

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

The Dallas sniper and racial violence in America

Europe is seeking an army

Turkey's dark new age

China: future superpower?

Lessons you can take from how doctors die

CARACAS 1 LAKE CHAD 52 BO
 HAWI 15 AL ERBO 54 TEL A
 BE 32
 KABUL 8
 ISTANBUL 44 AL MUKALLA 4
 FALLUJAH 30 BERLIN 1 BAGH
 SIRTE 55 MUNICH 9 DHAKA 24 ADEN 25 MOS
 SIRTE 22 SHOLAKIA 3 NICE 84 SHOLAKIA 13
 REUTLINGEN 1 OKEBATBALAD 56 GHANDOU
 KULGAM 1 MOSUL 23 QAYYARAH 33
 KUDA 24 MAGNANVILLE 2 ALEP
 BENGHAZI 12 SAQLAWIYAH 400

TERRORISM'S RISING BODY COUNT

ORLANDO 49 BO
 RODAT 4 MA
 QAA 7 GHAZ
 MOGADISHU 15 LAFOOLE 18
 BADA KHSHAN 10 RUKBAN 6
 BENGHAZI 15 NORMANDY 1

TERROR ATTACK DEATH TOLLS
JUNE-JULY 2016

RIYADH 1 NINEVAH 13 KABU
 SIRTE 3 MOSUL 19 KOT 20 KUND
 FALLUJAH 25 BACHDAD 18 QAM





FURY Demonstrators gather at the Louisiana Capitol to protest the shooting death of Alton Sterling by a police officer. (GETTY IMAGES)

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THE KEY OF DAVID

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry's weekly television program
theTrumpet.com/keyof david

TrumpetDaily

Trumpet executive editor Stephen Flurry's television program
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America Faces an Explosion of Racial Violence

Assassinations of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge mark a dangerous escalation of race hatred. America's highest-ranking leaders are fueling the problem.

IN TWO SEPARATE INSTANCES THIS PAST JULY, ONE IN LOUISIANA and the other in Minnesota, police fatally shot two black men. On the surface, these shootings look bad—as you can see in some of the videos that were made. If the officers involved are found to be guilty of racism or brutality, they should be punished to the full extent of the law. In America, no one is supposed to be convicted before receiving a fair trial.



GERALD FLURRY

President Barack Obama, however, weighed in on the issue before investigations even started. The incidents occurred while he was on a trip to Poland. Before he could even return home, he posted a message on Facebook saying that “all Americans should be deeply troubled by the fatal shootings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Philando Castile in Falcon Heights,

Minnesota.” He admitted that he didn’t yet know the particulars in either case, but then went on anyway to accuse the police of unfairly targeting black Americans because of their skin color.

“[R]egardless of the outcome of such investigations, what’s clear is that these fatal shootings are not isolated incidents,” he said. “They are symptomatic of the broader challenges within our criminal justice system, the racial disparities that appear across the system year after year, and the resulting lack of trust that exists between law enforcement and too many of the communities they serve.” Without any facts to support his statements, he used these incidents to preemptively accuse America’s police departments of **SYSTEMIC RACISM**.

What causes someone to prejudge like that? It’s not the president’s job to judge from Poland what is happening here, and then casually hurl accusations of racism at America’s police.

President Obama has made a habit of weighing in on cases like this in the past—stating in absolute terms what is “really” happening before he has any evidence to back up his accusations. In 2014, for example, before the investigation into Michael Brown’s death was complete, he accused the policeman of racism. The U.S. Department of Justice led by Eric Holder (a black man) later found no evidence of wrongdoing by the officer. The president was wrong, but he has never apologized for his remarks.

SUCH RHETORIC IS INCITING EVILS THAT ARE QUICKLY BECOMING FAR WORSE THAN THOSE IT PURPORTS TO SOLVE!

Building Racial Tension

Only hours after President Obama issued his statement on racial disparity in the criminal justice system, a black supremacist shot 12 police officers in Dallas, Texas. This horrific shooting took place during a Black Lives Matter protest. Five of the 12 officers shot died protecting the very people who were protesting against them. During a standoff with police before he was killed, the gunman, Micah Johnson, told a hostage negotiator he was upset over police shootings against blacks and “wanted to kill white people—especially white officers,” according to the Dallas police chief.

A week later, another black supremacist, Gavin Long, shot and killed three police officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This shooter was associated with several anti-American groups, including Louis Farrakhan’s Nation of Islam. In a YouTube video posted before the attack, the shooter urged blacks to fight back against perceived law enforcement injustices. In his video rant, Long expressed outrage at the shooting of Alton Sterling and defended the Dallas shooter as a black man fighting for justice.

Now, both Johnson and Long were violent, mentally deranged individuals who killed innocent police officers who had nothing to do with Sterling’s death. But how did they come to the conclusion that America’s police officers are systematically killing off black men because of their skin color? No facts support this claim. It is an accusation being hurled by racist extremists with no proof.

Surely the statements the president has made—like his accusatory speech about those two policemen—help to stir up men like the Dallas sniper! Words have consequences! And they have many times the consequences when they come from the president of the United States! To call somebody a *racist* is one of the ugliest accusations you can make in America today, and we should really be careful. To falsely accuse people of racism routinely is a serious problem!

President Obama has been distorting facts and making many false accusations against America’s police in an effort to convince people that America’s local law enforcement officers need to be brought under federal control.

THIS IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE THAT IS MOVING AMERICA TOWARD A RACE WAR AND RULE BY DICTATORSHIP OR TYRANNY!

How do President Obama’s words and deeds influence African-Americans who lean toward the New Black Panther Party and other black supremacist groups? What are their effects on racist whites who lean toward groups like the Ku Klux Klan? Racial hatred is building fast.

Radio talk show host Laura Ingraham believes the New Black Panthers and Black Lives Matter want a race war. I think



she is right. If so, no amount of negotiating with or appeasing these groups will succeed!

I believe the radical left will do almost anything to cling to power in this coming election. Are they stirring up race problems in order to present themselves as the solution and to justify grabbing more control?

The Whole Head Is Sick

The *Trumpet* doesn't take sides. We teach God's truth—His prophecies. For 70 years, our work has been warning that an explosion of racial violence would engulf America and Britain if the people of these nations forsook God's law, the only law that teaches human beings how to have peace and joy in their lives!

The Prophet Isaiah tells us about the terrible times just before Christ returns in the "last days" (Isaiah 2:2). His book was written specifically for this end time (Isaiah 30:1-9). "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint" (Isaiah 1:4-5). This is talking mainly about the United States, Britain and the Jewish nation in the Middle East. (If you don't understand who the nations of Israel are, request our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. All of our literature is free.)

"The whole head is sick." God is saying the power structure (primarily *white*) that leads these nations of Israel is sick! And the "whole heart faint." Neither the leaders nor their followers have the will or the strength to get to the roots of race riots and solve them once and for all (see Daniel 12:9; 9:13; and Leviticus 26:19). Their "heart" is so weak and unhealthy that the governmental system is about to "faint," or collapse!

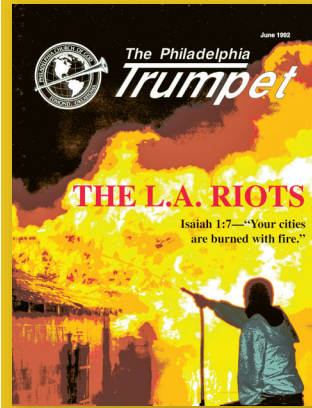
"From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrowed by strangers" (Isaiah 1:6-7). "Your cities are burned"! And who burns them? "Strangers [non-Israelites] devour it in your presence"!

This is a terrifying passage! Because these nations of Israel—mainly America and Britain—are laden with sin, and because of the weakness of our leaders, we will experience desolation and burning—all at the hands of "strangers." In other words, RACE-RELATED VIOLENCE IS GOING TO GET MUCH WORSE.

Those individuals who respond and heed God's warning, He will protect. God doesn't want people to suffer through the calamities that are coming. And we must all see that these burning cities are prophesied to occur in the *very last days* of America's existence as a strong world power—which is actually right before the Messiah comes to this Earth to rule it! Yes, AMERICA'S BURNING CITIES PRESAGE THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST TO THIS EARTH! When He returns, He will end all racism and injustice permanently!

OVER 20

From the *Trumpet's* earliest editions, our editor in



As far back as June 1992, in the wake of the Los Angeles race riots, Gerald Flurry wrote in the *Trumpet*:

"As the economy grows worse, the rioters are going to burn more and more because God's wrath is upon us! And God is far more wrathful toward the white people in Israel than He is with the black people. The problems are going to intensify until

our people repent [of their many sins]! ...

"The Los Angeles rioting is just a type of what is going to happen to the whole nation! It is a stark prophecy of our future! The rioting and burning is the main thrust of the 'pestilence' mentioned in Ezekiel 5. [The word pestilence can be defined as a plague of violence or burning. For more information, request our free book on Ezekiel.] And this rioting is going to spread to other Israelite nations—unless these peoples repent! God is going to get our attention, one way or another."

In 1995, three years after the L.A. race riots, the O. J. Simpson murder trial further exacerbated racial tensions in America by turning a criminal investigation into a reality TV event. In the September-October *Trumpet* edition, Mr. Flurry wrote:

"Ultimately, the damage from this trial will be far worse than the Rodney King affair.

"Some have called this trial a circus—meaning a disorganized mess. But this trial has been carefully orchestrated by Satan, and God has allowed it.

"At a time when crime is out of control, our police departments are being stripped of their power. The Los Angeles Police Department is only leading the way. Satan is destroying the government of the land so he can explode the social bomb of racial hatred to tear us apart! That is easy to do with virtually no effective police department ...



YEARS OF WARNINGS

Mr. Flurry in chief has drawn attention to specific prophetic warnings about race relations in America.

