

**NEW WORLD** Making sense of America's rapidly shifting political landscape

Afghanistan: the graveyard of empires

To spank or not to spank

'This too shall pass'

# THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

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## Israel vs. the World

It is isolated and under siege.  
What will happen next?



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*Photo: The White House in Washington, D.C. (©ISTOCK.COM/P \_ WE)  
Cover illustration: Israel vs. the world (DMITRI JACKSON FOR TRUMPET)*

**“Mr. President,  
it’s time to go  
full speed ahead  
with your  
executive  
action.”**

**—USA TODAY**





# America: The Attack From Within Continues

What happens now, after elections isolated America's president politically? **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**I**N MIDTERM ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER, PRESIDENT BARACK Obama and his Democratic Party took a shellacking. Voters made clear that they were unhappy with the president's record over the last six years. Yet when the president spoke about the result, he acknowledged no fault or error on his part.

Immediately after the election, Mr. Obama renewed battles over immigration and net neutrality. All indications show that he is more determined than ever to rule by executive order.

Many in the media have tried to discount the election results as meaningless. "Mr. President, it's time to go full speed ahead with your executive action," Raul Reyes wrote in *USA Today*. "[T]here are practical reasons why the president should make his immigration action as broad as possible. He is going to face intense pushback from GOP lawmakers no matter what he does. So why not go big on immigration?" (Nov. 11, 2014).

Others in the media continue to say Mr. Obama's only real problem has been that he **HASN'T USED EXECUTIVE ACTIONS TO ENACT RADICAL POLICY ENOUGH.**

It is clear that many have grown disillusioned with the president. But remember, when Mr. Obama was first campaigning for president and in his early years as president, many journalists were practically *spellbound* by him! As the late reporter Michael Hastings said of the press corps, "When they're near him, they **LOSE THEIR MINDS SOMETIMES. THEY START BEHAVING IN WAYS THAT ARE JUVENILE, AND AMATEURISH, AND THEY SWOON**" (MSNBC, Jan. 24, 2013; emphasis mine throughout).

Can you explain that? What a terrible indictment against our media! Reporters swooning and acting like nervous teenagers around a politician—**IS THAT NORMAL?** I don't remember ever reading anything like this in American politics!

Even Hastings himself admitted to getting caught up in this behavior around the president. "Oh, I **DO,**" he laughed in the MSNBC interview. "Oh, I **TOTALLY—OH MAN!**" This reporter considered this funny. Is it really funny? No, it is an unparalleled, colossal disaster!

It seems these supposed professionals lost all consciousness of their responsibility as journalists! And their *failure* to do their job is the big reason why this president was elected two times. But now the damage has already been done.

Without a free and truthful media, our republic cannot survive!

## An Attack on Law

On Jan. 27, 2013, *CBS Sunday Morning* aired a commentary by a constitutional law professor suggesting that for America to solve its many problems, it needs to **ABANDON THE CONSTITUTION.**

"If we are to take back our own country, we have to start making decisions for ourselves, and *stop deferring to an ancient and*

*outdated document,*" Louis Michael Seidman said. This man teaches constitutional law at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., and was speaking on one of the big three television networks!

In his most recent book, *On Constitutional Disobedience*, Seidman asked, "Why should we care about what the Constitution says? Should we feel obligated to obey it? How can we make decisions today based on a document created more than 200 years ago?" **THAT KIND OF REASONING CAN AND IS USED CONCERNING THE BIBLE—UPON WHICH MUCH OF THE CONSTITUTION IS BASED!**

This type of anti-Constitution reasoning is suddenly becoming quite popular. Do you know why? It is because the Obama

**This administration and the radically left Democrats are very hostile to the Constitution, and so is the media. However, our problem in the U.S. is much deeper than the radical left.**

administration is taking actions *just about every week* that raise constitutional questions and that **THREATEN TO UNDERMINE AMERICA'S FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT.**

I find it intriguing that CBS broadcast this commentary right at the beginning of the second term of the most radically liberal president the United States has ever seen. This administration and the radically left Democrats are very hostile to the Constitution, and so is the media. However, our problem in the U.S. is much deeper than the radical left.

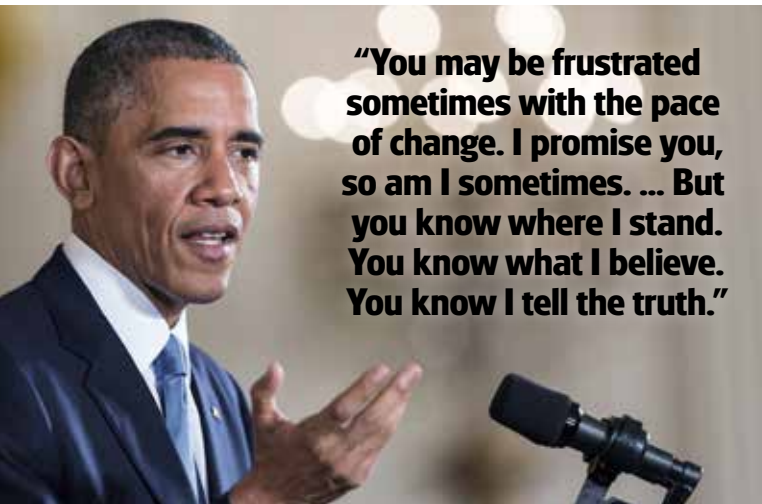
## Casting Truth to the Ground

In September 2012, a panel of experts presented a list to the House Judiciary Committee of how President Barack Obama has exceeded his constitutional constraints. HumanEvents.com summarized the panel's findings this way: "As president, Barack Obama has *made a habit* of bypassing or ignoring constitutional limitations on his power." The panel gave several examples, including his abuse of executive power in connection with the Fast and Furious scandal; his decision to stop enforcing parts of America's immigration law; and his authorization of military action in Libya in 2011 without first consulting Congress.

One of the panel's main points was how in 2012, the president sidestepped the Senate and made some unilateral "recess" appointments when the Senate was not even in recess. Later a federal court ruled that this move was

unconstitutional. Sen. Mike Lee, a noted constitutional scholar in Congress, “told the committee that Obama’s abuse of power by making recess appointments while the Senate was not actually in recess was a HISTORIC FIRST” (ibid). This has never happened before in U.S. history!

This administration has repeatedly pushed past the limits of executive power. The *New York Times* wrote in April 22, 2012, “[I]ncreasingly in recent months, the administration has been seeking WAYS TO ACT WITHOUT CONGRESS.” The media has



**“You may be frustrated sometimes with the pace of change. I promise you, so am I sometimes. ... But you know where I stand. You know what I believe. You know I tell the truth.”**

known this is happening, but very little is being done to stop it! How many people are even paying attention?

Do you realize how deadly dangerous this trend of lawlessness is? Very few people do. But it gives profound insight into the real nature of the threat facing America today.

PEOPLE’S MINDS ARE GETTING CONDITIONED TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS, WHICH ARE PRIMARILY INTENDED TO CIRCUMVENT CONGRESS AND THE CONSTITUTION. THAT IS THE AIM.

THIS IS QUICKLY MOVING AMERICA TOWARD RULE BY A DICTATORSHIP OR A TYRANNY.

President Obama’s use of drones has come under criticism because it is also expanding his grip on power. First, he has launched 7.6 times more drone strikes than President Bush did in the same amount of time. But critics are especially concerned that, according to a 16-page document the Department of Justice leaked to NBC in February 2013, the administration believes it is above the law and has power to kill any American citizens it considers a threat.

Here is what Judge Andrew Napolitano wrote in the *Washington Times*: “Mr. Obama has argued that he can kill Americans whose deaths he believes will keep us all safer, without any due process whatsoever. No law authorizes that. His attorney general has argued that the president’s careful consideration of each target and the narrow use of deadly force are an adequate and constitutional substitute for due process. No court has ever approved that” (Feb. 7, 2013). Napolitano pointed out that this practice breaks state and federal laws, executive orders prohibiting assassinations, language in the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution.

Perhaps many or even most of the people being targeted in these attacks *are* threats to the United States. But I am DEEPLY TROUBLED by an administration so

DISDAINFUL OF THE LAW THAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO UPHOLD!

This trend toward lawlessness is DEADLY! And I guarantee, based on biblical prophecy, that it is going to get far worse.

### Will Worship

WE MUST OPEN OUR EYES TO RECOGNIZE THE EVIL SPIRITUAL FORCE THAT IS BEHIND THIS PUSH TO UNDERMINE THE LAW!

We have been protected in America for a couple hundred years because we are recipients of the blessings God promised to faithful Abraham. We have not experienced the turmoil that many other nations have. Yes, we were involved in a civil war and two world wars, but God has given us victories and a lot of peace.

As a result, our people seem to have settled into an *unreality* about what is really happening around us. They don’t understand how deadly dangerous it is!

This is not God’s world. There is a lot of evil in this world. It is full of tigers waiting to tear somebody apart. It has always been that way. As Winston Churchill said, the history of man is the HISTORY OF WAR. Yet somehow we can’t come to grips with that today.

Are you willing to face reality? Most people are not. A haze of deception enshrouds our world. It is absolutely stunning how easily the people in this land today are duped.

ADOLF HITLER SAID THAT IF YOU TELL A BIG LIE AND REPEAT IT ENOUGH, EVENTUALLY PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE IT. THEY CERTAINLY DID IN GERMANY.

We are seeing bold, blatant lies become a bigger and bigger part of today’s political landscape. This is a sure sign of Satan’s growing power. We are seeing the work of this lying murderer at his worst! He is the father of lies; there is no truth in him (John 8:44). But he will still look you boldly in the eye and insist that everything he says is the truth!

When the president was campaigning for a second term, he said, “You may be frustrated sometimes with the pace of change. I promise you, so am I sometimes. ... But you know where I stand. You know what I believe. YOU KNOW I TELL THE TRUTH.”

Does the president tell the truth? IS ANYONE PAYING ATTENTION?

Here is how Glenn Beck responded to the president’s statement: “*This is more a judgment on America* and the press. I’ve never looked back and marveled at how many people will fall for and accept, knowingly accept, a falsehood. I’VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE IN MY LIFE.”

Yes indeed, THIS IS A “JUDGMENT ON AMERICA” because of our sins.

Hitler said, “What you tell people in the mass, in a receptive state of fanatic devotion, will remain like WORDS RECEIVED UNDER A HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE, ineradicable, and impervious to every reasonable explanation.”

This is the type of influence we see holding a grip on many people today. This hypnotic influence cannot be explained reasonably.

Hitler continued: “A new age of MAGIC INTERPRETATION OF THE WORLD IS COMING, OF INTERPRETATION IN TERMS OF THE WILL AND NOT OF THE INTELLIGENCE.” THAT SAME SPIRIT SATURATES THE RADICAL LEFT IN AMERICAN POLITICS!

The Apostle Paul talked about this very subject. He warned, “Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of [demons, it should read], intruding into those things which he [has] seen [that is the correct translation], vainly

puffed up by his fleshly mind .... Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in WILL WORSHIP ...” (Colossians 2:18, 23). *Will worship*. That is exactly what Hitler was talking about, but on another level: “magic interpretation in terms of the will.” He said, *Look, this is what it’s all about now. Your REASONING isn’t going to stop us. That doesn’t mean anything to us. We follow this magic interpretation today.*

Can you recognize it? The U.S. government is casting aside the foundational law of the land and telling us, *Look—that is just getting in the way. We don’t need that old law. We know what justice is. You can trust us!*

That reasoning paves the way for tyrants!

## Racism Everywhere

The 2008 presidential election was for the most powerful office in America at a critical and dangerous time in our history. YET NEWS ANCHOR TOM BROKAW ADMITTED THAT THE PRESS NEVER DID VET CANDIDATE BARACK OBAMA. They never conducted a rigorous evaluation of this man. WHY NOT? This man was never vetted, never subjected to scrutiny—AND HE WON THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND! TWICE! THE MEDIA ADMITS IT! CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO COMMIT NATIONAL SUICIDE?

If you recall, many people said having a black leader would solve our nation’s racial problems. Has it? It has done the opposite.

All across America, the topic of race is dominating discussion more and more. Such issues as crime and punishment, employment, college admissions, income and poverty rates are increasingly viewed through the lens of skin color.

An NBC poll published on Nov. 4, 2014, said that only 20 percent of Americans think race relations have improved under Mr. Obama, while 38 percent say they have gotten worse. Among black Americans, it’s even higher, with 43 percent saying race relations are now worse! An *Investor’s Business Daily* poll found that ALMOST HALF of American adults feel that race relations are worse under Obama. And one in four say they are now “much worse.”

*New York Post* columnist Michael Goodwin wrote, “In a time of stark political polarization, that agreement stands out as a rare piece of common ground among whites, black and Latinos” (Nov. 9, 2014). Goodwin also noted that race riots are “making a comeback.”

A majority of Americans who voted chose Barack Obama in the past two presidential elections. Yet the radical-left bombthrowers *still* haven’t stopped: Racist accusations are flying and getting far worse each year!

Some political candidates in the Democratic camp can’t seem to talk about anything but racism. They use it to try

to frighten blacks into voting booths. They have said violence like the Trayvon Martin case and the shooting in Ferguson are evidence of whites hating blacks. Rep. Charlie Rangel, for example, said on Oct. 30, 2014, that some Republicans “believe that slavery isn’t over.”

The congressman said: “[E]verything we believe in—they hate. They don’t

disagree—they hate. They think if you didn’t come from Europe 30 years ago, you didn’t even make it. Some of them believe that slavery isn’t over, and they think they won the Civil War.”

These are abominable statements! Yet no one condemns them, because that is the way so many of our politicians, academics and media personalities think!

What will be the outcome of such racist remarks? When you accuse people of racism without any proof—which most of them don’t have, they just spout out the words—you are filling your country with hatred and division that leads to a race war, civil war and violence! These commentators are either ignorant of what they are doing—OR THEY WANT A RACE WAR. SOME EXTREMISTS DO WANT A RACE WAR. AND BIBLE PROPHECY TELLS US THAT THEY ARE GOING TO GET ONE.

## Time Is Short

What is happening to America’s leadership, its domestic policy and foreign policy is not just a quirk of history. The fact that Americans are casting the Constitution to the ground and encouraging lawlessness in their marriages, in their government and in their policy toward other nations has a very definite CAUSE.

The radical left is not our big problem. It is only leading the way. God is *against* three nations in particular, America, Britain and the Jewish nation, because of their unparalleled rebellion (Ezekiel 5:8). Not only is God not helping us, *He is against us!* (This is all explained in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

But this is only the beginning. God is about to punish all nations. Many people *scoff* about there even *being* a devil—while he is tearing them apart! They know little or nothing about their Bibles. They don’t understand anything about God, nor do they know the devil. Until they do, the problems will only intensify.

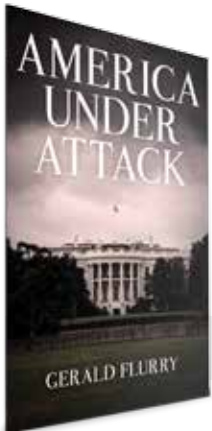
The only solution to our massive problems is repentance toward God (Ezekiel 33:11).

Satan’s growing wrath against the nations of Israel as his time grows shorter will climax in the worst suffering in human history—what the Bible calls the Great Tribulation. After 2½ years will begin the Day of the Lord, a full year of God’s punishment on the nations.

The good news, though, is revealed right there in the very same prophecies that explain these events to us. Right after the Day of the Lord, at last will come the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to solve *all* these problems *forever!* In Daniel 8:23-25, when it speaks of the Satan-inspired political Antiochus leading the Holy Roman Empire, it gives this stirring conclusion: “he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes”—that is JESUS CHRIST! Inspired by the devil, this evil man will actually try to take on Christ Himself! And what will be the outcome? “[H]e shall be broken without hand”—that is, broken BY THE POWER OF GOD!

The events we see around us are deeply sobering. But they should also fill us with hope—and anticipation of the great event they lead to: the Second Coming of Christ to this Earth!

Once Christ banishes the devil and takes His rightful place on the throne over the Earth, we will have joy and happiness and peace for the rest of eternity! Thank God for that! ■



This article has excerpts from Gerald Flurry’s booklet ***America Under Attack***. Request a free copy to learn more.

# The Russia-China Axis Is Here

**ASIAN GIANTS** Russia's Vladimir Putin (left) and China's Xi Jinping meet at APEC in November.

And it is already changing the world. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

**A** NEW AXIS HAS FORMED. IT IS SO colossal, the world really could spin on it. The *Trumpet* and its predecessor have forecast it for more than *five decades*, but now the world is catching on to this undeniable trend—and realizing the massive implications.

The types of headlines that would have seemed strange 50 or 15 or even five years ago have now become commonplace: “Time to Take the Russia-China Axis Seriously” (*Diplomat*, Nov. 4, 2014), “Putin Accelerates Turn to China” (Courcy’s Intelligence, Nov. 7, 2014), “Why Chinese-Russian Friendship Is Here to Stay” (*Foreign Affairs*, Oct. 29, 2014).

We’ve been looking for this seismic geopolitical event for half a century. And now, somewhat suddenly, it has arrived.

## Deals of the Century

Last May, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping inked a gargantuan gas supply agreement worth \$400 billion. Less than six months later, they did it again. On November 9, they signed another tentative agreement worth a sum of similar immensity.

It is hard to comprehend the size and significance of these deals. To start with, they are the two largest business transactions in human history.

Kang Wu of FG Energy said the China-Russia energy deals “will really cement their relationship in a big way, and the political

implications are huge.” One of the most immediate huge implications is that, with this second deal, China will eclipse Europe to become Russia’s largest and most strategic natural gas consumer. Thus, Moscow will be able to punish the European Union by cutting off its gas flows at less cost to the Russian economy. Europe’s already weak economy is certain to see energy costs skyrocket, forcing Europeans to scramble for pricey alternatives in the middle of what forecasters expect to be an unusually cold winter.

In addition to those two mega energy deals, Putin and Xi signed 17 other “major bilateral business agreements” at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Beijing that ended on November 12. This followed 38 other major deals in October worth tens of billions of dollars.

These colossal business agreements are only the latest indications of a Russia-China axis that is forging fast. This axis is reorienting 21st century geopolitics—and tilting the advantage away from the West.

“The two longtime foes have drawn increasingly close together because of a confluence of geostrategic, political and economic interests—all of which have a common theme of diminishing, subverting or displacing American power,” wrote Douglas E. Schoen and Melik Kaylan in their new book *The Russia-China Axis*.

