what is going on, and how IRRELEVANT they have become.

That is yet another sign that *somebody* will have to provide some LEADERSHIP—before Vladimir Putin marches all the way to the North Atlantic!

AND SOMEBODY WILL.

You will see this happen on the world news with your own eyes—probably within the next few years!

“Once again, appeasement encourages the aggressor to greater acts of violence. Time to step up our policy based on cold facts, not illusions.”

Former Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk



King of Europe

Years ago, Herbert W. Armstrong met with Otto von Habsburg, the head of the 700-year-old house of Habsburg, the dynasty that ruled the Holy Roman Empire prior to Napoleon. At that time, Habsburg was a member of the European Parliament. He said this: “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.”

Look through history, and you will find SIX RESURRECTIONS of that Holy Roman Empire. Today the SEVENTH resurrection is staring us in the face—yet still people don’t know *what it is!* That is amazing! Not even the people who live by that heritage know it.

“We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally,” Mr. Habsburg also said. “This is the CROWN of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne” (emphasis mine throughout).

Mr. Armstrong was keenly interested in hearing Mr. Habsburg precisely because of that European heritage. In fact, he knew more about the immediate future of Europe than Mr. Habsburg!

How? Because of forecasts in the Bible.

Daniel 8 is one of the most astonishing prophecies in the Bible, and it concerns *modern Europe*. Compare it to the leadership Europe and Germany are craving right now.

The last part of verse 17 says, “for at the *time of the end* shall be the vision.” It gets more specific in verse 19: “And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the *last end* of the indignation” God wants us to realize the URGENCY of this prophecy. He not only talks about the end time, but about *the LAST END—the END of the end time!* Daniel was written *only* for the end time (Daniel 12:4, 9).

This describes a strong leader who will come on the world scene in Europe: “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, A KING OF FIERCE COUNTEenance, AND UNDERSTANDING DARK SENTENCES, SHALL STAND UP” (Daniel 8:23).

God calls this leader “A KING.” He will be a *king* with a *crown* and a *throne*, just as Europe has had for centuries, and just as Mr. Habsburg emphasized.

This soon-coming ruler could literally be called a *king*. Even if he is not, the Bible gives him that label. When the Bible talks about a king, in most cases it is saying that this is not a democratic government. Even if he doesn’t have that title, he is going to *lead like a king*. This vision in Daniel shows that the European empire is about to become a lot more authoritative.

Daniel 11:21 prophesies that this strong leader will come into power “by flatteries”—probably not by votes, but through a coalition government of some kind. We need to watch Germany and Europe carefully. Although Bible prophecy gives us the outline of how it will unfold, we don’t know the details.

The Tradition of Charlemagne

What is “the tradition of Charlemagne” Mr. Habsburg referenced? Some powerful Europeans want to return to his kind of leadership in Europe. They praise the tradition of Charlemagne. They encourage Europeans to “revive your roots.” Do people know what that history is really about?

The Franks were the first barbaric tribe to embrace Catholicism, but they did so for political gain, not religious reasons. Mostly of Germanic origin, the Franks used the Catholic Church to support their expansionist policies, while the church relied on Frankish rulers for protection. It was a political union with a religious veneer.

The Frankish kingdom reached the pinnacle of its power during the rule of Charlemagne (Charles the Great). Before Charlemagne’s emergence as world ruler, the political scene in Europe was sharply divided. Germany was sliced into many different tribes. Much of Italy was occupied by the Lombards. Byzantium was recognized as the successor to the eastern region of the old Roman Empire. Charlemagne, in conjunction with the papal throne, eventually changed all that—BUT NOT WITHOUT MUCH BLOODSHED.

Charlemagne was the second ruler of the “Holy” Roman Empire, after Justinian. As emperor, Charlemagne felt it his duty to defend the church. In A.D. 774, at the request of Pope Leo III, he entered northern Italy and conquered the Lombard kingdom, uniting Italy for the first time in centuries. In 799, the pope was kidnapped and beaten by a band of conspirators. After being rescued by two Frankish clerics, he fled to Charlemagne, who escorted him back to Rome. On Dec. 23, A.D. 800, with the military backing of Charles and his Frankish troops, the pope was exonerated of all wrongdoing and reinstated to his ecclesiastic office.

Just a few days later, while Charlemagne was kneeling in prayer during a Christmas celebration inside old St. Peter’s Church in Rome, the pope placed a crown upon his head, pronouncing him “the 73rd emperor of the fourth world empire.”

Throughout the Middle Ages, many scholars, theologians, *even popes*, knew the Roman Empire was the fourth

world-ruling kingdom. MANY OF THEM EVEN IDENTIFIED THIS FOURTH KINGDOM WITH THE ONE DANIEL SPOKE OF IN HIS PROPHECY (see Daniel 2:37-43). That is why Europeans and Catholics kept trying to revive the empire! The Bible said there would only be *four* such empires. However, the fourth empire would have 10 resurrections, according to Bible prophecy. The last seven of those resurrections would be called the Holy Roman Empire, because they are ruled by both church and state.

As king of the Franks, Charlemagne subjugated every single German tribe but one: the Saxons. The Saxons clung to their own faith and refused, even on pain of death, to submit to Roman Catholicism. Charlemagne determined to force his brand of Christianity on them with the sword. For years the Saxons obstinately resisted. AT ONE POINT, OUT OF SHEER FRUSTRATION, CHARLEMAGNE EXECUTED 4,500 SAXON PRISONERS. This barbarous act angered the Saxons even more.



It took 30 years for Charles to completely extinguish the “Saxon problem,” but not before multiple thousands had been executed for their religious beliefs. After more than 18 conquests against the Saxons, Charles finally prevailed. IN THE END, SAXONS EITHER SUBJECTED THEMSELVES TO THE RULE OF CHARLES, OR THEIR DEFIANCE ENDED IN DEATH.

The Holy Roman Empire has NEVER been democratic. It could never be. Even Pope Pius XII said the church had twin enemies: the democracies and communism.

As emperor of the “Holy” Roman Empire, Charles felt it his duty to spread the Christian faith using whatever means necessary. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says, “The 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 called forth criticism in Charles’s own circle” (“Charlemagne”).

THE VIOLENCE CHARLEMAGNE USED TO ENFORCE THE CATHOLIC RELIGION ON HIS SUBJECTS WAS SIMPLY UNKNOWN IN EARLIER EMPIRES! He forced his brand of Christianity on everyone, using very unholy methods.

Yet, for centuries to come, the aim of succeeding emperors was to restore the traditions of *Charlemagne* in their quest to revive the Roman Empire!

Even today, Germany and a great church are working to restore the tradition of Charlemagne. They have almost completed the structure. Still, it is a *mystery* to most people.

Let the world beware! That power structure is ready to arise on the world scene—one final time!

Charlemagne’s bloody conquests were the worst ever in the history of the previous empires. The conquests of the *next* Holy Roman Empire are going to result in the worst suffering ever inflicted on human beings in the history of man! (Matthew 24:21-22; Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:1-10).

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.

THE PHILADELPHIA
Trumpet

It will all be done in the spirit of Charlemagne. Most people won’t awaken out of their stupor until it is too late!

Charlemagne’s empire, one of the greatest ever to rule in Europe, did not even outlive his son and successor. After it dissolved, the peoples on the western side of his empire eventually became known as French. The German-speaking peoples between the Rhine and the Slavs in the east developed into Germany. The fact that he ruled over both peoples is why some dispute the national heritage of Charlemagne.

Hitler and the Crown Jewels

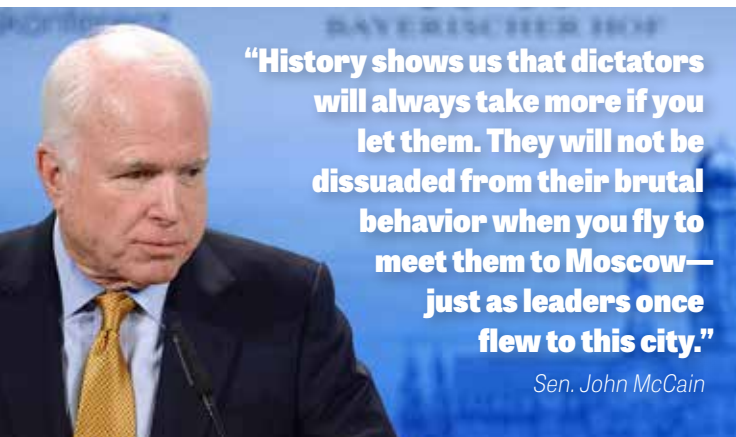
Look again at what Otto von Habsburg said about the crown jewels: “We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations

of Europe equally; THIS IS THE CROWN OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH EMBODIES THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE.”

Adolf Hitler was the leader of the sixth resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. He knew all about the crown of Charlemagne and even the literal crown jewels.

Much of the world looks upon the Jewish race as God’s chosen people. In Vienna, Hitler came to believe that God had replaced the Jews with the Germans and the Holy Roman Empire. He believed *the Germans* were God’s chosen people. This is why the crown jewels of that empire meant so much to him.

In 1938, at a rally in Nuremberg, “Hitler had brought from Vienna, after 140 years, THE INSIGNIA OF THE FIRST REICH [Charlemagne]—THE IMPERIAL CROWN, the orb of empire, the scepter



and the imperial sword. At the presentation of these symbols of imperialism he SOLEMNLY VOWED THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN IN NUREMBERG FOREVER” (John Toland, *Adolf Hitler*).

That was a strong statement. He “solemnly vowed” that the crown jewels of the Holy Roman Empire were to “remain in Nuremberg forever.” This is like a death-defying commitment to the Holy Roman Empire and his god! He made a vow forever!

Of course, Hitler lost, and that didn’t happen. Those relics are back in Austria, where they await the *next* ruler of the Holy Roman Empire.

Historians call Charlemagne’s rule the First Reich. Adolf Hitler’s rule was known as the Third Reich. Hitler knew the crown jewels would be a powerful symbol of Charlemagne’s First Reich.

HITLER CAME IN THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE! HE, LIKE CHARLEMAGNE, SAVAGELY AND BRUTALLY DESTROYED PEOPLE AS NO EMPIRE BEFORE HIM!

Many scoffed at what former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in 1995: “You have not anchored Germany to Europe; you have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you’ll find it will not work.”

Mrs. Thatcher knew it would have a bad ending. She knew it “could be ghastly,” as Bernard Connolly wrote back in 1995 (*The Rotten Heart of Europe*). It will be ghastlier than you can even imagine!

We have forgotten our own recent history. Hitler started World War II. About 50 million people were killed.

The next leader of the Holy Roman Empire is going to commit crimes against humanity even more monstrous! IT’S ALL

GOING TO BE DONE IN THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE! IT’S TIME FOR THIS WORLD TO WAKE UP TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EUROPE!

Forgetting History

At the conclusion of the Yalta Conference in February 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt signed a document to prevent Germany from ever coming in the tradition of Charlemagne again. They said, “It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to ensure Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world.”

That country had started the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, World War I and World War II. It has a history of starting wars. Churchill and Roosevelt understood Germany’s history of warfare. The Allies virtually made a *vow* that they would never allow that to happen again.

Yet here we are 70 years later, and Germany is LEADING EUROPE *again*! America and Britain have forgotten that recent history. And as a result, we are allowing it to repeat itself! That lapse of memory will be the costliest ever for both nations. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

Historian Victor Davis Hanson recently wrote that the 1930s are happening again. “World War II could have been prevented had Western Europe united to deter Germany,” he explained. Three times in this article, Hanson said we should have learned from that deadly error of the 1930s (*National Review*, February 19).

What did we learn from World War II? I’m telling you, HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF! America, Britain and many Western nations are retreating from every part of the world. Our countries have *broken wills* when it comes to their foreign policy—and that doesn’t lead to peace! IT LEADS TO WAR! You can’t negotiate peace when people on the other side want WAR! History teaches that lesson from beginning to end!

What is interesting is that in making this historical comparison, Mr. Hanson was specifically referring to how the aggressors this time around are Vladimir Putin’s Russia, the terrorist group calling itself the Islamic State, and Iran. And he is right—the West is showing shameful weakness in dealing with these modern threats.

But there is a great irony here. The weakness being demonstrated by the West is exposing the crying need for stronger leadership. And whether or not people want to believe it, THAT LEADERSHIP IS GOING TO ARISE IN GERMANY.

Soon, in a dramatic way, the threat from Germany is going to eclipse that of the Islamic State and Iran, and for a short time, even that of Russia—*many times over*!

Today, Europeans are looking for *another* ruler like Charlemagne! The Holy Roman Empire is facing us again. It is rising on the world and people don’t even know it. Again, even the people who *live* under it don’t realize they are living by the guidelines and rules of the Holy Roman Empire. That is astounding!

Daniel 8:24 prophesies about this coming king: “And HIS POWER SHALL BE MIGHTY, but not by his own power: and he ... shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.” That is a terrifying statement!

Prophecy says the European empire will be pared down from its current configuration of 28 nations to 10 nations, and it will wreak HAVOC on this world!

'Forged in Crises'

With serious threats on every side, Europe desperately needs unity. Just what the Union's founders had in mind. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

BELGIUM RECENTLY UNVEILED A NEW coin celebrating one of the most significant events ever to happen in its territory—or in Europe, period. But soon after, it scrapped it—destroying the 180,000 coins that had already been minted, at a cost of about \$1.6 million.

The event Belgium chose to commemorate was the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. And no wonder: That battle changed history and led to the independence of the Kingdom of Belgium.

But the French were not so nostalgic. They did not want euro coins that celebrated the defeat of Napoleon, one of their most revered heroes.

At the heart of this comparatively insignificant “second battle of Waterloo” lies the reason why the European Union struggles to act with unity on any important issue. It's not that the states don't share a heritage. It's that this heritage is largely a history of invading each other.

This is why so many observers predict that the European Union is doomed to failure. With no history of common commitment or shared glories, no track record of unity through adversity, how can the different nations of Europe stand

together through any major test? Especially the test Europe is facing right now?

The Euro Crisis

Since the global financial crisis struck in 2008, the EU has yet to stabilize its financial structure. As a result, unemployment in many southern European countries has reached epic levels. In Spain and Greece, around a quarter of all adults willing and able to work are unemployed. For youth, that figure rises to half.

European bureaucrats have proved excellent at kicking the can down the road. But each time they do, the problem intensifies and the anger grows.

Since 2008, the Greeks have ousted the entire political class that ruled the country for a generation. Athens is now led by a party that won only 3.3 percent of the vote before the crisis. Clearly Greek voters are angry with their old leaders, and with those of the EU—meaning Germany.

Greece's new leaders reflect this hostility. “If Europe leaves us in crisis, we will flood it with migrants,” Greece's new defense minister threatened. “Too bad for Berlin if there are some jihadis from Islamic State in that wave of millions.”

Bureaucrats in Berlin are scrambling to keep Greece in the monetary union, yet opinion polls indicate that over half of Germans would be happy for the Greeks to quit the eurozone. Another poll found that 80 percent want to stop sending money to Greece.

The result is a series of angry clashes between Greece and Germany. The most bitter is over Greece's claim that it deserves compensation from Berlin for German aggression during World War II. The claim—for \$368 billion—would be enough to pay off nearly all Greek debt.

But pushing back against Berlin—and then bringing up World War II—is a sure way to anger the Germans. “They won't get their debts paid by conjuring up German obligations from World War II,” said German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble. He said that trust in the Greek government had been “destroyed.”

Now the Greek government is threatening to seize German properties—right down to holiday homes owned by individual private German citizens—in order to recover the money.

“Relations have reached a new low,” warned the director of the Open Europe think tank, Mats Persson. “It's turning into an arms race.”

The relationship is still at a stage where this can be fixed. Prominent German leaders, for example, have agreed Germany may indeed need to pay Greece more compensation from World War II. Chancellor Angela Merkel can still make a few phone calls and calm things down.

But if it is not fixed soon, more than the euro is at risk. The emotions involved are strong enough to tear apart the EU itself. If Greece followed through with its threat to flood the EU with migrants, for example, it would be one of the last things it did as an EU member state.

Nor is this a solely Greek or solely German problem. These nations are just at the extreme ends of the divide. If Greece angrily slams the door and walks out, more divisions between debtor and creditor in Europe will appear.

Russia

As Europe's economy wobbles, the crisis in Ukraine slogs on. For the first time in a generation, a European nation has been invaded by force and seen parts of its territory annexed by an invader.

Is Europe Getting Ready to Fight Back?

ACROSS EUROPE, NATIONS ARE REEVALUATING THEIR military policies in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In some countries the assessments are major, others minor, but there's no mistaking the activity sweeping across Europe.

The trend was most clearly demonstrated by European Union Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who called for the EU to create an army. He told *Die Welt* on March 8 that “a common European army would convey a clear message to Russia that we are serious about defending our European values.”

His statements received broad support, especially in Germany. Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said that “a European army is the future,” and Chancellor Angela Merkel called for “deeper military cooperation in Europe.”

But talk is cheap. Juncker has made comments like these before, as have von der Leyen and other German officials. Juncker has almost no power to make these wishes a reality and Germany has, for now, left the European-army project in the “too hard” tray. Instead, Germany is trying to build it gradually by integrating its military with its neighbors' militaries one nation at a time.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine has given this more gradual, but more concrete, cooperation a boost.

In a joint report published February 17, Finland and Sweden committed to a new military relationship that falls only slightly short of a formal mutual defense commitment. This is in addition to a commitment to set up a joint naval task force by 2023, forming what IHS Jane's called a “partially integrated Finnish-Swedish Air Force” and pledging to work together in many other areas.

At the start of March, Denmark and Sweden pledged to increase their military cooperation. Their deal focused on peacetime operations, such as exchange of information and shared use of territorial waters and airspace.

Meanwhile, Central and Eastern Europe are full of signs that nations are fearful of Russia. Lithuania announced on February 24 that it would reintroduce conscription—compulsory military service for all men ages 19 to 26.

Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine are working to combine forces to create a united brigade. An agreement between the three nations for a joint military brigade successfully passed the first legislative stage in the Lithuanian Parliament. The brigade would train, hold exercises, share experience, and under unanimous agreement take part in missions under the United Nations Security Council. The headquarters would be located in Lublin, Poland, but have battalions stationed in each of the three countries.