“The Los Angeles rioting in 1992 is just a type of what is going to happen to major cities in the whole nation! It is a stark prophecy of our future! The government has lost control. There is a breakdown of law and order. Government authorities asked black sports stars and other leading blacks to plead with their people to stop the L.A. rioting in 1992. That appears to be their main hope for peace! How pathetic! There was virtually no show of governmental force. We are getting dangerously close to social anarchy and chaos!”



In 2011, Republicans tried to question Attorney General Eric Holder about Operation Fast and Furious, in which the Obama administration was smuggling assault weapons to drug cartels in Mexico. Holder responded viciously accusing them of being racists for investigating and criticizing the program. This was a scandal of far-reaching magnitude, yet Holder said Republicans only raised

alarm because he and President Obama are African-American. Mr. Flurry wrote in the March 2012 *Trumpet*:

“Republican racism has become the battle cry of the radical left—led by the president and his attorney general! Mostly that charge is untrue. But many people are going to believe it is true and act accordingly. As the America gets worse and people’s emotions become more heated, violent race riots are going to burst on the scene in our large cities.

“Do we think such hateful racist statements have no consequences? Like little children, the radical left makes these hateful statements and doesn’t even think of the consequences—which are going to be horrendous. Bible prophecy says so, but even *common sense alone* should tell us that!

“This is not President Obama bringing us together as he pledged to do in his presidential campaign. He is leading the way into violent divisions. And I do mean violent!”

In April 2015, Baltimore, Maryland, was burning. Riots, looting and fire raged after the funeral of Freddie Gray, a black man who died in police custody. Before it was even revealed what caused the death, protests against the police began. These erupted in riots, where people smashed downtown storefronts and damaged

police cars. All this in spite of the fact that the six officers were later found not guilty of any wrongdoing; three of them were even acquitted by a black judge. In the July 2015 *Trumpet*, Mr. Flurry wrote:

“Accusations of police racism are heightening public mistrust of law enforcement and fueling a trend of violent race-related incidents and lawlessness. Anger among certain high-profile segments of the black population in particular is growing, and is boiling over in rioting and violence with increasing frequency in American cities.”



The Black Lives Matter movement started in 2012 after George Zimmerman shot and killed African-American teenager Trayvon Martin. Many BLM activists are resurrecting the violent symbolism and antipolice rhetoric of the Black Panthers. Alicia Garza, a founding member of BLM, says one of her key influences is Assata Shakur—a member of both the Black

Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army who killed a New Jersey state trooper and fled to Cuba for political asylum. After American pop singer Beyoncé Knowles paid tribute to Black Lives Matter during the Super Bowl halftime show last February, Mr. Flurry wrote this, in the May-June 2016 *Trumpet*:

“Like the Black Panthers, the Black Lives Matter movement is also becoming known for its chants comparing American police officers to pigs. ‘Pigs in a blanket, fry ‘em like bacon’ is one variation used prominently at a rally in Minnesota last year.

“The leaders of this movement are scrutinizing and magnifying the issue of racism among America’s law enforcement officers for evil purposes. They are using it dishonestly to justify some terrifyingly dangerous behavior! They are stirring up emotion and anger—but none of it is intended to solve the problem. They want revolution and war!”

'WE SHOULD LEARN TO LIVE WITH TERROR'



After a string of horrifying terrorist attacks in France and Germany, Europe's fundamental choice is unthinkable—and inescapable. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN IDYLIC evening. Throngs of families had just celebrated France's national day on the beach in the beautiful French Riviera. Instead, a terrorist sped a 21-ton delivery truck through the crowd for more than a mile.

Inside, Mohammed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel weaved back and forth to run over as many men, women, children, seniors and babies as possible, knocking them down "like bowling pins," witnesses said. When police finally brought the Renault Midlum and its driver to a stop in a fatal storm of bullets, hundreds of wounded, dead or dying lay in its wake. Abandoned purses, baby buggies and stuffed animals were strewn in their midst.

It also left behind a heart-wrenching question: *If they'll use a truck to plow over families, how can we ever stop them?*

Europe's New Normal

This is the question facing every nation in Europe. In the weeks after Nice, Germany faced attacks with an ax, a meat cleaver and a bomb made from gasoline.

The weapons vary wildly, but the message is clear: Radical Muslims

within Europe will use anything with a sharp edge, anything that can be made to explode, or anything that travels at a high speed, to kill.

France had suffered two other major terrorist attacks in the past 18 months. The nation had been on high alert since November. A state of emergency had been declared, giving police extraordinary powers, including the right to search homes without a warrant.



About 10,000 soldiers helped police patrol the streets.

None of that stopped a terrorist with a truck.

The attack took authorities by surprise. Earlier that very day, French President François Hollande had announced that the nation would lift the state of emergency by the end of the month. Now France is extending it

yet again.

But will that stop another Bouhlel with a rented vehicle? Clearly it is impossible for police or even soldiers to patrol every truck or every crowd. France has just about exhausted its non-radical options.

Immediately after the attack, Hollande announced that France is calling up its "operational reserves," those who have previously served in the military or as active duty police. But an extra few thousand reserves on active duty would not have prevented this. The terrorist was not on any watch list and therefore not under suspicion. He had the right to rent a truck.

The French are at a loss. Their society is open. Their ideals are liberal. Their population is between 5 and 10 percent Muslim. Their influx of immigration is ongoing.

On July 14, Geopolitical Futures warned, "Multiple attacks like the Nice attack can terrify a population over time. It is not an irrational fear. The whole point of terrorism is to take the population to the point where fear is the only rational response. When that happens, there are political

TO RISM'



NIGHT OF TERROR
Black plastic covers one
of the victims of the Nice attack.

consequences. First, governments that have spoken of prior tragedies but have not prevented further attacks become delegitimized. Second, there is no moderate response that could work—only extreme ones like mass deportations or worse. Given enough terror, unthinkable results can be generated.

“This is precisely what IS [the Islamic State] wants to achieve. It wants a response so overwhelming it will unite Muslims everywhere. The strength of [the Islamic State’s] strategy is that it leaves the defenders an impossible decision. No moderate defense is possible.

“This is the kind of fear the Islamic State wants to generate. The brutal fact is that IS has not hit the tripwire on extreme fear yet, which means the likelihood of more frequent attacks is high.”

How can we stop terrorism? the French are urgently asking. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls offered this: “Times have changed, and *we should learn to live with terrorism*” (emphasis added).

But France cannot simply just put up with this. No nation will just accept that families and young children will be mowed down every few months.

GETTY IMAGES

GERMANY’S EXPERIENCE

GERMANY WAS SHOCKED TO EXPERIENCE FIVE HIGH-PROFILE KILLINGS IN THE space of only a week. A teenage Afghan immigrant on an ax rampage seriously injured three on July 18, leaving a railway carriage looking like a “slaughterhouse,” as one witness put it. The attacker claimed allegiance to the Islamic State. On July 22, an Iranian man born in Germany killed nine with a Glock pistol he’d bought illegally, after spending a year planning the attack. On July 24, a migrant from Syria killed a pregnant woman and wounded two others with a meat cleaver. On the same day, a Syrian immigrant whose deportation to Bulgaria had twice been delayed tried to bomb a music festival in Ansbach, Bavaria. His lack of a ticket meant he was not let in, so he blew himself up outside, wounding 15.

“Has the world gone mad?”, Spiegel Online asked in a July 25 article “Apocalypse Now: A Year of Crises, Shocks and Fears of Terror,” reflecting the mood in Germany.

But the German government has tried to play down the crisis. Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière insisted that the attacks had nothing to do with migrants. And the head of the German Police Union, Oliver Malchow, said, “We are not at war. We are not even under a state of emergency.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel has said little about the attacks, and Germany’s threat level has not been raised. The official government response so far is to say there is no crisis.

This is dangerous. This message is comforting to the German population, for now. But as these attacks continue—or if a large, Nice-sized attack hits Germany—what then? As the *Trumpet* wrote in our March article “Germany, Migrants and the Big Lie,” “Angela Merkel’s government refuses to give serious attention” to the concerns of the German people regarding immigration “and refuses to tell the truth about the impact the migrants are having and will have on the nation.” (You can read this article at theTrumpet.com/go/13515.) The article noted that many of the people who have these concerns “are not hardcore neo-Nazis. They don’t want to persecute the migrants or see them imprisoned, beaten up or killed.” It’s perfectly logical to worry about the safety of your family in the wake of these attacks; that does not make someone an extremist.

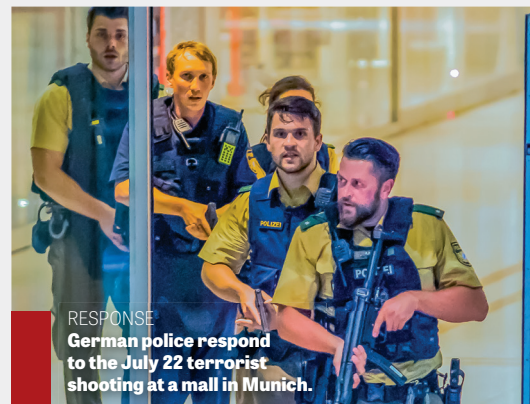
Merkel’s government is still insisting that Germany is safe. How will people react once she is proven wrong? She risks thoroughly discrediting her whole administration.

That *Trumpet* article warns, “If she continues to do this, Germany’s chancellor risks helping transform the German people—and Germany itself—into something very different and much more frightening than the democratic, peaceful, friendly nation we see today.

“THE MERKEL GOVERNMENT’S HANDLING OF THIS SITUATION IS TURNING THE GERMAN PEOPLE INTO A TICKING TIME BOMB! The more disillusioned, frustrated and angry the German people become, the more vulnerable they will be to radical politics and radical leaders with radical solutions.”

That was true of the migrant crisis, but ignoring the threat of terror in today’s climate is even worse. If Germany’s entire ruling class, media and defense establishment failed to even notice the crisis, how could they be trusted to fix it? And if trust in the establishment is destroyed, to whom will Germany turn?