Analyst Charles Krauthammer said, “[Russia and China’s] enhanced partnership marks the first emergence of a global

coalition against American hegemony since the fall of the Berlin Wall.”

Gerald Walpin, former inspector general for the United States Corporation for National and Community Service, said, “Any fair [onlooker would] compare this axis to the Hitler-Japan Axis that came close to defeating democracies, including [the] U.S., and resulted in 50 million deaths throughout the world. The only significant difference is that this new axis has nuclear weapons.”

The Westerners’ concern about this anti-U.S. partnership is not ill founded. And it takes on a bleak, Siberian iciness when you realize one of the main forces welding Russia and China together has been the United States.

## Washington’s Role

Rewind to the 1990s. The U.S. helped persuade Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons—the same weapons that might have made Vladimir Putin think twice before rolling tanks, troops and anti-aircraft missiles across the border. But now Ukraine is nuclear weaponless—and Putin is not.

For a long time, America has also led NATO into unwittingly provoking Russia. Most U.S. leaders viewed attempts to expand NATO into Ukraine from a liberal worldview, seeing it as a benign promotion of democracy. But the Russians saw it quite differently. “Russians have continued to view it through the prism of geopolitics where balance-of-power calculations

drive threat assessments,” wrote James Kitfield, a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress. And they consider Ukraine to be a drive-way straight into the heart of Russia.

John Meersheimer, a political science expert at the University of Chicago, said: “Western leaders thought geopolitics was something that was killed and buried at the end of the Cold War, which allowed them to ignore what the Russians were saying. But if you look at the issue from Russia’s realpolitik or realist point of view, this crisis was foreseeable.”

Putin responded to NATO’s encroachment (and what he saw as U.S. meddling to topple Ukraine’s democratically elected leader) by annexing Crimea, destabilizing eastern Ukraine.

The U.S. then levied several rounds of economic sanctions on Russia as punishment. Europe followed suit, and the West hoped Putin would feel the squeeze and back down. Instead Russia only intensified pressure on Ukraine. Then looked east, mostly to China, in order to recover its economic losses.

Under the current administration, America has also revealed to Putin that its populace is war-weary, its policymakers are disunited, and its leaders are power-thirsty at home but deliberately weak internationally. All of this served as a bright green light for Putin’s expansionism.

What about China? How did it become such a cash-rich country that it can partner with its northern neighbor and finance Putin’s aggression?

America played a vital role in that too. U.S. tycoons—eager to maximize short-term profits despite long-term costs—have outsourced as much production as possible, largely to Chinese companies. Most Americans prefer to pay as little as possible for electronics, computers, clothes and other goods, even if it means many other Americans lose their jobs. Thus, the trend continues. From 1998 to 2010, U.S. manufacturing, as measured by the number of jobs, plummeted 34 percent. Millions of these went to China.

The U.S. also has an alarming trade deficit with China. In 2013 alone, America bought \$318.7 billion more from China than China bought from America. Since 2000, the total trade deficit has topped \$3.2 trillion.

## WORLDWATCH

# Russia: Iran should have more reactors, not less

Russia and Iran formally announced a deal on November 11 to construct two new nuclear reactors in Iran. The deal further undermines already shaky efforts by the West to prevent the Islamic Republic from fielding nuclear weapons.

The new reactors will be built at the existing Bushehr nuclear power complex off the Persian Gulf coast. The contract also allows for two additional reactors to be built at this location and four others at locations elsewhere in Iran. Iran’s deputy director of international affairs, Behrouz Kamalvandi, announced in September that construction on the new reactors will begin by March 21 and will finish in five to seven years.

Iran insists its nuclear power program is for civilian use only; it has plans to build 20 more reactors, ostensibly to wean itself off of oil. Western nations say the claim is suspect, noting that Iran has one of the largest oil reserves in the world and that its reactors can produce the type of nuclear material needed for weapons.

Iran’s announcement of the deal came less than two weeks before the scheduled P5+1 talks, in which the United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France plus Germany were to discuss options for blocking Iran from constructing nuclear bombs. The timing of the announcement speaks to Iran’s confidence—as well as Russia’s duplicity.

Iran’s Islamist regime is the world’s most prolific state sponsor of terrorism, and it is determined to add nuclear weapons to its terror arsenal. The Islamic Republic has proven it will not surrender its ambition for these weapons of mass destruction. Now, with Russia and the West colliding over the crisis in Ukraine, Iran has a window in which it could finish and detonate its first test—or terror—bomb. Bible prophecy indicates that Iran and radical Islam will indeed unleash widespread violence, part of a chain reaction that will lead to a nuclear World War III.

So a fair amount of the hundreds of billions of dollars that China is paying Russia for these two mega gas deals and the other economic agreements *originally came from the United States.*

### Is the Axis Dangerous?

A look at how Putin’s Russia has behaved in recent months since securing China’s backing gives us a good idea of what this Asian juggernaut might do in the future.

With China firmly behind him, Putin threatened in August to use nuclear weapons to take control of Ukraine. In September, he sent a naval convoy to reopen a military base in the Arctic to back his claims to the energy riches under the ice cap. In November, he sent warships to Australia’s northern maritime border and issued plans to send long-range bombers to patrol the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, very near America’s territorial waters. He has also taken opportunities to disown the dollar in international transactions, undermining its status as the world’s reserve currency. And a new

Russian military doctrine published in December openly designates the U.S. as a “threat” and an “adversary.”

The Russia-China axis is no longer merely a forecast. *It is here*, and it is changing the world. The world now faces the most serious crisis since World War II, and it is thanks in part to America’s broken will and mismanaged power.

In their book, Schoen and Kaylan argue that “only a rebirth of American global leadership can counter the corrosive impact of this anti-democratic alliance, which may soon threaten the peace and security of the world.”

Such a rebirth won’t come about by something as meaningless as “getting the GOP back in the White House.” The nation’s illnesses are too numerous and too deep-rooted to be remedied by a topical balm of that kind. But there is a solution for America’s crisis in leadership, and for the increasing power, cooperation and belligerence of the Russia-China axis. To understand it, read *Russia and China in Prophecy.* ■



How many more reactors will Iran get?



**A**RE YOU A PARENT WITH TODDLERS, children or adolescents? If so, I would like to ask you a question. What are your thoughts about spanking? It is a hot topic on the minds of many. Are you wondering about it too?

Parental use of corporal punishment was thrust back into public debate in America in September when NFL running back Adrian Peterson was arrested on felony child abuse charges for using a switch to discipline his 4-year-old son. Peterson avoided jail time by pleading no contest to a reduced charge of misdemeanor reckless assault as part of a plea deal. Peterson was ordered to pay a \$4,000 fine and court costs, to take parenting classes and to perform 80 hours of community service.

Learning of the Peterson incident, child advocates rushed to condemn corporal punishment across the board. Evangelicals answered back with indignation. Several op-ed writers threw the subject of race into the discussion. Parents began arguing with each other on social media and on call-in radio talk shows about the difference between child abuse and spanking.

Some parents were hotly indignant, stating that it is nobody's business how they raise their children.

I personally believe there exists a silent majority of parents in Western society who are confused and conflicted about how to discipline their children, who make their daily lives miserable because of unruly behavior. On a recent business trip, I felt really bad for a mom in an airport whose child was taking swings and hitting her because she was not doing what he wanted her to do.

### **Spanking and the Law**

There is a global movement to eliminate spanking. Forty-one nations prohibit all corporal punishment of children: in the home, schools and other institutions including penal systems. Twenty-seven of these nations passed their laws against spanking in just the past decade. An additional 78 nations prohibit physical punishment in schools.

In America, all 50 states allow corporal punishment of children. Nineteen states, mostly in the South, permit physical punishment in schools. This does not mean that all parents use physical punishment.

The debate spawned by the Peterson case shows huge disagreements about corporal punishment among Americans regionally, religiously and racially.

"From the macro data, it seems that corporal punishment is becoming less popular in the United States," reported the *Christian Science Monitor*. "Evaluating numerous national surveys taken over the past decades, Murray Straus, an expert on corporal punishment at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, found that the number of parents who say spanking is sometimes necessary dropped from more than 90 percent in 1968 to about 65 or 70 percent in 1994, and then has remained steady through today" (Oct. 19, 2014). Other researchers have found that while the number of parents using spanking has decreased, Americans still use spanking to discipline their children—much to the dismay of the academic voices against corporal punishment.

It is likely that some parents are not being totally honest on surveys, or the surveys are not reaching parents who use corporal punishment. One of the leading academic voices against spanking, Prof. Elizabeth Gershoff of the University of Texas at Austin, discovered in the late 2000s "that by the time American children reach high school, 85 percent have been physically punished by their parents" (ibid). Kenneth Dodge, family policy scholar at Duke University, has found similar numbers. Following hundreds of children in longitudinal studies from pre-kindergarten through adulthood, he found that 70 to 80 percent were corporally punished (ibid). Prof. Murray Straus believes 90 percent of toddlers are still being physically punished.

Officially, spanking is still used in many school districts across states that permit it. U.S. Department of Education numbers say 200,000 students are physically disciplined every year. In some school districts in northern Florida, state statistics show more than 1 in 10 students is paddled.

The Arlington school district, located on the outskirts of Memphis, Tennessee, recently reinstated corporal punishment, giving teachers "all possible tools at their disposal." It is clear that a majority of Americans use physical discipline.

Considering these facts, you may wonder why the Peterson case drew the attention it did. Child advocates against

# Living Without Spanking

Thoughts on the public debate over corporal punishment

BY DENNIS LEAP



spanking took advantage of this tragic case to advance their cause to have spanking outlawed in America. However, there are large groups in the American population who are willing to fight for the right to raise their families in the manner they see fit, which includes the use of corporal punishment when necessary.

### The Case Against Spanking

Child advocates against spanking see no difference between child abuse and spanking. Just after the Peterson case made news headlines, National Public Radio host Robert Siegel interviewed Elizabeth Gershoff about the history of corporal punishment. During the interview, Siegel made this emotionally charged statement: “There are lots of people today who are parents who were disciplined by their parents by being beaten and consider it normal, and therefore beat their children.” This is undeniably a broad, sweeping statement.

Gershoff responded to Siegel’s proclamation: “That’s true. We do see that cycle of violence continuing through generations. Our own parents are our best example for how to parent. We live with our parents for many years. And that’s the most close-up view of parenting we’ve ever seen. But there are many parents who are breaking that cycle and realizing that it is possible to raise children without hitting them.” Please take note that Gershoff refers to spanking as a “cycle of violence.” Did Gershoff’s parents beat her? Do all parents who spank their children *beat* them? Growing up in the 1950s, I know that I was occasionally spanked as a child—yet I was not beaten.

Anti-spanking advocates view all spanking as *hitting*, equating it with child abuse. The word *hit* conjures up horrible images of violent punching and slapping during out-of-control confrontations. Yes, sadly, child abuse does exist. Children have been hurt, physically, mentally and emotionally. All child abuse is definitely criminal against children and should be punished severely. Yet, is a parent who gives his or her unruly child several stinging swats on the behind a *child-beater*?

Gershoff estimates that a quarter of American households today do not use spanking at all while raising their children. “It’s been a very gradual decline

here in the U.S. with still a vast majority of people being in favor of spanking,” she told Siegel. “What’s interesting is that in other countries we’ve seen a very different situation ... because of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was ratified in 1989 ... and because of that, 38 countries now have agreed that corporal punishment of children, including spanking, violates children’s human rights.”

Anti-spanking advocates see all corporal punishment as a violation of children’s rights, and outlawing spanking in the United States of America is their end goal. To that end, they also want to intimidate all parents who use spanking, even if they use it as a part of a complete child-rearing program.

### The Case for Spanking

While the case against spanking didn’t really take hold in America until the 1960s, the case *for* proper spanking—administered by loving parents—is centuries old.

Robert Siegel also asked Gershoff: “You say the majority of parents physically punish their children about once a year. How much does that practice vary by race, region, education level, class—whatever?” Gershoff answered: “It varies a fair amount. We know that it varies by race or ethnic group. African-American parents in particular spank more often than other groups. Whites and Latinos spank about the same. And Asian-Americans spank the least.”

Gershoff gives a true observation here. Northeast white parents are known to be vocal about their anti-spanking views. Most college-educated parents do not use spanking. Southern blacks are vocal about their pro-spanking values.

Yet Gershoff fails to give an unbiased view of the *effects* of spanking among groups. She continued, “What we do also know is that there are not differences in the effects of spanking on children by race or ethnic group. And so with a large national sample, we found that even though African-American parents do spank more often, it’s not more effective at increasing children’s positive behavior and in fact has the opposite effect and increases children’s aggressive behavior over time.” Other experts, however, say differently.

It was in the early 1990s that academic experts began releasing studies purporting to show a clear connection between

corporal punishment and children’s aggressive behavior—particularly that children who were spanked often were likelier to be involved in partner-to-partner domestic violence as adults. Some studies also said that spanked children suffered academic and health risks and fell behind in many other social indicators. The majority of these studies followed white Americans.

However, experts realized that they could not eliminate corporal punishment unless they could replicate the same find-

**There exists a silent majority of parents in Western society who are confused and conflicted about how to discipline their children.**

ings within other demographic groups. New longitudinal studies were conducted with a focus on African-American families.

“What they found surprised and bothered many of them,” stated the October 19 *Christian Science Monitor* article. “In various studies, researchers found that the effect of spanking on black children was different than it was on white children. In 2004, for instance, scholar Jennifer Lansford, who worked with Professor [Kenneth] Dodge of Duke University, reported findings from a diverse group of 585 children they followed from prekindergarten through Grade 11. Rather than making black children as a group more aggressive and worse off, some instances of corporal punishment within that demographic seemed to correspond to *better outcomes*” (emphasis added). That is different from what Gershoff claimed.

At first this study was labeled *racist*. Yet, what Duke experts (who still oppose corporal punishment) determined is that any damage caused to children by spanking, paddling or other forms of punishment is not as much about the *physical act* as it is the *psychological message* imparted by the parent. Actually, the Duke study showed that African-American parents were better at giving corporal punishment than white parents they studied.

➤ **SPANKING** on page 23



# Taking Away the Punch Bowl

The Fed threw the world's biggest party—and it's about to turn into a massive brawl. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

**O**N OCTOBER 28, THE FEDERAL Reserve announced it was time to end the free-money party. With stock and bond markets jump-jiving to all-time highs and the economy supposedly gyrating in robust recovery, the Fed started walking off with the punch bowl. But was this party a good idea to begin with? The free-money merrymaking has set up the economy for a massive hangover—and perhaps economic convulsions.

“The final word on quantitative easing will have to wait for historians,” Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote in the *Telegraph* on October 29. “[T]he experiment was a huge success ... [but] that quantitative easing contaminated the rest of the world in complicated ways and may have stored up a greater crisis for the future.”

The Fed's decision to print money like confetti is seen by many as a success. For example: In 2008, the global system was sitting on a financial time bomb. Sources told the *New York Post* it was “500 trades away from Armageddon.” The Fed concocted \$105 billion out of thin air that day to pour into the system and keep everyone from going berserk.

So Wall Street still exists—that's one celebratory blow of a party horn for quantitative easing. And official unemployment is another toot on a kazoo: It's back down to 5.9 percent.

But the cover charge was the steepest stimulus package in U.S. history. Adjusted for inflation, it's almost as much as the nation spent fighting World War II.

The Fed printed \$3.5 trillion worth of funny money to keep banking liquidity sloshing around the punch bowl and the big banks quick-stepping to the music. That is money that must be repaid—and with interest. But was it money well spent?

## **\$3,500,000,000,000**

Well, for that much cash the government could have skipped bailing out the banks and instead purchased every single publicly traded bank in America: Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, BancFirst, Wells Fargo, SunTrust, BB&T, American Express—and dozens more. Then it could have spent the hundreds of billions left over on the world's biggest block party.

Not that it's good for Washington to officially patronize the Wall Street

frat house, but it could have owned the place for that much cash. Or it could have owned every gold mine in the world. Or (based on a Kiplinger's estimate), it could have bought 146,997,060 new cars; 19,673,974 new homes; or 490,000,000,000 man-hours. Or, even on a one-year certificate of deposit at 1.29 percent, \$3.5 trillion could have earned \$45 billion in interest.

But it bought temporary relief for some of our deeply flawed banks and our deeply flawed economy.

Pouring that fiat money into the party dulled the immediate economic headache. Each additional drink kept the revelers happy a little longer and preoccupied them from yelling insults at the host at the top of their lungs. But it did nothing to make them feel better the morning after. In fact, it made it worse.

And when it comes time to cut them off, better call a bouncer.

However, the Fed went ahead and spiked the punch bowl with about a keg of quantitative easing. That move is credited with fueling today's animal spirits. But it is increasingly evident that it didn't fundamentally fix anything. At best it put off the day of reckoning. At worst it may have set up the economy for an acidic big heave—or an intoxication-induced coma.

During the last major financial crisis centering around the end of 2008, one of the worst outcomes was the number of jobs lost. Between 2007 and 2009, the economy lost 8.7 million jobs. It took until June 2014, more than five years, for the economy to finally gain back the jobs it lost. It was the slowest recovery since the Great Depression. Even today, after adjusting for population growth, America is still missing more than 6 million jobs.

And the jobs that came back were not as good as the ones lost. High-paying manufacturing and banking jobs have been replaced by low-paying positions in restaurants, hotels and temp agencies, which now account for a higher proportion of the total workforce.

While the government went wild spending stimulus money, taxpayers became less and less able to pay it back. According to the latest Census Bureau report, median household income has fallen to \$51,939—about to where it was in 1989. That's even less than the \$55,489

the median family earned in 2009, during the depths of the economic crisis.

No wonder public-opinion polling shows that the typical American still thinks the economy is pretty miserable. It's because it is.

True, unlike the 1930s, we don't see food lines stretching from block to block. Instead, people get their handouts from the government more conveniently. Today, 46 million Americans are on food stamps—one in five households. In some cities, it's one in three people. By the end of 2013, almost 50 percent of the population received at least one form of government assistance. America's vaunted free-market economy isn't so free any more—or so vaunted.

Maybe we blew the kazoo too fast.

### Follow the Money

So if Main Street wasn't enjoying the celebration, who was? Surely *somebody* was having the bash of a lifetime with the government's \$3.5 trillion.