After invading Georgia and then Crimea (with no response from the West), Russian troops are blasting away at Ukrainian soldiers on their home soil in the eastern part of Ukraine's mainland. It's the biggest act of aggression Europe has seen since the forcible breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Russia continues to deliberately keep tension high, flying warplanes, warships and submarines in or near the airspace of European nations, and holding military exercises on its western frontier.

The West's response has been weak. Only after Russia-backed separatists took the lives of EU citizens by shooting down a passenger jet did Brussels enforce meaningful sanctions—which are on track to expire this summer.

Now Vladimir Putin is swaggering onto Russian TV, boasting of how he tricked the West and planned the whole thing; he even claims he was prepared to use nuclear weapons.

Eastern Europe is not the only area where Putin is pushing. In Cyprus, Russia is also advancing, albeit with



different tactics. In exchange for reducing the interest rate for a 2011 loan of \$2.7 billion, Cyprus has allowed the Russian Navy use of its ports. Perhaps more disturbingly, since its bailout Cyprus has been drawing steadily closer to Russia.

“It's quite a coup for the Kremlin. Cyprus was British until 1960; now it has been absorbed into Putin's new empire,” wrote the *Spectator's* Fraser Nelson in the *Telegraph*. “It's not an empire that NATO, with its Cold War mind-set, would recognize; it's not one that can

be described by coloring in nations on a map. This is an empire of influence—far cheaper to acquire, harder to spot, and easier to maintain” (February 27).

Cyprus is a key strategic base for the EU—essential for the EU to project power into the Middle East. If it can't hold on to this island a few hundred miles off its Mediterranean shore, what can it secure?

A group of over 100 Czech and Slovak academics penned a warning, drawing on the experience of the West's betrayal of their nation to Hitler in 1938. “It troubles us that, although according to various sources anywhere from 6,000 to 50,000 citizens of Ukraine and Russia have died in Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine, the democratically elected leaders of the West actually continue to engage in a policy of appeasement,” they wrote. “It troubles us that almost 80 years after Munich, the situation is repeating itself. In 1994, Ukraine gave up its arsenal of nuclear weapons and, with the signing of the Budapest Memorandum, the United States



ACHTUNG
German Bundeswehr forces
are currently operating at a
fraction of their potential.

In mid-February, Poland launched what Agence France-Presse called “an unprecedented military spending spree” worth \$42 billion over the next 10 years. It will create a missile defense system, upgrade its anti-aircraft defense, and invest in hardware including submarines, armored personnel carriers and armored drones. These are merely the most recent developments—Poland has been beefing up its military over the last few years.

“Poland wants to play a bigger role than just being a security consumer,” said Gustav Gressel, defense analyst at the European Council on Foreign Relations. “It wants to be a bigger part of a strong European alliance” (*Newsweek*, February 16). Poland and Germany are also working on plans to form a Polish brigade under German command, and vice versa.

Further south, Romania has called for NATO to establish a commando base in its country. Bulgaria has called up 7,306

reservists since the start of 2015—more than the total number of reservists called up in 2011, 2012 or 2013.

Most important is Europe’s de facto leader—Germany. Germany had been planning military cuts. Its tank force, numbering 3,500 during the Cold War, is down to 350, and it had been planning to cut that number to 225. However, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* reported February 26 that these reductions may be scrapped, with Germany instead bringing weapons, including tanks, out of storage. Germany’s reserves of stored tanks mean it can increase the power of its forces quickly.

The German Parliament’s budget committee recently called for more military spending, an increase in the number of tanks and armored vehicles owned by the German Army, and the development of a new battle tank, a Leopard 3 program. Government sources say Germany’s defense budget will grow by over a billion euros next year.

Creating the European army that Jean-Claude Juncker has called for is a huge undertaking. The proudest moments in any European nations’ military history are usually the defeat of some other European nation. Asking Europe to come together in a common force is a tall order and will require a powerful incentive.

Russia is providing that incentive. We are seeing the beginnings of Europe’s reaction to the threat from the east.

RICHARD PALMER

of America and Great Britain became the guarantors of its territorial integrity and independence. The insufficient military support from the U.S.A. and UK to an embattled Ukraine is a sad reminder of the failure of Western democracies to defend Europe against Hitler and casts a shadow of doubt on the credibility of other international guarantees and agreements, including the security guarantees, which membership in NATO theoretically provides to the countries of Europe.”

This criticism exposes why the Ukraine crisis is an existential threat to the EU. Many Central and Eastern European nations joined the EU almost solely to guarantee their position in the Western world—to ensure they could never again be sucked into Russian domination. With their national survival staked on their EU memberships, they have been the EU’s most enthusiastic supporters. But if Europe’s response to Russia is so weak that they don’t feel protected, their whole reason for joining the EU is gone.

Ukraine proves that Europe is failing these former Soviet satellites. Central and Eastern European leaders don’t have the luxury of delusion—Putin is coming.

The EU in its current form cannot endure.

The ISIS Crisis

While Putin rampages to the east, the Islamic State rampages to the south.

This is merely the most prominent of many problems that now demand European attention, problems that a generation ago—or a decade ago or an administration ago—the U.S. would have handled. America’s retreat from the world is obvious, and it is being felt acutely in Europe.

Several terrorist attacks have been perpetrated in Europe in the last few years, and many European Muslims have expressed solidarity with the most extreme terrorist groups in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Iran is still developing nuclear weapons and the ballistic missiles capable of detonating them over Paris, London and Berlin. And now the United States is not only failing to stop Tehran, it’s failing to even *want* to.

“Rather than being surrounded by a ring of friends, the EU is surrounded by a ring of fire stretching from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, through the Middle East and the Caucasus up to the new front lines in Eastern Europe,” wrote Javier Solana, former EU high representative for common foreign and security policy and former NATO secretary general.

Once again, Europe is not equipped for this situation. When France deployed 4,500 soldiers to Mali to curb the rise of al Qaeda-backed Islamists, European nations lacked the logistical backbone to support the mission. France borrowed planes from the British, Danes, Belgians and Canadians, but even then it didn’t have enough transports for its troops—it still needed the Americans. With 50 Royal Air Force transports, Britain fields one of the most capable European airlift fleets. But the Americans have more than 700.

Washington, however, is sending smoke signals that it is dialing down its readiness to protect the Europeans from new threats beyond its borders. Yet Europe is not equipped to deal with those threats itself.

Is Europe Doomed?

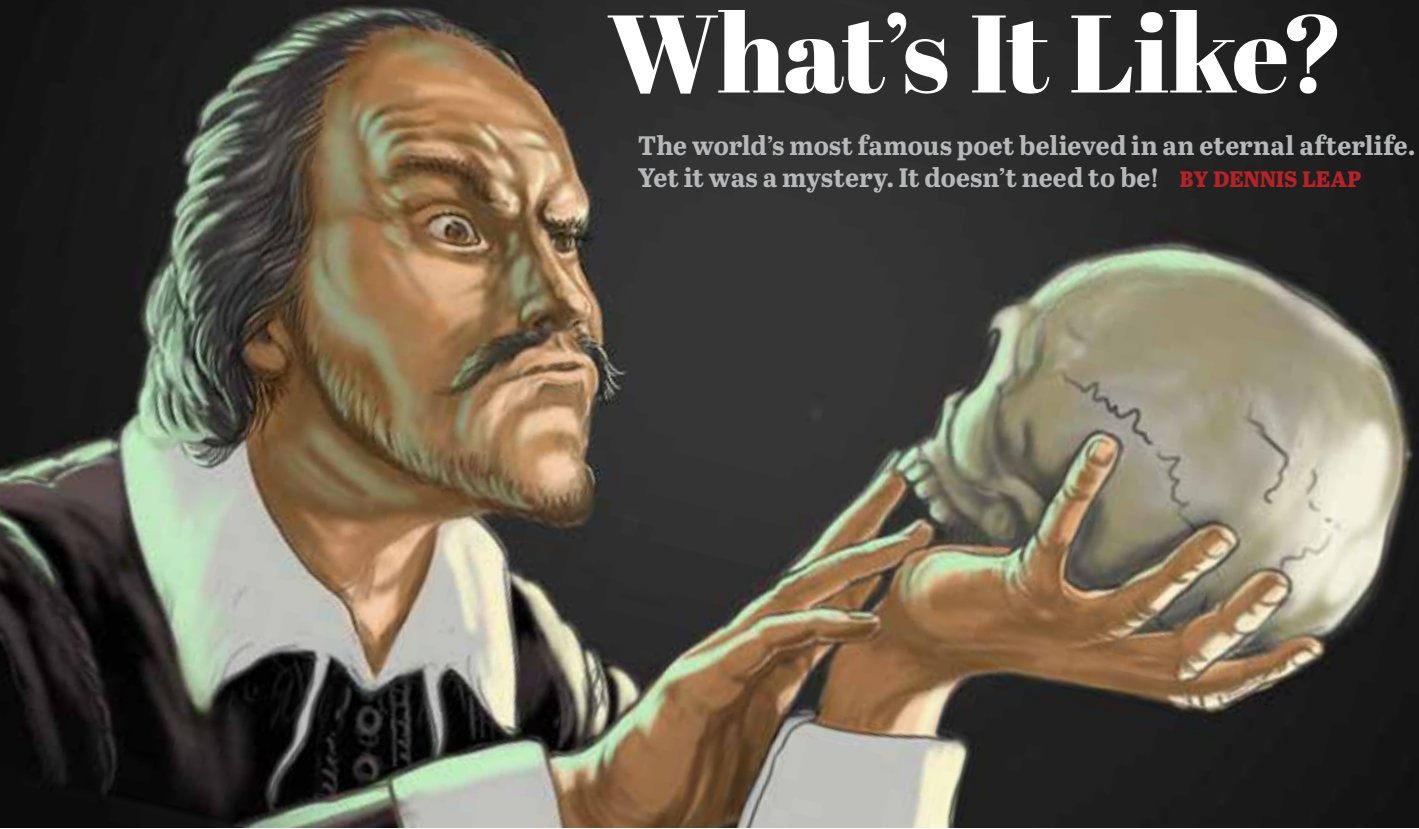
Many feel European unification cannot survive. Forget economic hopes and political integration: If Putin or Khomeini get nuclear trigger-happy, Europe may not survive, period.

But Europe’s founders would see this differently. “EUROPE WILL BE FORGED IN CRISES, and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises,” wrote one

Shakespeare Asks:

Not to Be— What's It Like?

The world's most famous poet believed in an eternal afterlife. Yet it was a mystery. It doesn't need to be! **BY DENNIS LEAP**



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IS A POET for our time. Although he completed his written works over 400 years ago, he still speaks directly to us today. Audiences are ever drawn to and mesmerized by his best theatrical works. Why is this so? *Hamlet*—Shakespeare's most-quoted and -performed play, believed by many to be his perfect play—gives us the perfect answer.

With *Hamlet*, Shakespeare brilliantly dramatized many of life's most important questions through the characters he created. Shakespeare's poetic genius transforms Hamlet, Claudius, Gertrude and Ophelia into mirrors in which we see our own reflections. Whether consciously or unconsciously, people are still searching for the answers to these eternal questions: Who am I? What am I? Is there a purpose for human life? Why do humans suffer? Why is there evil? Is there a spirit world running parallel to our own? Is there a God? Shakespeare's characters in *Hamlet* struggle to answer these questions.

World of Difficulty

Hamlet opens with one of the most dramatic and terrifying scenes in all of Western literature. Everyone is on edge. Just eight lines into the scene, one of the Elsinore castle guards states: "Tis bitter cold, / And I am sick at heart." How mysterious. Yet we soon learn why this soldier is so disturbed.

Nothing is as it should be. The capable and stable old king Hamlet recently died. His brother assumed his throne and married the dead king's wife. Old Hamlet has been dead only two months, yet sounds of wild parties irreverently fall from the new king's apartment. Political chaos lurks in the shadows. Though not told why, the soldiers observe that military arms are being manufactured day and night, seven days a week.

On top of all this, a spirit haunts the castle grounds. Who can save Denmark from its wretched woes?

Not young Hamlet. The brilliant young prince, back in Denmark from the University of Wittenberg for his father's

funeral, is seen moping around the castle grounds, physically pale and emotionally lifeless. He dresses only in black.

Hamlet's world is deeply troubled. As the play unfolds, it becomes clear that he is not the only person trapped in mind-bending trials and burdens. Everyone has lost his way.

Surprisingly Modern Scenario

Early 20th-century critics believed *Hamlet* to be a bad play. Many considered it an "artistic failure." They felt Shakespeare missed the boat with the lead character. Critics did not like it that the prince delays to avenge his father's murder. The critics wanted action. They believed Shakespeare should have given Hamlet more motive to kill Claudius. They saw no reason for Hamlet's feigned insanity when facing his uncle. Others faulted Shakespeare for making Hamlet into a kind of professor-type intellectual—all talk and no action.

It is easy to see that those critics miss the greatness of Shakespeare's play.

Hamlet reveals Shakespeare's genius in capturing human nature in action. This is why the play is so timeless. Every character that walks onto the stage reveals something about our human situation. A little extra study of the play reveals it has a surprisingly modern script.

Shakespeare teaches us something profound in *Hamlet*. He wants us to face the reality that every human being is potentially a Hamlet, Claudius, Gertrude, Ophelia, Polonius or Laertes. Human life has its burdens, tests, trials and, unfortunately, real tragedies. Most people have trouble accepting this fact. How we respond to our trials—even our tragedies—is what makes the difference.

Bearing a Thousand Natural Shocks

Hamlet is so rich with lessons it would take hundreds of articles to mine them all. Yet there is one overarching question Shakespeare ponders in the play that can be easily overlooked. He created young Hamlet as the deep-thinking character he is to force us to examine the question: What will human beings do in the *next* life?

The character Hamlet may well be Shakespeare's greatest creation. Here is a short synopsis of Hamlet's horrible situation. His safe, contemplative student life is shattered by his father's untimely death and his mother's quick marriage. Yet when the spirit resembling his father reveals to him that his Uncle Claudius murdered his father in order to seize the throne and marry his mother, Gertrude, he is pushed to the outer edge of sanity. What's more, the spirit demands Hamlet seek revenge on his behalf. With this request, the spirit plunges Hamlet into a whirlpool of mind-numbing problems with serious religious implications that would definitely impact one's afterlife.

Hamlet exclaims to his friends: "The time is out of joint. / O cursed spite / That ever I was born to set it right!" By this point in the play Shakespeare has the audience hooked. He wants us to observe as Hamlet works things out. He gives his character a penetrating mind fit to *search out* life's most mysterious questions.

When wrestling with such burdensome problems, Hamlet begins to think suicide is his best option. He muses in Shakespeare's most famous poetry: "To be, or not to be ... to die, to sleep, / No more, and by a sleep to say we end / The

heartache, and the thousand natural shocks / That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation / Devoutly to be wished." Hamlet is heartsick and shocked over what has happened within his family. Yet he is not convinced that suicide would truly solve his problems. Why not? Humans have used suicide to escape life's problems for millennia, and many still do. Yet suicide has never been a viable solution.

The Unknown X in Our Sum

Hamlet continues, "But that the dread of something after death, / The undiscovered country, from whose bourn [frontier] / No traveler returns, puzzles the will, / And makes us rather bear those ills we have / Than fly to others we know not of" Hamlet isn't a weak procrastinator—he needs to know what happens after death. He calls death "the undiscovered country." No one has ever returned to tell what goes on in the afterlife. It is this *unknown* that causes Hamlet to delay taking action. Because he has no concrete facts on the afterlife, he realizes that suicide could actually add to his problems—the "others we know not of."

I believe that the writer C.S. Lewis wrote the best essay explaining Hamlet's unique character. "If I wanted to make one more addition to the gallery of Hamlet's portraits I should trace his

**"The undiscovered country, from whose bourn
No traveler returns, puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others we know not of"**

hesitation to the fear of death; not to a physical fear of dying, but a fear of being dead. ... Any serious attention to the state of being dead, unless it is limited by some definite religious or anti-religious doctrine, must, I suppose, paralyze the will by introducing infinite uncertainties and rendering all motives inadequate. Being dead is the unknown *x* in our sum" (*Hamlet: The Prince or the Poem?*). This is deep insight into Shakespeare's mind. By the end of *Hamlet*, eight people are dead—including the title character. What does Shakespeare want from us? Certainly he wants us to reflect on death, the afterlife and the meaning of human life.

There are times in our lives when a personal trial or tragedy pushes us to the

brink. When burdensome events shock us into emotional and physical paralysis, we can feel just like Hamlet: "How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable / Seem to me all the uses of this world! ... 'tis an unweeded garden / That grows to seed." Problems, trials and tragedies can seem to multiply like weeds in an untended garden. Because we are human, we can allow our problems to overwhelm us so that death seems like the only way to mental peace.

Yet isn't it our confusion about life, death and eternity that leads us to reason this way? Is there a God-ordained purpose for our trials and even our tragedies? Is there any connection between the trials of this life and eternal life?

Modern Confusion About the Afterlife

I don't believe Shakespeare was a theologian or a converted Christian. But he had a knack for digging up and bringing to the surface the major questions buried within human minds. We should appreciate him for challenging us to think more deeply.

Shakespeare knew there was major religious confusion about the afterlife in his time. He lived during the time of the Protestant Reformation. People challenged the Roman Catholic doctrines on heaven, hell and purgatory, which are the main themes in Dante's epic poem *The*

Divine Comedy. Of course, Protestants developed theories of their own. Shakespeare used Hamlet to get people to think about what they believed. In Act I, Scene 5, the spirit tells Hamlet that he has come from purgatory to talk with him. Yet in his most famous soliloquy, Hamlet tells the audience that no one has returned from "the undiscovered country." As far as Shakespeare was concerned, no one has come back from the dead to explain what goes on in the afterlife. Why would he say that? Shakespeare is being very honest with us: *He didn't know the answer*. This same religious confusion exists today.

At my father's funeral, a very religious relative (an Irish Catholic) asked me: "Where is your father right now? Is

he floating right above us, or is he somewhere else?" I was shocked at her questions. According to Catholic doctrine, my father was likely in purgatory experiencing what Hamlet's father was supposedly experiencing: "And for the day confined to fast in fires, / Till the foul crimes done in my days of nature / Are burnt and purged away." Yet this relative of mine did not believe what she had been

wife turned to religion—including study of the Bible. She began to observe the Saturday Sabbath commanded by the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11).