French leaders recognized Islamic terror as a serious problem, but were booed when they failed to stop it. How will Germans react if their government continues to deny that a problem even exists?



RESPONSE
German police respond
to the July 22 terrorist
shooting at a mall in Munich.

Something Has Snapped

Something has snapped in France. After the attack on the offices of *Charlie Hebdo* in January 2015, and again after the November attacks in Paris, the majority of the French approved of President Hollande's reaction and his responses to terrorist threats. But in the aftermath of Nice, two thirds said they did not trust the government to fight terrorism. Prime Minister Valls was booed at a minute's silence in Nice. Some shouted at him to resign.

Voters "want someone they feel is in charge at the top," said Jérôme Fourquet from the polling agency IFOP. "In those moments they want a commander-in-chief." The French do not see Hollande as that commander.

"We are getting more and more racist, but unfortunately we need to," said one Nice resident.

The head of France's General Directorate of Internal Security told a closed-door session of a parliamentary committee on May 10 that the pressures on French society are so great

France has reached the end of the road. Its options are now clear: Learn to live with terrorism—or move on to a real war footing.

that "we are on the verge of a civil war."

He warned, "If there are one or two more attacks," a major confrontation will occur between France's "ultra-right" and Islam. This is coming from the French equivalent of America's director of the FBI or the head of Britain's MI5.

The amount of blood spilled on France's streets means it has no choice but to resort to a more forceful response.

Armed guards and security scanners are not enough. They would not have stopped the Nice attack, and they have

not stopped terrorist attacks in Israel, the Western democracy that lives with terrorism more than any other. There, the nation had to *physically wall off* the majority of Muslims and set up secure checkpoints before there was a substantial reduction in attacks. It appears that if France is serious about ending Islamist mass murder in its streets, it must take similarly drastic action.

Many French leaders have made statements about terrorists *waging war* against their country. But in reality, the French have not been on a war footing, not seriously enough to affect the everyday lives of ordinary people.

France has reached the end of the road. Its options are now clear. "Learn to live with terrorism"—or choose a different kind of "new normal": Move on to a *real* war footing.

This means expansion into a security state. It means armed guards and bag searches as part of normal life.

It also means expanding France's military efforts abroad. France's military is already overstretched. To expand its operations, Paris must push even harder for European help and a combined European military.

Even now, amid an immigration crisis spiked with horrifying outbursts of terrorism, giving up free ideals for safety remains anathema to modern Europe. But what other choice does it have? Marseilles, Brussels and Barcelona are all about one third Muslim. Malmö, Amsterdam, Stockholm and Rotterdam are about a quarter Muslim. Muslims heavily populate big cities across Europe. Literally walling off these populations would be difficult; it would prove much harsher to local Muslims than Israel's West Bank barrier, and it would literally run massive divides through the land of *liberté, égalité* and *fraternité*.

As the Bastille Day attack shows, French authorities have no way to target just the Muslims who will kill. France *cannot escape this choice*: "Learn to live with terrorism"—or take radical action against all Muslims. Biblical prophecy shows that sometime soon, Europe will take the latter option. To learn more, read the next article, "Is Europe Finally Ready for an Army?" ■



Demands for it are getting louder than ever. Here is why we know it will happen. BY RICHARD PALMER

TOP LEADERS IN GERMANY, France and the European Union are calling for a pan-European military. Such a military would be a truly world-shaking development. Yet many dismiss the idea because it has yet to materialize despite a long-term desire to create it.

But now, a European military seems likelier than ever. The attacks in Paris and Nice, as well as those occurring elsewhere in Europe, have left France desperate for European military help. Germany is more willing than ever to take the lead in Europe, and is remilitarizing. And Britain's vote to leave the European Union removes Europe's biggest obstacle to building a combined military.

This is why the calls for a united military are louder than ever. Defense reform is "a matter of urgency," EU officials said, calling for the Union to have its own armed forces, navy and intelligence service. Poland's former prime minister, Jarosław Kaczyński, believes Europe should have "a European army"



EUROPE FINALLY FOR AN ARMY?

A HISTORY OF COOPERATION

TIME AND AGAIN, WHEN A POWER tries to dominate Europe, it is forced to create a coalition of armies. There are currently 50 nations in Europe and many more ethnic groups. For any one power to dominate them all is a major task.

Two thousand years ago, a small city-state in Italy was able to dominate the Mediterranean only because it provided a way for non-Romans to become citizens and allowed them to join the army. Even then, it had to ally with Arabic tribes to the east and Germanic tribes in the north and west to secure its frontiers.

Much later, the Habsburg Empire was famous for its ability to create marriage alliances.

Napoleon Bonaparte took military cooperation to a level not seen since the days of Rome in his attempted takeover of Europe, most notable in his invasion of Russia. In that campaign, half of the infantry in his invasion was non-French.

“It was certainly the largest invasion force in the history of mankind to that time, and very much a multinational one,” Andrew Roberts writes in *Napoleon the Great* before listing 20 states that contributed to the army. “Much has been made of the breadth of the seven coalitions that Britain brought together against France during the Napoleonic Wars, which is indeed impressive and significant, but the broadest coalition of all was this one that fought for France against Russia.”

What the European Union is trying to do today is certainly not unprecedented. To successfully project power into Russia or the Middle East, European powers have always required some kind of coalition. Now that Europe is looking to get more involved in the Middle East and North Africa in order to confront radical Islam and the migrant crisis, it will need to cooperate. ■

and “a strong European president with far-reaching authority,” Spiegel reported. And Germany’s radical new vision for the future of its military includes a strong focus on European cooperation.

Terrorist Attacks

The renewed push for a European military began after the November 13 Paris attacks, when French President François Hollande invoked the EU’s self-defense clause rather than NATO’s. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained at the time: “By invoking the EU’s collective defense clause rather than turning to NATO, [Hollande] was declaring that Europe is more than just a junior partner in America’s defense arrangement. EUROPE IS ITS OWN POWER. It has its own foreign relations, its own interests and its own goals.

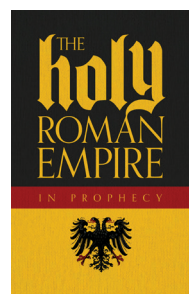
“Most people didn’t recognize the significance of France’s decision. But it is a choice that will have a terrible impact on America—as well as Britain and the Jewish state of Israel. It will significantly alter the history of these nations, and of Europe” (February 2016).

Hollande has spent most of this year drumming up support for military integration. Most importantly, he reached

out to Germany. “Our two countries must agree to a budgetary effort on defense,” he said in an April 6 interview with Germany’s *Bild* newspaper. “And to act outside Europe. Let’s not rely on another power, even a friendly one, to do away with terrorism.”

In other words, when there’s blood in the streets, France doesn’t trust America. Other reports have also emphasized the need to do without America. A report by the French and German foreign ministers called on the EU to be “an *independent* and global actor” (emphasis added throughout). EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini has repeatedly emphasized Europe’s need for “autonomy.”

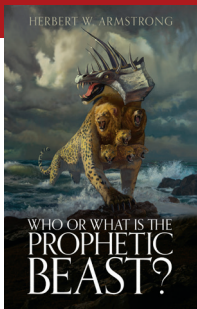
The fear of terrorists and illegal migrants means Europe is accelerating plans for an armed border and coast-guard force. A European Parliament committee approved and expedited plans for this force on May 30. “The



Only history?

When history repeats so much, it becomes prophecy. Find out what is in store for a united Europe.

Request our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.



legislative process has been fast by EU standards,” *EU Observer* wrote on May 31. “The Commission presented its proposal in December 2015. EU ministers rubber-stamped it in April.”

Just a year and a half ago, one source told the *EU Observer* that the EU border agency would open around 2030 to 2035. Suddenly, the target became the end of summer 2016. That may be too ambitious, but it demonstrates Europe’s new sense of urgency.

The border agency would mark a huge change for Europe. Under its authority, the EU could legally send soldiers into an EU country even against that country’s will. One core characteristic of an independent state is a monopoly of force within its borders, meaning the only entity that can deploy an army within its territory is its own government. EU nations are considering surrendering this aspect of sovereignty and giving politicians in Brussels the power to field foreign troops in their countries. It will be

a small beginning; the border guard would only be 1,000 strong. But the principle it establishes is huge.

New Plans for an Army

Brexit is another major reason for the renewed push for a military. First, Britain’s choice to leave the EU has European leaders searching for a new vision for Europe. Second, it removes the biggest obstacle to an army—London’s opposition—from the equation.

The day after the Brexit referendum, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier published a recommendation on how to respond. “We will ... move further towards political union in Europe and invite the other Europeans to join us in this endeavor,” they wrote. They outlined three areas the EU should focus on: security, immigration and the economy. The section on military and security was by far the biggest.

The two nations “recommit to a shared vision of Europe as a security union,” the report said. “Germany and France propose a European Security Compact which encompasses

all aspects of security and defense dealt with at the European level and thus delivers on the EU’s promise to strengthen security for its citizens.”

The report called for “a permanent civil-military chain of command,” adding that “if needed, EU member states should consider establishing *standing maritime forces* or acquiring EU-owned capabilities in other key areas.” It also called for the “creation of a European response capability; establishment of a European civil protection corps,” and the “creation of a European platform for intelligence cooperation.” This is a call for an EU military force, an EU navy, and the beginnings of what German-Foreign-Policy.com calls a European FBI.

On June 28, Mogherini published a much-anticipated paper called “A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy.” This too called for a superstate. Europe needs to be “a true union,” she wrote. “We need a stronger Europe.”

After Brexit, the EU is divided on where to go. But defense cooperation is one of the few things everyone agrees on.