As it turns out, all those Fed dollars did light up a party—and a big one. *You just weren't invited.*

Since the 2009 economic crash, and the onset of Fed money printing, markets have been on a tear. The Dow Jones tap-danced from under 10,000 to a record high of 17,390 at the end of October. Bond market investors are lip-synching "Happy Days." The Federal Reserve's easy-money policy pushed interest rates to historical lows and bond prices to record highs. In many big coastal cities, even McMansion prices are setting new highs again.

Unfortunately, for most people the soaring markets don't mean much. Eighty percent of financial assets, things like stocks, bonds and real estate, are owned by the top 10 percent of wealthiest households. Most people own few stocks and bonds.

So, after the government's well-intentioned intervention, we find that the rich have gotten richer. But if you are among the 90 percent, all that money-printing just left you out in the cold looking in.

And soon it will hand *you* the bill for the party.

The post-2009 boom in financial markets has closely tracked the increase in money supply created by the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing. After the Fed began creating money out of thin air in 2008, it used much of it to buy U.S. government treasuries from the big Wall Street banks. That drove up treasury prices, drove down interest rates, and put more money in the banks' pockets. The banks then took that money and looked for other places to invest.

Since interest rates were manipulated down by the massive Fed buying, the banks looked elsewhere to get a return on their money—thus they poured money into the stock market. The artificially low interest rates also forced investors and pension funds to take on more risk, as they too were pushed toward the stock and real estate markets to earn a return on investment. The hedge funds and sovereign wealth funds from around the world

saw what was happening. Not wanting to miss an opportunity to exploit the Fed's market intervention, they joined the low-interest-rate, money-is-confetti party too.

The artificially manipulated low interest rates had one other, even more dangerous side effect. They encouraged people to borrow massive amounts of money.

Banks, for example, were allowed to borrow money from the Federal Reserve at close to zero percent. They then took this money and re-lent it to consumers in the form of mortgages at 4 to 5 percent. Low interest rates also allowed the banks to lend money to investors who eagerly snapped up the low interest loans to invest in the stock and real estate markets both at home and around the world. In March 2014, margin debt (money borrowed to invest in stocks) surpassed the record highs set in 2007.

Perversely, perhaps criminally, the banks were also allowed to (and almost universally did) borrow money at near-zero percent from the Federal Reserve, a quasi-governmental institution, *and*

*promptly lend it back to the federal government* at 2 percent on up to 5 percent. More free money for Wall Street courtesy of the Federal Reserve. This further twisted the distortions in the market.

For those in the know and with the means, these last five years have been the financial party of a lifetime. But what's going to happen now that the Federal Reserve has taken their punch bowl away? Is the party over?

Sooner or later, yes.

The Federal Reserve may not be handing out free money anymore, but it is still keeping the band playing for now to keep the partygoers happy. If you are one of Wall Street's finest, Uncle Sam in the red-and-white-striped party hat will still give you a near-zero-percent nine-figure loan. So even though it's way past their bedtime, the markets may hum along for a little longer.

On the other hand, there are a lot of sickly looking people who have clearly drunk and danced far too much.

Bret Arends from MarketWatch asks this question: "What do the following years have in *common*: 1853, 1906, 1929, 1969, 1999? ... Those were the peaks of the five massive, generational stock-market bubbles in U.S. history.

"[W]e are back there again" (July 18, 2014).

According to statistics quoted by Arends, the stock market at current levels may be 80 percent overvalued compared to where it would be without Federal Reserve intervention. Could a generational market crash be looming?

We haven't seen that hard reality hit yet. The drums are still banging away, the saxophones are blazing, and inebriated partiers have taken to the tabletops. The Fed threw the party. It hired the band. It invited the guests. It spiked the punch bowl. But now the keg is empty and the party is getting out of hand. It hopes it can now walk off without a brawl breaking out.

The partygoers are more than a little inebriated, and the odds of ending this politely are about as good as the lady with the lampshade on her head saying "quantitative easing" without slurring her words.

When reality hits this party, there will be nothing left of this house. ■

Does your budget look like America's? Request **Solve Your Money Troubles!** to establish order in your finances.



Learn how the coming crash will end by requesting a free copy of the **United States and Britain in Prophecy**.

# Israel vs. the World

The Jews face a bleak future alone. The next move by the Arabs, and Israel's response, will affect us all.

BY JOEL HILLIKER



**T**HE NATION OF ISRAEL IS USED to tough odds. From the day it was born in 1948, it has had to scratch, scrap and battle for survival.

It is encircled by hostile Arab peoples that have repeatedly tried to stamp it out. It has faced continual censure from the United Nations—an organization stacked with Arab, Muslim and Third World dictatorships and despotisms. It has defended itself from terrorism even as international opinion has condemned it for doing so.

The world's motley menagerie of nations never agrees on much. But if any single issue produces something close to a consensus, it is irrational enmity toward the Jewish state.

A BBC poll last June found that global perception of Israel ranks alongside North Korea, Pakistan and Iran as worst in the world. In a 2014 multinational Gallup poll, this tiny Mideast democracy tied with Tehran and Pyongyang—an Islamist theocracy that leads the world in sponsoring terrorism, and a murderous, nuclear-armed totalitarian state—as the biggest threat to world peace.

The Jews are used to this. They overlook the endless rhetoric from imams and mullahs demanding their extermination. They have grown accustomed to mounting evidence of anti-Semitism rising in Europe and elsewhere. They have learned not to take personally the inexplicable sympathy toward Islamists exhibited by Western liberals and academics.

But in recent months, Israel's isolation has grown more acute. And threats to its survival have grown more dangerous.

Israel's few security alliances are fracturing. Turkey is turning radically Islamic. Egypt's 35-year peace accord with Israel is threatened by political instability. Strained relations with the Obama administration are getting even worse. The peace treaty with Jordan that secures Israel's eastern border now appears borderline.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem is engulfed in its worst violence in a decade. And the Jews' greatest nightmare—a nuclear-armed Iran—has never been closer to becoming reality.

Israel's position is getting desperate. And what happens next in this explosive region has worldwide implications.

## A New Intifada

“There's a sense of free fall in Jerusalem, of events spinning out of control,” wrote David Brinn in the *Jerusalem Post*. “Anyone who lived here through the first and second intifadas will recognize the same jittery, nervous spirit in the streets. It used to be unsafe to board a bus; now it's unsafe to stand at a bus stop or light rail station. Pedestrians look suspiciously out of the corner of their eyes as they walk on the street” (Nov. 5, 2014).

It started this past summer, under a rain of rockets on Israeli towns launched from the Gaza Strip by the terrorist group Hamas. Then Hamas members kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank. When Israel responded by arresting hundreds of Palestinians, the rocket attacks increased. At last Israel began bombing Gaza. It sent troops to destroy tunnels Hamas had burrowed into Israeli territory.

Most of Israel's Jewish citizens viewed Operation Protective Edge as a just war. It was careful and precise, aimed at limiting civilian casualties as much as possible. But that goal was made far tougher by Hamas's efforts to *maximize* Palestinian casualties in order to evoke global outrage against Israel.

True to Hamas's aims, many people in the West blamed the Jews for the escalation of the Gaza War. Israel's already poor international reputation was further trashed. A poll that summer asked Israeli Jews, “How do you feel about the

famous saying ‘the whole world is against us?’” Nearly two thirds said *yes, that pretty well sums up our life.*

Since the war, leading Arabs and Muslims have incited their peoples, including Israeli Arabs, to rise up in violence. What has resulted looks uniquely terrifying. The *New York Times* called it “a new kind of armed struggle, a leaderless uprising of sporadic outbursts.” Israeli Jews have been targeted in thousands of random, violent attacks using thrown rocks, Molotov cocktails, weaponized fireworks, stab-bings, shootings, and even vehicles ramming into groups of pedestrians.

### Escalation

Then, on October 29, a Palestinian gunman shot Yehuda Glick, an Israeli activist campaigning for Jews’ rights to pray at al-Aqsa Mosque. The next day, Israeli police killed the suspected shooter, then shut down the Temple Mount. They entered al-Aqsa Mosque in order to track down rioters. Inside they found a cache of stones, bottles and Molotov cocktails—proof of this “place of worship” being an incubator for faith-based violence.

Justified as this intrusion proved to be, however, it enraged Palestinians. A spokesman for leader Mahmoud Abbas called it “a *declaration of war* on the Palestinian people and its sacred places and on the Arab and Islamic nation.” Abbas himself avowed, “We will not allow our holy places to be contaminated”—meaning “contaminated” *by Jews.*

Other Muslim leaders picked up the banner of grievance against Israel. Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, for example, called Israel’s presence on the Temple Mount “cruelty to the core.”

Among the nations expressing outrage was Jordan. This is one of the few Arab states Israel has been able to rely on for amity. Its peace treaty, signed in 1994, has contributed greatly to Israel’s security. The Temple Mount compound is administered by a Jordanian organization; Jordan’s guardianship of the site has existed for decades and is codified in the 1994 treaty.

After the al-Aqsa incident, Jordan’s foreign minister insisted, “These violations are infuriating the emotions and the

sensitivity of 1.5 billion Muslims around the world.” Jordan recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv. Days later, King Abdullah canceled his nation’s participation in a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the treaty with Israel. Amman warned it would reevaluate its diplomatic ties and even the peace accord itself.

Amman’s highest leaders might still value their relationship with Israel; they need Israel to manage the Palestinians and suppress Arab unrest that could spill over into Jordan. But the official hard line reveals that the government sees a need to



**CITY WITHOUT PEACE** The aftermath of a deadly terrorist attack near the junction of east and west Jerusalem

placate its large Palestinian population and many other Jordanians who dislike Jews.

Anxious Israeli leaders responded by backing away from the Temple Mount and reassuring Amman that its role there will not change. The last thing Israel needs is the loss of another valuable alliance.

### Breaking the Brotherhood

The danger Israel faces is perhaps best encapsulated in the extraordinary situation that has developed with America and Iran.

Israel considers the Islamic Republic of Iran its gravest threat. The barbaric Islamic State has stolen Middle Eastern headlines, but Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has tried to keep the world focused on the far more dangerous menace posed by Iran—a powerful state, governed by a radical ideology, actively seeking regional hegemony, on the cusp of nuclear capacity, and still legitimized by many nations, including giants like Russia, China and India.

As Mr. Netanyahu has sounded those warnings, the Obama administration has repeatedly *pulled punches* with the Islamic regime. It has legitimized the radicals in power and disregarded popular moderate opposition. It has continued negotiations despite Iranian deceit. It has blunted punitive measures against Tehran. It has shown childish credulity and perplexing eagerness to make a deal at any cost.

If only Washington dealt with the Jewish state so favorably. To Israel it has been demanding, insistent, rude, insulting and even profane. Mr. Netanyahu has made

numerous concessions to accommodate President Barack Obama’s demands—settlement freezes, prisoner releases, negotiation attempts, military restraint, even agreeing to recognize a Palestinian state. But he has only received more slaps in the face. This nation that has been Israel’s most valuable ally—its strongest supporter and the biggest outside guarantor of its security—is now publicly hostile.

In October, U.S. administration officials publicly snubbed Israel’s defense minister during his visit to Washington. Soon after, a senior official, speaking to prominent *Atlantic* journalist Jeffrey Goldberg on the record, called Israel’s prime minister a vulgar epithet signifying a lack of courage or manliness. “The good thing about Netanyahu is that he’s scared to launch wars,” the official explained. A second official told Goldberg that the White House thinks Mr. Netanyahu is *bluffing* about preemptively striking Iran’s nuclear facilities, and called him a “coward.”

These comments dramatically summarize the reality of America’s betrayal. Firstly and

**Bible prophecy indicates that hostility against Israel will eventually prevail in Jordan. To learn more, read “A Mysterious Alliance” at [theTrumpet.com/go/784](http://theTrumpet.com/go/784).**

obviously, they epitomize the open rancor that now characterizes the relationship between American and Israeli governments. “The crumbling of camaraderie,” David Horowitz called it in the *Times of Israel*. This language exactly mirrors the end-time prophecy of Zechariah 11:14 describing a “breaking of brotherhood” between these two peoples. (Modern Israel is biblical “Judah”—*Jew* is short for Judah; the U.S. descends from ancient Israel and is called *Israel* in biblical prophecy.)

**As the Jews’ seclusion has grown, so has its yearning for a new ally. In many ways it is exhibiting a strong hope that it has found one—in Europe.**

Beyond that, these comments strengthen Iran’s leverage in its quest for nuclear weapons. Credible evidence that Mr. Netanyahu is bluffing nullifies an important bargaining chip for those trying to thwart an Iranian nuke, while simultaneously emboldening Tehran. Thus the comments align with so many other actions of this White House: effectively anti-Israel and pro-Iran.

Yet again, Israel is left even more isolated and vulnerable.

### Israel’s Next Ally?

In its young lifetime, the modern Jewish state has reached out to allies with very mixed results. At first it largely turned to a little-known superpower: God. It won one miracle victory after another: 1948, 1967, 1973. But then it began turning to other allies, treaties and “peace” negotiations. Once it did so, the miracle victories ceased, and the problems began to multiply.

Now, with its friends peeling away and its seclusion growing, Israel is yearning for a new ally. In many ways it is exhibiting a strong hope

that it has found one—in Europe. Clear-eyed observation reveals, however, that this is a false, even dangerously naive, hope.

The most recent evidence came in November, when Italy’s Federica Mogherini became the European Union’s new high representative for foreign affairs and security policy. As her *first move in office*, she visited Israel. It showed the priority she expects to give Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Is this the alliance Israel hopes for? Just before she touched down, Mogherini

Yet remarkably, the Bible’s prophecies foretell that the Jews, in their time of direst need, will *still* turn to Europe for help! The most explicit of these can be found in Hosea 5:13 and is thoroughly explained in *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* (free upon request).

Before that happens, events are certain to get worse for Israel. Zechariah 14:2 describes a time, to be fulfilled very soon, when half of Jerusalem will be sacked.

This will be fulfilled by an intensification of exactly the sort of violence engulfing that city even today! And as *Jerusalem in Prophecy* explains, that crisis will trigger a catastrophic chain of events. The war it ignites will engulf not only Israel and the Palestinians, but also Iran, Europe, America—and the *entire world!* That is what the Bible foretells.

However, look closer at Zechariah’s prophecy. In the *very same context* of that eruption of violence in Jerusalem, it describes the most awesome event to occur in history: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! (e.g. verse 4). Even the *first half* of verse 2 is describing a climactic battle that will occur at Christ’s return. “Consider it: The Day of the Lord and the dispute over one half of Jerusalem are presented in the same context,” Mr. Flurry writes. “That is because when half of Jerusalem goes into captivity, that crisis triggers a series of events that lead to the return of Jesus Christ! ... In other words, the current dispute over East Jerusalem is a strong sign that the Day of the Lord is almost here! We must wake up!”

Watch vigilantly as tensions start to rip Jerusalem apart. Compare the headlines to the time line of prophetic events in Zechariah and elsewhere. Watch Jerusalem! Events right now are following that pattern and rapidly building toward a fulfillment of the Bible’s prophecies about what will befall Jerusalem in the very end time! Watch—and recognize the imminence of the return of Jesus Christ. ■



announced her ultimate goal to the French daily *Le Monde*: “What would make me happy is if a Palestinian state existed at the end of my term.” Then, while visiting the West Bank town of Ramallah, she said Jerusalem needs to be divided. “I think Jerusalem can be and should be the capital of two states,” she explained.

However disheartening to Israelis these statements may be, they reflect a consensus sweeping through Europe. Shortly before Mogherini’s trip, Sweden became the first major European nation to unilaterally recognize a sovereign Palestinian state. And Sweden is unlikely to be the last. As one senior official from another European country said, “We’re not going to wait forever” to recognize a Palestinian state. “Other European countries are poised to follow Sweden” (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 7, 2014). Both France and Britain have already introduced legislation to recognize such a state, regardless of Israel’s preconditions.

This is the best Israel can do: a potential “ally” with a world-war- and holocaust-stained record that wants to start things off by splitting it and its capital in two.



# 'This Too Shall Pass'



What do you think would make you happier in the long term: winning the lottery—or permanently losing use of your legs in an accident? The answer may surprise you. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

**M**ANY YEARS AGO, A YOUNG SULTAN ruled over a tract of territory along the shores of the Red Sea. Each time a burst of prosperity came his way, the sultan's spirits soared to the loftiest altitudes of pride and self-importance. But during times of adversity, he always fell to the depths of discouragement. His temper never knew a medium.

The sultan was frustrated by complications that entered into his life as a result of the wide swings in his temperament, but he wasn't sure how to pinpoint the problem, much less remedy it.

One day, news came to this sultan of a ruler in a nearby kingdom who was said to have *boundless wisdom*: Solomon, king of Judah.

Accounts of Solomon's bewildering wisdom made the sultan eager to seek his counsel. He traveled to Jerusalem and was granted an audience with the king. He explained his erratic nature and provided Solomon with examples of the oscillations in his mood.

Solomon listened. "Return to me in one month's time. I'll be able to help you then."

The sultan went back to his palace, feeling elated, proud and immortal. After the prescribed duration had passed, he returned to Jerusalem and entered Solomon's court. The king handed him a small box and told him to open it. Inside was a ring with this Hebrew phrase etched onto its surface: *Gam zeh ya'avor*.

*This too shall pass.*

"This proverb will serve as a constant reminder that all material conditions, positive or negative, are temporary," Solomon said. "Wear it, remember it, and live by it."

Some have attributed the well-known proverb, not to Solomon, but to medieval Persian Sufi poets, early Turkish writers or others. The account of King Solomon and the sultan isn't recorded in the Holy Bible, but only passed down by Jewish oral tradition, so it isn't possible to dogmatically say the Jewish king was its author. However, in his book *This Too Shall Pass*, Avi Solomon

points to discoveries of ancient rings and amulets bearing the Hebrew version of the phrase as substantiation of the Jewish claims. Still, some versions of the Jewish account depict Solomon not as authoring the proverb, but as receiving it from another.

Regardless of the phrase's origins, its wisdom and value are beyond debate.

It is not just applicable to the wildly intemperate sultan in the account, but to every person alive. Abraham Lincoln once praised the succinct brilliance of the proverb, saying, "How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction."

## Consolation in the Depths of Affliction

When a person is in the middle of a trial, there is a tendency to think it will last indefinitely. We have a nearly impossible time occupying a certain moment—especially an emotionally difficult moment—and imagining a future in which we feel differently than we do at that moment. Yet, every one of us

can reflect back on trials that seemed hopelessly dark at one point, but eventually melted, softened and brightened up. Time goes on, winter gives way to spring, and as King Solomon *definitely* said, “the sun also rises” (Ecclesiastes 1:5; American King James translation).