Mr. Armstrong became disturbed with his wife's decision. He thought she had become a religious fanatic. Why? He believed that the Bible said, "Thou shalt keep Sunday." His wife asked him if he had read that in the Bible. "No, but I

"I had heard the preacher say, 'The Bible says, when we all get to heaven ...' I chanced to read where Jesus said, 'No man hath ascended up to heaven.'"

—Herbert W. Armstrong

taught. Surrounded by Irish Catholic relatives, I dared not say what the Bible says about life after death. There was no need for a brawl at such a sad emotional time.

The point is, we *can know* what life will be like in the "undiscovered country"—yet it is not what the vast majority believes.

Herbert W. Armstrong, the most important theologian of the 20th century, fully explained the truth about the "afterlife" in one of his most important books, *The Incredible Human Potential*.

"Why this mystery about life after death?" he asked his readers. "Why so many beliefs of so many different religions? How can we KNOW? Can we believe God?" A deep thinker, Mr. Armstrong also had a knack for asking the right thought-provoking questions.

Can we know for certain about an afterlife and what it will be like? Yes, but only if we look to and believe the correct source. The only reliable authority on the afterlife is the Holy Bible! But *who believes the Bible?*

Believe Your Bible—Not Any Man

Certainly many of the most vocal scientists do not. What about your minister? Does he believe what God clearly states about man and eternity? Mr. Armstrong was shocked when he learned the answer to that question.

"I had left church and Sunday school when I was 18. But I had been brought up in an established and respectable Christian denomination," Mr. Armstrong continued. He had pursued a life in business and had grown disinterested in all religion. After he suffered a series of business failures and financial setbacks, his

know it's there, because all these Christian churches get their religion from the Bible, and they all keep Sunday," he explained. She challenged him to find that statement in the Bible. If he could, she would go back to keeping Sunday. He could not find it. This led him to question all his religious instruction.

"I became intrigued," wrote Mr. Armstrong. "I had heard the preacher say, 'The Bible says, when we all get to HEAVEN ...' I chanced to read where Jesus said, 'No man hath ascended up to heaven.' And after reading a few more plain biblical statements, I began to believe that even the churches TODAY *do not believe* what Jesus SAID!"

He was shocked to learn that Christian churches do not believe what Jesus taught concerning the afterlife. When people die, they do not go to heaven or hell. That is what the Bible clearly states from Genesis to Revelation!

The Purpose for Human Life

By studying the Bible and believing what it actually says, Mr. Armstrong had his mind "swept clean" of all previous teaching, suppositions and ideas about things relating to God." Every man, woman and child on Earth needs to have the same kind of sweeping out of erroneous religious belief.

"What *does* the Bible say about life after death?" asked Mr. Armstrong. "Did anyone ever die and then actually *experience* a life *after death*—and who could PROVE IT and explain to us what that life was like?" Doesn't that sound similar to what Shakespeare asks in *Hamlet*? Absolutely! What is the answer?

"The answer is YES," Mr. Armstrong concluded confidently. "Jesus Christ Himself died and was DEAD. But He rose from the dead and was seen by MANY—including His disciples, who had been with Him for 3½ years *before* He died, and 40 days after His resurrection. And they went about loudly proclaiming that they were eyewitnesses of His LIFE AFTER DEATH."

Mr. Armstrong continued in this wonderful book to prove that all mankind is going to enter the afterlife by a resurrection from the dead. He provides a thorough explanation of scripture after scripture on this subject. Even more, he proves that by a resurrection, mankind will be given the opportunity to be "born again" into the Kingdom of God (John 3:1-8). Man's destiny is to rule the universe alongside Jesus Christ. This is breathtaking knowledge few understand (Hebrews 2:6-11).

What is the purpose for human life? God put mankind on Earth to prepare us to receive that glorious opportunity. "The purpose of the Christian life is to train future KINGS to rule with and under Christ," wrote Mr. Armstrong. "God's purpose in creating man is to reproduce Himself—with such perfect spiritual CHARACTER AS ONLY GOD possesses—who WILL NOT and therefore CANNOT ever SIN! (1 John 3:9)."

Preparing for such an exalted opportunity is not an easy process—it is full of tests, trials and sometimes tragedies. There is great purpose and meaning behind the sorrows of this human life. God allows us to experience problems generally caused by our sins, failures and personal weaknesses—and by these same things in those close to us—in order to mold and shape us to be just like Him. Our struggle in this life is worth all the effort when we let God lead us through. There is a much better life for all mankind just over the horizon. We should want to know all we can about it. Be sure to request a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential*.

Be bold enough to seize the opportunity this life offers us. When a trial, test or tragedy knocks us down, get up and work through it with God's help. Remember, He is getting us ready to explore the undiscovered country! ■



America's Chamberlain?

The White House is content with Iran taking control of the Middle East and developing nuclear weapons. We will all suffer the consequences. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
BARACK OBAMA



MANY PEOPLE COMPARE PRESIDENT Barack Obama's foreign policy toward Iran to Neville Chamberlain's approach to Adolf Hitler before World War II. But this comparison is deficient.

When Chamberlain visited Munich in 1938, Adolf Hitler didn't possess intercontinental ballistic missiles and a nuclear weapons program on the brink of detonating its first bomb. The Nazi regime was ruthless and determined, but it had to pursue its genocidal ambitions the long, hard way, with troops, tanks and gas chambers. Today Iran's mullahs share Hitler-like aspirations—but they are on the cusp of obtaining nuclear weapons and the ability to commit *instant* genocide. *This raises the stakes infinitely!*

Consider too: The fatal flaw with Neville Chamberlain's foreign policy was one of method, whereas the problem with Barack Obama's is in its very *intent*.

Britain's prime minister underestimated Hitler's evil and overvalued the

role of diplomacy to oppose it. For all his obvious failures, Chamberlain publicly and sincerely opposed Hitler and made a genuine attempt to stop Nazi Germany. Chamberlain eventually saw his mistake and it depressed him. When he resigned the prime ministership, he stayed in government to help Winston Churchill execute the war against Hitler.

Today, on the issue of Iran, the question of Barack Obama's intent is ambiguous, at the very least. We are now well into his seventh year as president, and still there are no serious indications that

Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons troubles him. Since he took office in January 2009, Iran's grip on the Middle East has tightened, its strategic presence in the region has grown, and it is closer than ever to going nuclear.

It's impossible to believe that the leader of the world's most powerful nation could be *unintentionally* or *ignorantly* vague about where he stands on one of *the* most important foreign-policy issues of the age. Mr. Obama's ambiguity

is deliberate. But why would he conceal his views on Iran?

There is a logical answer, one supported by a large, ever growing mountain of evidence.

Regime Preservation

From the start, Mr. Obama has practiced a policy of regime-preservation with Iran. America has had multiple opportunities to undermine Iran's mullahs, potentially oust the radical Islamist government, or impair Iran's strategic presence in the Mideast. The Obama administration has ignored or rejected every one.

Take America's schizophrenic foreign policy during the "Arab Spring." The White House fervently supported *most* "democratic" uprisings that swept through North Africa and the Middle East. It provided critical support to the protesters who toppled Hosni Mubarak in Egypt and Muammar Qadhafi in Libya, and endorsed regime change in Tunisia and Algeria. But when more than 1 million anti-government protesters exploded onto the streets of Tehran in 2009, America was silent.



Many observers were baffled. Why would the Obama administration loudly support “democracy” in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria, *but then remain conspicuously mute on Iran?* Iran’s Green Movement presented America and the West with arguably the greatest oppor-

belligerent, anti-Western, radical Islamist regime around to oppose the process would have significantly improved the odds of it becoming a much friendlier, more stable region.

Why would America’s president refuse such a historic opportunity?

No contemporary Western nation has come down so consistently on the wrong side in the Middle East as America has these past six years.

tunity since Iran’s Islamic Revolution to undermine and potentially topple a despotic archenemy of the West, the number one state sponsor of global terrorism. Yes, reconfiguring the Middle East in the vacuum of Iran’s departure would have been challenging—but not having the

Iran’s Regional Dominance

The Middle East is complicated, replete with competing ethnicities, a 1,400-year-old inter-Muslim feud, border disputes, and multiple terrorist groups and subversive organizations. No decision is simple; all have negative consequences. No

statesman or Western government can navigate the region perfectly for long. Still, no contemporary Western nation has come down so consistently on the wrong side in the Middle East as America has these past six years.

Virtually every foreign-policy decision or action the Obama administration has made has emboldened Iran and other radical Islamist regimes and organizations. Because of this administration’s policies, Iran has expanded its influence in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Lebanon. Moreover, the U.S. has offended, isolated and weakened Iran’s regional adversaries. It has irreparably damaged its relationship with Israel, making the *only* democratic, truly Western-friendly nation in the region more isolated and vulnerable than ever. This president’s foreign policy has also weakened the strategic position of more-moderate Arab countries like Saudi Arabia and the Gulf nations.

Why Won’t the U.S. Embrace Egypt?

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi represents an opportunity to advance American interests in the Middle East—a neglected opportunity. **BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL**

THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT BROKERED by the United States in the late 1970s provided a bedrock for Middle East stability that has lasted for 40 years. For four decades, every American administration maintained that peace by supporting both Egypt and Israel. However, the current U.S. government has neglected, scorned and sidelined both nations. Washington’s debase-ment of Israel is well documented, but its treatment of Egypt under the leadership of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been similar: shameful neglect of a longtime ally.

This rough treatment is astounding considering the fact that not since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat’s assassination in 1981 has there been a closer alignment between Egypt’s interests and the traditional interests of the U.S. But that’s the point: This American administration is anything but traditional.

Here is a look at a few of Sisi’s exploits that would have made any previous American administration eager to work with him.

■ **He recognizes the danger of political Islam.** Sisi has boldly warned against the dangers of political Islam, whether of the

Islamic State or the Muslim Brotherhood. In a country of 90 million mostly Muslims, Sisi has blamed religious leaders for not doing enough to counter militant Islam. In a watershed speech before Egypt’s religious leadership at Al-Azhar University on January 1, Sisi challenged: “Is it possible that 1.6 billion people [Muslims] should want to kill the rest of the world’s inhabitants—that is 7 billion—so that they themselves may live?

Impossible! ... I say and repeat again that we are in need of a religious revolution. You imams are responsible before Allah. The entire world—I say it again, the entire world is waiting for your next move.”

■ **He opposes the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas.** In October 2014, Sisi’s government outlawed Hamas and designated it a terrorist group. In February, an Egyptian court upheld that decision. It was the first time an Arab regime defined a Palestinian terrorist organization as such. Since taking office, Sisi has taken the fight

to Hamas in the Gaza Strip. At great cost to the state, he created a 1-mile buffer zone on the edge of the Gaza Strip, relocating its inhabitants and bulldozing the houses to try to stop smuggling into Gaza. He also called on Hamas to terminate its terrorist training and arming. In this, Sisi has gone further than former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ever did. “Mubarak was old, he was frightened by public opinion and he



OPPORTUNITY
Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi speaks at the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo.

The Iraq debacle was not entirely Mr. Obama's doing—it was his predecessor who ousted Saddam Hussein and set the table for an Iranian takeover, as the *Trumpet* has often reported since 2003. However, the current president has accelerated the process. The massive draw-down of U.S. forces from Iraq prior to his reelection in 2012 created a power vacuum that the Islamic State, al Qaeda and other radical groups quickly filled. As the Islamic State disassembled Iraq in horrific fashion, the Obama administration looked for help from *Tehran*. Today Iran conducts air strikes (against Islamic State terrorists) alongside U.S. jets in Iraq; it trains Iraq's Shiite militias, and even some Iraqi officers; its generals lead Iraqi troops; and it sends aid and weapons to Iraq. Iraq had been the major counterbalance against Iran. Today Iran, with U.S. sanction, controls Iraq and is using it to EXPAND ITS RADICAL ISLAMIST EMPIRE!

The international media barely reports that Iraq has become Iran's

satrap. But Iraq will return to the headlines—*next time as a key proxy of Iran in its war on the West*.

Dominance in Syria

Next door to Iraq, Syria is entering its fifth year of gory conflict. The death count is approaching 200,000. Many thousands more have been wounded or made homeless and are trying to flee to Jordan and Turkey. Though his nation is disintegrating—with large tracts now controlled by the Islamic State, Kurdish forces and opposition forces—Syrian strongman Bashar Assad remains in power.

Throughout Syria's war, America has refused to confront Assad or, more importantly, Assad's bosses in Iran. In February 2012, at the start of Obama's second term, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reassured Assad publicly, "Military intervention has been absolutely ruled out." Six months later, amid massive international outrage over Assad's ruthless conduct, the U.S. made token

gestures of toughness. It said that the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime would represent "a red line" that, if crossed, would mean military force was no longer "absolutely ruled out."

Then Assad crossed the red line, again and again. America responded by threatening an "unbelievably small, limited" military intervention. Today the world still waits for America's unbelievably small, limited military intervention. Worse yet, America is off-loading responsibility to resolve the Syria crisis to Europe—and to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the same man who has supplied the Assads with military trainers and weapons for decades!

Iran has benefited enormously from Syria's war and the Obama administration's inaction. Assad needs Iranian money, fighters and weapons, and has relinquished power and influence to Iran's mullahs in return. Iran's presence in Syria, especially via Hezbollah,

CHAMBERLAIN PAGE 25 ►

didn't dare," said Eyal Zizzer, Tel Aviv University dean of faculties—"but Sisi doesn't care, he's fighting. It's a war, and he knows who is the enemy."

■ **He understands Israel's security concerns.** In a number of recent interviews, Sisi has revealed his support for Israel's fight, not just against Hamas, but also against a nuclear Iran. "We have to understand the Israeli concern," Sisi told the *Washington Post* (March 12). He revealed he talked to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "a lot." Egyptian Maj. Gen. Sameh Seif Elyazal (Ret.) has explained, "We have a mutual understanding between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and, it is not a secret to tell you, with Israel as well!" (*Wall Street Journal*, March 18). Current trends led *Jerusalem Post* deputy managing editor Caroline Glick to proclaim, "Today Israel's closest ally is Egypt. Under Obama, the U.S. is a force to be worked around, not worked with" (February 5).

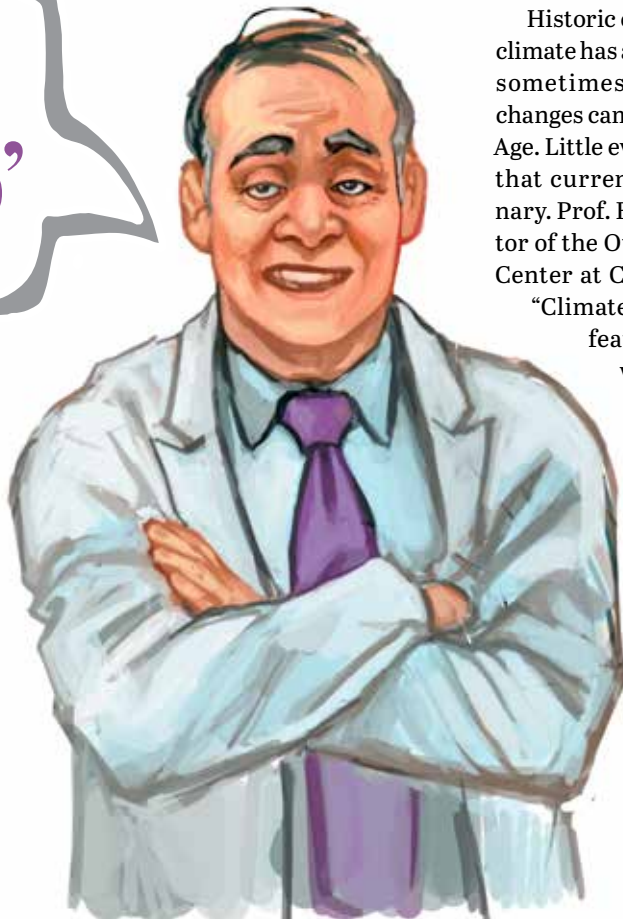
■ **He defends freedom of maritime trade through the Red Sea.** Earlier this year, Iran used its Houthi proxies to dismantle the government of Yemen in order to control trade through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern tip of the Red Sea. Egypt, the gatekeeper of the Suez Canal at the northern reach of the Red Sea, reacted strongly, warning that it would defend freedom of traffic through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Egypt's Suez Canal Authority chief, Mohab Mamish, said Egypt "will not accept" the closure of the waterway. Sisi also invited ousted Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi (historically a U.S. ally) to the Arab summit in mid-March, showing that he rejected the legitimacy of Iran's takeover of Yemen.

■ **He promotes religious freedom within Egypt.** While much of the Middle East suffers from religious helotism, Sisi actively promotes the equal rights of all religions. He visited a Coptic church on Christmas, the first Egyptian president ever to do so. He "has positioned himself as a defender of the country's Christians," reported the *Wall Street Journal* (February 16).

■ **He supports an Arab coalition to fight the Islamic State.** American geopolitical analysts have long mentioned the need for Sunni states to come out in the fight against the Sunni Islamic State. Egypt is doing exactly that. The Associated Press reported on February 18, "Beyond fighting militants in its own Sinai Peninsula, [Egypt] is trying to organize an international coalition against the Islamic State in Libya and helping Saudi Arabia defend its borders."

These policies would have made any former U.S. government willing to team up with Egypt under Sisi. However, the current administration, citing Sisi's "human rights abuses," has done nothing to strengthen ties, and even held back much-needed military aid. In contrast, when the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood took power in 2012, American financial support for Egypt continued to flow. Also, undermining Sisi's rule, President Obama recently hosted the Muslim Brotherhood at the White House. "The United States is squeezing [Egypt's] government on the military aid it needs to fight [the Islamic State] and the Sinai terrorists," wrote Jonathan Tobin for *Commentary* (March 12). "As the Israeli government has already learned to its sorrow, the Egyptians now understand that being an ally of the United States is a lot less comfortable position than to be a foe like Iran." ■

'Because I Said So'



Scientists treat dissent like heresy. But considering their track record, they should welcome debate.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO THOSE who question the belief that human activity is causing catastrophic global climate change?

Environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (nephew of the late president) recently said some of such people are “treasonous” and should be in jail with other criminals. Similarly, climatologist James Hansen, who was NASA’s top climate expert for over a decade, said questioners of the hypothesis should face criminal trial for “high crimes against humanity.” For Richard Parnutt, a professor at the University of Graz in Austria, however, prison is not punishment enough. In 2012, he said: “I propose that the death penalty is appropriate for influential GW [Global Warming] deniers.”

More mainstream activists generally don’t call for prison or execution, but still work to silence all questioners. In 2007, The Weather Channel’s climate guru called for stripping certification

from unbelieving meteorologists. A Senate report that year showed that unconvinced scientists routinely faced threats and intimidation by proponents. In 2013, Reddit’s /r/science forum—which, with five times more subscribers than the *New York Times*, has become the front line of science-public interface—banned climate change questioners from discussions and said newspapers should follow its lead. A few months later, in his State of the Union address, United States President Barack Obama said that “climate change is a fact” and “the debate is settled.”

This desire to silence, imprison or even kill opposition raises specific questions about climate change. It also raises broad questions applicable to all of science.

Why Is Climate Alarmism Questioned?

The main reason some question the belief that human activity is causing

catastrophic climate change is that some of the science behind the hypothesis is thin—to put it mildly.

Historic evidence shows that Earth’s climate has always warmed and cooled—sometimes abruptly. Most of these changes came long before the Industrial Age. Little evidence supports the notion that current fluctuations are unordinary. Prof. R. Timothy Patterson, director of the Ottawa-Carleton Geoscience Center at Carleton University, wrote:

“Climate stability has never been a feature of planet Earth.” The world’s climate “changes continually and, at times, quite rapidly,” he wrote. “Many times in the past, temperatures were far higher than today, and occasionally, temperatures were colder. As recently as 6,000 years ago, it was about 3°C warmer than now. Ten thousand years ago, while the world was coming out of the thousand-year-long ‘Younger Dryas’ cold episode, temperatures rose as much as 6°C in a decade—100 times faster than the past century’s 0.6°C warming that has so upset environmentalists” (*National Post*, June 20, 2007).

Another thin part of the anthropogenic global warming (AGW) hypothesis lies in claims that rising CO₂ levels from human activity drive up the atmosphere’s temperature in a clear instance of cause-and-effect. Such experts as geophysicist and retired astronaut Walter Cunningham say this claim is faulty because temperature increases have often come *before* boosts in CO₂ levels. “[W]e cannot be sure which is cause and which is effect,” he wrote in the July-August 2008 issue of *Launch*. “Historically, temperature increases have preceded high CO₂ levels, and there have been periods when atmospheric CO₂ levels were as much as 16 times what they are now, periods characterized not by warming but by glaciation.”

Ian Plimer, professor of Mining Geology at the University of Adelaide, South Australia, also questions the link

between CO² and temperature. In his book *Heaven and Earth: Global Warming, The Missing Science*, he shows that from 1860 to 1875, temperatures went up. They then fell from 1875 to 1890, increased until 1903, then fell again until 1918. From 1918 to 1941, they sharply rose—then cooled again until 1976. CO² emissions were much lower at the start of the 20th century than they are now. So why were the amount and rates of warming greater then? Why is the Arctic now cooler than it was in the 1920s and 1930s, when carbon emissions were much lower?

From 2000 to 2010, mankind added about 110 billion tons of CO² to the atmosphere. That's more than a quarter of the total since the start of the Industrial Revolution in 1750. Yet, during that decade, there was no statistically significant increase in global temperatures.

Also problematic is the AGW claim that carbon dioxide is a toxic, "industrial" gas that is having a catastrophic effect on the climate. CO² is a natural, trace gas that currently constitutes just 4 one-hundredths of 1 percent of the planet's atmosphere—far less than during other epochs. "At the current level of 400 parts per million, we still live in a CO²-starved world," says *Climate Change Reconsidered II*, a report written in 2013 by a team of 50 scientists on the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). "Atmospheric levels (of CO²) 15 times greater existed during the pre-Cambrian period (about 550 million years ago) without known adverse effects," the report says.

Atmospheric scientist Robert L. Scotto says green activists also overstate mankind's contribution to CO² levels, and understate that of the sun: "Based on the laws of physics, the effect on temperature of man's contribution to atmospheric CO² levels is minuscule and indiscernible from the natural variability caused in large part by changes in solar energy output." The fact that Mars, Pluto and Jupiter—upon which there are no carbon emitting factories—are currently heating up strengthens the view that the sun is largely responsible. Man's CO² emissions are also paltry compared to the amount released into the atmosphere by vegetation and the oceans.

Moreover, carbon dioxide is actually

vital to life on the planet. "CO² is a vital nutrient used by plants in photosynthesis," the NIPCC report stated. "Increasing CO² in the atmosphere 'greens' the planet and helps feed the growing human population."

Do these points resolve the controversy? Do they mean mankind's CO² emissions are not potentially dangerous? Do they mean no further study into climate change is needed?

No. They do not settle the questions or close the book. They are among many issues that have not been examined to the satisfaction of Patterson, Plimer, Cunningham, Scotto, the NIPCC and a rapidly growing counter movement.

Why So Many Scandals?

Another reason some question the hypothesis of catastrophic climate change is that many of its lead advocates have been rocked by serious scandals.

In 2009, thousands of documents were leaked from the University of East Anglia Climatic Research Unit (CRU). They revealed years of data manipulation, suppression and fraud by prominent climate scientists. The massive scandal, nicknamed Climategate, revealed three main themes: First, many scientists privately admit to each other that parts of the data are flimsy and require manipulation if they are to support the idea of severe man-made climate change.

Second, many leading climate scientists see climate change as more of a political cause than a scientific pursuit. Third, many such scientists hide underlying data if it does not support the cause.

If the science is sure and settled, why would this manipulation and anti-scientific behavior be needed to "prove" it? Climategate has been called "the worst scandal of this generation" and "the biggest scam in history." Yet it was downplayed by climate activists and whitewashed or ignored by most media and politicians. Most activists call the revelations "irrelevant."

But are they irrelevant? In one leaked e-mail, climatologist Kevin Trenberth wrote: "The fact is that we can't account for the lack of warming at the moment and it is a travesty that we can't." In another, CRU chief P.D. Jones wrote to climatologists Michael Mann, Raymond Bradley and Malcolm Hughes: "I've just completed Mike's nature trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years (i.e. from 1981 onwards) ... to hide the decline."

It was use of this "trick" that had enabled Mann to produce the now infamous "hockey stick" graph. Gathering data from ice cores, tree rings, lake sediments and corals, his crew graphed global temperature over the past thousand years. Their graph showed a long, mostly flat line for the years from 800 to

Black Eyes of Science

Climate change theory is hardly the only area where scientific grandstanding has preceded exposures of error—or even downright deceit. Here are a few more high-profile examples.



Piltdown Man

The Piltdown fossil was a series of skull fragments discovered in 1912 by archaeologist Charles Dawson. The fossil, which included a human-like skull, orangutan-like jaw and chimpanzee-like teeth, was heralded as the missing link between man and ape. In 1925, the Piltdown Man became "Exhibit A" in the Scopes monkey trial in defense of teaching evolutionary theory in public schools. Belief in its authenticity as the missing link became the consensus of scientists. But in 1953, it was proven to be a hoax. Dawson had combined a 700-year-old human skull, a 500-year-old lower jaw of a Sarawak orangutan, and fossilized chimpanzee teeth. He used chemicals to dye the bones to give the appearance of age. In the 40 years it took scientists to discover the difference between a supposed multimillion-year-old fossil and a modern chimpanzee, untold numbers of students had been taught the error and were influenced into accepting that people had evolved from monkeys.



Ida

In May 2009, media were ecstatic over the discovery of Ida, a fossilized monkey skeleton hailed as the “missing link” in human evolution. *Guardian Unlimited* called it “one of the most significant primate fossil finds ever made.” The fossil closely resembled a lemur in some respects but an ape in others. Unfortunately for evolutionists, Ida was a fraud. Prof. Jørn Hurum of the University of Oslo purchased the Ida fossil from a private collector, who purchased it from the black market, who purchased it from amateur fossil hunters in 1983. Hurum believed the fossil was a “dry-nosed” primate of the group that includes Old World monkeys. After scientific tests, Ida was deemed a “wet-nosed” primate of the group that includes lemurs. Ida had nothing at all to do with human evolution. The scientific study did not provide sufficient proof to consider Ida a human ancestor, or even a primate ancestor. The scientists only cherry-picked characteristics that would support their claim for evolution.

1900 (the handle of the hockey stick), then a sudden upward spike (the upturned blade). It seemed to pin warming firmly on industrialization and became a fixture of global warming alarmism.

But the problem is that the graph was the result of manipulation—or, as Jones said, a “trick.” Mann had massaged the data to get rid of a pesky time of pre-industrial warmth called the Medieval Warm Period that occurred from about A.D. 1000 to 1300. Just after this period came the Little Ice Age, which lasted until the late 1800s. Does this mean 20th century warming could be largely a natural recovery from those cold years? Mann’s trick, which buried around seven centuries of climate history, tries to silence such questions.

In 2011, Climategate 2.0 broke. A new batch of 5,000 e-mails was leaked to the public showing the same themes as the first batch. “I have been talking w/ folks in the states about finding an investigative journalist to investigate and expose [skeptical scientist Steve McIntyre],” wrote Mann in one leaked e-mail. “The trick may be to decide on the main message and use that to guid[e] what’s included and what is left out [of IPCC reports],” wrote Jonathan Overpeck, coordinating lead author for the most recent climate assessment by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in another.

Then there is the famous “97 percent consensus” figure—one of the most frequently cited arguments of climate alarmists: *Let’s not get into looking at the facts; those are established; 97 percent of*

all scientists agree. That number comes from a group led by John Cook that claims to have analyzed almost 12,000 peer-reviewed climate studies to find that 97 percent of them endorsed the view that humans are causing severe global climate change.

But shortly after Cook’s meta-study was published, investigative journalists at *Popular Technology* produced evidence showing that his crew had doctored the results by misclassifying many “skeptical” papers as consensus papers, cherry-picking data and asking misleading questions. *Popular Technology* asked many of the scientists whose studies Cook had lumped in with the “consensus” if that representation of their work was accurate. Here are a few of the replies: “Nope ... it is not an accurate representation.” “That is not an accurate representation of my paper.” “It would be incorrect to claim that our paper was an endorsement of CO₂-induced global warming.” “Cook et al. (2013) is based on a straw man

argument What my papers say is that ... 40-70 percent of the global warming observed from 1900 to 2000 was induced by the sun.” “Certainly not correct and certainly misleading.”

The “97 percent” claim also ignores 60 scientists who published a document in 2006 lambasting the theory of AGW. And it ignores the international panel of more than 700 prominent scientists on the December 2007 Senate report. This group of climatologists, geologists, oceanographers, biologists, glaciologists, biogeographers, meteorologists, economists, chemists, environmental scientists, physicists, paleo-climatologists and other scientists signed a letter saying climate change was a well-known natural phenomenon. Many of them were current or former members of the IPCC.

Yet the “97 percent consensus” remains a mantra of climate change activists, while the *Popular Technology* piece, the 2006 document and the 2007 Senate report go largely ignored.

Climate change was delivered its most recent black eye in January 2015, just after all the jubilant claims by alarmists that 2014 had been “the hottest year on record.” One of the key regions warming especially fast was a large swath of South America. Researcher Paul Homewood compared the published temperatures for the three weather stations in Paraguay against the temperatures that were originally recorded. In all three cases, he found the data had been doctored to show warming where there actually was none. Homewood then turned his attention to the weather stations between Canada and the heart of Siberia. Again, in almost every case, he discovered that the same one-way upward temperature



Lobotomy

In 1949, Portuguese neurologist António Egas Moniz was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work with the prefrontal lobotomy. The procedure entailed cutting the tissue connecting parts of the brain’s prefrontal cortex, and was used as a “cure” for schizophrenia, depression, headaches, behavioral problems and other mental illnesses. “Prefrontal [lobotomy] is a simple operation, always safe, which may prove to be an effective surgical treatment in certain cases of mental disorder,” Moniz said, and the world of medicine jumped on board. Early lobotomies involved cutting a hole in the skull and severing the frontal lobe using a leucotome. Later they were performed by inserting an icepick-type device through the eyes and severing the lobe. After they realized how many patients were reduced to a vegetative state by the procedure, it quickly fell out of vogue.

adjustments had been made. The *Telegraph* said this “fiddling with temperature data” wasn’t just the biggest of all climate change scandals, but “the biggest science scandal ever” (February 7).

It seems that the more the climate data is scrutinized, the more doctoring, manipulation and data massaging is exposed.

Why Is It Blasphemy to Question?

When the thin science is placed alongside the scandals, and then considered in light of the fanatic efforts to silence questioners, a worrying picture emerges: Belief in climate change has departed from science and become something more like a religious faith.

It bears all hallmarks of a man-made religion: a caste of priests and prophets, an irrational set of beliefs which adherents cling to tenaciously, abuse of authority and intimidation of any dissent. It even has plenty of sacred texts.

When believers are confronted with evidence that disproves or questions their dogma—like, for example, the study published in March 2013 showing that global temperatures had been static for 15 years even though greenhouse-gas emissions during that time had soared—it only seems to strengthen their piety. The “persecution” fortifies their resolve. Many adherents seem driven by a faith just as blind as that in some religionists they are so quick to criticize.

“True believers,” Cunningham said, “are beyond being interested in evidence; it is impossible to reason [people] out of positions they have not been reasoned into.”

Do calls for investigating and exposing skeptics sound like objective scientists, or like the Puritans who ran the Salem witch hunts? Do demands to suppress heresy sound like unbiased researchers, or like religious extremists? Do suggestions to execute deniers sound like experts motivated by reason, or like the cries of Catholic Church leaders during the Inquisitions?

Clearly, such calls and demands do not sound like the voice of science. “Science is facts,” said French physicist Henri Poincare, and “just as houses are made of stones, so is science made of facts.”

That means science is apolitical

and welcomes prodding, scrutiny and debate. Its focus is on measurable, pressure-tested evidence. Its love is not for religious dogma, but for facts. Its goal is not to prove a hypothesis, but to test it in order to see whether it is true or untrue. It is not arrogantly confident, but humbly aware of its limitations. Since science is concerned, not with courting agendas but with discovering truth, scientists are unbiased, transparent, objective, and receptive to criticism and investigation.

The climate change debate is being dominated not by scientists, but by pseudo-scientist ideology-driven zealots. They approach it backward,



Electron charge

In 1909, Robert Millikan first “accurately” measured the charge of an electron. His findings helped him win a Nobel Prize in Physics. For the next several decades, scientists found results that differed from Millikan’s, but since his was the accepted published number, scientists industry-wide massaged their results until they conformed to Millikan’s work. “Why didn’t they discover that the new number was higher right away?” asked Richard Feynman at Caltech’s 1974 commencement ceremonies. “It’s a thing that scientists are ashamed of—this history—because it’s apparent that people did things like this: When they got a number that was too high above Millikan’s, they thought something must be wrong—and they would look for and find a reason why something might be wrong. When they got a number closer to Millikan’s value, they didn’t look so hard. And so they eliminated the numbers that were too far off, and did other things like that.” It is a natural tendency of people: to want to conform—even if it means going out of their way to find excuses to do so. No one likes to have his work critiqued. And as non-conformers have found out, challenging the prevailing dogma is the easiest way to find your work lost in the dustbin of obscurity.

with a conclusion firmly in mind. Whatever they can contort into supporting the hypothesis, they keep. All else they often reject or downplay. The facts are made submissive to the conclusion.

And climate change is not the only topic that has been thusly hijacked. In the world of academia, there is one person who is more ridiculed, blackballed and ostracized than a climate skeptic: a questioner of the theory of evolution.

‘Science Falsely So Called’

Long before the climate change hypothesis or the evolutionary theory were hatched, the Apostle Paul labeled such agenda-based movements “science falsely so called” (1 Timothy 6:20).

These movements expose the fallibility of science. Does this mean we should

give science the cold shoulder? Not at all. The problem isn’t with science, but with man’s misuse of it. The Creator God *authored* true science, and the means for men and women to love and pursue it. “God intended for man to produce additional knowledge,” wrote renowned educator Herbert W. Armstrong. “He gave us the basis—the foundation—the premise—the concept. But He also provided us with eyes with which to observe. With hands and feet to explore and measure. With means to produce laboratories, test tubes, means of experimentation. He gave us awesome minds with which to think” (*Why Were You Born?*).

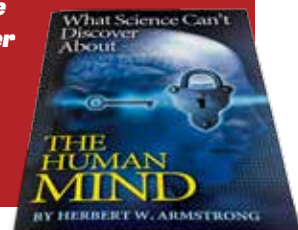
For understanding about true science,

the role in human affairs God intended for it, and the only truly infallible authority we can rely on, request our free booklet by Mr. Armstrong *What Science Can’t Discover About the Human Mind*. ■

Science can’t explain everything.

Find out why.
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What Science Can’t Discover About the Human Mind.



For well over 100 years, climate experts have been proclaiming the warning that environmental apocalypse is nigh. But they have gone back and forth over whether it would be global warming or an ice age that would kill the Earth. Now you can try your hand at navigating through the about-faces and perils of modern climatology!

Flip Flop!