In an article titled “Brexit After-shocks: An Inside Look at the EU’s

AN EMPIRE IN THE MAKING

HAND IN HAND WITH CALLS FOR A EUROPEAN ARMY ARE calls for Europe to get more involved overseas. European Union and German officials want more European military intervention in the Middle East and North Africa. They also want Europe to build stronger alliances with allies in the area, with both Germany and the EU unveiling plans to directly fund foreign militaries for the first time.

“It is in the interests of our citizens to invest in the resilience of states and societies to the east, stretching into Central Asia, and south down to Central Africa,” wrote EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini in her paper “A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy.”

“We want also to increase our dialogue and cooperation with third countries in North Africa, the Sahel strip, the Lake Chad Basin, West Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East,” wrote German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and French counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault in a press release June 24.

Similarly, Germany’s 2016 white paper on “German Security Policy and the Future of the Bundeswehr” advocates the

German military getting more involved abroad. “Germany’s security policy horizon is global,” it states.

It calls on the nation to take “early and comprehensive action” to “eradicate the causes of conflicts.”

Both the white paper and Mogherini’s report dwell on the need for “peace building.” Making peace usually involves military force. “The EU will engage more systematically on the security dimension of these conflicts,” noted Mogherini.

“The EU must be able to respond rapidly, responsibly and decisively to crises, especially to help fight terrorism,” she continued—all overt calls for the EU to be able to field military forces abroad.

Her paper also talks about “preemptive peace building,” noting, “It has long been known that preventing conflicts is more efficient and effective than engaging with crises after they break out.”

Underscoring the military nature of “peace building,” the European Commission put forward a proposal on July 5 to use funds earmarked for “peace building” to buy weapons for foreign armies. Currently, peace-building funds are used as development aid: funding maternal health care in Syria, for example. The new rules would allow these funds to be spent

Raging Power Struggle,” Spiegel Online described a Europe divided between insiders in Brussels who want “more Europe” and nation-states that want “less Europe.” However, it noted: “Jarosław Kaczyński, head of Poland’s national-conservative Law and Justice party, which currently holds power in the country, doesn’t want ‘less Europe’ in all areas. When it comes to foreign and security policy, he would even like to see the EU play a more robust role. Kaczyński is in favor of the establishment of a *European army* and would like to see a *strong European president* with far-reaching authority. It is a demand that many governments in Eastern and Central Europe agree with” (July 1).

It’s hard to imagine anything “more Europe” than a strong president and a European army. These nations are not opposed to “more Europe,” but rather “more Brussels.”

What Germany Wants

On July 13, Germany presented its long-term vision for its military. The latest white paper on defense announced the nation’s willingness to play a leading role in the world,



PREPARED
Members of the Bundeswehr participate in a military training mission in June.

even militarily. “Germany has shown that it is willing to take responsibility in security policy,” wrote Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen in the paper. “We have also shown that we are prepared to take the lead.”

Germany “has a responsibility to actively participate in shaping the global order,” the paper states.

It too calls for a European military. Germany “is striving to achieve the long-term goal of a common European Security and Defense Union,” it states. “[W]e are aiming to establish a permanent civil-military operational headquarters in the medium term.”

When presenting the paper, von der Leyen noted that Britain had “paralyzed” these kinds of efforts in

the past. The two key official German and EU papers mentioned earlier were due for publication before the Brexit referendum. Both were delayed until after the vote. Few things could turn Brits against the EU faster than calls for military union, and the timing suggests the papers were deliberately withheld until after the vote to prevent this. Yet Britain rejected Europe anyway.

Berlin’s white paper calls for Germany to allow European citizens to join the German Army. It notes that this “would not only offer potential for wide-ranging integration and regeneration and thus strengthen the personnel base of the Bundeswehr, it would also send out a strong signal for a European approach.”

on military training and weapons. *EU Observer* noted that “this is the first time” the EU “will pump money directly into a foreign military structure” (July 5).

Germany’s defense white paper also unveiled a new initiative for Germany to directly finance foreign militaries. It announced a new fund, to be jointly managed by the Foreign Office and Defense Ministry, to finance “civilian and military measures in crisis prevention.” In addition to cash, the German military will train and support foreign militaries.

It’s easy to dismiss reports like these as just talk. After all, the EU has been talking about a military for decades. But North Africa and the Middle East is one area where both Germany and the EU are taking concrete action already.

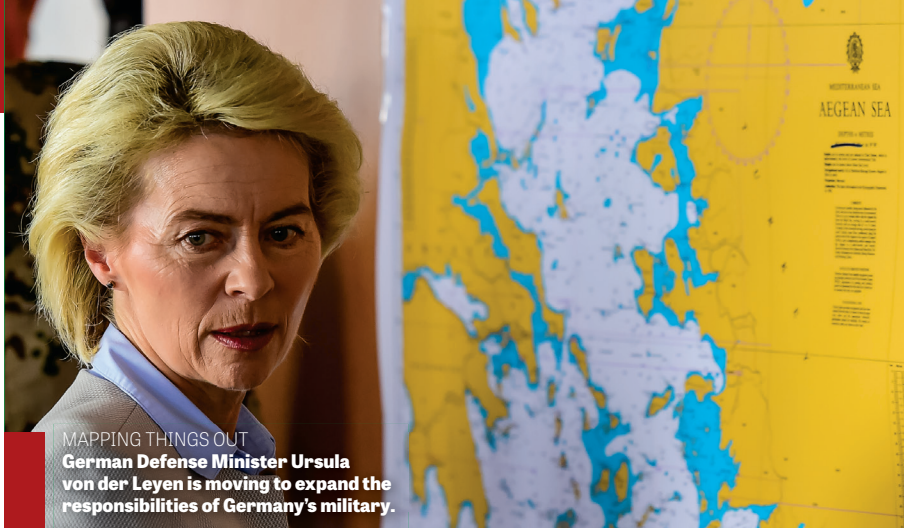
“Northern Africa is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications,” wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in April 2013.

Warning of the spread of radical Muslim groups, supported by Iran, in the region, he added, “But Iran isn’t the only one interested in Africa. Germany is making strong inroads as well. Both of these powers are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can. They will inevitably clash with each other.”

Europe is already heavily invested in the area. France has numerous strong military bases, and is involved militarily in the Central African Republic and in Mali. Germany has a major presence in Mali with hundreds of troops, as well as leadership of both the EU’s troop training mission and police training mission.

Europe is already forging closer links with militaries in the region. Paratroopers from Germany’s Rapid Forces Division participated in military exercises in Turkey for the first time in May. Since 2015, the German Special Forces Command has been participating in the United States-led “Flintlock” exercises in North Africa. This year’s exercises were conducted in Senegal, and also had a strong presence from Tunisia. The focus was to “train the trainer” according to a German officer teaching African forces to be able to more highly train their own troops.

Europe and Germany both plan to expand their relationships with certain nations in North Africa and the Middle East. Right from its first issues, the *Trumpet* has been warning of a clash between a European power and radical Islam led by Iran. With the Islamic State focused on carrying out attacks in Europe, and the EU responding by deepening its reach into Africa, this clash is building up right now. ■



MAPPING THINGS OUT
German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen is moving to expand the responsibilities of Germany's military.

Germany is also undertaking its own efforts to create a multinational army. Huge portions of the Dutch military are being merged with the German Army in a process that many want to see rolled out across the whole Continent. Two of the Netherlands' three combat brigades have officially begun the process of joining the Bundeswehr.

The 11th Airmobile Brigade came under German command in 2014. On March 17 this year, the 43rd

Mechanized Brigade officially became part of the German 1st Armored Division. The Dutch Army now has under its command only the 13th Mechanized Brigade, plus special forces, support and headquarters staff.

The two nations are extending this partnership to the sea. They will share the Dutch Navy's most expensive ship, the amphibious-landing and troop-carrying Karel Doorman. It can transport and land troops and heavy equipment

and has space for helicopters. The German sea battalion—about 800 soldiers specializing in naval protection, mine-clearance and boarding—will be absorbed into the Dutch Navy. A German air defense unit may also join a Dutch unit.

The German sea battalion is under Dutch command, so this cooperation goes both ways to a certain extent—though it is clear Germany is the senior partner. The Dutch are handing over the heart of their army to Germany, while Germany gives up only one unit. Even so, the German troops commanded by the Netherlands will be unable to deploy without the approval of the German parliament. Germany's Constitutional Court has ruled that the German military can only be deployed with the permission of the Bundestag. This applies to German units stationed in other forces.

"In all previous collaborations, it was agreed that troop operations continue to be subject to checks by the national

A RADICAL SHIFT IN GERMAN POLICY

IN RECENT YEARS, GERMANY HAS EXPERIENCED A RADICAL transformation in how it publicly views its military.

In May 2010, German President Horst Köhler said that "a country of our size needs to be aware that ... military deployment, too, is necessary if we are to protect our interests such as ensuring free-trade routes or preventing regional instabilities." At that time, the idea that Germany would use its army to protect its economic interests was so controversial that he was forced to resign.

Just six years later, Germany using its army to protect its interests abroad is official government policy, and there is no outcry. Germany's defense white paper published on July 13 shows how dramatically the nation's attitude toward its military has changed. The paper lists "countering security threats ... to our free and safe world trade and supply routes" as being part of the mission of the German military, almost exactly the same statement that brought down a German president six years ago. The paper is filled with such calls.

This white paper is the latest in a series of important statements from a newly self-confident Germany.

"This is the time of a new Germany," said Jan Techau, director of the Carnegie Europe think tank, in response to a leaked draft of the paper. "This is probably the first time a German defense white paper is something like important."

"The 2016 white paper marks a major shift for the country," wrote Deutsche Welle July 13.

The paper describes the sober state of the world. "Germany is facing challenges that are unprecedented in their nature and scope," it states. "The international order, which was established after World War II ... is undergoing profound changes."

"The renaissance of traditional power politics, which involves the use of military means to pursue national interests and entails considerable armaments efforts, elevates the risk of violent interstate conflict—even in Europe and its neighborhood," it says.