If we can remember that adversity will pass, we can weather life’s storms in a way that speeds and facilitates our growth.

But what about *profoundly* traumatizing events? Does the sun also rise on these? Will the “this” pass even when it involves soul-grinding suffering?

In his book *Stumbling on Happiness*, Daniel Gilbert says that even in the most extreme trials we generally bounce back. “[R]ather than being the fragile flowers that a century of psychologists have made us out to be, most people are surprisingly resilient in the face of trauma,” he wrote.

Gilbert cites studies that tracked people who had suffered the loss of loved ones or had been paralyzed from the waist down

were abnormally difficult, and were more than they could stand. The Apostle Paul wrote to them, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Man has an astonishing capacity for resiliency! In the thick of a trial, we often feel like it’s more than we can bear. But relying on God for help means we can bear and escape it, and build godly character in the process. When suffering comes, we should strive to learn from it. When the time is right, we should let it pass like water flowing over a rock.

### Caution: Conquests, Too, Will Pass

As tough as it can be to remember during the throes of hardship that it will pass, it’s often *even harder* to keep in mind that times of abundance are subject to change.

Life is experience. It is rife with victories and disappointments, prosperity and trials. We can allow them to shove us all over the emotional spectrum, letting prosperity rush us into extravagance, and allowing adversity to hurry us into grief.

in accidents. The researchers discovered that after just one year passes, almost all people—whether they had permanently lost use of their legs or a loved one—return to their baseline pre-loss levels of happiness. “Although more than half the people in the United States will experience a trauma such as rape, physical assault or natural disaster in their lifetimes, only a small fraction will ever develop any post-traumatic pathology,” he wrote.

This doesn’t mean the suffering from all traumas and tribulations always completely dissipates. The scarring from some experiences is deep and may leave us with long-term vulnerabilities. But in most cases, we are tougher than we think, and we have some say in how long we remain injured, and to what degree.

In the first century, some members of the Church in Corinth believed their trials

We can be joyous when we are granted a victory. But we should remain grounded in gratitude toward God, and wary of riding an emotional high.

One of the studies that Dr. Gilbert cited in his book tracked happiness levels of people who won the lottery. Unsurprisingly, there’s a big surge in the levels of happiness that the winners report in the months just after the fortune befalls them. But the elation is short-lived. In fact, after *one year* passes, the data shows that the lottery winners and the paralyzed people *were equally happy with their lives*.

People often allow times of prosperity to inflate their egos and fill them with hubris. This stifles growth, and may compel a person to take credit they don’t deserve, to burn interpersonal bridges, or to take the prosperity for granted.

Remaining mindful of the impermanence of prosperous physical circumstances

doesn’t mean we should limit our exposure to life like some kind of monk or stoic. We can drink deeply from the wells of life, but must remember that times of prosperity are not guaranteed to last. That will help us avoid arrogance and extravagance—and the suffering that comes with them.

### This Shall *NOT* Pass

King Solomon said that when a person’s life ends, he “shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand” (Ecclesiastes 5:15). You might make arrangements for all of the shiny material things you’ve collected to be crammed into your coffin when you die, but it won’t matter. Only *one thing* will remain after this life ends.

“[T]he spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7). This verse describes the spirit in man, which is the depository of a person’s memory and character. (You can learn more about this spirit from our free booklet *What Science Can’t Discover About the Human Mind*.) When someone dies, this spirit returns to God, who keeps it “on file” until the time of judgment described in Revelation 20:12-15 and other passages.

The only thing that remains after death is the *character* a person built during life.

How is that character built? In the way the person responds to all experiences, both high and low, in this life.

If a person built *righteous* character with God’s help, IT WILL NEVER PASS.

The Bible foretells a time when sorrow, pain and even death will pass (e.g. Revelation 21:4; 20:14). The entire surface of the Earth will pass away and be replaced by a “new earth” (Matthew 24:35; Revelation 21:1; Psalm 102:25-26).

Life is experience. It is rife with victories and disappointments, prosperity and trials. We can allow them to shove us all over the emotional spectrum, letting prosperity rush us into extravagance, and allowing adversity to hurry us into grief. Or we can view our experiences with a wider view, remembering that this physical life is so fleeting, and that the only thing that will never pass is godly character. With this truth firmly in mind, we can learn to temper our reactions. We can learn to speed our development of temperance and other traits of godly character. We can learn that this too shall pass. ■





# Buried in Afghanistan

America and Britain are the latest victims entombed in the graveyard of empires. **BY ANTHONY CHIBARIRWE**



**C**ONFLICT COMES AND GOES—AND comes again—in Afghanistan. Powers rise and fall, invaders appear and disappear, occupiers enter and exit. This is where superpowers go to be humiliated and then fade into obscurity. And one after another, the headstones go up in this graveyard of empires.

On October 26, Britain joined the list of demeaned world powers that failed to accomplish their military missions in Afghanistan. It was the fourth time in Britain's history. After eight years, Britain's combat operations ended with the dramatic withdrawal from its massive military complex at Camp Bastion

in Helmand province. United States Marines at adjoining Camp Leatherneck similarly left with hardly a goodbye.

Britain joined the United States in the "War on Terror" in Afghanistan in 2001. In 2006, the British set up camp in the Helmand province and built a military base the size of a small city to take the fight to the Taliban in its stronghold. Camp Bastion housed 26,000 soldiers and became Britain's biggest overseas military base since World War II. The Americans built their adjacent military city just as big: power plant; water and sewer treatment plants; grocery stores; movie theaters; gymnasiums; churches; a \$34 million,

two-story, 64,000-square-foot operations center; paved roads and streets with stoplights and names like Echo and 5th.

Now, these bases are mostly dusty ghost towns.

With the troops gone, perhaps it is time to ask: At what cost? Some of that cost is quantifiable. In terms of treasure: \$30 billion for the British and over \$760 billion for the U.S. In terms of blood: 453 British, 2,350 Americans, and tens of thousands of Afghan allies.

In terms of prestige: incalculable.

What was *gained* is difficult to ascertain and even harder to measure—especially



**LEAVING IT BEHIND** American soldiers en route home from Afghanistan (above) have left behind thriving Afghan opium production, as well as a thriving Taliban.



considering the circumstances of the departure.

British troops kept the flag-lowering observance in Helmand low-key amid grave concerns that the Taliban would punctuate Britain’s withdrawal with an attack. The impression it left was that Britain slinked away from Afghanistan with its tail between its legs. British officials didn’t even speak during the ceremony—only a U.S. general did. Back in Britain, there would be no fanfare or cheering crowds or marches or grand speeches or formation fly-pasts to welcome the lads home.

Brig. Gen. Robert Thomson, the senior British officer at Camp Bastion, knew what the situation looked like. But he assured the *Telegraph*, “This is not an evacuation. I am standing here without body armor, and we are going at walking pace.”

Yet filling the skies above were assault helicopters and warplanes to cover the departures of dozens of C-130 cargo planes, Chinook heavy helicopters and other

military transport aircraft as they whisked away army personnel in a less-than-glorious airborne parade that lasted 20 hours.

Despite General Thomson’s assurances, the scene was starkly reminiscent of 1975 and the final withdrawal of the United States from Saigon, Vietnam. With the North Vietnamese closing in, the U.S. embarked on the largest helicopter evacuation in history. The North Vietnamese had successfully attacked the airport runways, leaving the U.S. with helicopter withdrawal as the only option. Even the choppers were reportedly tracked by Vietnamese anti-aircraft batteries, but rather than choosing to fire, the Communists were content to let the last Americans scamper away.

They left behind millions of people in the clutches of Viet Cong and Khmer Rouge monsters, who tortured, mutilated, massacred, dismembered, disemboweled and murdered tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of civilian men, women, children and babies.

“It was an amazing moment, but surreal,” said Capt. Anthony Nguyen, a Vietnamese-American, after arriving at Kandahar Airfield from Helmand, Afghanistan. “We are

not refugees or anything, but it kind of reminded me of scenes of Vietnam, of people running to the helicopters.”

### The Corpses in the Graves

From the onset of the latest war in Afghanistan, the coalition forces knew what challenges they were up against. The United States and Britain knew lives would be lost. They knew billions of dollars would be spent. They also knew the nature of the enemies: the Taliban, al Qaeda, and their sympathizers. That’s because these were the very people the Central Intelligence Agency had helped fight the Soviets. They knew the rugged geographical barriers they would have to battle. They also knew that the terrain was notorious for swallowing empires.

With all that foreknowledge, it is remarkable how commanders and politicians allowed the Afghanistan campaign to deteriorate to the extent it did. But it reinforces the veracity of the Bible’s prophecies regarding the British and American peoples today. As Herbert W.

Armstrong proved in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, these nations descended from Abraham. They are the recipients of the national blessings God promised for his unwavering





obedience. But now, because Abraham's modern descendants are unquestionably and adamantly disobedient, God is removing those blessings and replacing them with curses. (Request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

Shortly after 9/11 in 2001, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell told the nation on NBC's *Meet the Press*, "I can assure you that our military will have plans that will go against their weaknesses, and not get trapped in ways that previous armies have gotten trapped in Afghanistan."

Those previous armies that have been trapped in Afghanistan go all the way back to the Hellenic army of Alexander the Great. Afghanistan was one of Alexander's most difficult expeditions, as Seth Jones notes in his book *In the Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan*. "His adversaries were not conventional European armies but tribesmen and horse warriors who inhabited the steppes and mountains of the region. Both sides fought barbarously. Alexander's army was technically superior to the local forces they faced, but it needed to clear and hold an expansive territory. ... Despite the bloodletting, his army failed to subjugate Afghanistan's population, and his tenuous grasp on the region collapsed after his death in 323 B.C."

British and U.S. forces were technologically superior too.

After Alexander, Afghanistan was largely left alone until around A.D. 652, when Arab armies of Mohammed's followers conquered Herat in western Afghanistan. But they too could not overwhelm the country's mountain tribes.

Learning from history, however, isn't America's or Britain's strong point. The Britons have invaded Afghanistan before—also to their detriment. During the first Anglo-Afghan War of 1839-1849, in one battle alone, 16,000 British troops were exterminated, leaving behind a single survivor. The second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878 was another quagmire that again ended with the withdrawal of the technologically superior army.

The Soviet Union gave Afghanistan its best shot beginning in 1979 in a campaign against the Mujahideen. It ended in a humiliating stalemate in 1989. Months later, the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Empire collapsed.

When the war on terror began, the United States and Britain had all this history to learn from. But in they went. And now out they are coming.

Only nations operating under a *curse*, knowing such tragic history, would repeat it. The Bible shows that while God once mightily blessed the United States and Britain, He is withdrawing those blessings. He is removing "[t]he mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator" from the leadership in these nations (Isaiah 3:2-3). He is breaking "the pride of [their] power," and as a consequence, these nations' "strength shall be spent in vain" (Leviticus 26:19-20).

### Something to Show?

Britain and the United States have little to show for all they have expended in Afghanistan. Reconstruction efforts have been pricey—and largely unsuccessful.

Take for instance the effort to rebuild the Afghan Army. In October, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction reported to Congress that Afghan security forces faced significant war casualties and high

attrition rates. Between March 2012 and August 2014, over 2,850 Afghan troops died in combat, and between September 2013 and August 2014, over 36,000 soldiers deserted or were dismissed.

As for the capabilities of the Afghan military, the public will never know them exactly because that information was abruptly classified by the United States-led coalition. A U.S. Army spokesman explained that the decision was intended to fulfill coalition forces' "responsibility to protect data that could jeopardize the operational security of our Afghan partners" during the transfer of security responsibilities. It was more likely intended to obscure the prospect that the Afghan Army—like the Iraqi Army, and the South Vietnamese Army before it—will collapse after Western forces leave.

That will leave behind a population once again in the bloodstained hands of the Taliban, whose religious leaders commit suicide bombings, enslavement, starvation, systematic massacres, rape, torture, murder and terrorism—mostly funded by extorting a narcotic crop and making it available for heroin addicts.

Speaking of the Taliban's favorite cash crop, has the coalition curbed Afghanistan's poppy production? Unfortunately, even after \$10 billion spent on counter-narcotics over the past decade, the opium hectareage in Afghanistan has more than doubled—from 91,000 hectares in 1999 to 209,000 hectares in 2013. That's enough opium to supply 90 percent of the world's demand—while bankrolling the Taliban. And which Afghan province grows 48 percent of the nation's opium-producing crop? Helmand province.

Afghanistan's leadership crisis has been another shameful debacle. A presidential election was supposed to have facilitated Afghanistan's first-ever peaceful democratic transfer of power. And yet, when rival candidates Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani refused to accept the results of a run-off election, they essentially pushed the nation to the brink of ethnic civil war.

This turmoil was another demonstration of a supposedly liberated nation coming unhinged, and the Taliban reveled in it. After bombing

➤ **AFGHANISTAN** on page 36

# SPENT IN VAIN

**W**hen America was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, it declared a war on terror. For the next 13 years, it fought to defeat tyranny, destroy weapons of mass destruction, and promote democracy and Western ideals. American firepower would make the world a better place—it was hoped.

The opposite happened. In the Iraq and Afghanistan battlefields alone, some 2.5 million United States troops put their lives on the line. Yet an Iraqi civil war and an indefatigable Taliban are destroying all America built. In Somalia and Yemen, American drones hover in the skies above and rain fire on enemies below. Yet America's allies are on the run. In Egypt, U.S. pressure helped topple a dictator ally and replace him with a democratically elected terrorist who hated America. Another coup soon followed, and a new dictator. In Libya, America bombed Muammar Qadhafi. In his wake came warring militias with terrorist links, a dead U.S. ambassador, and an ongoing deadly civil war that has killed tens of thousands.

America has great power, but in theater after theater U.S. policy is failing dramatically. Why? The simple truth is that America is being cursed by God. Leviticus 26 describes: "And I will break the pride of your power ... And your strength shall be spent in vain" (verses 19-20). The following examples dramatically illustrate how true that prophecy has become.

**KIAL LORENZ**

## LIBYA

In 1967, Col. Muammar Qadhafi inherited one of the poorest nations in Africa. By the time he was assassinated, Libya was Africa's wealthiest nation. Libya had the highest life expectancy and highest gross domestic product per capita on the continent. Fewer people lived below the poverty line than in the Netherlands. In some respects, it was considered the Switzerland of Africa. Wealth was being generated; schools and hospitals were running, and were free. In 2011, the U.S. led an air campaign supporting the "Arab Spring," ousting Qadhafi from power. The result was catastrophic. Oil production was halved to 810,000 barrels per day. Since 2011, 32,000 people have been killed. The nation is locked in war. It is a terrorist haven, and some 250 militias now "run" what once was the wealthiest country in Africa.

## IRAQ

In 2003, Iraq was invaded by a U.S.-led coalition to remove Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, destroy weapons of mass destruction, and create a democracy. Eight years later, 7,888 U.S. soldiers and contractors were dead, along with 190,000 Iraqi civilians. Total cost including reconstruction: \$2.2 trillion. Less than two years after America declared "mission complete," the U.S.-built Iraqi Army had virtually collapsed, the radical Islamic State had proclaimed a caliphate, Iraq was engulfed in civil war, and over 24,000 more people were dead. Today, Iraq is essentially split into three warring regions: the area controlled by the Islamic State in the middle, a Kurdish autonomous region in the north, and a Shiite-controlled south. On Nov. 7, 2014, President Barack Obama announced he would send 1,500 additional troops back to Iraq to support the 1,500 who already returned to the country America just withdrew from.



## AFGHANISTAN

After more than 13 years of war and the death of Osama bin Laden, America is bringing its troops home. The war cost \$710 billion and 2,349 lives of American soldiers. The result: After spending \$56 billion to equip the Afghan Army, it is unclear whether it will continue the fight the Taliban—or switch sides and join it. At the start of the war, the Taliban fielded an estimated 2,000 soldiers. Now, that number has swelled to 60,000. The mission is a failure in other ways too. America invested \$7.6 billion in programs to counter opium production, but opium production is now twice what it was when America first invaded. Afghan leaders now appear to be cutting deals with the Taliban in preparation for America's complete withdrawal.

## YEMEN

In 2009, President Obama approved a drone-bombing campaign to help the Yemeni government combat Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the north. America's involvement turned the local populace against the ruling government. By 2011, the Yemeni Army and American drones were also fighting al Qaeda in the south. Today the country is mixed in civil war, its capital city is controlled by the Houthi, and the U.S.-backed government faces collapse.

## SOMALIA

Washington is trying to help the Somali government to 1) retake control of vast parts of its country lost to the Iranian-sponsored terrorist group al-Shabaab, and 2) maintain a foothold on the strategic Gulf of Aden waterway. In October 2013, President Obama approved U.S. boots on the ground to act as advisers. About 220 terrorist operatives have been killed by U.S. drone strikes. About \$700 million has been spent propping up the Somali National Army and training African Union forces to combat al-Shabaab. So far, al-Shabaab remains undeterred.

## EGYPT

In February 2011, America helped push long-standing ally Hosni Mubarak from the presidency. This ushered in an era of instability and violence. Three leaders later, GDP growth is cut in half from 4 percent to less than 2 percent; unemployment has jumped from 9 percent to 12 percent; external debt has climbed from \$34.7 billion to \$45.3 billion. Meanwhile, vehicle thefts have increased fourfold, homicides have tripled, and armed robberies have risen from 233 the year before Mubarak's resignation to 2,807 in 2012. Politically, America's one-time ally now regards the U.S. with skepticism.



**BOOTS ON THE GROUND** Berlin isn't afraid to deploy its troops where others fear to tread, like the roads of Kunduz.

# Stepping Into America's Footprint

Germany: a country with a grown-up foreign policy **BY RICHARD PALMER**

**I**N OCTOBER, BRITAIN SLUNK IGNOMINIOUSLY out of Afghanistan. The United States is also itching to get out. “The bottom line is, it’s time to turn the page on more than a decade in which so much of our foreign policy was focused on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq,” U.S. President Barack Obama said in May 2014, sticking to his self-imposed withdrawal deadline of 2016.

But there is one country in no hurry to leave: Germany.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel wants America to extend the NATO mission beyond 2016, German news magazine *Spiegel* reported on October 12, citing anonymous sources. Chancellor Merkel reportedly told a parliamentary committee that she doubted that local security forces will be competent by the time German soldiers are scheduled to leave.