The game of climate changes of heart (for all ages)

Start

1895

"Geologists Think the World May Be Frozen Up Again"
- NEW YORK TIMES

1902

"Disappearing glaciers ... deteriorating slowly, with a persistency that means their final annihilation ... scientific fact ... surely disappearing."
- LOS ANGELES TIMES

1912

"Prof. Schmidt Warns Us of an Encroaching Ice Age"
- NEW YORK TIMES

2005

"50m environmental refugees by end of decade, UN warns"
- GUARDIAN

1929

"Most geologists think the world is growing warmer, and that it will continue to get warmer"
- LOS ANGELES TIMES

1923

"The discoveries of changes in the sun's heat and the southward advance of glaciers in recent years have given rise to conjectures of the possible advent of a new ice age"
- WASHINGTON POST

1923

"Scientist says Arctic ice will wipe out Canada"
- Professor Gregory of Yale University, American representative to the Pan-Pacific Science Congress
- CHICAGO TRIBUNE

1932

"If these things be true, it is evident, therefore, that we must be just teetering on an ice age." - "This Cold, Cold World,"
- ATLANTIC

1954

"Climate—the Heat May Be Off"
- FORTUNE MAGAZINE

1952

"[W]e have learned that the world has been getting warmer in the last half century"
- NEW YORK TIMES

1969

"[T]he Arctic permafrost thinning and ... at the North Pole become an o within a decade"
- NEW YORK TIMES



Finish

2007
"North Polar ice cap is 'falling off a cliff' ... it could happen in as little as seven years"
- AL GORE, NOBEL PRIZE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

2009
"The Ice Age Cometh: Experts Warn of Global Cooling"
- BUSINESS AND MEDIA INSTITUTE

2014
"Climatologist: 30-Year Cold Spell Strikes Earth"
- NEWSMAX

2012
"Climate Change Deaths Could Total 100 Million by 2030 if World Fails to Act"
- REUTERS

2014
"Report: Ice Cap Growing Though Gore Said It Would Be Gone"
- NEWSMAX

1981
Global warming "of an almost unprecedented magnitude"
- NEW YORK TIMES

1975
"The threat of a new ice age must now stand alongside nuclear war as a likely source of wholesale death and misery for mankind."
- INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE MAGAZINE

2013
"Global warming? No, actually we're cooling, claim scientists"
- TELEGRAPH

2013
"Long-term global warming trend sustained in 2013"
- NASA

1989
"UN Predicts Disaster if Global Warming Not Checked"
- ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Arctic ice is the ocean Pole may open sea level or two."
- TIMES

1974
"Global cooling for the past 40 years."
- TIME MAGAZINE

A Bold Warning: America's Economic Collapse



NEWS FORECASTER
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Alarm bells sounded by the IMF recall a forecast made three decades ago about how a U.S. crash would affect Europe. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM IS unfathomably complex. Economies all over the world rely on it and participate in it, and we all depend on it. But most people know little about it. We just assume it will continue to function indefinitely.

But every so often, if we are paying attention, we get a small glimpse into this mystifying world. And what we see should make all of us tremble!

One of those glimpses occurred this past January, at the Davos Economic Forum. At this prestigious gathering, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued a dire warning about America's financial system that should have shaken the whole world, especially Americans. But the comments received very little press coverage. You need to pay close attention to what was said.

This warning recalled an important economic forecast made many years ago—one that I believe we are about to see come to pass in a dramatic way.

Herbert W. Armstrong had what I believe was the strongest religious program on radio and television for *decades*. He broadcasted on over 400 television stations and published a magazine with over 8 million circulation. He also met dozens of heads of state and other world leaders.

In 1984, Mr. Armstrong forecasted the future of the American economy and also of European geopolitics. He said a shockingly forceful European superpower

would develop and wield power unlike any superpower in history. And he showed how the American economic danger and the European superpower will be linked.

Shadow Banking

What do you know about shadow banking? Shadow banks are financial institutions that act like banks but are not regulated by the government the way banks are.

At the Davos forum in January, the IMF said that shadow banking is putting America's entire financial system in peril.

The *Telegraph* summarized: "Shadow banking now poses top risk to U.S. stability Non-financial lending has reached \$15 trillion since the crisis and is *outside the control of authorities* warns the Fund's deputy chief" (January 21; emphasis mine throughout).

"The U.S. shadow banking nexus is coming back to haunt like some hydra-headed beast and now poses the biggest potential threat to the American financial system, the International Monetary Fund has warned," this article reported.

After the 2008 economic crisis, authorities drew up regulations, and Congress passed laws limiting the risky activity that helped spread the Wall Street meltdown. But according to the IMF, these laws actually *increased* the risk of economic catastrophe!

"Zhu Min, the IMF's deputy chief, said regulators have successfully cleaned up

much of the global banking system since the Lehman crisis, but THE EXCESSES HAVE MOVED OFF BOOKS and are once again growing to disturbing proportions" (ibid). In response to the new regulations, the Wall Street banks simply shifted their risky activities off their books and into other institutions that are not under the jurisdiction of overseers. Even when some banks curtailed risky activity, other bank-like institutions sprang up to fill the void.

A lot of money and a lot of risk have migrated from government-regulated banks into the shadows!

Last July, Federal Reserve Chairman Janet Yellen said this about the shadow banking system: "We simply have to expect that when we draw regulatory boundaries and supervise intensely within them, that there is the prospect that activities will move outside those boundaries and we won't be able to detect them. And if we can, we won't have adequate regulatory tools."

"That is a HUGE CHALLENGE TO WHICH I DON'T HAVE A GREAT ANSWER," she said.

Comments like that are deeply concerning.

The IMF is warning about this massive danger. And America's number one banking authority admits there is a huge problem for which it has no solution.

Still, even with the U.S. economy and the world economy in such a precarious state, hardly anyone seems concerned! Americans know far more about the Super Bowl than about this super crisis threatening to destroy our financial system.

Derivatives

One of the greatest dangers to the economy lies in contracts called *derivatives*. Many derivatives are essentially unregulated, high-risk credit bets. And some experts estimate that around 95 percent of the money used in derivative contracts is borrowed. Derivatives speculations are basically debt piled upon debt upon debt.

The derivatives market has grown into a mountainous borrowing system—and it is opaque, deceiving, and deadly dangerous. The top five American banks hold about \$290 trillion in derivative exposures on their books. That is more than 17 times greater than the value of all goods and services produced and consumed in

America in a year. And it is 3½ times the value of all goods and services produced in a year in the entire *world!*

And the shadow banking system is stuffed with the riskiest derivatives.

Billionaire Warren Buffet called those derivatives “FINANCIAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.” That is a strong warning.

Why aren't we listening?

The IMF has sounded the alarm. The Federal Reserve admits there is a problem. Traders, economists and financial experts are realizing that all this hidden, risky betting could blow up in our faces.

That is exactly what is going to happen. And when it does, it is going to have major effects throughout the world, even to upset and reshape the geopolitical structure of international relations!

I strongly believe that the most powerful effect of this grave threat is going to emerge in *Europe*. That is just what Herbert W. Armstrong foretold would happen.

A European Superstate

For decades Europe has tried to unify economically, militarily and politically, but it has been unable to do so. The European Union consists of 28 loosely allied, fairly disunited states. In that respect it has been a spectacular failure.

Mr. Armstrong made a personal prophecy about this, regarding how the European superpower would finally unite. I think it is *the greatest personal prophecy he ever made* because it is being fulfilled today EXACTLY as he described it.

Mr. Armstrong found Otto von Habsburg to be an important figure in the development of the European superpower; the two men became associates. Habsburg was a member of the European Parliament and a descendant of the Habsburg dynasty, which ruled the Holy Roman Empire for centuries.

The Holy Roman Empire has a history that stretches back roughly 15 centuries. Its core is a union between church and state: a European imperium welded together by the Catholic Church. Time after time, this religious empire has risen, fallen and risen again. History records six resurrections of this empire.

Mr. Habsburg believed that the crown of the Holy Roman Empire—the imperial authority held by Emperor Charlemagne and all its other kings—would unite Europe once more. He was openly trying

to unite Europe into a strong union—what would have been a seventh Holy Roman Empire. But that didn't happen.

Mr. Armstrong told Mr. Habsburg that Europe would indeed unite in the modern era, and he told him how he thought it would happen: in the face of a drastic CRISIS. And that crisis would be FINANCIAL. Mr. Habsburg said he agreed that the catalyst for unification probably would indeed be a financial disaster.

In 1984 Mr. Armstrong wrote that a massive *banking crisis in America* “could suddenly result in TRIGGERING EUROPEAN NATIONS TO UNITE as a new world power larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.”

More than three decades later, this personal prophecy of Mr. Armstrong is about to be SPECTACULARLY fulfilled.

Have we so quickly forgotten how close we came to economic disaster in 2008? The coming crisis is really a result of what happened six years ago. Here is how Rep. Paul Kanjorski recalled the day of Sept. 18, 2008: “The Treasury opened up its window to help, and pumped \$105 billion in the system, and quickly realized it could not stem the tide. We were having an electronic run on the banks. They decided to close down the operation, close down the money accounts. ... If they had not done that, their estimation was that by 2:00 that afternoon \$5.5 trillion would have been drawn out of the money market system of the U.S., and would have collapsed the entire economy of the U.S., and within 24 hours the world economy would have collapsed. We talked at that time about what would happen if that happened. It would have been the end of our economic system and our political system as we know it.”

Mr. Armstrong saw this crisis looming in 1984. The steps that were taken to avert it in 2008 solved nothing—they

only delayed it for a short time. There is going to be ANOTHER financial meltdown—far more catastrophic. It will strike *perhaps within the next year or two*.

Herbert W. Armstrong warned that a massive financial crisis centered in America would ripple across the world and spark the rise of the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. We are seeing that develop *right now*.

Ten Kings

The Bible's prophecies about this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire say that it will comprise a union of “ten kings” (Revelation 17:12). Ten leaders, representing 10 European peoples, will join together to forge a superstate more powerful than any Europe has seen for a long time. “THESE HAVE ONE MIND, and shall give their power and strength unto *the beast*”—prophetic language for a mighty political and military empire (verse 13).

What will cause these nations to unite so forcefully? It is very difficult to unite nations into “one mind”! That's an incredibly challenging undertaking. But it is going to be done. In fact, it is taking place even now before our eyes.

Mr. Armstrong had profound insight in specifically forecasting that the catalyst for this dramatic unification would be a MASSIVE FINANCIAL CRISIS that starts in America and ripples out from there. Look at conditions in America and the world today, and it is not difficult to see just how right he was!

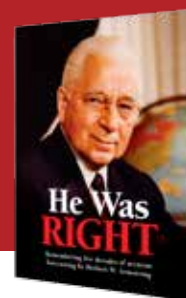
This surely doesn't make us feel secure, but it is the truth. It is what Mr. Armstrong recognized and warned about over 30 years ago—but few people heeded.

Watch the economic situation in America closely, and its effect on Europe—and see if this dramatic prophecy from Mr. Armstrong doesn't come to pass just as he said it would! ■

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- Britain losing the Suez Canal
- America losing the Panama Canal
- Cold War would end without a USSR attack
- Pope John Paul would bring down the Iron Curtain

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A Prophecy About God's True Church

The book of Revelation includes a remarkable prophecy that has unfolded over two millennia—and will conclude during your lifetime. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

THE BOOK OF REVELATION is all about world news! What God gave in the Bible's most important book of prophecy is a description of world events that carry this world to the time of Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

The Apostle John recorded the prophecy, but he didn't understand most of it.

It is for this time right now. The terrible events besieging our world were all prophesied in Revelation. We can see it as never before: The events it describes are beginning to unfold before our eyes!

Revelation gives us a time sequence of major events. It supplies the story flow. *Every gigantic step in world events* is described in that book, where we can read and study it.

Prophecy From the Father

Consider what is revealed in just the first few words of the book of Revelation: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [the Father] gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass" (Revelation 1:1). These words introduce God the Father and Jesus Christ. The first verse of Revelation demonstrates God's royal family government. The Father is the Head of His Family.

The Apostle John recorded this prophetic message, but **THIS BOOK CAME FROM GOD THE FATHER. HE STRUCTURED EVERYTHING PRECISELY AND CAREFULLY.** He wants us to know that all this revelation came from Him—not from Christ, not from an angel, certainly not from John—*never* from a man!

This book contains the Father's **PROPHECIES** about **FUTURE EVENTS** which He gave to Jesus Christ to share with His servants. The Father is the originator of prophecy. This reveals the Father's thinking about His coming Family, the Kingdom of God—the good news that is **THE GOSPEL.**

Verse 7 describes the event that will introduce that Kingdom to the world—Christ's return: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him" Revelation is all about the Second Coming.

Prophecy also reveals the terrible events that will *precede* Christ's return, including the dreadful Day of the Lord. Revelation depicts this in detail, starting in verse 10, where John wrote: "I was in the Spirit on *the Lord's day.*" **THE DAY OF THE LORD IS THE THEME OF THIS BOOK.** So much of Revelation describes the events that occur *right before* the Second Coming. Zephaniah called it the day of God's **WRATH** (Zephaniah 1:15, 18). The book of Revelation reveals God's *wrath* on the people of this world. It foretells the time when God will send plagues upon plagues.

Then, at the end of that day of wrath, events will climax with **JESUS CHRIST RETURNING TO EARTH!** Revelation shows the exact sequence of events that will lead to that grand-smash event.

Seven Churches

In Revelation 1:4, John addressed this book "to *the seven churches* which are in Asia." Why seven churches?

Verse 10 concludes with John hearing "a great voice, as of a trumpet"—and then

notice what immediately follows: “Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and *send it unto THE SEVEN CHURCHES which are in Asia; unto EPHESUS, and unto SMYRNA, and unto PERGAMOS, and unto THYATIRA, and unto SARDIS, and unto PHILADELPHIA, and unto LAODICEA*” (verse 11). Again we see *seven churches*, and here they are specifically listed.

These were literal congregations that existed in the region of modern-day Turkey during the first century A.D. These churches, Herbert W. Armstrong explained in *Mystery of the Ages*, “were located along one of the mail routes of the old Roman Empire. Riders would follow the route—carrying messages from town to town. The messages to the seven churches have words of both encouragement and correction, and they clearly show the dominant characteristics of each of the congregations at that time.”

However, these messages to the seven churches—recorded in detail throughout chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation—were intended for a MUCH LARGER AUDIENCE than those dwelling in Asia Minor.

“I will build my church,” Jesus Christ said, “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Christ promised and prophesied that He would build His very own Church and that it would NEVER DIE! It would remain in existence until His Second Coming. So that Church has to be on this Earth somewhere, OR CHRIST IS A LIAR!

But Christ didn’t tell us how to *identify* His Church in Matthew 16. God does that in the first three chapters of the book of Revelation.

These seven churches in Revelation 1 through 3 are, *prophetically, seven eras* of the New Testament Church! These messages are actually a series of remarkable PROPHECIES about the future of God’s true Church. They describe *seven successive Church eras*, beginning with the first-century Ephesus era started by Jesus Christ when He was on Earth and continuing to the seventh and final era in these latter days—Laodicea.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “The history of the Church would fall into *seven distinct eras*—each with its own strengths and weaknesses and its own special trials and problems. Just as a message could pass along the mail route from Ephesus

to Laodicea, so would the truth of God be passed from era to era. It was like a relay race—in which the baton is passed from runner to runner, each one doing his part, until the finish line is reached” (ibid; emphasis mine throughout).

Many people say that these seven churches are only history. But think on this. Remember what it says in verse 1: This book of Revelation is meant to show God’s servants “*things which must shortly come to pass.*” Revelation is a BOOK OF PROPHECY. IT PUTS ALL PROPHECY INTO A TIME FRAME—A CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER. That is why this book is so critical!

The seven eras became history *only after* their prophecy was fulfilled.

Smyrna and Ephesus were only about 35 miles apart, yet one is in tribulation

Christ promised that His Church would never die. That Church has to be on Earth somewhere, or Christ is a liar.

(Revelation 2:10), and the other is not. Why, if this is only history? The Sardis Church is dead (Revelation 3:1). A few miles down the road is Philadelphia, one of the best churches (verses 7-12). This wouldn’t make sense if it were only history.

But there is a much greater proof that those churches refer to more than just history. The sixth era, Philadelphia, was fulfilled under Herbert W. Armstrong, who died in 1986. He left a superabundance of history and prophecy of the Philadelphia era and how it tied to the five eras preceding it.

Now we are in *the last hour* of the seventh and final era—the Laodicean era. There is abundant proof of this era being fulfilled *now* and how it is connected to the other six eras of God’s true Church—and, more importantly, to the prophetic Second Coming of Christ!

The world has never understood these messages. Christ addresses them specifically to the seven eras of His Church. THEY GIVE THE ALL-IMPORTANT OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY AND PROPHECY OF GOD’S TRUE CHURCH.

In the Midst of the Churches

In Revelation 1:12, John turns toward the powerful voice he heard and sees “seven golden *candlesticks*,” or LAMPS. These

golden lamps symbolize the seven successive Church eras (verse 20). Each lamp would be the only source of spiritual light in a very dark world. God’s saints clearly see this glorious light. The world in general, however, is oblivious to it.

In the rest of the chapter, John describes a vision of the glorified Jesus Christ. “And IN THE MIDST of the seven [lamps] one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle” (verse 13). Read the next verses to get the vision of this spectacular Being! John was so moved that “when I saw him,” he wrote, “I fell at his feet as dead”! (verse 17).

Take note that this fiery God is standing “*in the midst* of the seven candlesticks”—the seven eras of God’s Church.

THE GLORIOUS JESUS CHRIST IS *RIGHT IN THE MIDST* OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES, DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THEM! That is how each era does a dynamic work for God. It all depends on Christ dwelling in the middle of God’s Work. CHRIST PERSONALLY AND POWERFULLY GUIDES AND DIRECTS HIS TRUE CHURCH, ERA BY ERA. He explains our responsibilities and provides guidance to help us fulfill them. The power and dynamism of each era exists in direct proportion to HOW MUCH IT RELIES ON JESUS CHRIST!

God the Father gave the book of Revelation to Christ, and Christ then distributed it (Revelation 1:1). But if you have a red-letter Bible, you’ll notice a portion of the book is printed in red letters, which denotes Christ’s own words. In other words, CHRIST ADDED TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION (verse 2) as God the Father directed Him. What He added, you and I really need to understand in this end time.

All of Revelation 2 and 3 is red-letter. It is WHAT CHRIST INSPIRED JOHN TO WRITE FOR HIS CHURCH! Christ has an important message for each of these seven eras. He gives His people encouragement and praise, as well as some profound correction. Yes, Christ does correct His people—and sometimes it can become extremely difficult to do God’s Work! But all these

challenges lead to the Second Coming, and that should keep us inspired forever!

Christ sends this message to the seven Church eras. He uses those seven churches to deliver His message throughout those eras. God has given us the greatest commission He has ever given to man! In a time of increasing global crisis, we are here to deliver this message for God to this world.

Many prophecies show that most of God's people in this Church era will be killed. God's Church must be warned.

A Vision of the Church

The prophecies in Revelation concerning the Church get even more detailed than what is covered in Revelation 2 and 3. In addition to correlating critical end-time prophetic events that lead up to Christ's return, large portions of the book of Revelation deal with events concerning *the Church* IN THE LAST DAYS. It unveils some dreadful prophecies concerning the true people of God living in this end time.