In this environment, Berlin is coming around to the idea that Germany needs to start projecting its power.

"Germany's economic and political weight means that it is our duty to take on responsibility for Europe's security in association with our European and transatlantic partners," writes German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the start of the paper. "Germany has shown that it is willing to take responsibility in security policy," writes Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen in the paper. "We have also shown that we are prepared to take the lead."

"Germany is prepared to provide a substantial, decisive and early stimulus to the international debate, to accept responsibility, and to assume leadership," states the paper. It also repeats Germany's request for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, indicating the importance of the role Germany sees itself playing.

To play this role, Germany needs to spend more on its military. The paper called on Germany to increase its annual

institutions and procedures," wrote *Sächsische Zeitung*. "The sea battalion of the German Navy could be involved, for example, only after approval of the Bundestag on a foreign deployment of the Dutch Navy" (April 2; *Trumpet* translation throughout).

These deals help Germany quickly expand its military while the Dutch cut costs. Germany sees this unprecedented cooperation as only the start. It has begun preparations for similar arrangements with Poland. The Czech Republic also wants one of its armored brigades absorbed into the German Army.

Von der Leyen said in February that Germany "will set up a multinational panzer division next year." *Die Welt* explained, "This should create a unit with up to 20,000 active soldiers, which should be operational by 2021—which would be the nucleus of a European army" (March 17).

Von der Leyen said the Dutch-German cooperation was a "prime example

for the building of a European Defense Union." The German press sees this too. "Laboratory for an EU Army" was the title for *Die Welt's* article on this subject. It had another titled "How von der Leyen Is Driving the European Army."

Die Welt wrote, "Von der Leyen and [Dutch Defense Minister Jeanine] Henis-Plasschaert were in Amsterdam playing the role of pioneers on their way to an EU army" (February 4).

Germany has made no secret that a European army is the ultimate goal of this cooperation. This strategy would naturally make Germany the lead nation of a European army.

"The nation that benefits the *most* from France rejecting America is *Germany*," Mr. Flurry wrote after the Paris attacks. "Germany has dominated the EU for years. France's move will bring the European armies together in a way that the EU founders only *dreamed of*" (op cit).

Germany is the top nation France has turned to. An EU military will need

Germany's blessing and Germany's cash. "Collaborating on defense budgets, with each nation contributing based on economic size, would mean that Germany would be both the leading economic and military power in Europe," wrote George Friedman for *Geopolitical Futures*. "Within the EU, Germany is first among equals. Creating a substantial military force would cement that" (April 8).

The French have been reluctant to give Germany that much power. But after suffering their third major terrorist attack in 18 months, they are growing desperate.

Exactly as Forecast

Herbert W. Armstrong warned of this military union for decades. In May 1953, he wrote that "10 powerful European nations will COMBINE their forces." In August 1978, he warned: "The Europeans are far more disturbed about

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defense spending from €36 billion to €60 billion (US\$40 billion to \$66 billion). Of course calling for more spending is much easier than actually spending more, but Germany's defense budget is already rising for the first time since the end of the Cold War.

The paper also calls for a removal of the cap on the number of soldiers, noting that "the Bundeswehr must have the personnel it needs to perform national and collective defense as well as international crisis management missions in an agile, robust and sustainable manner."

The paper says that the army will be more active in the future. The military will help the UN by "increasing our contributions of equipment and personnel to and assuming leadership responsibility in UN missions (civilian, police and military)." It also states that the German military is prepared to deploy overseas "from observer missions and humanitarian operations to *robust* peace enforcement" (emphasis added throughout).

The paper emphasizes the need for "strengthening the Bundeswehr's place in society." "National security is not only a task of the state, but increasingly a joint task of the state, industry, the scientific community and society," it states. It also notes that German soldiers will need "not only a rational but also an emotional foundation for their demanding mission."

In 1945, Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill declared, "It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism" They warned of the repeated "resurgence of German militarism." This was a problem that went back further

than Nazism. Even before World War I, Germany was a highly militarized state. The army played a central role in society.

This was supposed to have been destroyed for all time. But now the German military will play a great role in the world and within German society itself. Most people are convinced that enough time has gone by that there is no cause for alarm.

After World War II, Germany was placed in a special category. Though America encouraged West Germany to rearm just a few years after the war was over, the nation's legacy of igniting two world wars and ravaging entire nations demanded that certain limits be placed on it.

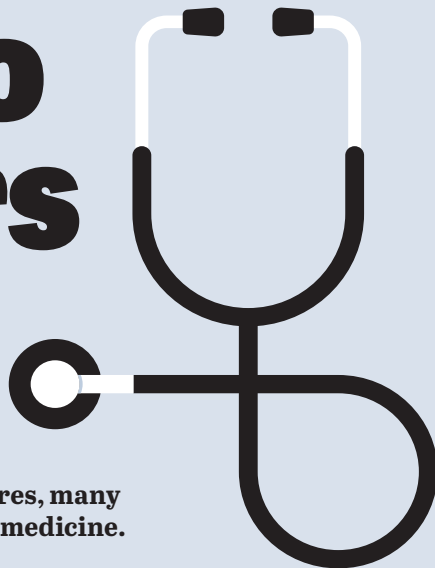
Those limits have now been cast off. Two years ago, German President Joachim Gauck declared, "The postwar generations had reasons to be distrustful—of the German state and of German society. *But the time for such categorical distrust is past.*"

Germany's defense paper also makes clear that Germany's restraints should go. "Germany's role in Europe and the world changed when Germany regained full national sovereignty," it states. "It became clear that Germany now had the same rights, obligations and responsibilities as every other state in the international arena."

A new Germany is now emerging—a Germany that is willing to lead, willing to deploy its forces around the world. A Germany that, for the first time since World War II, is willing to be proud of its armed forces and to instill them with "an emotional foundation" to go and fight for the fatherland.

This is uncharted territory for postwar Germany. ■

How Do Doctors Die?



When it comes to end-of-life procedures, many doctors choose not to take their own medicine.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

DR. ED FRIEDLANDER IS A CLEAN-cut, 64-year-old pathologist practicing in Kansas City, Missouri. He does not look like a person who would have a tattoo. But square in the center of his chest, in bold ink, are these words: “No CPR.”

The tattoo isn't a fashion accessory. It is there to reinforce what Dr. Friedlander has written in his living will: In the event of many medical emergencies, he does not want to be given cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or other life-prolonging procedures. Even if he is unconscious and the paramedic doesn't know about the will, he can just read the tattoo.

It's not that Friedlander doesn't enjoy being alive. But his career in medicine has given him more knowledge than the average person about the realities of CPR and other emergency procedures. And all that knowledge has left him with little faith in those procedures. “In pathology, you think a lot about the end of life,” he said. “Nobody would ever accuse me of not loving life. ... [But] when this thing stops beating, it's time for me to move on.”

Friedlander says he never wants to receive what some doctors call “futile care.”

Dr. Ken Murray had a private practice of general medicine in Studio City, California, for 25 years until his retirement in 2006. In his 2011 online article, “How Doctors Die,” he defines “futile care” as what happens “when doctors bring the cutting edge of technology to bear on a grievously ill person near the end of life.”

Murray says, “The patient will get cut open, perforated with tubes, hooked up to machines, and assaulted with drugs. All of this occurs in the Intensive Care Unit at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars a day. What it buys is misery ...”

Friedlander and Murray are not the only medical experts with a low opinion of these kinds of “futile care,” end-of-life treatments.

Doctors Opt Out

The average person frequently elects to receive all kinds of “futile care” for himself and even more so for a loved one. Finding himself in an emergency room after a crisis has struck, he is frightened and overwhelmed. If doctors ask if he would like “everything available” to be done, he is prone to say yes.

“Then,” Murray says, “the nightmare begins.”

“Sometimes, a family really means ‘do everything,’ but often they just mean ‘do everything that's reasonable.’” The trouble is that people who are not medical experts usually don't know what is reasonable in a given scenario and what is not. And doctors who are asked to do “everything available” generally do it—even when it is not reasonable.

Murray explains that part of the problem is the “unrealistic expectations” the general population has about “what doctors can accomplish.”

But many doctors themselves do not have any such “unrealistic expectations” about the capability of the medical establishment. As part of the

ongoing Johns Hopkins Precursors Study, 765 doctors (with a mean age of 68) responded to a 1998 questionnaire asking what they would want done for themselves if they were suffering from irreversible brain damage or brain disease where they couldn't recognize people or speak understandably, but did not have terminal illness.

The doctors were asked if they would want to receive the following procedures: CPR, mechanical ventilation, dialysis, chemotherapy, major surgery, invasive testing, nourishment from a feeding tube, blood transfusion, antibiotics and intravenous hydration.

Ninety percent of the doctors said if they were in such a grim end-of-life situation, they would not want CPR. About 87 percent said they would refuse mechanical ventilation, and the same number said they would refuse dialysis. Eighty-five percent said no to chemotherapy, and 81 percent opted out of all major surgery. About 79 percent said they would not want invasive testing, and 77 percent said no to being fed via a feeding tube. Seventy-four percent said they would not want blood transfusions. About 62 percent said no to antibiotics, and 59 percent said no even to intravenous hydration.

Those are some astounding numbers. Over the course of their careers, doctors have witnessed patients undergoing these very same procedures numerous times. Why don't they want these methods used on themselves?

It's not *in spite* of the fact that they have experience with these procedures—it's *because* of it. The realities of these common medical practices have disillusioned the doctors.

Dr. Murray explains: “Doctors ... know enough about modern medicine to know its limits. ... For all the time they spend fending off the deaths of others, they tend to be fairly serene when faced with death themselves. They know exactly what is going to happen, they know the choices, and they generally have access to any sort of medical care they could want. But they go gently.”

Despite having virtually unlimited access to medical care, doctors overwhelmingly hope to “go gently.”