Meanwhile, Germany is investigating the possibility of sending soldiers to Iraq. And the Green Party—one of the nation’s most pacifist political groups—has called for German boots on the ground in Syria as part of a United Nations mission.

20 America’s foreign policy is becoming increasingly disastrous. Meanwhile, Germany’s

is becoming more assertive. As America retreats from the world, Germany is starting to fill the footprints it has left behind.

## Policing the Middle East

Britain’s politicians may be trying to convince the public that Afghanistan is a job well done, but Germany’s are not. The best German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier could bring himself to say in an Oct. 12, 2014, newspaper column was that, compared to Iraq and Syria, “the results in Afghanistan are fairly respectable” (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*).

But Steinmeier didn’t just denounce the mission with faint praise. He also implicitly campaigned to extend it. He warned against “hastily leaving the country, like the Americans did in Vietnam in 1975”—and have been prone to do ever since.

With Britain drawing its forces down, Germany could become the second-largest foreign force in Afghanistan. The German force has come a long way during 13 years of war there. Berlin began the mission as a finicky partner to the U.S., undertaking only certain missions and pointing to its pacifist constitution and reluctant public. Yet now Germany is America’s most

dependable ally—the one least likely to cut and run. In fact, the Germans seem more dependable than the Americans themselves. It would not be inconceivable for Germany to stay put even after America adds Afghanistan to the list of countries it has messily left behind.

Meanwhile, Germany has sent a team to Irbil in Kurdistan to decide whether the Bundeswehr should deploy there to train the Kurds. Germany has already joined America, Britain, France and other Western nations in arming the Kurds, and has flown some Kurdish soldiers back to Germany for training. Berlin has deployed a handful of soldiers to Iraq to train the Kurds and is now considering a more substantial deployment. Steinmeier said he’d received “signals” from other European Union nations that they may be interested in joining such an effort.

Germany is also considering going beyond Kurdistan and training Sunni fighters in Iraq as well. On October 31, Chancellor Merkel said, “If we were asked, we would consider training Sunni soldiers, not just Kurds.” Merkel said the Sunnis had been “badly treated” by the previous Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad, oppression that has given Islamic



State terrorists a strong following among Sunnis.

Overall, Germany's foreign policy seems to be quickly coming of age. For example, Germany wants to confront the Islamic State and bring order to the chaos in Iraq—but not in such a way that hands the whole region over to Iran. Therefore Merkel suggests that Germany work with Iran's Sunni adversaries. America's shortsighted thinking means it usually focuses only on the crisis at hand. Here Germany is thinking of the future.

Confronting the Islamic State has support from across Germany's political spectrum. Even the Green Party, which can usually be counted on to oppose any use of the German Army, favors the mission, given the right conditions. “[The Islamic State] can only be beaten militarily,” Greens parliamentary leader Katrin Göring-Eckardt told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* on October 13. Germany “must be prepared to deploy the Bundeswehr in an operation,” she said. She was clear that she wanted a United Nations mandate for a mission—but still, for the Green Party this marked a rare call to arms.

Steinmeier ruled out any German deployment to Syria. But boots on the ground is not the only option. The Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (swp) think tank, which advises the German parliament, has called for the establishment of a no-fly zone.

### Wise Restraint

Of course, a mature foreign policy doesn't mean sending in the army at every sign of trouble. When it comes to withholding its military, Germany has also proved wiser than Britain and America.

In 2011, Britain, France and America led a military intervention in Libya, enforcing a no-fly zone in the air and deploying special forces on the ground. Germany, by contrast, refused to get involved. In many circles within Germany's current government, that was viewed as a mistake. Immediately after the attack, Germany's NATO allies labeled it as “an unreliable partner,” and America and France lost trust in Berlin.

Now, however, trust lost has been regained. Look at the disastrous results of the Libyan intervention. Muammar Qadhafi was a brutal dictator, but at least he opposed radical Islam. His fall turned all

of North Africa into a new battleground in the war against terror. Terrorism surged in Algeria. The West had to step in to prevent Mali being completely overrun. Radical Islamists gained control of some of Qadhafi's advanced weapons. And Libya is still suffering under civil war—a deadly no-man's land and playground for terrorists.

The whole region would be far better off had the West followed Germany's lead, not America's.

### Pushed to the Limit

In January 2014, Germany's top leaders announced a new direction for the nation's foreign policy. “[W]e Germans are advancing towards a form of responsibility that has not yet become routine for us,” German President Joachim Gauck told the Munich Security Conference. “In my opinion, Germany should make a more substantial contribution, and it should make it earlier and more decisively if it is to be good partner.”

German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen and Foreign Minister Steinmeier made similar statements. It was a call to action, and even a call to arms, from the top decision makers in German government.

The change in Germany's foreign policy was not immediate. It was not as simple as turning the German foreign policy switch from “off” to “on.” But nearly a year down the line, there is a clear difference in Germany's military complexion.

Berlin currently has the Bundeswehr deployed in 16 foreign missions. Most recently, Germany agreed to deploy up to 100 soldiers to Senegal to combat the spread of Ebola. With 1,537 soldiers in Afghanistan, 677 in Kosovo, 290 fighting piracy off the coast of East Africa, 145 patrolling southern Lebanon, 251 manning missile batteries in Turkey, 151 training soldiers in Mali, 4 conducting a similar training mission in Somalia, 247 patrolling the Mediterranean, as well as many other smaller deployments, the German military is being stretched to its limits. It is a military developed in the Cold War to fight Russian tanks in Europe. It was specifically designed not to be deployed abroad. Though the reform process has begun, Germany is clearly struggling to meet the demands being made of it.

Nonetheless, in just under a year, Germany has gone from being a reluctant military power to one just as willing to use

force as any other. German leaders revealed recently that they are investigating a new military mission every few weeks.

To this point, however, the nation has made this transformation without increasing its military budget. Germany is doing more with less. And the only way it has managed to do so is by cutting back on maintenance.

The result has been a series of embarrassing breakdowns. Only 42 of Germany's 109 Eurofighters and 38 of its 89 Tornados are flightworthy. Only 70 of the army's 180 armored vehicles are operational. Its navy has similar problems: Only 7 of its 11 ships and a quarter of its submarines are combat-ready.

Defense Minister von der Leyen was so concerned by the problems that she commissioned external auditors to examine the state of the Army. The auditors concluded that the military cannot handle any more missions.

Yet Germany keeps pushing on. In addition to the possible new mission in Iraq, it is now considering sending drones and 200 soldiers to Ukraine.

### Fixing the Weakness

These maintenance troubles are prompting a national debate about the military budget. Once again, former German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg has led the way, writing in the September 3 *Wall Street Journal*, “It is appalling that Germany recently decided to cut military spending by about €800 million (US\$1.05 billion) in 2015.”

By the end of the month Germany's whole political class was “pondering aloud the possible revision of what has long been a political no-go: raising the budget for defense spending,” as the *New York Times* put it (Sept. 29, 2014).

“Now I am being asked whether we should spend more money,” German defense expert Thomas Wiegold said. “That has never happened before” (ibid).

America has the resources, the army and the power to take responsibility for many of the problems around the world. But it lacks the will.

Germany doesn't have the same resources as America does, yet. But it has will and foresight that America lacks.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER A German soldier stands on a Soviet relic in Feyzabad.



Of the two, the shortfall in equipment is far easier to make up for.

As we enter 2015, Germany seems poised to upgrade its military to match its foreign-policy ambitions. Once it commits to spending the money, Germany will not take long to solve its maintenance troubles. It is far easier to order the spare parts of a bunch of planes than to order new squadrons. And Germany has an even more powerful option on the table: military-sharing.

If Europe's militaries work together, they will have the necessary resources to replace America in their neighboring regions of North Africa and the Middle East. And Germany is leading the way in this cooperation. The Dutch Airmobile Brigade has already been subordinated to the German Army, and one of its mechanized brigades is preparing to follow suit. On Oct. 29, 2014, von der Leyen signed an agreement with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak to tie the Polish Army more tightly to the German Army.

Under the agreement, a Polish battalion will serve under a German brigade, and vice versa. The two armies will conduct training and exercises together, exchange officers, and develop common rules and standards so they can integrate more closely in the future.

"The hour has come, finally, for concrete steps towards a European army," Hans-Peter Bartels, chairman of the German parliament's defense committee, said this past summer. "Germany is driving the European army project," wrote *Die Welt* at the time.

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Germany's army may be struggling to keep up with the

nation's foreign policy, but, at the same time, it is welding entire brigades onto itself.

### The Vital Importance of Wise Diplomacy

"Of all the factors that make for the power of a nation, the most important, however unstable, is the quality of diplo-

macy," Hans J. Morgenthau, one of the 20th century's greatest thinkers on the subject of international relations, wrote in his book *Politics Among Nations*.

To Morgenthau, diplomacy meant more than polite niceties and getting along with other nations. When he used the term *diplomacy*, he was talking about the nation's decision making, its foreign policy, how it uses the resources at its disposal and how it confronts problems.

"All of the other factors that determine national power are, as it were, the raw material out of which the power of a nation is fashioned," Morgenthau wrote. "The quality of a nation's diplomacy combines those different factors into an integrated whole, gives them direction and weight, and awakens their slumbering potentialities by giving them the breath of actual power."

"[A] competent diplomacy can increase the power of a nation beyond what one would expect it to be in view of all the factors combined," he wrote. "Often in history the Goliath without brains or soul

has been smitten and slain by the David who had both."

Diplomacy "will tap the hidden sources of national strength and transform them fully and securely into political realities," he continued, since it gives direction to the national effort.

This gets to the heart of America's weakness and Germany's strength. America has abundant resources and has spent vast amounts on its military. Yet it is wasted because of the childish diplomacy at its head. Germany lacks the resources and the huge army, air force and navy. Yet it is much better at handling what it has.

We are witnessing the rise of one power and the fall of another. Great powers that act foolishly do not last long. Meanwhile, Germany is already acting like a great power, even though it does not yet have the world-class military of one. Mogherini's

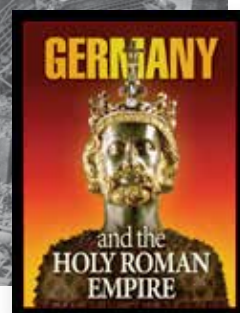
This is a reversal the *Trumpet* has forecast for years. During that time, Germany has gone from being a divided nation and the sick man of Europe to the undisputed leader of the Continent.

This rise, and this transformation into a power willing to take responsibility for its neighborhood with military force, is one of the top trends to watch in 2015. The changes we have seen in the last few months are certain to accelerate. But biblical prophecy reveals the ultimate outcome of this development. It will be a repeat of the role Germany has frequently played throughout history: that of instigating war. The next time, though, that war will unfold on a horrific scale, eclipsing anything the world has experienced before.

To read about this prophesied war, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. ■

## What happened the last time Germany built up its military?

Like today, the world was unconcerned—at first. To see what happened and how history will repeat itself, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.





► **SPANKING** from page 7

“To the extent that the child understands and appreciates genuinely that the child is loved by the parent, and that even though it hurts, the parent’s intent is to help the child—to the extent that the child understands that, the consequences are not negative,” Professor Dodge told *Christian Science Monitor*.

“If the child interprets it as a parent who is out of control, or a parent who does not love the child—a parent being hurtful and hateful—that is the bad message and the mechanism by which [the negative outcome] happens,” Dodge continued. This is the most important point to consider in regard to the whole corporal punishment issue.

Instead of getting rid of corporal punishment, educators should work to provide the right education for parents on how to properly raise their children, including clear instruction on when and how to use corporal punishment.

### The New Spanking

Some scholars warn against the serious psychological harm done to children when parents use non-spanking punishment such as screaming at children. Screaming is now called the “new spanking.” This is common in the more permissive, white, educated families.

Some experts now believe that when a parent “loses it” or verbally “goes ballistic” on their children, it can be more damaging psychologically than spanking. Yet no one is advocating a legal ban on moms and dads screaming at their children.

While the Peterson case certainly flushed the furor and disagreement over spanking back into the limelight, doesn’t it also reveal a bigger problem—the tragic state of confusion and disarray in American families? Spanking does not cause child abuse, partner-to-partner abuse or wrecked marriages. Our *selfish, self-centered human nature* does.

No academic study can help us here. Who in this country, or in this world, knows how to make family work? Who knows how to build strong families that will not tear down society, but will help build it up? Spanking isn’t the real question. The real question is: What is the right way to raise children?

### Parents Are Teachers

Robert Siegel stated this at the beginning of his interview with Elizabeth Gershoff: “The principle of spare the rod and spoil the child was commonly observed until not long ago. Those who beat their children could cite the Bible. The book of Proverbs equates not physically punishing a son with hating him. Kids need discipline. How and when did this change for so many Americans?”

The expression “spare the rod and spoil the child” is not found in the Bible. However, the proverb he referred to is Proverbs 13:24: “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” A more modern translation reads, “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him” (English Standard Version).

Many academic, scholarly and liberal-minded people hold contempt for the Holy Bible. You can sense that contempt in Siegel’s words, “Those who beat their children could cite the Bible.” Nowhere in the Bible are parents given permission to physically abuse their children. However, parents are instructed to be loving teachers. In the Authorized Version the English word *chasteneth* is translated from the Hebrew *musar*, which means to give instruction, warning, reproof and rebuke.

When God created family, He gave parents a full-time responsibility to raise their children to be respectful, obedient, hardworking, law-abiding, socially contributing, happy adults. This complete child-rearing package requires time and considerable effort. Notice carefully that *rebuke*—which at times requires physical punishment, or “the rod”—is only a part of proper child rearing. Anyone truly wanting to help their children and fix their family problems must get back to a Bible-based formula for child rearing.

Family was created by God. And God has an incredible purpose for this institution that few understand. God wants every human being to be born into His own divine Family (e.g. Genesis 1:26; John 3:1-8). He is a Father, and He wants His children raised to meet their potential!

### Living Without Spanking

Knowingly or not, Siegel makes an important point all parents, but especially

American parents, need to think deeply about. After referring to the use of the Bible to support physical punishment, he said, “Kids need discipline. How and when did this change for so many Americans?” At one time, especially in America, parents did rely on the Bible to instruct them how to raise families. Our Founding Fathers built a societal foundation predicated on families following the principles of the Bible to live, grow and build a successful nation. Our generation has lost sight of this primary American value.

What is the result? Our families are dysfunctional, and the nation they constitute is now in obvious and serious decline. America has become a nation living without more than spanking. We are a nation

**Spanking isn’t the real question. The real question is: What is the right way to raise children?**

guilty of allowing our children to comfort, teach and nurture themselves. In bitterness and resentment, our children have become our oppressors (Isaiah 3:12). Study this verse. It is more than a condemnation of children—it is an indictment against parents who fail to build proper families.

The Bible is full of examples of what happens to families and nations that desire to live without godly spanking and the love, teaching, chastening, guiding and nurturing that goes with it. Study the life of our first parents, Adam and Eve. They chose to disbelieve God, and they ended up raising a delinquent son who murdered his brother (Genesis 3 and 4).

This common tragedy of dysfunctional parenting does not have to happen to you and your family.

Request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s groundbreaking classic book *The Incredible Human Potential*. This book will reveal to you the true nature of God and His purpose for the human family. If you want to do further study on proper ways to rear children, request a free subscription to the *Royal Vision* magazine. You can also visit our informative website featuring hundreds of articles on Christian living subjects such as child rearing at [www.pcog.org](http://www.pcog.org).

# What Do You Know About God?

To most people, God is a mystery.  
But He need not be!

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

**I** WAS RETURNING TO MY HOTEL IN New Delhi some years ago from a private conference with the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India. Ever since arriving in India I had noticed cows and oxen wandering through the streets. I had never seen such animals straying loosely through city streets in any other country.

“Don’t these cattle stray quite a distance from home?” I asked of the car driver.

“Oh yes,” he answered.

“But when,” I asked, “they wander all over the streets so far away, how do their owners find them, to drive them back home for the night?”

The car driver smiled. “The owners don’t. But the cattle and oxen know their owners and where they live. They find their own way home in the evening.”

Immediately I thought of the scripture in the first chapter of Isaiah, which I had never understood so perfectly before this living explanation.

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, ... they are gone away backward” (Isaiah 1:2-4).

And this was spoken of ancient Israel, a nation to which God had revealed Himself by many evidences and miracles. How much less do other nations know



about God—about WHO and WHAT God is!

Nevertheless, other nations are human beings just like the nation Israel. It is important that you notice God calls these humans His own children. Many people

say, “God just doesn’t seem real to me.” God is a great mystery to them. Their own human fathers don’t seem like a mystery. They seem real.

God does reveal Himself to us in the Bible, if we will just understand it, so that He will seem real to us.

## Why Does God Seem Unreal?

Of the peoples of the Roman Empire, God inspired the Apostle Paul to write: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness *suppress the truth*. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity [spiritual], has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made [physical]. So they are without excuse; for although they knew [about] God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming

to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:18-22; Revised Standard Version).

The billions now living on Earth not only are ignorant of the most important knowledge—WHO and WHAT God is—they seem *not to want to know!* They are willingly in ignorance of this most important knowledge and relationship possible in human life!

*Astonishing*—but TRUE!

And why have humans been *willingly* ignorant of man’s most important relationship? One explanation, only, is possible! All nations have been *deceived* (Revelation 12:9).

## First Century A.D. Concept

Coming to the New Testament, we catch a glimpse of the ignorance of any knowledge about God. The scholarly of the world in the first century were the Athenian intellectuals. Some of them encountered the Apostle Paul in Athens.

“Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus [atop Mars Hill], saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? ...

“Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions [objects of worship—Revised Standard Version], I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth ... he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on ... the earth, ... For in him we live, and move, and have our being ...” (Acts 17:18-19, 22-26, 28).

And now what of the scholarly of our Western world *today*? Education has become a matter of memory instillation. From elementary grades to higher graduate levels of study, our educational systems inject ready-made concepts, ideologies and a mixture of facts and fables into the unsuspecting minds of children,

youths and young adults. Students in our school systems are graded according to how well they accept, memorize and can recite or write in tests what has been taught—whether true or false.

Modern education has given universal acceptance to the fable of evolution. Evolution is the agnostic's or atheist's attempt to explain the existence of a creation without the preexistence of the Creator. It removes God from the picture. It blinds itself to the mystery by attempting to remove God altogether.