Revelation 12 covers a pivotal period in the history of God's Church—and of *another church*, ruled by Satan.

GOD'S CHURCH IS "CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, AND THE MOON UNDER HER FEET" (Revelation 12:1). That is a picture of the tremendous power God gives to His Church, which is being prepared to rule with Christ over the entire universe.

Jesus Christ called His Church a "little flock" (Luke 12:32). The word *little* in the original Greek means small in number, size or quantity. Christ revealed here that God's true Church would not be a large organization. It would be small in size. Christ promised that the Church would never die, but He never said it would enjoy a large following.

Jesus explained *why* the Church would be small. He said, "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you"

(John 15:20). During His earthly ministry, He suffered intense persecution culminating in His crucifixion! He warned the Church that it would be persecuted too.

Revelation 12:2 shows that the subject here begins with Christ's birth. Then, there is also "another wonder in heaven": "a great red dragon," or Satan (verse 3). He is pictured here with "seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his

heads." These heads, horns and crowns picture *world-ruling empires* in human history—empires that were *governed by Satan himself!* You can match this with other prophecies, particularly in the book of Daniel, and the record of history to learn what these empires were. The last of them—the Roman Empire—has 10 horns, meaning there would be 10 resurrections of that empire. The last of these is prophesied to occur just before the Second Coming, and it is happening right now!

In this vision, Satan was ready to devour the Christ-child, but God protected His Son (verses 4-5). This child was born to rule the world and to *replace Satan*, who rules this world now (verse 9; see also 2 Corinthians 4:4).

The whole world has been deceived. That includes all religions except the true Church of God. But that does not mean deceived people are lost forever. God is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). GOD WILL SAVE MOST PEOPLE IN THESE DECEIVED RELIGIONS. However, He will do it according to His master plan and in His time frame. This is explained in our free booklet *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?*

Satan eagerly longed to devour Christ. Today, he longs to devour God's Church, the people of God. Over the centuries, he

has been consistent in using one particularly potent weapon—and it has done tremendous damage to the true Church!

Martyrdom of the Saints

"And it was given unto him *to make war with the saints*, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (Revelation 13:7). This scripture refers to this satanic weapon: It is a "beast" (verses 1-5)—a powerful political empire. God says He will allow this power to make war with many of His saints and *overcome them*, or KILL THEM! Many prophecies show that most of God's own people in this final Church era, Laodicea, will be killed! God's lukewarm Church must be warned! God does not protect these rebellious Laodiceans, but He does protect His very elect.

Here is a related passage that gives us additional details—and is even more chilling: "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw *a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast*, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the *blood of the saints*, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (Revelation 17:3-6).

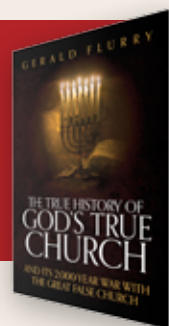
These verses refer to the *same* Satan-inspired empire described in Revelation 13 (verses 1-10). However, the beast in Revelation 17 only pictures the *last seven resurrections* of that empire. It adds the knowledge that *a woman* rides or guides the last seven heads of the beast. This woman, named "Mystery, Babylon the Great," is drunk with the blood of the saints.

The Bible teaches that a woman is the symbol for *a church*. The woman depicted in Revelation 17 is a great *false* church that worships the devil and guides a mighty political power.

This passage is speaking of Satan's *counterfeit* of the true Church. This counterfeit church was prophesied to grow *large* in numbers and to exert

A battle is brewing.

The conflict between the true Church and false church is about to reignite. Order our free new book, **The True History of God's True Church**, to learn more.



political influence over the nations. And these verses also show that it will lead a FUTURE MARTYRDOM OF GOD'S SAINTS!

The Apostle John marveled at this vision (Revelation 17:6). He wanted to understand it, but he couldn't, because it was not *time* to understand. The Prophet Daniel explained a similar situation (Daniel 12:8-9). However, the last book of the Bible was intended to be a *revealing* in this end time, not a concealing. We are living in the time of the *end*. God *wants* us to understand these amazing prophecies.

Which modern church represents the great whore of Revelation 17? What political power does this church rule over? It is vital to know the answers to these questions. The end-time martyrdom is about to begin. We must be sure we do not fall prey to the death trap of this great false church and the beast power.

John wrote, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Revelation 1:3). God gave His Church the prophecies in the book of Revelation and other books as a *blessing*. Understanding and keeping these prophecies will help us escape what is coming.

Crossroads

These prophecies are sobering, but they also give us the perspective we need. They show that the last horn of that prophetic beast leads directly to the Second Coming of Christ and His destruction of this evil empire forever!

The United States, Britain and Europe today stand at a consequential crossroads. Events taking place soon will dramatically reshape life as we know it. The European Union will renew an unholy alliance with a great false church and plunge this world into the Great Tribulation. God's true Church will again make history during this coming conflict.

In order to understand the prophecies of the near future—to fully understand what lies ahead for the United States, Great Britain, Europe, the great false church and God's true Church—we must have a good grasp of history, especially Church history. The story of God's true Church through the centuries has much to teach us in this urgent, dangerous time immediately before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! ■

► CHAMBERLAIN FROM PAGE 13

is stronger than ever. Its partnering with America to fight the Islamic State has given it greater political legitimacy and has augmented its strategic and military presence in Syria.

Iran, Iraq and Syria form a huge landmass stretching from Pakistan to the Mediterranean. To the south lies Yemen, strategically situated on the rump of the Arabian Peninsula. In February, Houthi rebels took down Yemen's pro-American government and took over the country. The Houthis are supported by Iran and are significantly influenced by Iran's mullahs. And astoundingly, the U.S. supported and endorsed the Houthi takeover!

In January, the *Wall Street Journal* revealed that "American officials [were] communicating with

Houthi fighters, largely through intermediaries, [White House] officials and [rebel] commanders have disclosed, to promote a stable political transition as the Houthis gain more power ..." (January 29). So instead of figuring out how to defend the pro-Western government, the Obama administration spent the weeks prior to its fall negotiating with the pro-Iranian, radical Islamist organization that was attempting to depose Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

In Yemen, just as in Iraq and Syria, the actions of the Obama White House advanced the interests of Iran—and hurt the interests of more-moderate Arab countries, the Jewish state and the West!

Defending Nuclear Iran

The West's conduct in the ongoing negotiations over Iran's nuclear program is an embarrassment. For years, Tehran has sent its politicians to travel the planet and engage in "serious" discussions about Iran's nuclear program while its scientists stayed home to work on the bomb. The West has been negotiating with Iran since 1996. During that time, Tehran has *actually* suspended its program only once, in 2003—just after America invaded Iraq.

Barack Obama has delivered his

fair share of tough rhetoric against Iran. There have even been a few seemingly tough actions. In 2010, for example, he signed off on sanctions that actually began to hurt Iran's economy. Whenever he was accused of being too soft on Iran, the president cited this as proof of his toughness. But he was being disingenuous: He had actually *opposed* the sanctions; they only happened because the U.S. Senate voted for them 99-0 and the president was compelled to make them law.

Later, President Obama undermined these very sanctions. At the Geneva nuclear conference in November 2013, based on Iran's *promise* to suspend (not to end, just to *freeze*) parts of its nuclear program, Barack Obama—without consulting Congress or his European partners—agreed to

decrease economic sanctions.

At the time, there was little doubt that the West's sanctions *were working*. Iranian oil exports had fallen by nearly 75 percent during the previous two years, costing the country \$4-to-8 billion per month. (Oil revenue accounts for half of government spending.) Iran's currency, the rial, had lost two thirds of its value against the U.S. dollar. Inflation had soared to more than 40 percent. Food and fuel prices had rocketed. The public was growing resentful, and pressure on the regime was mounting. Given a little more time, there was a good chance the sanctions would have crippled the regime.

Barack Obama simply had to DO NOTHING in Geneva, and the world's largest state supporter of terror likely would have fallen into serious trouble. He didn't have to fire a shot. It doesn't get much easier than DOING NOTHING. At the very least, a severely crippled Iran would have enabled America and the West to enter the next stages of negotiations from a position of real strength. With regime survival at stake, Iran's mullahs would have been far likelier to make real concessions.

Instead, America's president *rescued* the radical Islamist regime—*yet again*—at the 11th hour. He forged a deal that loosened sanctions and

Read last month's cover story about Iran's power grab in Yemen at theTrumpet.com/go/12459.

injected \$7-to-8 billion per month into Iran's economy. In return he received nothing but hollow promises. The Geneva deal failed to constrain Iran. It actually endorsed Iran's right to nuclear weapons. In fact, IT ENDORSED THE RADICAL ISLAMIST REGIME ITSELF.

As in Syria, the U.S. has also invited Russia to play a lead role in nuclear negotiations with Iran. In 2010, it proposed that Iran send its enriched uranium to Russia. This is the same Russia that helped Tehran establish its nuclear program and even helped build some of its nuclear facilities. Together with China, Russia has been the chief defender of Iran's nuclear program, swatting down several United Nations resolutions over the years. Why give Vladimir Putin key leverage in negotiations with Iran, especially when Putin is undermining U.S. interests all over the world and is in the process of invading Eastern Europe?

This only makes sense if America might



the side of Iran's mullahs than he is the side of the Jewish state, moderate Arab countries, and the West!

Mr. Obama's Pro-Islamist Ideology

In one of his earliest speeches, President Obama said, "If countries like Iran are willing to unclench their fist, they will find an extended hand from us." It sounds generous and rational, but behind that remark is a dangerous sentiment.

Mr. Obama has told the *New York Times* that the Muslim call to prayer is "one of the prettiest sounds on Earth at sunset." Standing before the UN in 2012, he said, "The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam." Mr. Obama's first major speech on foreign policy, delivered in Cairo in June 2009, was intended first and foremost to embrace the Muslim world. Often his strongest remarks following an Islamic State atrocity or radical Islamist attack on the West have been in defense of Islam's reputation and

anti-colonialist upbringing, socialistic education, and infamous circle of friends. *Washington Times* columnist Jeffrey Kuhner wrote that the president is a "transnational leftist who believes American power must be restrained, not enhanced. More importantly, he is a cultural relativist. He is convinced the United States is not a singular force for good in the world, but an imperial, jingoistic nation that must be chastened—and humbled—on the world stage" (July 25, 2009).

Compare that view of America with the view of Iran's supreme leader. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei routinely calls America the "Great Satan," endorses the "death to America" sentiment of the Arab street, and criticizes America for, as he put it in a 2006 speech aired on Iranian TV, "its arrogance, its vanity, and its desire to control, and because it is a pawn in the hands of the Zionists."

The Obama administration extends its hand even as the clenched fist of Iran and radical Islam repeatedly strikes at the West.

U.S.-Iran Rapprochement

Today it is widely known that informal talks and secret meetings between U.S. and Iranian officials have been going on virtually since the beginning of the Obama presidency. Earlier this year, in an article published in Persian and translated for the *Washington Free Beacon*, Mohammed Reza Naghdi, a commander in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, stated that the "Americans are begging us for a deal on the negotiation table."

Many expect a major peace agreement with Iran to be announced soon, certainly before Obama leaves office. Informed people close to the president have said that securing peace with Iran is currently Mr. Obama's primary ambition. He wants to go down in history as the president who solved the Iran question. "This is his ticket to Mt. Rushmore," wrote Charles Krauthammer.

Actually, securing "peace" with Iran has been Obama's top foreign-policy goal from the start. In the first year of his presidency "there were more [White House] meetings on Iran than there were on Iraq, Afghanistan and China," a senior Obama administration official told the *New York Times* in 2010. This would be

"Death to America. Of course yes, death to America, because America is the original source of this pressure."

—Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei March 21, 2015

be OK with Iran controlling the Mideast and acquiring nuclear weapons.

Today it's no secret. The whole world has been talking about it for months. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IS FINE WITH IRAN DEVELOPING ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM!

In March, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood before the U.S. Congress and logically and dramatically exposed the extreme danger of Mr. Obama's negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program. In that speech, wrote Melanie Phillips, "What Netanyahu did was to lay out exactly whom Obama is now siding with and whom he stands against" (*Jerusalem Post*, March 5). Mr. Netanyahu showed the world that Barack Obama—at least on the issue of Iran's quest for nuclear weapons—is more on

cautioning the West against overreacting. Repeatedly he and his spokesmen have contorted themselves to avoid calling terrorists *terrorists*, Islamists *Islamists*, and their Christian and Jewish victims *Christians* and *Jews*.

This February, Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated officials were invited to the White House for meetings with the president. Some of the president's closest friends and top government leaders are known to sympathize with hardcore Muslim beliefs, such as Israel's destruction.

The more you investigate, the more you see how neatly Mr. Obama's views on the U.S., Israel and the West align with those of Iran's mullahs. More than a few people have explored the roots of Mr. Obama's views on America and the Jewish state, tracing them back to his

great *if* the president were discussing how to achieve peace by ending Iran's nuclear program and regional hegemony. Obviously this wasn't the case.

"[Iran] was the thing we spent the most time on and *talked about the least in public*," stated the official. Why wouldn't the White House reveal what it was thinking? Because, as events of the past six years verify, the administration was willing *from the beginning* to concede and allow Tehran regional dominance and a nuclear program in return for a grand rapprochement.

For more than six years, the White House has deceived the American people and the world about its true intent toward Iran. *Only in the past few months* are people beginning to realize the nightmare America's president has helped to create.

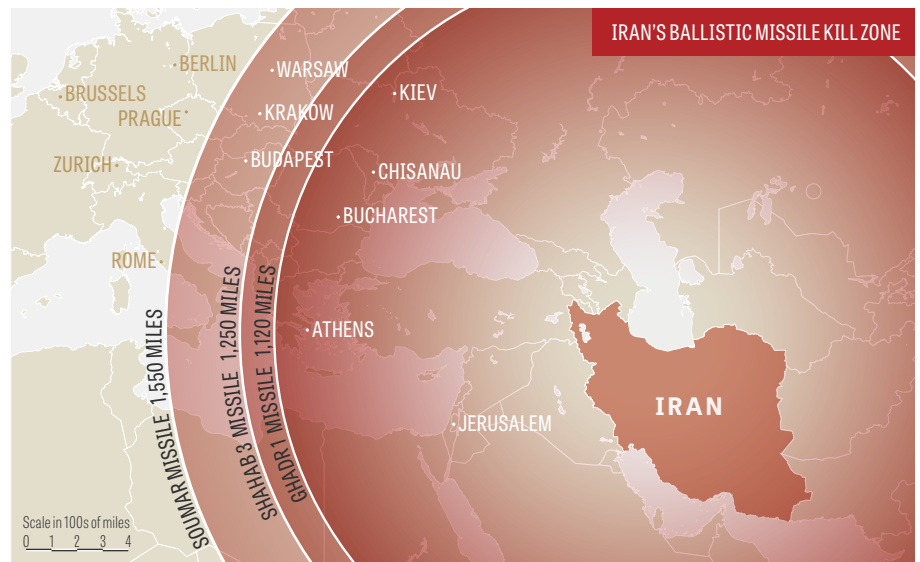
The *Trumpet* has warned about the Obama administration's dangerous view of Iran from the beginning. The president's 2009 speech in Cairo was especially revealing; it elicited a powerful, prescient response from *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry. That article dissected Mr. Obama's address, and exposed his dangerous affinity for Iran.

"IRAN IS THE KING OF TERROR AND MAKES THE MIDDLE EAST TREMBLE! But President Obama didn't even mention the word *terrorism* in his speech!" Mr. Flurry wrote. He warned: "It *all* gets back to Iran, Iran and Iran! YET OUR PRESIDENT WILL HARDLY TALK ABOUT THE BRUTAL KING OF TERRORISM. *Iran is the* terrorist problem in the Middle East. Terrorism started with Iran and is empowered by that nation, more than any other in the world. *Iran is the* problem you have to deal with if you are ever going to solve anything in the Middle East."

MR. FLURRY WROTE THIS IN AUGUST 2009!

Another warning from that article resonates powerfully today: "PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH IS A GREAT TURNING POINT IN THIS WORLD. It is going to play a major role in terrifying prophecies of your Bible being fulfilled."

Nearly six years later, we are about to witness a major peace agreement between Iran and the West. TALK OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT OUGHT TO ALARM A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN IT DOES! Iran today is *exactly* the same terrorist-sponsoring,



West-hating, apocalypse-seeking, radical Islamist nation it was when Barack Obama became president. The difference is that it has greater power over the Middle East and is closer to getting nuclear weapons!

THIS IS THE WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO SIGN A DEAL WITH IRAN. A peace agreement with the West is EXACTLY what Tehran's mullahs need to get to the finish line!

America believes and hopes it will secure peace. It will get the opposite.

Nuclear War

If you haven't yet done so, please study Daniel 11:40-45. It contains an important prophecy about Iran and radical Islam.

Notice that the events of Daniel 11 occur at "the time of the end." Putting this passage together with other scriptures, that time period is revealed as the years just prior to Jesus Christ's return, which, when you really think about it, makes this prophecy awesome and positive. This prophecy describes a "king of the south" *pushing* at a "king of the north." As Mr. Flurry explains, and events on the ground verify, the "king of the south" here is Iran at the helm of radical Islam. The "king of the north" is a German-led European empire.

Think about what this prophecy means in terms of international relations, strategically and territorially. This "king of the south" must have an expansive and powerful presence. It also must have the *means* to sorely antagonize the "king of the north." Iran today controls the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, it has the

ears and support of radical Islamist terrorists all over the world, and it is about to have nuclear weapons. IT HAS PLENTY OF TOOLS IN ITS ARSENAL WITH WHICH IT CAN ANTAGONIZE PEOPLE!

And remarkably, over the past six years, Barack Obama has led America in effectively endorsing the apocalyptic ambitions of this belligerent "king of the south"!

If you study this passage in Daniel, you will see that Iran's pushiness with Europe incites a massive response from Germany—and sets off a chain of events that ends with the return of Jesus Christ. If you think a nuclear Iran is frightening, you should study what the Bible says about the German-led European empire that confronts Iran. Our free booklet *The King of the South*, by Gerald Flurry, explains this thoroughly.