Dr. Saul Blecker, assistant professor of population health and medicine at NYU

Langone Medical Center, agrees with that logic: “Doctors see a lot of patients who are treated aggressively at the end of life, and often in ways that seem maybe too intense.” Blecker says if more people had understanding of the limitations of end-of-life care, “more people” would choose to “die a ‘good death.’”

If those who know the most about modern medicine have a bleak view of end-of-life treatments, why does the general population tend to see it differently?

‘I’m Not a Doctor, but I Play One on TV’

Part of the reason why the general population puts more trust in medical procedures than doctors do stems from how they are portrayed in the media.

Back in 1996, researchers from the Durham VA Medical Center examined the TV programs *ER*, *Chicago Hope* and *Rescue 911* to see how many people on the shows benefited from CPR intervention. The conclusion was that 77 percent of patients were revived by CPR and were basically all better.

In real life, the number is a fraction of that. Overall survival rates are rarely compiled since researchers focus on specific demographic groups. Only 2 percent of adults of all ages who receive CPR after collapsing out-of-hospital fully recover, according to a 2012 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Of the 15,300 Swedes of all ages who suffered cardiac arrest outside of hospitals from 1990 to 2011, just 10.5 percent were alive 30 days later. A 2009 study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* said that about 18 percent of seniors who receive CPR in a hospital survive to be discharged. And of those who do survive to discharge, fewer than half have a full recovery free of lasting complications.

While TV says almost 8 in 10 CPR patients spring back to good health and return to their lives, the reality is it is much lower.

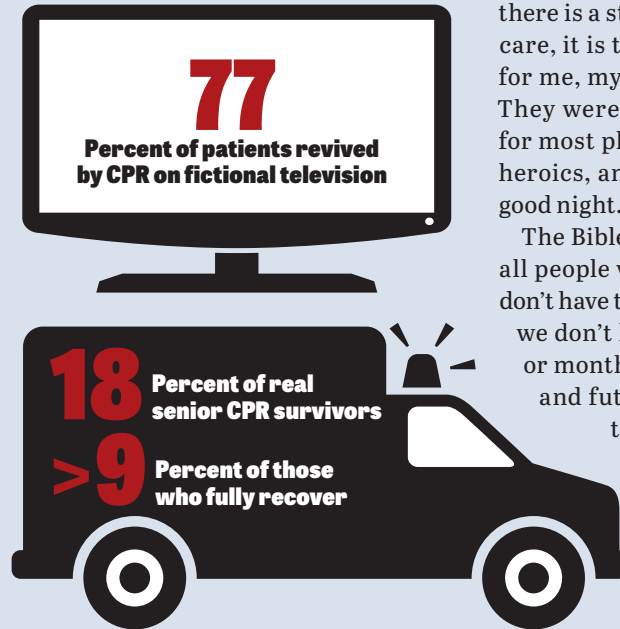
Doctors know this reality far better than the rest of us. That is why 90 percent of them say that in an end-of-life scenario, they would not want CPR. Not only is it unlikely to help, but it generally breaks the patients’ ribs, filling the last chapter of their lives with a great deal of pain.

But CPR is mild compared to some other end-of-life procedures.

Torturous Treatment

“I think a lot of times, we’re doing things to people that we wouldn’t do to a terrorist,” Murray said.

One such procedure is intentionally paralyzing patients so they can be attached to a breathing machine. Unless they are paralyzed, their bodies



involuntarily fight against the rhythm of the machine. Dr. Murray explains: “So what happens is you have a person that is fighting, fighting, fighting, fighting, and you can’t get air in and out of them, so you paralyze them. But it doesn’t mean they’re asleep. They’re not asleep. They are completely helpless, and yet they are aware of everything that’s going on around them.”

Doctors see how agonizing this induced paralysis is for patients. That is why 87 percent of them say that if their brains were damaged, they would not want to be put on mechanical ventilation.

Not the Only Life

The problem is sometimes less about people having too much faith in end-of-life procedures than it is about patients and doctors alike being caught in a medical system that encourages excessive treatment. In either case, many patients

receive treatments that accomplish little.

Dr. Murray draws on his own background in medicine to summarize his powerful point: “It’s not a frequent topic of discussion, but doctors die, too. And they don’t die like the rest of us. What’s unusual about them is not how much treatment they get compared to most Americans, but how little. ... If there is a state-of-the-art of end-of-life care, it is this: death with dignity. As for me, my physician has my choices. They were easy to make, as they are for most physicians. There will be no heroics, and I will go gentle into that good night. ... Like my fellow doctors.”

The Bible says “it is appointed” that all people will die (Hebrews 9:27). We don’t have to fear that inevitability. And we don’t have to fill our final weeks or months with invasive, expensive and futile treatments, clinging to this life as if it is the only one there is. God makes clear that the richness of what comes next eclipses this life by many orders of magnitude: “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

God also said, through the Apostle Paul, that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). That future existence will be *so astounding* that, for the most part, this current life will not even “be remembered” (Isaiah 65:17).

If we reject the unrealistic expectations the media have given us about what doctors can accomplish, and if we learn from the experience of the growing number of doctors like Friedlander, Murray and Blecker who don’t have faith in “futile care” end-of-life procedures, then, when the time comes, we might be inclined to opt out of certain procedures—even to accept death as they aim to: with gentle dignity. ■

We all long to live, but life doesn’t last forever. Our quest to extend it has raised some vital questions—and obscured some others.

Read “**Longing to Live**” at theTrumpet.com/go/7751 to learn how to face death with real hope.

Turkey Enters a Dark New Age

What the failed coup reveals about Turkey's once secular state **BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL**

ON THE EVENING OF JULY 15, TURKISH tanks rolled into Istanbul and stationed themselves on two bridges over the Bosphorus. Soon after, the sonic boom of tactical jets and the low thumping of helicopters could be heard flying overhead. These were the first signs that a coup d'état was underway.

For many observers, the possibility of the fall of Turkish strongman Recep Tayyip Erdoğan raised hopes that Turkey might experience a return to

the secular state that dominated the nation for the past 50 years. If history was any guide, come a day or two, the military would

have declared victory over the Islamist leader. All four previous coup attempts in modern Turkey (1960, 1971, 1980 and 1997) were successful as the military rose to preserve the secular democratic state. This one, many hoped, would end the same way.

But that's not what happened.

Erdoğan's 'Reichstag Fire'

Before most Americans went to bed on the same day that the coup started, it

was obvious that Erdoğan would not be removed. Instead, it was clear he would use the opportunity as an excuse to garner more power to himself, in effect exploiting the coup as his own "Reichstag fire." This refers to Adolf Hitler's use of the 1933 arson in Germany's parliament as justification for suspending civil liberties, the beginning of the Nazi dictatorship.

Indeed, as the coup was winding down, Erdoğan himself called the uprising a "gift from God" because it "will be a reason to cleanse our army."

The weeks after the coup proved this statement true, except that Erdoğan began cleansing more than just the army.

Within mere days, Erdoğan had arrested thousands of military personnel and around 1,500 judges and prosecutors; he had suspended tens of thousands of workers in the Ministry of Education and almost 9,000 at the Interior Ministry. He had also revoked the licenses of 21,000 private educational institutions and forced 1,577 university department heads to resign.

The fact that Erdoğan's government could move so quickly to purge dissenters showed that most were already on his hit list before the coup.

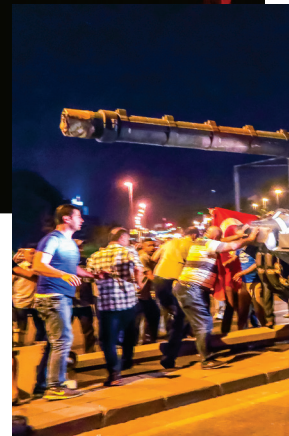
On July 21, Erdoğan advanced his power grab by declaring a state of emergency for the next three months with the possibility of extending it further. This move gives him unparalleled power.

While many in the West were unnerved by Erdoğan's overreach following the coup, the silence from the public in Turkey has been deafening. More than half of Turks are not disconcerted by Erdoğan's moves—they actually welcome them.

Earlier this year, Erdoğan's policy of removing dissenters from positions of power was essentially supported by over half of the public when they voted him into office once again. This is why, believe it or not, Erdoğan has been touting the coup's failure as a victory for democracy. It also speaks volumes about why this was the first unsuccessful military coup in Turkey's modern history.

Why the Coup Failed

In many ways, this latest attempt at overthrowing the government in Turkey did not follow the normal procedure for military coups. Historically,



a coup in Turkey and the rest of the Middle East begins as a response to public outcry and protest against the government's movement away from the secular state. As in the case of the 2013 military coup in Egypt against Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, the army stepped in only after the people organized a substantial protest against the government. Then, as the Morsi government violently suppressed the rioters, the majority of the military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, removed Morsi from power.

That is what normally happens. But that's not what happened in Turkey.



Instead of people taking to the streets and then the military stepping in to remove the government, the Turkish military tried to take down the government and, in *response*, the people took to the streets to stop it.

It was the overwhelming response of the Turkish people in support of Erdoğan that was the major reason the coup failed.

Just as the rebellion was beginning, Erdoğan was able to evade the revolutionaries as they descended on the coastal hotel where he had been staying. Then, via Apple's FaceTime app, Erdoğan appeared on CNNTurk calling on his supporters to take to the streets and use any and all means necessary to stop the insurrection.

At the same time, mosques all over Istanbul and Ankara called on people to gather in town squares and airports in defiance of the coup. The same message was sent simultaneously via numerous text messages to cell phones across the nation.

In response, the people defied the military's imposed curfew and took to the streets. Footage quickly emerged on social media of men in plain clothes trying to hold back battle tanks, some even lying in front of them as they plowed forward. This only further motivated Erdoğan's supporters to come out in droves. Eventually, as many witnessed the next day, the iconic moment of the coup was when soldiers laid down their weapons in surrender and were marched off the Istanbul Bosphorus Bridge.