### Material Creation Seems Real

The creation is material, visible, and therefore seems real. The system of modern education has become entirely materialistic. The modern scientific concept denies the invisible and the spiritual as having existence. Yet all our seemingly unsolvable problems and the evils in this world are spiritual in nature.

I quoted above from the first chapter of the book of Romans. The 28th verse says, "... they did not like to retain God in their knowledge." Little or nothing is taught about God, but even in the elementary grades the basic concept—the APPROACH to knowledge—is evolution.

Is it any wonder, then, that the scholarly do not know WHO or WHAT God is? They believe what they have been taught.

But WHY?

Why *willingly* ignorant? In Romans 8:7 it is stated plainly that the natural mind of humans is hostile against God. This does not necessarily mean that all unconverted human minds are actively, intentionally, maliciously hostile. Most humans are passively hostile against God. They simply do not normally think about God. If God is mentioned they become embarrassed and often try to change the subject. They probably do not realize, in their own minds, that they have a hostile attitude toward God. Yet that is the very reason, psychologically, why they want to avoid the subject. In other words, the average person has an unrealized passive hostility against God. Without realizing it actively, they want God to "keep His nose out of their business"—except at a time when they are in deep trouble and they cry out for God's help.

Spiritual things—invisible things—are a mystery to them. They do not understand those things, real though they are, because they cannot see them. They remain a deep mystery so they deny their existence.

What does the Bible reveal about WHO and WHAT is God? It is *only* in this inspired book that God reveals Himself. But mankind in general has never believed God—that is, *what God says!*

### God, Creator of Universe


God is Creator of ALL—of everything in the vast universe—the stars, the galaxies in endless space, this Earth, man and everything in the Earth.

That is WHAT God is—what He *does*. He CREATES! He designs, forms and shapes. He gives LIFE! He is the great GIVER. And His law—His *way of life*—is the way of GIVING, not GETTING, which is the way of this world.

But what is God *like*? WHO is God? There have been many conceptions. Some believe God is merely the *good* or good intentions *within* each human—merely some part of each human individual. Some have imagined God was some kind of idol composed of gold or silver, or carved out of wood, stone or other material. The Israelites thought, while Moses was communing with God on Mount Sinai, that God was, or looked like, a golden calf.

Many think God is a single individual supreme Personage. Some thought He was a spirit. But the generally accepted teaching of traditional Christianity is that God is a trinity—God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which they call a "Ghost." The word *trinity* is not found in the Bible, nor does the Bible teach this doctrine.

So what does the Bible teach? ■



# Who is God?

## That's just the first question!

This article is an excerpt from Chapter 1 of *Mystery of the Ages*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. This one book will lead you through a comprehensive overview of the entire Bible. Order your FREE copy for the Bible's answers to life's seven most important mysteries:

- Who and What Is God?
- Mystery of Angels and Evil Spirits
- Mystery of Man
- Mystery of Civilization
- Mystery of Israel
- Mystery of the Church
- Mystery of the Kingdom of God





# World Peace Coming Soon

Our world is full of war and violence. Will we ever have peace?

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

**T**HE WORLD IS AT WAR. ISLAMIC STATE TERRORISTS are slashing their way across the Middle East. Iran continues building nuclear weapons. The United States and North Korea are in a nuclear standoff. People in Africa, South America, Asia and even Europe are suffering armed conflicts, and terror continuously threatens the free world. Right now, there are over 20 wars or significant armed conflicts taking place around the globe, directly or indirectly affecting the lives of millions. On top of all this, we suffer violence, corruption, crime, greed and deceit in our nations, our cities and our homes.

Today, the number one problem facing us is actually human *survival!*

Will we ever see world peace? Many leaders in government, science and education agree that world peace is possible only through *world government*. But they also agree that such a government is impossible.

Is universal peace impossible? Is world government just a theory? Are we doomed to live in this violent world until it finally explodes?

You need to understand what the Bible says about this. It accurately describes our modern world and specifies that it is headed for even worse violence in the immediate future. But it also forecasts a future filled with hope—to occur in *your* lifetime! Open your Bible and answer the questions in this study directly from the Scriptures, and prove this inspiring vision of soon-coming *peace!*

## A Coming World Government

God revealed the course of future history to a young man more than 2,500 years ago. During the time of the great Chaldean Empire (circa 626-539 B.C.), King Nebuchadnezzar had a startling dream. None of his magicians and astrologers could tell him the dream. But the dream and its meaning were revealed to a young Jew named Daniel. In Daniel 2, we see that this dream actually revealed the scope of world events that would flow from that time right up to the present day!

1. What was the dream? Daniel 2:31-35. And what was the interpretation? Verses 36-43.

2. After viewing the last symbol in this succession of world-ruling empires, what did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream? Verses 44-45.

This final empire that will crush everything that went before it will actually be the Kingdom of the great God!

3. God also sent a very special messenger to the Earth with important news for all humanity. Who

was this messenger, and what was His message? Matthew 4:23.

Jesus Christ was a news reporter who brought advance news. He reported news before it had happened! He delivered a sensational announcement of the most colossal future event ever to occur in human history. His message was the gospel, or “good news,” of a coming *government*—the Kingdom of God. This government will be a literal, world-ruling government established here on Earth.

4. Who will lead that impending world-ruling regime? Luke 1:30-33; John 18:36-37; Revelation 11:15.

5. But where is Jesus Christ now? Will He return to Earth? Acts 1:11; John 14:3.

6. What will be His primary task when He comes back? Acts 3:20-21.

Verse 21 talks about a *restitution*, or restoration, of ALL THINGS. As we will see, at one time the world was at peace. Christ is looking forward to His return so He can *restore* that peace to the whole Earth!

7. When He returns, what will His office be? Zechariah 14:9.

In order to restore all things, Christ will return as King of kings and begin by restoring the government of God over the entire Earth (Revelation 19:16; Isaiah 9:6-7).

## The Cause of World Violence

At one time, perhaps millions of years ago, the peace-producing government of God existed on this planet. God placed angels here to administer that government and beautify His creation (see Job 38:4-7, where they are called “morning stars” and “sons of God”). But these angels failed at this job when Lucifer, the archangel over them, rebelled against God (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:14-15; Jude 6).

1. What was Lucifer’s sin? Isaiah 14:13-14.

2. Lucifer rebelled against his Creator. Did man do the same thing? Genesis 3:2-6.

God gave the first human beings a choice. They could obey Him and restore His government, or they could create a society of their own making—not based on His perfect law and government, but on their own ideas, influenced by Lucifer (now named Satan) and his adversarial lifestyle of hatred, competition, envy and war. Adam and Eve chose the latter, founding the world we live in today.

God allowed the first human beings to make this choice, but He did not give up on restoring His government—nor did He give up on mankind. He allowed our Satan-influenced world to continue to develop to

demonstrate to mankind the ugliness and violence produced by godless civilization. As our current situation proves, the result of humankind's experiment with self-government is impending self-destruction!

3. Jesus Christ prophesied that He would return. Do we know when? Matthew 24:36; 25:13. Yet can we know *approximately* when it will take place? Matthew 24:32-33.

4. What signs did Jesus say would precede His Second Coming? Verses 3-31. Many of these problems have existed throughout human history. Does Christ give us specifics about world conditions immediately before His return? Verse 21. What would be the end result of this Tribulation if it continued unabated? Verse 22. Has there ever been a time like that before? Mark 13:19.

These verses show us how serious the threat of this nuclear age really is! Not until modern times has man had the weaponry to extinguish all life from this planet. Only in an age of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons has such destruction been possible. These and many other verses in the Old and New Testaments refer to this impending catastrophe.

5. Did God say whether He would allow this cataclysm to wipe out all human life? Verse 20.

Thank God that Christ will return to *stop* the annihilation of the human race!

### Mankind's Response

1. Will mankind witness the return of Jesus Christ? Matthew 24:30.

The greatest event in human history—the Second Coming of the Son of God—will be an unmissable, earthshaking event.

2. Will Christ be *alone* when He returns? Matthew 25:31; Revelation 19:14. Will any others accompany Christ? Zechariah 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:14-17.

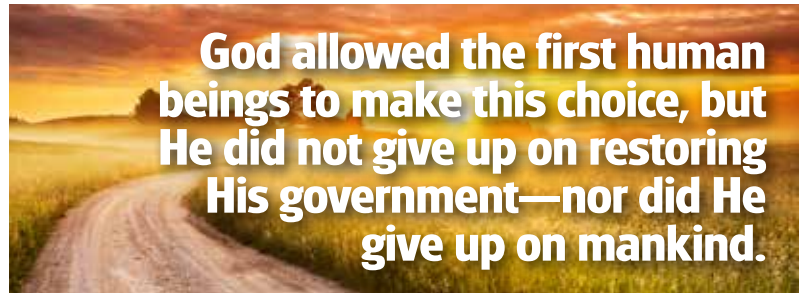
Christ will be escorted by a powerful army of millions of angels, as well as the *saints*, those people who received God's Holy Spirit by repentance and baptism and who will have become Spirit-born members of the God Family!

3. After thousands of years of violence and the bloodiest tribulation of all time, how will people respond to this new government? Revelation 16:13-14; 17:14.

4. Mankind will actually war against God! But how will this battle against Christ conclude? Zechariah 14:12; Revelation 19:11-16.

The Bible prophesies that many people will rebel against Christ's authority, perhaps thinking He is an enemy alien. They will attack Him. He will therefore have to subdue the world with a "rod of iron" (see also Revelation 2:27). At first, Christ will have to **FORCE** humanity to submit to His loving rule.

But under that rule, the nations will finally learn through experience that Christ is a righteous ruler who brings peace, happiness and prosperity.



### Satan's End—and Renewed Peace!

1. What will happen to Satan after Christ returns? Revelation 20:1-3.

2. Is Satan responsible for influencing mankind to sin? Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9.

When the source of all evil is no longer constantly broadcasting his attitudes, the violent results of this satanic influence will subside.

3. What will Christ and the saints do then? Revelation 2:26-27; 20:4; Daniel 7:22.

Only the Spirit-born Family of God will serve in positions of authority in the Kingdom of God.

4. What will Christ's rule be like? Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 20:25-28.

Christ and His assistants will rule with love and outgoing concern for all their subjects.

5. Will this influence people's attitudes toward government? Isaiah 2:2-3. What will this change in attitude produce? Verse 4; Micah 4:3-5.

Once the world is at peace, Christ and His assistants will be able to reeducate the world in a way of life that is based on *give* instead of *get*—God's way of love, which mankind has been deprived of for millennia!

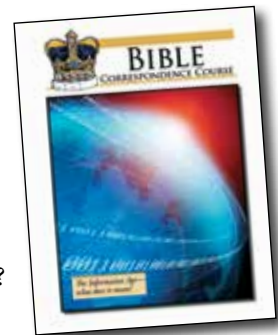
6. How will this change of government affect the animal realm? Isaiah 11:6-8.

7. Will this peace spread throughout the Earth? Verse 9.

All mankind will learn a new way of life—God's way of outgoing concern for others. That loving way of life will be based upon every man, woman and child living by God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments. Read about the results of that way of life in Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

What a contrast that world will be to the wretched, violent misery of the world we live in today! If you read and study the remaining verses in Deuteronomy 28, you will see an apt description of the world around you.

The Bible says this wonderful world to come is very near. Soon a utopia of peace, abundance and happiness will be here for all mankind. To learn more about what that world will be like, request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like* by Herbert W. Armstrong.



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

You can read previous articles in this series online at [trmpt.co/bibleiq](http://trmpt.co/bibleiq)



Germany's Merkel and Britain's Cameron

## Britain about to leave EU?

**O**N OCTOBER 23, THE EUROPEAN Commission slapped Britain with a bill of \$2.7 billion. European officials recalculated national payments to the European Union based on member nations' economic progress since 1995. Due to Britain's perceived economic growth, it was ordered to pay this additional amount. Adding salt to the wound, Eurocrats demanded that Britain pay the bill by December 1—or face a \$64 million fine (2.5 percent) every month it went unpaid.

This surprise bill outraged British politicians. Prime Minister David Cameron said, “If people think I am paying that bill on 1 December, they have another think coming. ... It is an unacceptable way for this organization to work—to suddenly present a bill like this for such a vast sum of money with so little time to pay it.”

BBC reported that Cameron “sounded like a prime minister unleashed; by turns scornful and furious, lectern thumping, downright angry” (Oct. 24, 2014).

Asked how this bill would impact Britain remaining part of the EU, Mr. Cameron responded, “You do not join an association that suddenly thumps you with a bill for €2 billion three weeks

before you've got to pay it. If it behaves in this way, it shouldn't get surprised when its members say this cannot go on and it's got to change.”

The timing was bad for Cameron, who has been trying to persuade right-of-center voters to support Britain's continued EU membership. The \$2.7 billion surprise did not help his cause.

The immediate crisis was averted when a compromise was negotiated allowing Britain to pay the bill in two installments, one in July and one in September, and that it would be offset by London's annual rebate, to be paid in advance. But the larger issue of UK-EU relations isn't going away.

Even ahead of the European Commission's bill, on October 9, the UK Independence Party (UKIP), which is devoted to getting Britain out of the EU, won its first seats in Britain's Parliament.

Think tank Stratfor noticed Britain's political shift: “[UKIP leader Nigel] Farage's rapid rise in British politics has moved the entire British political spectrum toward more euroskeptical positions, and no major party is impervious to UKIP's influence. ... Britain's traditional party system dominated by the Tories [Conservatives] and Labor will undergo a tough test in 2015” (Oct. 15, 2014).

Even with a very small number of parliamentary seats, UKIP is forcing Britain to take a tougher stance against the EU. Even Labor has committed to holding a referendum before any new powers are given to Brussels. This political shift shows that more and more Britons are strongly opposed to their country's position in the EU. Whichever parties come out on top in the elections, this groundswell against the EU won't change.

One way or another—either pulled out by angry voters or pushed out by an impatient

EU—Britain will not remain in the EU.

“Britain is going to look back on Monday, Jan. 1, 1973, in all probability, as a most tragically historic date—a date fraught with ominous potentialities!” wrote Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the *Trumpet's* predecessor, the *Plain Truth*. “For that date marked the United Kingdom's entry into the European Community” (March 1973).

“Probably Germany will lead and dominate the coming United States of Europe,” Mr. Armstrong wrote in 1956. “But Britain will be no part of it!”

This forecast is coming to pass. Germany leads and dominates the eurozone today. And economic and military hazards could soon push it into consolidating power in a United States of Europe. It is clear that Britain will not be part of that.

Mr. Armstrong understood enough about Europe, Britain and, most especially, Bible prophecy to make these forecasts beginning nearly 70 years ago. For more information on what else he knew about Britain's future, read “Britain Was Warned!” in our freshly updated booklet *He Was Right*, available free upon request. ■

### A DE-DOLLARIZED WORLD

**F**OR 70 years, the United States dollar has dominated global commerce—especially the oil market. For many years, the “petrodollar” was the only currency used to buy oil in global markets. However, this is changing as Russia and other powers drop the dollar.

In August, the Russian government-controlled Gazprom energy company started taking payment in rubles for its oil shipments from the Arctic to European ports. It will take payment in Chinese renminbi for the oil it ships through the Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline.

In July, BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) announced plans for

a BRICS central bank. Its currency swaps will facilitate the ability to bypass the dollar in a number of international transactions. Given China's economic power, analysts believe the renminbi will become the central bank's official currency.

China has made other moves to circumvent the dollar. In June, Beijing started direct trade between the yuan and British pound. On September 30, China began direct trading between the yuan and euro. China has been slowly growing the list of countries with which it has direct currency trade: the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

While the U.S. dollar is currently rallying, it is simultaneously losing its status in some quarters as a world reserve currency.

# China unmoved by protesters

**P**ROTESTERS IN HONG KONG want full democracy for the 2017 election of the city's top civil position of chief executive. On August 31, China announced that the people of Hong Kong can vote in that election—but only for candidates who have been preapproved by the Communist Party's Politburo in Beijing. This announcement triggered protests, with demonstrators decrying “fake” Chinese-style democracy. They demand an unrestricted choice of candidates.

In 1997, when the British handed back Hong Kong to China, the Chinese promised the special administrative region “a high degree of autonomy” for 50 years. Now residents say that the freedom that distinguishes the city from the rest of China is rapidly disintegrating.

The Hong Kong protests drew tens of thousands to the

streets. They congested many of the city's major traffic arteries, and sparked occasional skirmishes between demonstrators and police, who sometimes used pepper spray, batons and tear gas. Some analysts believed the protests could spread into the rest of China, and viewed them as a legitimate threat to the Communist Party. But as the weeks have gone by, the number of protesters has been falling. Both Hong Kong and Beijing have said the students' demands are impossible. On October 21, Hong Kong officials finally held a round of talks with students and promised to deliver a report to Beijing about their demands. But no change resulted from the talks, and little is expected.

China's refusal to concede to or even give the protesters real recognition affirms that even in Hong Kong, the ultimate authority is Beijing. ■



An Eastern Siberian section of the pipeline that could change Asia's political calculus

## Russia, China's new pipeline

**R**USSIA BEGAN CONSTRUCTION on a new pipeline to China on September 1, with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Siberian city of Yakutsk.

Called the Power of Siberia, the new pipeline is scheduled to start pumping gas to China in early 2019. It is expected to move 4 trillion cubic meters of gas to China over the next 30

years. It will also pump gas to eastern Russia.

Putin told the audience at the ceremony that the new pipeline will “significantly strengthen the economic cooperation with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and—above all—our key partner China.”

Putin and Zhang called it the world's largest construction project. Investment from both nations will be more than \$70 billion. The completed project will create the world's largest fuel network and will give Russia the ability to link its European gas pipeline with its eastern network.

The deal will greatly reduce Russia's dependence on European buyers, lessening the effect of economic sanctions placed on Russia for its role in the Ukrainian crisis. More importantly, it will give Russia the ability to stop gas deliveries to Europe while still selling gas to Asia, potentially revolutionizing Moscow's relations with Europe.

Putin said Russia will soon be able to “more effectively implement gas flows—either more to the West or to the East—depending on world markets.”

Based on Bible prophecy, the *Trumpet* has forecast Russia's return as a major world power that will ally itself with China and break its dependence on Europe. Russia's new pipeline and investment deal is a huge step in this direction. ■



Putin celebrates another Victory Day.

## RUSSIANS SEEK 'CZAR PUTIN'

**A** campaign is underway in Russia to crown Russian President Vladimir Putin as the nation's czar, according to a September 9 report by Ukrainian website Eizvestia.com.