By endorsing Iran's ambitions, the Obama administration is effectively assisting the emergence of the radical Islamist entity that is the primary catalyst for thrusting the world into NUCLEAR WAR! This is truly terrifying. The nuclear stakes, as well as Mr. Obama's alarming acceptance of a nuclear and imperialist Iran, makes America's relationship with Tehran today far more frightening than Britain's approach to Nazi Germany before the Second World War.

It's fine to view Mr. Obama as America's Neville Chamberlain, but only if we are prepared to imagine Chamberlain allowing Adolf Hitler nuclear weapons. Because that is exactly what is happening. ■

Russia 'pulling a Crimea'

SOUTH OSSETIA, A BREAK-away region in the nation of Georgia, signed a deal with Russia on February 18 that lays the framework to integrate Russian and South Ossetian security and military forces and says Russia will protect South Ossetia's borders. The Georgian Foreign Ministry said this put Moscow one step closer to officially annexing the territory: "It's yet another action directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and an attempt to artificially redraw internationally recognized borders."

In 2008, Russia fought a five-day war with Georgia over its regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Moscow then recognized both as independent nations and asserted control over them. Few other countries have recognized the two regions as independent.

Last November, Moscow moved to consolidate the spoils of that war by signing a "strategic partnership" integrating Russian security and military forces with those of Abkhazia. The February 18 deal shows Russia doing the same with South Ossetia.

Some in Georgia believe these deals parallel Moscow's actions in Ukraine. "Russia, in a way, is pulling a Crimea here," Dr. Irakli Bokuchava, a Tbilisi-based political commentator, told the *Trumpet*. President Vladimir Putin's aim in both nations, he said, is "the creation of a renewed USSR."

Moscow's maneuvers in



Georgia come less than a year after the Kremlin annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Both Ukraine and Georgia were part of the Soviet Union before it collapsed in 1991.

Just after the 2008 war between Russia and Georgia, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry forecasted, "Russia's attack on Georgia in August marks the beginning of a dangerous new era in history. This was the first military strike of a rising Asian superpower—and there will be more! ... Today, [Western leaders are] trying to also



bring Georgia and Ukraine into NATO. I don't believe Russia will ever allow that to happen. ... Will a crisis occur over Ukraine? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well" (October 2008).

Mr. Flurry saw that Ukraine and Georgia were not safe from Putin's expansionism. To understand more about the Ukraine crisis and what to expect for South Ossetia and other former Soviet areas, read "The Crimean Crisis Is Reshaping Europe" (theTrumpet.com/go/Crimea).

China has more subs than U.S. Navy

CHINA'S NAVY NOW HAS A submarine fleet larger than that of the United States, a U.S. admiral said on February 25. "Their submarine force has grown over a tremendous rate," Vice Adm. Joseph Mulloy told the House Armed Service Committee's Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee. "They now have more diesel and nuclear attack submarines than we have, so they've passed us in total quantity."

The U.S. Navy has 71 commissioned submarines, and experts say China's fleet now numbers at least in the low 70s, though the precise

number is unpublished and the quality of the submarines is known to be inferior. However, that is changing.

"They are producing some fairly amazing submarines," Mulloy said. "They've now had three deployments in the Indian Ocean. They are expanding where their submarines go. We know they are out experimenting and working and operating and certainly want to be in the world of advanced submarines."

Russia pulls out of weapons treaty

RUSSIA ANNOUNCED ON March 10 that it has officially withdrawn from a major weapons control agreement it signed in 1990 at the end of the Cold War: the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

Six Warsaw Pact countries and the 16 NATO nations agreed to the deal, which limits numbers of troops, tanks, aircraft and other non-nuclear military assets that can be deployed in Europe.

Russia's withdrawal announcement came just days after European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker called for European nations to form a single army. More and more European leaders are seeing that Russian President Vladimir Putin rebuilding Russia's empire constitutes a threat to Europe.

Russia's decision to break promises about its conventional forces in Europe pushes the world a step closer to war.



As Beijing's military build-up continues and the nation develops strong ties with oil-rich Russia, watch for smaller Asian nations to rally around this Asian hegemon.

Vatican: Taking Islamic State's word for it

THE COMMANDER OF THE Vatican's police force has acknowledged that the Islamic State poses a material threat against Pope Francis. Domenico Giani made the remark in a rare interview with Italian state publication *Polizia Moderna*, published on March 1.

Giani said the threat is "real"—more than just propaganda, based on "what has emerged from [his] conversations with Italian and foreign colleagues." He said that threat against the pope also includes the risk of lone-wolf attacks, which are "more dangerous because they are unpredictable."

Giani made his comments two weeks after the Islamic State released a video of its Libyan affiliates beheading 21

Coptic Christians on the coast of Libya, less than 500 miles across the Mediterranean Sea from Italy. The video, titled "A Message Signed with Blood to the Nation of the Cross," depicted a masked jihadist



who threatened: "[T]oday, we are on the south of Rome, on the land of Islam, Libya. ... And we will conquer Rome, by Allah's permission, the promise of our prophet"

Giani said that while Pope Francis is "well aware of the

threats on his person," he will not adjust his routine.

Under Giani, a former member of the Italian secret service, the Vatican Police has increased its cooperation with government security organizations around the world. But more and more Italian politicians are saying that Rome needs to bring in bigger guns: the Italian military. In February Italian Senate Defense Commission President Nicola Latorre warned that if diplomatic efforts fail, Italy must be ready to deploy its military against the Islamic State.

Long before the Islamic State began, the *Trumpet* forecasted that radical Islam would antagonize and push against Europe until the Continent—led by Berlin and Rome—strikes back with one violent last crusade.



Syria: U.S.-backed forces defeated

THE SYRIAN REBEL MOVEMENT Hazzm controlled key areas of the Syrian city of Aleppo, fielded thousands of U.S.-trained, well-paid soldiers, and held caches of advanced weapons—that is, until the al Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front vanquished Hazzm in late February.

Al-Nusra targeted Hazzm primarily because Washington had deemed Hazzm "moderate" enough to receive lethal aid to combat Assad and extremist groups like al-Nusra. Al-Nusra militants are now armed with some of that lethal aid.

Hazzm's leadership has publicly dissolved the movement and said its former members should move to the Levant Front, an umbrella group for the rebels in Aleppo. Thus ends America's best—and brief—hope to empower a comparatively moderate Syrian force.

Washington refuses to conduct air strikes in Syrian airspace or to deploy troops on Syrian soil. So its next "best" option remains to fund "moderate" rebel groups to fight both Assad and extremist rebel groups. In spite of the aid, though, these moderate groups are losing.

America's Middle Eastern policies continue to suffer setbacks and to fail, fulfilling the description in Leviticus 26:20 of a cursed nation whose strength will be spent in vain.

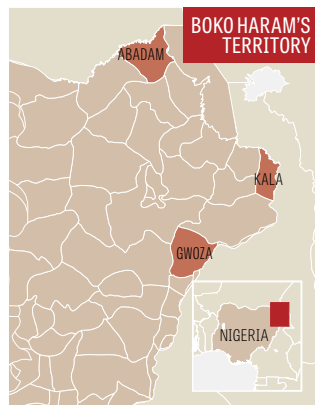
Boko Haram expands Islamic State 'caliphate'

NIGERIAN ISLAMIST GROUP Boko Haram pledged its allegiance to the Islamic State in an audio message shared via Twitter on March 7. The terrorist group's leader, Abubakar Shekau, said: "We announce our allegiance to the caliph of the Muslims [Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi] ... and will hear and obey in times of difficulty and prosperity, in hardship and ease, and to endure being discriminated against, and not to dispute about rule with those in power, except in case of evident infidelity regarding that which there is a proof from Allah."

When the Islamic State terrorist organization declared itself a caliphate last June, it demanded that all Muslims, jihadists or otherwise, submit to the Islamic

State and "caliph" Baghdadi.

The Islamic State has seized large swaths of territory, spoiled American-supplied weapons from defeated



Iraqi troops, and committed savage atrocities. On a smaller scale, Boko Haram has made similar exploits in Nigeria.

Five days after Boko Haram pledged its allegiance to Baghdadi, Mohammed

al-Adnani spoke on behalf of the Islamic State in an audio message shared via Twitter: "We announce to you to the good news of the expansion of the caliphate to West Africa because the caliph ... has accepted the allegiance of our brothers of the Sunni group for preaching and the jihad." He also urged Muslims to join Boko Haram.

This partnership came just after an African Islamic State affiliate beheaded 21 Coptic Christians in Libya in solidarity with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

J. Peter Pham, director of the Africa Center at the Washington-based Atlantic Council, said, "Rather than trying to expand [like al Qaeda] from the center, the Islamic State is mushrooming all over the place."



OUTAGE
Queensland residents pump fuel at one of two stations open after cyclone damage in February.

Australia: Running on empty

AUSTRALIAN OIL REFINERIES have been closing left and right, and now only four more remain. This trend, according to a February 23 report by Australia's National Roads and Motorists' Association (NRMA), means Australia is on a course that could quickly lead to a stagnant economy, mass job loss, empty supermarkets and a dead-in-the-water military.

The report says that Australia's declining oil refining industry and its rising demand for liquid fuels have converged in a way that leaves the country with just 23 days of reserve liquid fuels at any given time. About five days' worth sits in crude tanks at refineries, two days' worth is being processed in the refineries, 10 days' worth sits in stock at terminals, three days' worth is at service stations, and three more days' worth is in cars' fuel tanks around the nation.

Such a narrow margin between sufficient supplies and none whatsoever is more than just a concern: It is a breach of international

obligations. According to International Energy Agency law, the country is supposed to store a net stockholding of 90 days' worth of liquid fuels. Australia consistently misses that minimum.

Australia has a "just in time" system. As fuels are used, they are replaced. Under normal circumstances, the system is sufficient. But take a look at the world today: Circumstances are anything but normal. The NRMA report posed the question, "What happens when there are interruptions?"

"Without discussing these issues and analyzing the options, we are likely to have our lives shaped by commercial forces largely out of our control," the report stated.

Australia's dependency on crude oil and fuel imports has grown 60 percent since 2000 to 90 percent today. The NRMA report estimates that without government rulings to prevent it, the nation will be 100 percent dependent by 2030.

With just three weeks' supply available, Australia is a country running on empty.

U.S. can no longer rely on British military

AMERICA CAN NO LONGER rely on Britain as a military partner because of cuts to its armed forces, head of the United States Army, Gen. Raymond Odierno, told the *Telegraph's* Con Coughlin, according to an article published March 1.

The U.S. Army formerly planned on the United Kingdom contributing a division-size force of about 10,000 soldiers in the event of a conflict. It now plans for Britain to contribute half that. This means the British Army is no longer capable of working alongside American forces as a separate unit. Instead, its soldiers could only supplement the main U.S. force.

The *Telegraph* noted that the general's statements come as "the [Royal Air Force] is desperately short of combat squadrons, the Navy is still trying to work out how it will provide the expert manpower

and equipment needed to operate its two new Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers, and the Army is struggling to cope with the drastic reductions to its ranks."

Just one week before Odierno's comments, British fighter jets intercepted two Russian bombers flying off the Cornish coast. Due to budget cuts, the jets scrambled from a base in Lincolnshire, over 300 miles away. Air Commodore Andrew Lambert warned: "If Putin wanted to attack, he would not send a pair of bombers, he would send the lot and saturate our defenses; we couldn't cope. ... The modern generation of politicians has grown up in absolute security—they've never felt a threat to their existence, safety or security. They've taken peace for granted and decimated the Armed Forces. Let's hope we don't pay the price."

Iran blows up replica American carrier

THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY Guard Corps destroyed a replica of a United States Navy aircraft carrier during a February 25 military drill near the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranian military carried out similar naval drills near the strait in December, but using the American carrier practice target sent an unmistakable message. The exercises also included shooting down a drone and planting under-sea mines.

One fifth of the world's seaborne oil passes through

the Strait of Hormuz, making Iran's drills an obvious economic and geopolitical threat.

As Iran negotiates over its nuclear program with



THREATENED
The USS George H.W. Bush sails through the Strait of Hormuz.

the U.S. and five other world powers, Washington is making large concessions to Iran. Tehran is returning the favor by practicing the best way to explode an American vessel carrying 5,800 servicemen.



REVERSE FAVORITISM
One of the Birmingham schools at the center of the “Trojan Horse” scandal is still open, and largely unchanged.

What are ‘British values’?

BRITAIN’S DEPARTMENT OF Education is closing the Durham Free School—which is part of a government program to allow new schools to be established outside of local authority control—in late March for failure to uphold “British values.”

A report by Britain’s Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) cited these offenses against “British values”: Its promotion of tolerance toward Islam is insufficient, it does not comply with government sex-education guidelines, and it teaches creationism.

The inspecting team complained that the Christian-oriented school, which only opened in September 2013, put too much emphasis on “religious credentials” when recruiting, and said: “Some students hold discriminatory views of other people who have different faiths, values or beliefs from themselves.”

It took officials only a matter of weeks to decide on a date to close the school for these transgressions.

Compare this draconian punishment to the “Trojan

horse” scandal last year in Birmingham. There, Muslim school officials in Britain’s second-largest city *secretly* introduced pro-Islamist teachings into the curriculum

Communist agitators inflamed Ferguson riots

AS PEOPLE AROUND THE world watched news footage of rioting and looting in Ferguson, Missouri, last summer after a white policeman killed a young black man, most were unaware of one disturbing fact. Many protesters carried signs bearing the insignia of the Revolutionary Communist Party, U.S.A. The RCP is currently the foremost Maoist party in the United States, and, although its membership in the U.S. has always been comparatively small, that membership has agitated and inflamed civil unrest in an attempt to plunge American society into chaos.

During the days immediately preceding the violence

of seven schools—including anti-British, radical Islamist views. There was an effort to establish sharia law within the school body. In some instances boys and girls were segregated. Some students were allegedly taught that the reason they were poor was because Jews and Zionists had all the money. Student ambassadors were assigned to report on any students that did not conform to sharia law.

Later it was found that whistle blowers had warned for over 20 years that extremists had “infiltrated” the schools. Yet these schools all remain open.

Earlier this year, Ofsted investigated Grindon Hall Christian School and conferred upon it the ranking of “inadequate”—the lowest possible rating—because, like Durham, it did not

advance “British values.”

Grindon Principal Chris Gray described what values the education department now considers British: “The questioning by inspectors makes clear that their idea of a balanced curriculum is for us to force pupils to celebrate non-Christian religious festivals. This would breach our Christian foundation, which stipulates that we are a Christian school” (*Telegraph*, January 20).

Ofsted has not forced the Muslim Birmingham schools to celebrate Christian or Jewish festivals.

The government’s treatment of primary school pupils indicates that, of all the cultures that make up multicultural British values, the only one under attack is the one that made Britain Britain in the first place.

of the infamous 1992 Rodney King riots, RCP national spokesman Carl Dix circulated a leaflet throughout

Florissant Avenue with Joey Johnson and Lou Downey, members of the Revolution Club of Chicago. Johnson was later involved in a scuffle with the police. That night the situation devolved into clashes between police and protesters.



CO-OPTED
Protesters in Missouri hold a sign from the Revolutionary Communist Party, U.S.A.

south-central Los Angeles titled “It’s Right to Rebel.” Many RCP activists were involved in the riots, which ultimately left 58 people dead and more than 2,300 injured.

During the Ferguson riots last August, Dix himself was spotted walking along West

The Ferguson protests were not masterminded by Communist activists, but the RCP did amplify the tension. Renowned educator Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed for decades, based on Bible prophecies, that race war is coming to America. This war will be deliberately stirred up by the organized planning of political leaders.

of these founding fathers, Jean Monnet.

These crises are indeed dangerous—but they represent the only way Europe can unite. How else could this continent of independent nations with conflicting histories of conquering and being conquered by each other be forged into a united power? It will take the heat and pressure of a major crisis.

This view of European unity did not die with Monnet. Wolfgang Schäuble, who is now involved in fixing the Greek crisis, said in 2011, “[C]risis represents an opportunity. I’m not saying that I enjoy

“Crisis represents an opportunity. ... Sometimes you need a little pressure for certain decisions to be taken.”—Wolfgang Schäuble

being in a crisis, but I’m not worried. Europe always moved forward in times of crisis. Sometimes you need a little pressure for certain decisions to be taken.”

Europe’s bureaucrats excel at compromise and delay. They may well be able to put off Europe’s moment of decision for some time yet. All these crises will have to get much worse before Europe has to act—but with no one in a position to solve them, get worse they will. Thus, Europe’s course is clear. It must either unite or fall apart—or some combination of these two, with some nations walking off while the remainder create a superstate.

In times of relative prosperity and peace, incentive to unite is weak. But in crisis, there arises the powerful catalyst of *self-preservation*.

Consider the two principal adversaries in the battle of Waterloo: Britain and France. Few countries have a longer history of mutual hostility. Yet in 1940, the British government was fully prepared to unite these two nations into one state in the face of Nazi Germany.

The French were unwilling to take that step, but even so, the fact that one side overlooked centuries of division demonstrates the power of crisis as a unifier.

The euro crisis is self-inflicted. Europe’s leaders assumed that creating a common currency would lead to a common government: The currency would be so unstable that the EU would be forced to unify. Europe might be able to solve this

crisis by dividing just as easily as uniting.

But the other crises are different. If the EU falls apart, Russia will still be there and still be aggressive. Radical Islamists will still live in Europe’s cities. The Islamic State will still stalk North Africa. Iran will still be building its bomb.

Facing these threats, EU nations have every interest in making the Union work.

The Glue

There is another force with powerful potential to drive unification. Despite Europe’s conflicting history, one institution can claim to be able to bring all

Europe together: the Catholic Church. Every European nation has deep Catholic roots. In the Middle Ages, religion dominated almost every aspect of life. Catholic fingerprints can be found on the artistic, scientific, architectural and cultural histories of every European nation.

The Reformation divided that Catholic legacy in a spiral of war, persecution and counter-persecution that ended up claiming the lives of over 10 million people. But the various protesting divisions, like Lutheranism and the Church of England, all trace their roots back to the Catholic Church. And today, these churches are no longer providing any real check on Roman Catholic influence. In fact, they are returning, gradually but inexorably, to the Catholic fold.