While a number of other factors contributed to the failure of the coup attempt, the one that surprised many, especially in the West, was the amount of public support Erdoğan received.

The failure of the coup reveals that, like it or not, *the majority of Turks want Erdoğan in power more than they want military rule.* MOST TURKS LIKE HIS ISLAMIST LEANINGS, AND THEY DON'T WANT A RETURN TO A SECULAR STATE.

For the secularists and other minorities in Turkey, this is a discomfiting thought.

Asli Aydintasbas, a fellow at the European Council of Foreign Relations, wrote from Istanbul, "The opposite of a military coup is democracy, not Islam. But that's not how the government mobilized masses. Friday night was scary for most secular Turks, not only because of the coup but also because among those who took to the streets were radicals and members of Islamic sects" (*Wall Street Journal*, July 19).

She concluded: "[H]ere is the final irony. The military had long been regarded as the bastion of Turkey's secular order fashioned after the principles of the country's founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. This silly botched coup has brought about the end of Atatürk's secular republic. We are beginning a new chapter in Turkey now."

Indeed, this new chapter of an Islamist-dominated state in Turkey was already written. It just took this coup for the world to realize it.

Europe's Moral Quandary

While Western leaders have generally expressed support for Erdoğan in putting down the coup, many were slow to do so. It's likely that many European

leaders would have happily accepted the result of a successful coup.

Especially over the past year, European leaders have received a lot of blowback from their constituents because of their deal with Turkey over the refugee crisis. In order to halt the flow of refugees from Syria to Europe, Turkey agreed to stop migrants before they reached Greece. In response, the EU, led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said it would pay off Turkey and offer visa-free travel for Turks into Europe. In exchange for this second part of the deal, Europe demanded that Erdoğan release some of his grip on power, especially reinstating freedom of the press and stopping human rights abuses.

Yet Erdoğan has done nothing of the sort. Instead, he has strengthened his autocratic rule.

The aftermath of this coup attempt will make it even less likely Erdoğan will comply with European demands. This will deepen Europe's moral quandary in dealing with Turkey.

Before the coup, Erdoğan was largely seen as an unsavory autocrat who, though he was democratically elected, did not represent the views or ideals of the people. The coup has revealed a new truth: Erdoğan is an Islamist authoritarian who enjoys the support of the majority of the Turkish people.

For all of Europeans' wishing the opposite, it looks like they are stuck with Erdoğan.

This is apparently the reality of today's world: Increasingly, national survival *requires* working with unsavory autocrats such as Erdoğan. For Europe, that means continuing to engage Turkey regardless of how Islamist or authoritarian it becomes.

Bible prophecy shows there will be an end-time alignment of interests between Turkey and a German-led Europe. This is part of an end-time alliance described in Psalm 83, and the book of Obadiah indicates that Turkey will be part of a latter-day betrayal of the nations of Israel. In both instances, there is no indication that the alliance is based on mutual values or an abiding friendship. Instead, it is purely based on a mutual interest, which is the exact sort of relationship we see being created today. ■

Be a Smarter Supermarket Shopper

When you shop at the grocery, realize that you are a target. **BY JORG MARDIAN**

BUSY CONSUMERS LOVE SUPERMARKETS. Row upon row of perfectly presented food allow you to run in, grab what you need, and dash out. You assume you are in control of your decisions. After all, you are the one with the grocery list. But oftentimes you are being manipulated without even realizing it.

Shoppers often fall victim to supermarket manipulations that influence purchasing decisions. It's a cunningly orchestrated sales process that lures you in, keeps you in, and seduces you into buying as many profitable products as possible—profitable to food manufacturers, not to your health.

Wanted: Impulsive Shoppers

Of the food people consume at home, an estimated 64 percent comes from the supermarket. Few shoppers think about how much their purchasing behavior is being influenced when they step into a supermarket. An ABC News consumer watchdog report says the products we see, where they are displayed, and even what we smell are all designed by sophisticated, market-tested strategies with one purpose: to compel you to buy.

Notice the produce department: a stage set of shiny apples and dewy vegetables, giving that fresh-picked look and putting you in a pleasant seasonal mood. As you walk along, the savory smells of baked bread and roasted chicken waft over to your nose. The resultant olfactory overload gives you a shot of dopamine and activates the salivary glands.

Paco Underhill, consumer expert and author of *What Women Want: The Science of Female Shopping*, believes this last tactic is important. "When you're salivating," he says, "you're a much less disciplined shopper."

As you pick up products—some that are on your list, some that are impulse buys—a song plays softly in

the background. Slow, soft music has been found to slow customers down. Author Ronald Milliman revealed in a 1982 paper that soft background music caused people to walk 15 percent slower and increased sales volume by 38 percent. That's a powerful strategy, as most consumer choices are made in-store, and 60 percent of those are impulse purchases, according to Herb Meyers, CEO of former New York corporate identity firm Gerstman+Meyers. "If you feel good through emotionally evocative music," he said, "you're likely to spend more."

Priming Us for Captain Crunch

Where these tactics get dicey is in the push toward junk food. These factory-manufactured products are generally cheaper to produce, so the more junk food people buy, the more profit retailers and manufacturers make. These foods also stimulate your taste buds more than, say, broccoli, so you are more likely to keep coming back for more. To hook the consumer, retailers use two main sales strategies: lower your critical awareness,

and encourage you to buy on impulse.

This consumer psychology is called subliminal priming and relies on the target (you) remaining unaware that such stimuli exists. So when you head to the dairy section for a gallon of milk, you'll be exposed to plenty of chips, pop and other temptations along the way. Distraction is the key component to a store's profitability, with the rationale that the longer you linger, the more you spend.

Walk down any aisle, and you'll notice the most popular brands sitting at eye-level on shelves. Strategic product placement to maximize sales is known as a *planogram model*. Food companies pay big dollars to make sure Cap'n Crunch looks your child straight in the eye, pleading with him to pick the box up—and to plead with you.

Other traps, known as "end caps," hover at the end of aisles. According to the National Retail Hardware Association, these shelves outsell similar products



MELISSA BARRERO/TRUMPET

elsewhere by eight times. Unfortunately, the evidence suggests that these shelves get stocked with too much junk: soft drinks, chocolate, confectionery and chips.

Few people notice these tactics, making them all the more powerful. Increasingly, such corporate decisions shape our patterns of purchasing and, as a result, our patterns of consumption, malnutrition and disease.

The Future of Consumer Targeting

To induce even more impulse buying, “smart shelves” soon will use sensors to determine your age and gender and target specific advertisements. Movement tracking is also coming into favor. Retailers are beginning to experiment with a variety of new camera tracking technologies that can tell when you enter a store, where you go and how you shop. Real-time imaging tracks movements and produces heat maps showing where shoppers concentrate their attention. This allows companies to determine consumer habits through behaviors and becomes another effective way to boost revenue.

Even as you leave the store, the loyalty card you used to save a few pennies gave additional key insights into what you buy. An army of experts will now data mine the information to determine how to squeeze your wallet further in the future.

Winning the War

These aggressive and even invasive methods are effective largely because shoppers are ignorant of them. We allow subliminal suggestions to nudge us toward unwise purchases and unhealthy foods.

Here are a few tips to help you become a smarter shopper:

Before heading to the market, eat something to prevent excessive or unhealthy purchases.

Make a shopping list and stick to it.

Shop only once weekly.

At the supermarket, learn to recognize the strategies that are targeting you. Stay focused on your list and avoid falling victim to persuasion and impulse. If you do, the battle between supermarket profit margins and your health will claim one less victim. ■

Don't Read This Article!

BY JOEL HILLIKER

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOURSELF? Not just your desires or interests—how well do you understand how and why you think your particular thoughts? What makes you do what you do?

Be honest. Are there ever times when you have thoughts you don't like, or don't understand—or, even worse, emotions you can't explain? Do you ever feel disappointed because you keep doing things you've “promised” yourself you'd overcome? In your relationships, do you find yourself dealing with the same problems, making the same mistakes, time and time again?

Surely you can answer *yes* to at least some of these questions. They are common to the human experience.

Even the Apostle Paul, one of the most prolific biblical writers, was well acquainted with these frustrations. He wrote, “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate” (Romans 7:15; Revised Standard Version).

Why is this so? Sometimes it seems as if our own minds are a big puzzle.

Take another example. The headline above is plain: Don't read this article. Yet here you are, reading it.

What makes that which is forbidden so compelling to us? Think about it. Why do books, movies or art exhibits that arouse scandal attract bigger audiences? Why does reverse psychology work—where we do something only because it is the opposite of what is expected?

Why do we naturally resist when we are told what to do? Why is it so hard to admit when we are wrong?

Can you explain these conundrums? Again—how well do you really know yourself, the inner workings of your mind?

Most people simply live with the problem; they don't think much about it. Others, desperate for a solution, believe every promise of every self-help book, television psychiatrist or psychic, and build their lives around humanly devised plans and programs.

The Bible states the problem in terminology that is shockingly explicit—so much so that most people would reject it, even though they are living proof of its truth. “The heart [that is, the seat of intellect—the human mind] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Do you disagree? Does that seem too harsh? It takes penetrating personal honesty to recognize the truth in Jeremiah's statement. 1 Kings 8:38 emphasizes the importance of every person knowing “the plague of his own heart.” Does that ring true in your life? Do you recognize that “plague” in your mind? If you don't admit it, you can never change it.

The fact is, most problems in the world are caused by people who are woefully ignorant about themselves! They may be doing the best they know how—they may sincerely want to do better—but they're stuck. “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25).

Why is the human mind so malignant? The Creator God designed it. Did He fashion into it deceptive intricacies? Did He make it “desperately wicked”? Most people have never even contemplated this issue.