The Moscow-based movement called “For the Coronation of the Russian President” is collecting signatures for its petition both online and at its offices across Russia.

The organization's stated mission is to “reinstigate a monarchy in Russia and to appoint Vladimir Putin to the position of czar.” The organization's website states, “We believe Putin has done so

much for Russia and deserves to govern Russia until the end of his days, and then hand power over by inheritance to one of his sons or daughters.”

Russia was ruled by monarchs from the mid-ninth century until 1917 when Emperor of Russia Nicholas II abdicated and then was murdered along with his family by Marxist revolutionaries, destroying czarist autocracy and bringing about the Soviet Union.

Several weeks before the earliest tensions of the Ukraine crisis began, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry identified Vladimir Putin as the “prince of Rosh” discussed in Bible prophecy. Since then, Putin's power has increased and his popularity among his people has soared. He has increasingly wielded that power like a mighty monarch. The comparatively small czarist movement is unlikely to crown the president, but it adds to the growing body of evidence suggesting a monarchical component of the reign of Vladimir Putin, the “prince of Rosh.”

To understand the jaw-dropping significance of Putin's reign, read “Vladimir Putin Is the Prophesied ‘Prince of Russia,’” [theTrumpet.com/go/11979](http://theTrumpet.com/go/11979).



Syrians in the aftermath of a reported government air strike in the city of Aleppo

## Syria: Desperate times, desperate measures

**Y**OU KNOW THE SITUATION must be bad when politicians leave partisan bickering aside for a moment during an election year and vote overwhelmingly for intervention in a war-ravaged nation in the Middle East tinderbox.

On September 17, the United States House of Representatives voted 273 to 156 in favor of authorizing the Obama administration to arm and train “moderate” Syrian rebels against the Islamic State. The following day, the Senate voted 78 to 22 for the same authorization. The U.S. can now legally spend \$500 million to arm and train about 5,000 “vetted” rebels in Syria to fight the Islamic State’s nearly 20,000 militants.

That is the extent to which the Syrian crisis has deteriorated.

As recently as August, President Barack Obama was against arming any of Syria’s rebels. In a *New York Times* interview, he said that “it has always been a fantasy—this idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made

up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and [expect them to confront] a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah—that was never in the cards.” Yet now, that “fantasy” is reality, and Congress is supporting it.

At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing the day before casting his “yes” vote, Sen. Marco Rubio cited “credible reports” that asserted that the biggest enemy facing the “moderate” opposition forces in Syria is the Assad regime—not necessarily the Islamic State. Those reports said that Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces

were stepping up their fight against the “moderate” rebels that are battling both Assad and the Islamic State. Assad’s rationale is that eliminating the moderates would leave him as the only tolerable alternative for the U.S. to collaborate with against the Islamic State. The U.S. seeks to avoid that possibility by arming the moderates. “What we are asked to do now is approve funding to arm moderate rebel elements in Syria,” Rubio explained. “There is no guarantee of success. There is none. But there is a guarantee of failure if we do not even try.”

At a September 16 Senate Armed Services Committee

hearing, Gen. Martin Dempsey admitted that Assad has killed more rebels than the Islamic State has. When questioned by Sen. John McCain whether the rebels the U.S. plans to train would only fight against the Islamic State and not the Assad regime, General Dempsey said he believed that “as we train them and develop a military chain of command linked to a political structure, that we can establish objectives that defer that challenge into the future. We do not have to deal with it now.”

When Rubio asked Secretary of State John Kerry whether the U.S. may need to protect those “moderate” rebels from Assad, Kerry’s response was similar to Dempsey’s: “[Islamic State] first. That’s our policy.” It doesn’t bode well for the world if America’s military leaders say their best option is to defer core problems to the future.

The crisis in Syria is a disturbing spectacle of the lack of leadership in the United States. This fulfills Isaiah 3:2-3: gone is “[t]he mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.” ■

### FACING RADICAL ISLAM, CHRISTIANS LOOK TO ROME

**M**any Christians, even non-Catholics, look to the Catholic Church to lead the defense against radical Islam. That is what Church of England Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali said during a speech on October 2. The church’s press release about the speech states: “Bishop Nazir-Ali said that with the growth of Islamic militancy and the persecution of Christians worldwide, many people were now looking to Rome as the voice that could stem the tide. He said these people included many evangelicals he knew who never, in the past, would have thought about Rome: ‘So the Catholic

Church has both a great opportunity and also a great responsibility.”

Evangelicals and other Christian groups that just a few decades ago viewed the Catholic Church with suspicion or hostility are now looking to Rome for leadership. This marks a remarkable shift in religious history. The rise of Islamist groups like the Islamic State and the worldwide persecution of Christians are just two of several pushes in this direction.



Pope Francis





## Hamas: bold West Bank aims

**I**F YOU WONDER WHETHER Hamas deep down wants peace with Israel, a senior Hamas leader has an answer for you. Mahmoud al-Zahar, the terrorist organization's

co-founder and political bureau member, told *Al-Ayyam* newspaper on October 1 that his group wants to seize the West Bank and then destroy Israel.

Speaking to the Ramallah-based Palestinian newspaper, Zahar explained: “[Some] have said Hamas wants to create an Islamic emirate in Gaza. We won’t do that, but we will build an Islamic state in Palestine, all of Palestine.”

To those who doubt Hamas’s capabilities, Zahar bragged, “We know exactly how to liberate the land of Palestine, and we know how to hit every inch of Palestine with our hands, brains and money.” If Hamas were to “transfer what it has or just a small part of it to the West Bank,” he said, “we would be able to settle the battle of the final promise with a speed that no one can imagine.”

In Gaza, Hamas has a government, installations from which it can launch missiles at Israeli civilians (as it did during Operation Protective Edge), and a thriving hotbed for rabid anti-Semitism and terrorism. Hamas also enjoys majority support in Gaza, and that support has been swelling in the West Bank, which is currently controlled by Hamas’s political opponent, Fatah.

According to an opinion poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, 57 percent of West Bank Palestinians support Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, compared to 33 percent who support Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. An August report from Israel’s internal security agency, Shin Bet, revealed that while Hamas was fighting Israel from the Gaza Strip, it was simultaneously working on an elaborate plan to unleash mass murder on Israeli civilians and use the turmoil to violently overthrow Fatah’s Palestinian Authority and take over of the West Bank.

Palestinian Media Watch explained that the “final promise” Zahar mentioned is a reference to a Koranic passage about Jerusalem and its total destruction.

At the United Nations General Assembly on September 29, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likened Hamas to the Islamic State. Yet the United States (and much of the world) characterizes the terrorist organization more positively.

The longer the leash on Hamas extends, the more vulnerable Israel becomes. The Bible prophesies that half of Jerusalem will soon be violently overtaken (read about this in our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*). This most likely will be orchestrated by Hamas. ■

### LEVERAGE: IRAN AND THE ISLAMIC STATE

**S**ince its inception in 1979, Islamist Iran has relied on connections with terrorists to force its will on other nations. During the P5+1 talks in September over Iran’s nuclear program, its mullahs hinted that they were ready to use a new lever: Islamic State terrorists.

An Iranian official who spoke with Reuters on September 21 said his country was ready to help apply pressure against the Islamic State. The equal and opposite reaction? The West must ease the pressure against Iran’s nuclear program. Western nations have already promised incentives for Iran to dismantle about 90 percent of its uranium-enrichment centrifuges, saying it does not need them all if Tehran is, in fact, using them only for peaceful purposes.

Iran insists on keeping all 19,000 of the centrifuges—10,000 of which are operational. The West has been hesitant to reach full agreement in the talks out of concern for Iran’s potential breakout capacity to produce nuclear weapons.

The possibility of cooperating militarily is complex and controversial for Iran and the United States, which Iranians refer to as the Great Satan. But it has not only been entertained—it has now been fairly openly publicized.

Iran has indirectly cooperated with the U.S. by supporting Shia and Kurdish Peshmerga militants in their fight against the Islamic State. On September 5, BBC reported that, according to sources in Tehran, Iran’s Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had authorized Gen. Qassem Suleimani, commander of Iran’s elite Quds Force, to work with the U.S. against terrorists

in Iraq. Iran later denied that report and has since been much more critical of the United States.

On September 17, Khamenei said Iran would not cooperate with the U.S. against the Islamic State, saying America’s “hands were dirty and intentions murky.” President Hassan Rouhani derided U.S. strategy as “ridiculous.”

As far back as June, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke of the possibility of working with Iran. He said the U.S. was “open to discussions” with Iran and that it “would not rule out anything.” But Kerry responded to questions raised by Sen. Marco Rubio at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on September 17 by insisting he “never said anything about coordinating” with Iran or Syria. But, he said, “if we are failing and failing miserably, who knows what choice they might make” in an effort to “take on [the Islamic State].” Two days later, Secretary Kerry said at a United Nations Security Council meeting on Iraq that “there is a role for nearly every country in the world to play, including Iran.”

The murkiness surrounding United States-Iran cooperation shows just how much leverage Iran can wield in nuclear negotiations when it comes to fighting the Islamic State.



Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant



## Immigrants transform society through language

**A**MERICA IS DIFFERENT FROM the nation it used to be; you can tell by its language. Statistics show that 64 million people who live in the United States now speak English as a second language in their homes. That's 20 percent of the population, double what it was 30 years ago.

Today, 38 million people in the United States mainly speak Spanish, 12 percent of the entire population. In fact, on October 4 two congressional candidates in California held their debate entirely in español in hopes of winning more of the Latino vote. Meanwhile, in schools in California, Texas, Nevada and New Mexico, between 31 and 45 percent of student populations speak Spanish as their first language.

The actual composition of the U.S. has altered due to foreigners who choose not to adopt the nation's culture, heritage and/or language. In previous generations, immigrants generally worked to assimilate into American society. Migrants learned English and became "Americanized." Today, millions among the increasing influx of migrants are keeping their languages and cultures. The result is a divided society.

32 America is not the only country

facing this problem. A primary school in Worcestershire, England, recently blocked English-speaking students from attending a school excursion to the zoo. The excursion was for foreign-language-speaking students only. The English-speaking students were required to stay at school and complete their regular classes. This is Britain, the mother of all English-speaking nations. When did countries start discriminating against their own language in favor of foreign-language students? ■

## 'Compromise or else'

**A**MERICA, "LAND OF THE free," is now a place where citizens are being threatened with financial ruin and jail as punishment for religious beliefs.

Donald and Evelyn Knapp, who operate the Hitching Post Wedding Chapel in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, politely declined to perform a marriage ceremony for two homosexuals on October 17 since their belief in the Bible prohibits it. The next day, the city threatened them with 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine for each day they refuse to "celebrate the same-sex wedding."

Idaho's house of representatives, senate and governor passed laws in 1993 to define marriage as between a man and a woman. In 2006, the legislature and Idaho voters passed a similar measure. But the law

was struck down by the federal district court, the appeals court and the Supreme Court, which declined to hear the state's case.

The Knapps' federal lawsuit says the city is coercing Christian ministers "in violation of their religious beliefs, their ordination vows and their consciences." The Knapps have since stated they will only perform marriage ceremonies between "one biological male and biological female."

The city has not yet cited the Knapps, as the Alliance Defending Freedom non-profit

has filed suit in federal court on their behalf.

The Knapps' chapel is an incorporated business for profit. Homo-

sexual supporters say this is one reason why the government has the jurisdiction to infringe on their constitutionally protected freedom of religion and either force them to perform same-sex unions or jail them and fine them into bankruptcy. ■

**For more on how the homosexual movement is transforming religious freedom and morality in America, request *Redefining Family*.**

## CHOOSING NOT TO MARRY

**A** September 24 Pew Research study revealed that one in five Americans over the age of 25 are now choosing to remain unmarried. In 1960, only 9 percent of Americans in the same age bracket were unmarried.

But for most of these 42 million Americans, abandoning marriage does not mean abandoning sex. In fact, a 2012 study found that 24 percent of never-married young adults ages 25 to 34 are living with a partner.

Even among those who are marrying, many are pushing it off. The study found that the average age for a first marriage had risen significantly. In 1960, the average age was 20 for women and 23 for men; today, it's 27 for women and 29 for men.

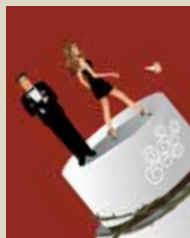
One factor contributing to this trend is a belief that marriage and family are not priorities. Fifty

percent of those polled said society is just as well off if people have priorities other than getting married and starting a family. This belief has a two-thirds majority among those ages 18 to 29.

To many, marriage is becoming obsolete. A 2010

Pew study found that nearly 40 percent of Americans viewed the institution as outdated. Many feel cohabitation is an acceptable alternative. The same study showed that a minority of Americans (43 percent) believed cohabitation was harmful to society; an equal minority believed that unmarried couples raising children was detrimental to society.

Is marriage obsolete? The late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote on the subject in 1968, when this trend was far less advanced. He recognized its danger and its trajectory. To understand why this institution is under attack—and whether it matters—request a free copy of *Why Marriage—Soon Obsolete?*





# Crack Open That Book

A simple pleasure in a digital age **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**G**OING PAPERLESS IS SIMPLER THAN EVER. LIKE MANY OF you, I go online to shop, make travel arrangements, manage bank accounts, pay utility bills and read the news. But when it comes to my bookshelves and file cabinets, it's difficult for me to imagine a paperless environment.

Along two of the walls in my office, I have five rows of bookshelves sitting atop 30 file cabinet drawers. I haven't read all the books on the shelves, and I know there are files in those drawers I haven't opened in years. But it is a large collection of commentaries, encyclopedias, biographies, histories, periodicals, booklets, articles, clippings and notes I have accumulated over decades.

Except for the news I skim online every day, I usually mark or highlight what I read and study. This is why I generally buy my own books and print out or photocopy important articles I run across in my research.

I still use the Internet a lot, particularly for my news writing and television scripts. There is no substitute for the speed at which you can obtain information that used to take *hours* to find in a library. But at the same time, there is simply no online equivalent to the thoughts and ideas I have tucked away in the drawers and shelves of my personal library.

Besides that, studies show that the way we read and study online is much more superficial than the way we used to study the printed word. When reading online, we tend to skim and bounce around the page. We're often distracted by the numerous links embedded into the text and the flashing advertisements designed to grab our attention.

Because of this, as Nicholas Carr wrote in *The Shallows*, "Our attachment to any one text becomes more tenuous, more provisional. Searches also lead to the fragmentation of online works. A search engine often draws our attention to a particular snippet of text, a few words or sentences that have strong relevance to whatever we're searching for at the moment, while providing little incentive for taking in the work as a whole. We don't see the forest when we search the Web. We don't even see the trees. *We see twigs and leaves*" (emphasis added throughout).

Carr believes Google's ambitious plan to digitize all the books *ever* printed will only make matters worse. "To make a book discoverable and searchable online is also to dismember

it," he writes. The end result, he says, would not be a library of books—but one of snippets.

While reading the pages of Carr's book, I kept thinking of a wonderful little book, written in 1905—one that has been on my shelf for nearly 20 years. In *The Art of Thinking*, French philosopher Ernest Dimnet said, "Do not read good books—life is too short for that—only read the best." He recommended a personal library of just 20 or 30 volumes—classical works that you return to over and

again for greater depth and understanding. What good is an extensive library that fills our shelves, Dimnet argued, if it doesn't fill our minds? Or, given the massive amounts of information available today, what good is a computer database containing every book known to man if all we do is skim the surface for snippets?

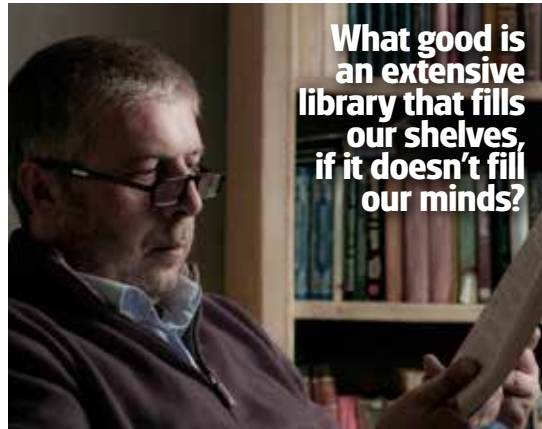
Even some educators recognize the dangerous pitfalls of online multitasking and cursory reading. A few are calling for us to return to the

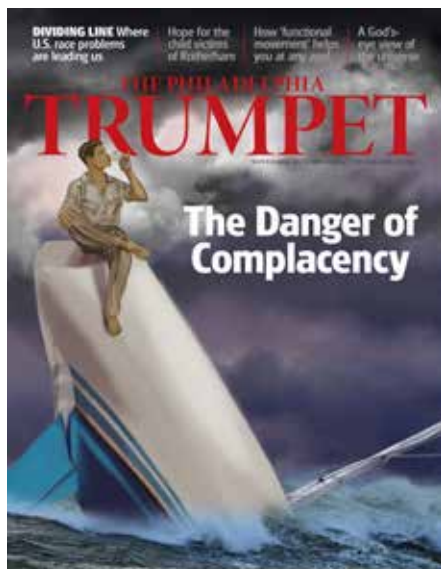
tried and tested method of *slowly* poring over the printed word. A 2010 Associated Press report told of one teacher who was "encouraging schools from elementary through college to return to old strategies such as reading aloud and memorization as a way to help students truly 'taste' the words. He uses those techniques in his own classroom, where students have told him that they've become *so accustomed* to flitting from page to page online that they HAVE TROUBLE CONCENTRATING *while reading printed books*."

Scanning a book for a salient quote certainly has its place. So does skimming text to get the gist of the author's intent. Even occasional Web surfing might help one get a feel for current events.

But none of this should be confused with *studying* the printed word. In the case of *God's Word*, the Apostle Paul wrote, "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a WORKMAN that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). The Greek word for "workman" is referring to one who exerts strenuous effort to study the RIGHT way.

Online Bible helps can offer valuable assistance in this regard. But if you are really serious about plumbing the depths of God's inspired Word, crack open the Book alongside a companion article or booklet, grab a pen and highlighter, and start reading. Don't skim through the information as fast as possible. Slow down—make sure what you do read gets through to you.