No other institution has the potential to unite Europe like the Catholic Church. It was one that the early leaders of European integration drew on constantly. Almost all of the EU’s founding fathers were staunch Catholics. Men like Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, Alcide De Gasperi and Konrad Adenauer saw the European project as not just a political duty, but a religious one. The church even looked into canonizing Schuman, De Gasperi and Adenauer. The Vatican recognized Schuman as a “servant of God” a few years ago and is researching into canonization. The last time the Catholic Church canonized someone for political work was Sir Thomas More for

his opposition to Henry VIII’s marriage to Anne Boleyn. More was executed in 1535.

The European project received the full backing of the Catholic Church. “The Vatican, usually cautious over political changes not of its own inspiration, now considers the Common Market the work of Divine Providence,” wrote a prominent British newsmagazine, *Topic*, in 1962. “Not since the times of Spain’s Charles V has a Roman Catholic political force been so strongly welded. Not since the end of the Holy Roman Empire has the Holy See been offered a Catholic rallying point like the Common Market. If the ‘Pact of Rome,’ which created the Common Market, had been signed within the Vatican walls, it could not have favored the church more.”

But as the EU grew, so did the trend toward secularism. Some of the Union’s religious imagery—like the 12 stars on its flag, taken from Revelation 12:1—remain, but the EU has largely considered itself beyond needing the Catholic Church.

Crisis will also change that.

The *Trumpet* has forecast the formation of this much closer union for years. But it has also foretold its weakness. The Bible gives the outline of European history and the rise and fall of successive attempts to unite the Continent. The last attempt it symbolizes as being made “part of iron and part of clay” (Daniel 2:33).

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

It is describing a marriage of convenience—proud, independent nations forced together by crises. The situation in Europe is setting up exactly this outcome. We can already see the early stages of this union (“Is Europe Getting Ready to Fight Back?,” page 6).

History warns us to be wary of a united European empire centered on Germany. The Continent has huge resources and potential. In the past, these resources have been spent on fighting each other. United, the European empire will be an almost unstoppable superpower. The superpower is being forged now in the crucible of today’s crises. ■

Raise a Man Like Roosevelt

Lessons from a man who helped build a president

THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS A TRUE FAMILY MAN. THE FATHER of six, he considered his family life the source of his greatest happiness. He dedicated himself to providing his four sons and two daughters a rich, full, enjoyable childhood—all while leading his country.



JOEL HILLIKER

Before the presidential election of 1904, when he believed his reelection was in doubt, Roosevelt wrote to his sister that as disappointing as defeat would be, he could keep it in perspective. Far more important to him was the fact that he had “*the happiest home life of any man whom I have ever known.*”

The public achievement of America’s 26th president makes his achievement at home even more remarkable. And both were likely inspired by the same source: *His outstanding relationship with his own father.*

Is there any greater gift a father could give his son?

Young “Teedie” grew up in a warmly and openly affectionate family. His father, Theodore, was a successful businessman and philanthropist, but gave generously of himself to his home and children. Teedie adored him. He later wrote, “I was fortunate enough in having a father whom I have always been able to regard as an ideal man.”

Does *your* son have “an ideal man” to emulate?

Young Teedie suffered from severe asthma. His loving father chose not to coddle him. Instead he challenged him to work, to endure and to conquer. He transformed a balcony of their home not into a sick bay, but into an open-air gymnasium filled with athletic equipment. He challenged his son to endure the “hard drudgery” of *making* his body strong. With his father’s encouragement, Teedie embraced the challenge.

Theodore Sr. worked to give his children experience and adventure, to stimulate their imaginations and broaden their horizons through horseback riding, hiking and swimming.

This man expanded his children’s world. He gave them confidence and increased capacity for adventure. He strengthened them physically and mentally. He was a model of activity that increased their ability to embrace a challenge. He stoked their ambition and their thirst for exploration.

Theodore Sr.’s children genuinely enjoyed his vivacious personality, and they knew they were loved. Shortly after Teedie entered college at Harvard, he wrote his father, “I do not think there is a fellow in college who has a family that loves him as much as you all do me, and I am *sure* that there is no one who has a father who is also his best and most intimate friend, as you are mine.”

After he became president, Roosevelt recalled his days with his father, writing, “Unconsciously, I always find I am trying



HIS GREATEST CONSTITUENCY
President Theodore Roosevelt,
with his wife and six children

to model myself with my children on the way he was with us.”

Theodore Roosevelt Sr. devoted himself to raising a man. The results speak for themselves: He raised a man who became not only president, but also a dedicated father himself.

That relationship strengthened and *made* Theodore Roosevelt into the true man that he was!

Look at your own son. What sort of man are *you* making?

You first need a vision of the man you would like him to become. Meditate on the God-given role of a man: leader, provider, protector. Study the biblical qualities of manhood—self-discipline, righteousness, responsibility, industry, resolve, ambition, courage, sacrifice. You won’t find many of these in the world around you. You will have to struggle to learn them and to do them. Exemplify these virtues; give your son a model of manliness.

Next, look for and create opportunities to instill these traits in your son. Build his physical body. Build his mental strength. Work together and show him how to enjoy work. Instruct him to accept responsibility for himself. Teach him to own up to his actions and not make excuses. Teach him to obey God’s definition of right and wrong, and to stand against the crowd when he has to, even as you do. Teach him to have godly confidence—and godly humility. Help him overcome self-centeredness. Encourage him to seize opportunities to do things that benefit others at the cost of benefiting himself. Teach him intelligence, sensitivity and magnanimity to identify the needs of others. Teach him to see the big picture. Teach him to see things from God’s perspective.

Set your expectations high. Then encourage him enthusiastically for every inch he rises in reaching for that bar.

Spend real *time* with him, so he can watch you, emulate you. Time together creates occasions to teach. The job is difficult—but you don’t have to do it alone. You simply need to give God opportunities to *use you* to shape your future man.

Years later, Theodore Roosevelt said this of his model of manhood: “The thought of him now and always has been a sense of comfort. I could breathe, I could sleep, when he had me in his arms. My father—he got me breath, he got me lungs, strength—life.”

What an incomparable blessing such a strong, reassuring, manly presence supplies to a boy. Be that presence in the life of your boy. Build the relationship that will guide him to godly manhood—and godly fatherhood.

Is there any greater gift a father could give his son? ■



Our April edition dwelled on the Iranian threat (pictured). It also covered Europe's reaction to Islamic terror; Israel's isolation; overcoming sin; and unusual animals. It took up the provocative question, *are we in the "last days"?*

“Even in my own prayer group there are those who say the world has always been this way I myself believe we are in those [last] days.”

Richard Villegas CALIFORNIA



You read the Trumpet. Did you know you can watch it?

As Nuclear Talks Drag On, Iran Tightens Grip on Middle East
theTrumpet.com/go/12492

TrumpetDaily

THE KEY OF DAVID

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

Iran's growing power

Thank you for this amazing article (“Iran Gets a Stranglehold on the Middle East,” theTrumpet.com/go/12459). It shows us exactly how it will all play out. The king of the south would likely by now have already initiated events to hasten the return of their Mahdi, but they probably realize they need the leverage of the nuclear bomb in order to make things dangerous enough to make their push successful. The control over Yemen will undoubtedly give them the leverage they need to get their bomb. They could easily use the passage of oil through the Red Sea as a bargaining chip to tip the balance of the current nuclear negotiations in their favor. Soon they will have their bomb and then the world will realize the mistake they have made, but too little, too late.

Ross Freeman ARIZONA

Behind the scenes there is a dark power rising in the heart of Europe. The pope has now had his life threatened. When Christians were beheaded on the border of Europe, it was with a message sent straight to the Vatican. Iran is playing a dangerous game of cat and mouse. Somebody ought to tell them that they are the mouse!

Majella Tesoriero
AUSTRALIA

Broken Brotherhood

I fear that saying the historically strong relationship between America and Israel is being ravaged doesn't even begin to cover it (“Breaking the Brotherhood,” theTrumpet.com/go/12463). I seriously doubt that the Israelis will ever trust the U.S. again, even with a change of administration. It

is one thing to have cool diplomatic relations, such as we have with Russia. But that isn't what happened here. The U.S. didn't just turn its back, it has virtually turned on Israel and started supporting the other side! It is absolutely shameful. We will both pay dearly for this breach of trust.

Jim Stewart ILLINOIS

The 'last days'?

Thanks for this reminder (“Are These the ‘Last Days’?”, theTrumpet.com/go/12466). I especially liked the bit about Noah and how oblivious the people of his day were, choosing to carry on with their day-to-day lives! It very much mirrors our present day! There are some people who do not even want to hear anything to do with Jesus's return! They call it a fable and self-deception. Life proceeds as normal even when violence is all around us: the Middle East, Arab Spring, Ukraine, Russia, Boko Haram in West Africa, al-Shabaab in East Africa, etc. We need to pray, as for surely the day will come upon us as a thief in the dark. Readers of the *Trumpet* may be up to date, but not so much of the rest of the world! They see things as normal.

Bernard Muhwezi UGANDA

Sin has been around a very long time, and “as in the days of Noah” highlights that. It's the speed and intensity that takes my breath away. As sin multiplies, the character weakens and becomes limp in resistance. Your article covered the whole subject so thoroughly that I may have to have a few re-reads. Many thanks for keeping my feet on the ground and my head in the heavens.

Tony Haddad AUSTRALIA

Think the Unthinkable

BY BRAD MACDONALD

I NEVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAPPEN TO ME. THIS IS WHAT WE often say when an intensely painful experience strikes, like the discovery of a terminal illness, a family crisis, a devastating loss.

Being blindsided by catastrophe is unpleasant and agonizing. Yet the chances are high that all of us at some point will be struck suddenly by tragedy.

Although inexplicable and unforeseen disasters do happen, most tragedies are predictable. We can avoid being blindsided. But this requires being prepared to humbly and honestly think on unpleasant realities. It requires a willingness to ponder the negative consequences of behavior, actions and trends, whether in your personal life or globally. Anticipating disaster means being prepared to think on the unthinkable.

Most people are unwilling to do this. The Prophet Isaiah described this condition perfectly. He wrote that in the end time, people would tell their leaders, “Speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits” (Isaiah 30:10). Most people simply don’t want to contemplate the negative.

There are many reasons for this. In many instances the incentive to consider consequences has been eliminated. Why should the man whose appetite is satisfied, even if it’s on Coke and Skittles paid for with food stamps, think about the threats to his food supply—issues like soil and water pollution, drought, his nation’s fragile economy? What motivation does the lazy man have to think seriously on the consequences of his inaction as long as the government is paying his rent and feeding his children? What’s the incentive to think on the consequences of promiscuous sex when there’s no longer a negative cultural stigma attached to it, and when there’s the morning-after pill and drugs for STDs?

Today, entire industries—health care and pharmaceuticals, for example—exist primarily to eliminate the negative consequences of wrong decisions. People are thoughtless about diet, exercise and lifestyle because there is a pill, operation or therapist to treat the negative results of their actions. That is, until disaster inevitably strikes.

More broadly, what incentive is there for the individual whose private backyard is secure to think seriously on Vladimir Putin’s effort to redefine Russia’s border with Europe? What need is there for the ordinary American, Australian or Austrian to think soberly on the ramifications of Iran getting nuclear weapons? What incentive is there for Beth in Muskogee, Oklahoma, to dwell on the euro crisis? These are serious, consequential issues with real potential for terrible tragedy. But most of us feel little need to think seriously about them.

Part of the problem also revolves around the confidence we put in our own intelligence. Whatever the problem, we think we have the policy, procedure, equation, gadget or drug to fix it. Who cares about cholesterol when you can have a quadruple bypass—and a government program to pay for it? Who cares

about soil degradation when there’s synthetic fertilizer? Who cares about the tough issues when we have smart, educated, sophisticated people to take care of them? Most people are happy to leave the hard problems to the scientists, engineers, analysts, doctors and politicians—ignoring the reality that these people created many of the problems in the first place.

Our modern world has deceived us into thinking our decisions and behavior have no negative consequences. Higher education, sociology and philosophy, and, above all, Hollywood tell us that our choices are, should be or will be free of negative ramifications. We are all James Bond—we can engage in every dangerous activity and never get hurt, get in trouble, be punished, or have to feel bad. Horrible things happen in movies, but they only happen to the extras.

Our resultant inability or unwillingness to think on the unthinkable has left us individually and collectively TERRIFYINGLY VULNERABLE. People are not prepared physically, mentally and emotionally for trial and hardship. But look at the world: *Great hardship is coming!*

What if Russia further invades Europe? What if the Islamic State makes it to Europe and America? What if Iran gets the nuclear bomb? What if Russia and China undermine the American economy? What if the global economy really does collapse?



What if racial tensions explode? What if our polluted oceans, rivers, soil and air finally reach the tipping point? Think too: We are facing all of these possibilities—likelihoods, in fact—AT ONCE!

How seriously are you thinking about the unthinkable ramifications of these issues?

You must avoid this trap. Don’t casually assume man is intelligent enough to solve these issues. Don’t leave the serious thinking and problem solving to someone society says is smarter than you. Reject the notion that there are no consequences for action. Be serious. Be sober. Evaluate the facts, humbly, carefully and honestly. Think on the many problems this world, your community and your family face. Then think of just how many major problems are converging all at once.

How beautiful to be able to face the truth! God wants you to face the truth, and He will help you. That’s why He works so hard and tirelessly to warn you! In fact, to those who respond to this call and turn their lives over to Him, God says He will provide a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Before anything though, you need to be willing to humbly, honestly and seriously think on these issues. Try it. Dare to go where so few go. Think on the unthinkable. Do this, and with God’s blessing, you will never have to utter those debilitating words: *I never imagined this would happen to me.* ■

Nobody wants to talk about it, but there is an **EXPLOSIVE** tendency in the Germans' history. When the right leader comes to power, watch out! We don't like to admit it, but we **MUST FACE THE TRUTH**. According to your Bible, Germany is about to start World War III. It will be the deadliest war ever on Earth.

How This Leads to Peace

Despite horrifying news in the short term, the prophecy of this coming European strongman actually has a wonderful, hope-filled *conclusion*.

Daniel 8:25 reads, "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by **PEACE** shall destroy many" This man will talk about *peace*. He will be like Vladimir Putin, saying, *Come to Moscow and let's talk about peace*—yet as soon the talks are over, he attacks even more fiercely! That is the kind of "peace" this strongman wants, and he will use *deceit* to get it.

However, look at the *end* of verse 25: "[H]e shall also stand up against the Prince of princes [Jesus Christ]; but **HE SHALL BE BROKEN WITHOUT HAND**." This man and the empire he rules will be **BROKEN**—not with physical hands or a physical army, but by Jesus Christ Himself!

Christ is about to return to Earth and stop all of this horror. He says in Matthew 24:21-22 that if He didn't return, **NO FLESH WOULD BE SAVED ALIVE!** MAN cannot stop what is coming. He *created* this monster of nuclear power, and like a Frankenstein monster, he can't control it! It is out of hand!

We live in a dangerous world. These are not ordinary times. Isaiah 33:7 prophesies that the ambassadors of peace will weep bitterly because they will not have peace. Isaiah 59:8 says, "The way of peace they know not."

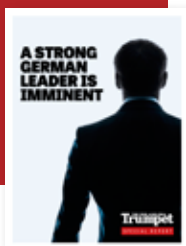
But *Christ IS going to return*. Only Jesus Christ can bring us peace, joy and happiness forever. That is what these prophecies are ultimately all about. So this is the best possible news you could ever hear!

Thankfully, the seventh and last head of the Holy Roman Empire will usher in the coming of the Messiah. No nation will ever again be ruled in the tradition of Charlemagne.

This is the conclusion to the *same vision* about this strong leader coming on the world scene, this king who will rule Europe! As horrendous as the nightmare will be that he and his empire will bring on the world, the good news is that *it is going to be stopped*. We are viewing the last resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. Thank God for that! ■

This is only the beginning.

You just read Chapter One of a new booklet on this stunning prophecy. Read the other chapters: Request or download **A Strong German Leader Is Imminent** (theTrumpet.com/go/germanleader).



Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief

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



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Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30,

Sun; 8:30, Wed

Kauai Ho'ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Aka-

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

Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat

Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

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Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

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Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU

9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
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Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.29:30, Sun
Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPRX 5:00, Fri
Des Moines KFPM 5:00, Fri
Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
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Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun
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Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun
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Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun
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Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland WPME 7:30, Sun; 7:00, Mon-Fri
Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun
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Detroit WPXK 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
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Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
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Mississippi, Biloxi WBGH 8:30, Sun
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Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
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North Dakota, Bismarck KWMM 8:30, Sun
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South Carolina, Charleston WCBT-DT 9:30, Sun
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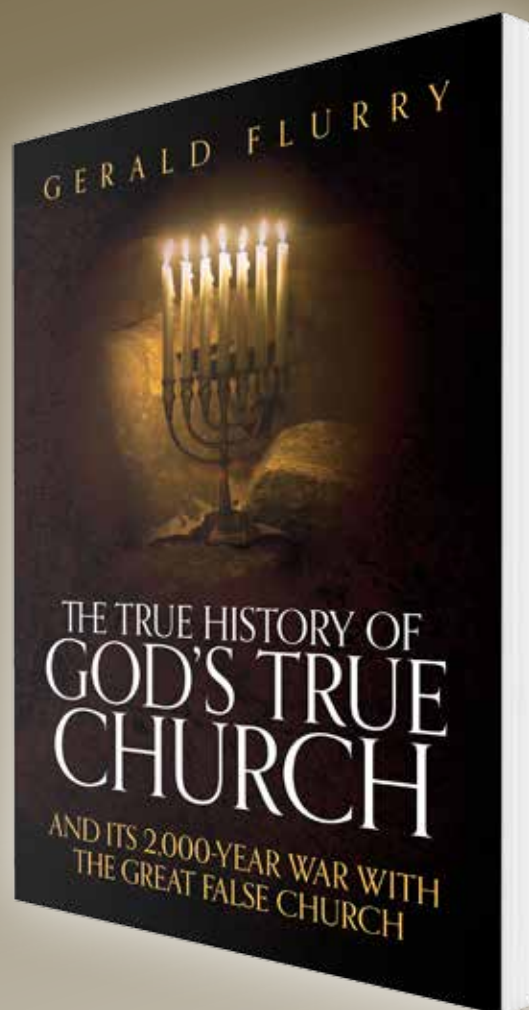
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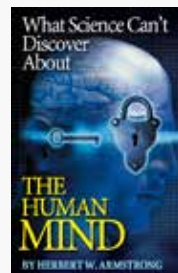
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