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### Don't ignore this

The problem is most are not watching the news ("The World Is Descending Into Chaos," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12148](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12148)). It is so bad that their solution is to ignore it and pretend it's not happening. They say things like, "Oh, I don't allow myself to get depressed by watching all of that negative stuff." Christ knew this would be the mindset today, which is why He instructed us in this end time to "watch therefore and pray always." **Majella Tesoriero—AUSTRALIA**

### Yawn

Wow, what a super article that is urgently needed ("As the World Burns (Yawn)," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12150](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12150)). It is so easy to have a nonchalant attitude nowadays. The only good thing about complacency, if you are in it, is to be able to recognize that fact and then *do* something about it, like put these five positive steps into action. If we don't, we run a certain risk of being complacent and not recognizing it.  
**Gary Miner—NORTH CAROLINA**

This is such an eye-opener! So very true and too easy to fall into! Thank you for the wake-up call!  
**Catherine Arman—UNITED KINGDOM**

### Love for the Children

How awesome is this! ("The Camelback Library," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12152](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12152)). I believe God will definitely continue to bless this man and provide for his needs to carry this on. Thank you for sharing this man's life of love for the children with us!  
**Monica Lucas—NORTH CAROLINA**

I love the photo! This could be a child anywhere in the world. Imagine when good books are available to children everywhere and illiteracy is wiped out (along with all the other ills this world is dying from).  
**James Rush—CANADA**

### Britain's immigration mess

The concept of the American melting pot has been largely misunderstood ("The Beheader With a British Accent," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12156](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12156)). Immigrants were to adopt the core values of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The problem is Americans have themselves rejected those timeless values, leaving a vacuum that materialism and multiculturalism are filling.  
**Kofi Appiah—CALIFORNIA**

In my 62 years of living in my home country of England, I've seen with my own eyes the vast changes of demographics. The sheer scale and speed of foreign immigrants, whether they be legal, illegal or asylum-seeking, pouring into the country in my lifetime has changed the face of our once Great Britain. In fact, you are better off just calling us the United Kingdom and drop Britain altogether, just in case it offends our ethnic minorities, which are soon to be majorities. The Germans used to call us "Little Englanders" during World War II, and boy do I feel little right now. As for our United Kingdom, well thanks to the recent Scottish vote we are still somewhat united, but for how much longer?  
**Phil Holmes—UNITED KINGDOM**

### Hope for Rotherham

It grieves me how innocent children are being subjected to such wickedness ("Hope for the Child Victims of Rotherham," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12154](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12154)). One day soon all this madness will be done away; then we will be able to teach people God's way of love. I pray that Christ returns swiftly!  
**Gail Eisele—NORTH DAKOTA**

### See it through God's eyes

This leaves us in awe of the creative power of God ("A God's-Eye View of the Universe," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12163](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12163)). Thank you for sharing this vision.  
**Clara Ines Parra De Orozco—COLOMBIA**

### How to be a better dad

Thank you for this article ("The Number One Thing to Make You a Better Husband and Dad," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12162](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12162)). It was so encouraging to know that if a man does this he can make one beautiful husband and dad. I hope you write an article one day titled "The Number One Thing to Make You a Better Wife and Mum." Imagine these attitudes and efforts coming from both sides! What a beautiful marriage that would make. I'm eager to learn more. The valuable lessons here are worth remembering and living by.  
**Peter**

### Scary race riots

There is a lot of bitterness in a message like this, but there is also sweetness that many may not see ("Where America's Race Riots Are Leading," November-December, [theTrumpet.com/go/12158](http://theTrumpet.com/go/12158)). Revelation from God is sweet; He is speaking to this world today so that some might respond and avoid the catastrophe.  
**John Mooney—MASSACHUSETTS**

# Election Triumphs and False Hopes

November's elections in the U.S. brought Republicans big victories. Has hope and change finally come to America? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**R**EPUBLICANS ARE JUBILANT. ON ELECTION DAY THEY picked up at least seven seats and the majority in the Senate, increased their majority in the House of Representatives, and won several key governors' races. It was a big win, bigger than most analysts expected.

Republican optimism swelled. Sen. Mitch McConnell called this "a chance to begin to save this country." Is he right?

A lot of Americans agree the country needs saving. It's suffering runaway debt, economic inequality, unemployment, immigration concerns, racial tension and violence, foreign-policy blunders, waning global influence. Two thirds of voters—including 89 percent of Republicans and 71 percent of unaffiliated voters—say the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction.

Though President Barack Obama wasn't on any ballot, Republicans worked hard to link him to their Democrat opponents and turn their races into referendums on his unpopular policies. Polls show dissatisfaction and anger with the administration (and with congressional leadership and both parties). Now, Republicans view their victories as a strong message from voters to the president.

But we have *no reason* to expect this president to take any correction from these elections. This administration views virtually everything it has done over the last six years as a *terrific success*.

Look at its foreign-policy record, for example. It has authored stunning failures in Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East; it has effectively aided Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons; it has been a spectator at the rise of the Islamic State; it has ravaged alliances with Israel, Britain, Poland, Germany and other nations; it has been embarrassed by a militant Russia and a belligerent China. Yet the administration sees its leadership as having *improved* global tranquility and enhanced prospects for peace on "every fundamental issue of conflict today."

Despite presiding over a stagnant economy, chronic unemployment and a \$7 trillion increase in national debt, the president praises his economic accomplishments (though no Democrats ran on that record). Despite proof that lax immigration policies encouraged more illegal immigration, the administration wants to also grant amnesty to millions of resident illegals. It shrugs off scandal after scandal—Fast and Furious, Benghazi, the IRS, FBI drone surveillance, illegal Department of Justice and National Security Agency monitoring and journalist intimidation to name a few.

Rather than acknowledge failure and fire guilty officials, the administration has consistently deflected blame and doubled down.

Will it suddenly be contrite since a few senators lost their jobs?

For six years the president's administration treated constitutional limits on executive power like a doormat beneath its agenda. It has ignored laws or parts of laws. It has bypassed Congress.

What is the president going to do now that Congress is *even more* opposed to his agenda? Transform into a consensus builder?

POLITICO reported this before the election: "Administration officials tell us that Obama's political and policy teams are planning a big counterattack if the Republicans win the Senate—introducing a slate of legislative proposals and executive actions on immigration, infrastructure and early childhood education that are popular with the Democratic base and that he will dare the GOP to oppose" (Nov. 2, 2014).

ABC's Jon Karl reported on election day that administration officials said the president "is prepared to aggressively pursue his agenda using his power of executive authority, where he can't work with Congress . . ." The White House stated this *outright*.

About a year ago, Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford participated in talks with the president on a government shutdown. He told the *Trumpet* staff that the two sides appeared close to an agreement. Rumors of a deal emerged. The stock market rose. The next day, right after the stock market closed for the holiday weekend, the

White House said, *All deals are off, no negotiations, my way or no way*. Lankford said, "All of us that were sitting there said, what was that? What just happened?"

"Speaker Boehner has told us over and over again, every negotiation he's had with the president has been that way," Lankford said. "He'll sit down one-on-one and talk through stuff, but within 24 hours, all the rules change . . ."

They don't understand the spirit they are dealing with and what it all means. *Only* our booklet *America Under Attack* explains. (Request your free copy.)

In his post-election press conference, the president refused to admit any need to change. He is now unconcerned about reelection. And he has every motivation to sidestep Congress; he has a phone, a pen and an agenda.

Americans have much to be concerned about. Even amid election-year rallies and rhetoric, many citizens recognize that they're not actually about to "take back Washington," "send a message," "fix the system" and save the country. Republicans have a congressional majority, but they don't have the White House—and more importantly, they just *don't have the answers*.

As the Prophet Jeremiah once wrote, "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man."

This country *does* need saving. But no politicians will be able to deliver. The nation is being *curled* for placing its trust in man.

Jeremiah continued: "*Blessed* is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." In whom have you placed *your* trust?



Now this is the election that will change everything—right?

# THE KEY OF DAVI

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

## ► AFGHANISTAN from page 17

government buildings on September 4, it released a statement taunting the leaders gathered at NATO's summit in Wales: "Their 13-year-old occupation is now seen as a historical shame." The Taliban sneered, "It was planned that Afghanistan's next leader would participate in the Wales summit. Now their plans have come to naught."

After three months of squabbling, a power-sharing government finally emerged on September 21 with Ashraf Ghani as its leader. Ghani replaced Hamid Karzai—Afghanistan's only president since 2001. After 13 years and all the efforts of the United States, Britain and their allies, Karzai made this stunning observation during his farewell address, September 23: "We don't have peace because Americans didn't want peace. ... If the U.S. wants Afghanistan to be a good friend, it needs to match its words with actions."

In other words, even America's supposed allies—the people we went over there to help—despite it.

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong thoroughly explained the roles of America and Britain in Bible prophecy. He explained how these nations inherited the national blessings promised to Abraham precisely at the time the Bible reveals they would!

"Between them," he wrote, "the British and American peoples had acquired more than two thirds—almost three fourths—of all the cultivated physical resources and wealth of the world [by 1804]. All other nations combined possessed barely more than a fourth. Britannia ruled the waves—and the world's commerce was carried on by water. The sun never set on British possessions. ... And yet, precisely as prophesied, Britain's sun has now set."

And so has America's. "Today America finds herself heir to just about all the international problems and headaches in this post-World War II, chaotic, violent world," Mr. Armstrong wrote. "And the United States has won her last war—even little North Vietnam held her at bay."

In the *Plain Truth* newsmagazine, predecessor to the *Philadelphia Trumpet*, Mr. Armstrong wrote in October 1961: "[U]nless or until the United States as a whole repents and returns to what has become a hollow slogan on its dollars, 'In God we trust,' the United States of America has won its last war!" The United States and Britain may have won battles and skirmishes since World War II, but they have never won a war—from Korea to Cuba to Vietnam to the Balkans to Somalia to Iraq to Libya and now Afghanistan.

The United States and Britain were powerful empires because God can, and desires to, bountifully bless mankind. Afghanistan shows that He is definitely not blessing America and Britain anymore. In fact, this graveyard of empires shows how much God is now cursing these nations.

And yet, as surely as He blessed them in the past, He will bless them again in the near future once these nations learn to obey God. The difference is that then—the new world established after Christ's return to Earth—those blessings will be grander, and they will be permanent. That is the prophesied future of the United States and Britain.

## UNITED STATES

### Nationwide Satellite

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

### Direct TV

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

### Dish Network

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

### Nationwide Cable

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

**Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00, Fri;  
WVUA 1:00 p.m., Sun

**Dothan** WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

**Mobile** WFGX 7:30, Sun

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

**Alaska, Anchorage** KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun

**Fairbanks** KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

**Juneau** KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

**Arizona, Phoenix** KPPX 5:00, Fri; KAZT  
8:00, Sun

**Yuma** KECY-DT 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, El Dorado** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

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

**Fort Smith** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

**Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun

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

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

**California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

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

**El Centro** KECY-DT 8:30, Sun

**Eureka** KUVU-LP/KVII-DT 9:30, Sun

**Los Angeles** KPXN 6:00, Fri;

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

**Monterey** KION 9:30, Sun

**Palm Springs** KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun

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

**Sacramento** KSPX 6:00, Fri;

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

**Salinas** KION 9:30, Sun

**San Diego** TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

**San Francisco** KKPX 6:00, Fri

**Santa Barbara-Santa Maria** KSBY-DT  
9:30, Sun

**Sun City-Menifee** TVCLT-Bilingual,  
7:30 Sun

**Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00, Fri

**Grand Junction** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Montrose** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00, Fri

**Florida, Gainesville** WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

**Jacksonville** WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

**Miami** WPXM 6:00, Fri

**Orlando** WOPX 6:00, Fri

**Panama City** WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

**Pensacola** WFGX 7:30, Sun

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

**Tampa** WXPX 6:00, Fri

**West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00, Fri

**Georgia, Albany** WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun

**Atlanta** WPXA 6:00, Fri

**Augusta-Aiken** WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

**Brunswick** WPXC 6:00, Fri

**Columbus** WLTX-DT 9:30, Sun

**Macon** WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun

**Savannah** WGSB-DT 9:30, Sun

**Thomasville** WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

**Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30,  
Sun; 8:30, Wed

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

**Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaka**  
Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

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

**Idaho, Boise** KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Idaho Falls** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Pocatello** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Twin Falls** KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Illinois, Bloomington** WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Chicago** WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCUI  
9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

**Peoria** WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Rockford** WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

**Quincy** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

**Indiana, Fort Wayne** WPTA-DT 21.2  
9:30, Sun

**Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri

**Terre Haute** WBI 9:30, Sun

**Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri

**Des Moines** KFPM 5:00, Fri

**Keokuk** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

**Mason City** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30, Sun

**Sioux City** KTVI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Kansas, Topeka** KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun

**Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30, Sun

**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO-DT  
8:30, Sun

**Lexington** WUPX 6:00, Fri

**Louisiana, Alexandria** KBCA-DT 8:30, Sun

**Monroe** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

**Lafayette** KADN 7:30, Sun; KATC-DT  
8:30, Sun

**Lake Charles** KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun

**New Orleans** WPXL 5:00, Fri

**Maine, Bangor** WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

**Presque Isle** WBPO 9:30, Sun

**Maryland, Salisbury** WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun

**Massachusetts, Holyoke** WBQT 9:30, Sun

**Springfield** WBQT 9:30, Sun

**Michigan, Alpena** WBAA 9:30, Sun

**Cadillac** WBVC 9:30, Sun

**Detroit** WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun

**Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00, Fri

**Lansing** WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun

**Marquette** WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30,  
Sun

**Traverse City** WBVC 9:30, Sun

**Minnesota, Duluth** KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun

**Mankato** KWYE 8:30, Sun

**Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00, Fri

**Rochester-Austin** KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun

**Sioux Fall (Mitchell)** KWSJ/KSWD-DT  
8:30, Sun

**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBGP 8:30, Sun

**Columbus** WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Greenville** WBWD 8:30, Sun

# D

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



**Greenwood** WBWD 8:30, Sun  
**Gulfport** WBGD 8:30, Sun  
**Hattiesburg** WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Laurel** WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Meridian** WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tupelo** WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Hannibal** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Jefferson City** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Joplin** KSXF 8:30, Sun  
**Kansas City** KPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Kirksville** KWOT 8:30, Sun  
**St. Joseph** KBJO/KPNP-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Montana, Billings** KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Bozeman-Butte** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Glendive** KWZB 8:30, Sun  
**Great Falls** KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Helena** KMTF-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Missoula** KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings** KWBL 8:30, Sun  
**Kearney** KWBL 8:30, Sun  
**North Platte** KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL 8:30, Sun  
**Scottsbluff** KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00, Fri  
**Binghamton** WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun  
**Elmira (Corning)** WENY-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New York City** TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun  
 WPXN 6:00, Fri; WZME-TV 7:00, Sun;  
 WZME-TV 8:00, Tue-Fri  
**Plattsburgh** WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Rochester** WUHF 8:30, Sun  
**Syracuse** WSPX 6:00, Fri  
**Utica** WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Watertown** WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Carolina, Durham** WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greensboro** WGXP 6:00, Fri  
**Greenville** WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**New Bern** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Raleigh** WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**Washington** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wilmington** WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Dakota, Bismarck** KWMK 8:30, Sun  
**Dickinson** KWMK 8:30, Sun

**Fargo** WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Minot** KWMK 8:30, Sun  
**Valley City** WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00, Fri  
**Cincinnati** WSTR 8:30, Sun  
**Lima** WBOH 9:30, Sun  
**Steubenville** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Zanesville** WBZV 9:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lawton** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00, Fri  
**Tulsa** KTPX 5:00, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Eugene** KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Medford-Klamath Falls** KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Portland** KPXG 6:00, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Philadelphia** WPPP 6:00, Fri  
**Wilkes Barre** WOPX 6:00, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXO 6:00, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Florence** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Myrtle Beach** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sioux Falls (Mitchell)** KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tennessee, Jackson** WBJK 8:30, Sun  
**Knoxville** WPXK 6:00, Fri  
**Memphis** WPXX 5:00, Fri  
**Nashville** WNPX 5:00, Fri  
**Texas, Abilene** KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Amarillo** KVII-DT/KVII-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Beaumont** KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Brownsville** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Corpus Christi** KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Dallas** KDAF 7:00, Sun; TVCLT-Bilingual, 9:30 Sun  
**Harlingen** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Houston** KPXB 5:00, Fri  
**Laredo** KTXW 8:30, Sun  
**Longview** KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lubbock** KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Midland** KWES-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Odessa** KWES-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30, Sun  
**San Angelo** KWSA 8:30, Sun  
**San Antonio** KPXL 5:00, Fri  
**Sherman** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tyler** KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun

**Victoria** KWVB 8:30, Sun  
**Weslaco** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wichita Falls** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00, Fri  
**Vermont, Burlington** WVNY 10:00, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Harrisonburg** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Norfolk** WPXV 6:00, Fri  
**Roanoke** WPRR 6:00, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WPWX 6:00, Fri  
**Washington, Pasco** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Richland** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Seattle-Tacoma** KWPX 6:00, Fri  
**Seattle** KCPO 7:00, Sun  
**Spokane** KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun  
**Yakima** KIMA 6:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Bluefield** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Charleston** WLPX 6:00, Fri  
**Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Oak Hill** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Parkersburg** WCPW 9:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wheeling** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**La Crosse** WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Rhineland** WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun  
**Superior** KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KWYF/KFNB-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Cheyenne** KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun  
**Riverton** KWYF/KFNB-DT 8:30, Sun

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

**CANADA**  
**Nationwide satellite**  
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**Nationwide cable**  
 WGN 8:00 ET, Sun  
 Discovery 6:30 ET/PT, Sun  
 Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun  
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun  
 Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun

**Alberta, Red Deer** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Calgary** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Edmonton** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Medicine Hat** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Lethbridge** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**British Columbia, Vancouver**  
 CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPO 7:00, Sun  
**Victoria** CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Manitoba, Winnipeg** WUHF 8:30, Sun; CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun  
**Nova Scotia, Halifax** WUHF 8:30, Sun  
**Sydney** WUHF 8:30, Sun  
**Ontario, Ottawa** CJOH 5:30, Sun  
**Toronto** WADL 10:00 Sun;  
 WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun  
**P.E.I., Charlottetown** WUHF 8:30, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVNY 10:00, Sun  
**Saskatchewan, Saskatoon** WUHF 8:30, Sun

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

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

**AUSTRALASIA**  
**Australia**  
**Adelaide** TV44 11:30, Sun; 10:00, Sat  
**Perth** WTV, 11:30, Sun/Wed  
**New Zealand** TVNZ, 5:30, Sun  
**Philippines** TV4 9:30 PHT, Sun

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