Perhaps even more important: *What can be done about it?* Recognizing the problem is one thing—overcoming it is another. Are we destined to remain plagued by a self-deceitful, wicked heart?

You need answers to these questions.

We would like to offer you free copies of two booklets. The first, *Human Nature—What Is It?*, explains why the human mind is the way it is. The second, *Repentance Toward God*, will show you the first steps necessary to begin to change. It will give you the universally overlooked key to self-mastery and lasting success. Don't delay—contact us today! ■



#LAWLESSNESSM

This ar ea

The #BlackLivesMatter movement is founded on the lie that racist police officers are systematically targeting innocent blacks for extermination because of their skin color.

The actual data, however, reveals that blacks are *less likely* than those of other races to be killed by police during an arrest. Thirteen blacks were shot by police for every 100,000 blacks arrested in 2014. This compares to about 15 non-blacks shot for every 100,000 non-blacks arrested. Racial disparities between blacks and non-blacks shot by police is due to the fact that blacks are arrested for criminal behavior at twice the rate of non-blacks.

Even though black adults only make up 13 percent of the U.S. adult population, they account for 27 percent of arrests and 36 percent of violent criminal arrests. While the death of even one person is a tragedy, any reasonable person will admit that officers occasionally do have to shoot in self-defense when they are dealing with criminal activity.

A 2015 *Washington Post* study revealed that the vast majority of those shot and killed by police officers were either brandishing a gun, attacking someone, or making direct threats. Only about 5 percent of fatal shootings by police occurred under circumstances that raise any doubt or concern. Even in the 5 percent of cases that raise doubt, police report that the suspect was often shot accidentally after making a sudden movement.

Any legitimate cases of police brutality should be dealt with swiftly, via the rule of law. The numbers prove, however, that the claim of widespread and systematic police brutality in America is false. The riots, looting and police killings that have been inspired by the lie that blacks are being hunted in the streets like animals are truly a tragedy.

All arrest data comes from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2014 Uniform Crime Report, while all police shooting data comes from the 2014 database recorded at killedbypolice.net. Arrest and population data only include those 18 years and older. Data was organized into black and non-black categories since the FBI does not distinguish between white and Hispanic crime.

MATTERS



"Black Lives Matter is an ideological and political intervention in a world where black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise."

—#BlackLivesMatter co-founder Alicia Garza

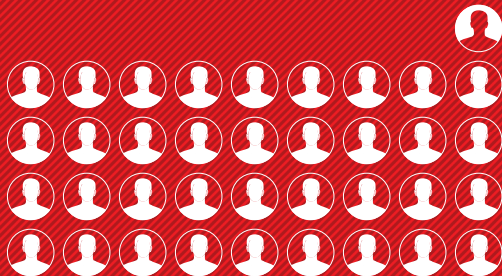
■ This area represents 819 non-blacks shot by police in 2014.

■ This area represents 281 blacks shot by police in 2014.

This area represents non-black arrests in 2014

5,780,682

Non-blacks comprise **87%** of the population and account for **73%** of crime



1 in 37 non-blacks are arrested

14.74

non-blacks are shot by police for every 100,000 arrested

This area represents black arrests in 2014

2,152,754

Blacks comprise **13%** of the population and account for **27%** of crime



1 in 15 blacks are arrested

13.05

blacks are shot by police for every 100,000 arrested

..... Arrests below this line are for violent crimes

..... Arrests below this line are for violent crimes

Eating New Zealand for Lunch

China is taking over the world's largest dairy exporter one farm at a time.

BY CHRISTOPHER EAMES

W E NEW ZEALANDERS ARE FEW in number but have slogged it out over the past century and a half to become the largest dairy exporter on Earth, sending out 95 percent of our product. Our dairy industry is critical to our economy. Really, the country's livelihood depends to a great extent on how well our farms do. Judging by what has been happening lately, that's *not so well at all*.

New Zealand—China's Milkman

New Zealand's biggest dairy customer by far has been China. And one of the biggest-selling products has been powdered milk. In short, Kiwis noticed hoards of powdered milk flying off shelves to China, and eagerly settled in for (what we hoped would be) a long-lasting boom in the dairy sector. Trouble is, China was merely *stockpiling* the product en masse (to the tune of an estimated 300,000 tons)—and now no longer needs to keep buying. This has left New Zealand farms hanging, with 85 percent of them now running at a loss.

Over the past two years, farmers have had NZ\$7 billion (US\$5 billion) disappear from collective revenue. Statistically, these dairy farmers have incurred a debt of around NZ\$10,000 *per cow*. Multiply that number into the average New Zealand farm size of around 400 cattle, and you have a disastrous situation, leading not only to fears for the New Zealand economy, but also fears of increased suicide risk for New Zealand farmers. Many farmers



are looking at selling off their land. And who could blame them?

But the problems do not stop there. As a result of this economic downturn, New Zealand farms have been severely devalued. Chinese investors have taken advantage of the reduced prices and are buying land en masse.

For years there have been whispers in New Zealand that farmers are becoming “tenants on their own land.” As Chinese companies move in more and more, carving out and buying for themselves swathes of New Zealand farmland (and Australian, too), those concerns are growing louder. Some have criticized these voices for being “racist,” stating that China is only ranked fifth on the list of foreign countries holding the most New Zealand land. That is true. However, over the past few years it has been *China* showing *by far* the biggest increase in land purchases. Hence the concern.

Mass purchasing by Chinese investors has been happening to Australian farms, seaports and more. Read about these at theTrumpet.com/go/13766.

To its credit, the New Zealand government recently blocked the Chinese Shanghai Pengxin firm from purchasing the 55-square-mile Lochinver farm, although that move left many in New Zealand who were looking for the payout disgruntled. Shanghai Pengxin also pulled the plug on another farm purchase of 13 square miles. But Shanghai Pengxin had already bought a number of New Zealand farms, including the famous Crafar farms, the sale of which was the largest foreign acquisition of New Zealand land by value, covering 32 square miles. With their farm count now at 29, Shanghai Pengxin is the *third-largest dairy producer* in New Zealand. That is significant considering New Zealand is the world's biggest dairy exporter.

Add to that New Zealand's biggest meat cooperative, Silver Fern Farms,

which voted just last year to sell half the company to the Chinese-owned Bright Food Group. While the vote was successful, the deal is still awaiting approval by the Overseas Investment Office. All told, China has a current “investment” in New Zealand of NZ\$6.6 billion (US\$4.7 billion).

Did large Chinese companies, in league with their government, *deliberately* intend to harm the New Zealand and Australian economies by stockpiling products, in order to then *purchase devalued land and commodities at a cut rate*?

Chinese firms, it should be noted, are not necessarily independent of the Chinese government, as *Trumpet* writer Jeremiah Jacques wrote: “Unlike the situation in the U.S., the line in China between government and business is gray at best and often totally absent. In 2011, for example, 43 percent of all profits generated by China came from firms that the government had a controlling interest in. Even in cases when there is separation in ownership, Chinese companies and individuals are reluctant to flout Beijing’s authority and guidance. For these reasons, most takeovers by Chinese firms equate to a concrete increase in the Chinese government’s power” (theTrumpet.com, July 22, 2013).

That increase in China’s power over the last several decades has truly been astonishing. The nation has become a veritable world superpower from a mere pauper state not so long ago. And it is well on the road to building a full-fledged *empire*.

Building China’s Pacific Empire

China’s building of artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea has been one of its most blatant efforts in building its empire. Undeterred by The Hague’s recent official rejection of China’s claims in the massive body of water (article, page 29), the giant nation continues to dredge up the seabed in order to create militarized “islands” replete with military defenses, bunkers and airstrips.

New Zealand Defense Minister Gerry Brownlee recently made some troubling statements about China’s ambitions in the South China Sea. He said, “There’s no doubt there’s a degree of asserting what are believed to be

long-held rights [by China over the South China Sea], but I think you’ve also got to see that some of those claims are, in history, *no greater than the claims that Britain might have had over all of Australia, or all of New Zealand.*

businessmen just sell away the land on the negotiating table? It’s true that New Zealand’s armed forces were set up to be used in conjunction with the Australian forces. Even still, the above is a pretty shocking situation for a



MILKED DRY New Zealand’s dairy farmers are so deeply indebted, they owe approximately NZ\$10,000 per cow.

Many farmers are looking to sell off their land, and New Zealand farms have been severely devalued. Chinese investors have taken advantage.

It’s *hard to imagine*, though, that China will want to have any particular conflict over this issue” (emphasis added).

In this view, China has *just as much right* to the South China Sea (or anything in the South Pacific, you might add) as the English had over New Zealand and Australia. And we shouldn’t worry, because it is “hard to imagine” China resorting to military measures.

But what if things *do* get nasty? New Zealand’s armed forces aren’t exactly well prepared to defend our assets. Take the Royal New Zealand Air Force: over 1,000 aircraft strong at the end of World War II, now 51. Thanks to the Labour government of 1999–2008, there are no more air combat planes—only trainers, transports, patrol planes and helicopters. *All* are propeller-driven, apart from two converted *airliners*. Perhaps we can fall back on our 11 Navy ships—down from over 60 at the end of World War II; too bad only *two* of them are designated combat boats.

But then again, what’s the point in even wasting money on a military to defend a nation when your

somewhat isolated island nation the size of New Zealand.

China’s heavy regional influence hasn’t just been limited to the southern Asian portion of the globe. It has been pursuing major investments in the United States and Africa as well. And its flowering relationship with Vladimir Putin’s Russia is cementing together a massive Asian superpower to counter the fast-fading United States of America, the impotent British Commonwealth, and the German-steered European bloc.

China is in empire-building mode. And for a country in such a power position, and with such a massive population, the desire for more resources and more land should be no surprise. If it’s done this much on a one-child policy, one can only imagine what’s next—considering that policy was phased out last year. It is becoming a nation hungry for not only food products, but for land as well.

Actually, New Zealand *has* been witnessing tremendous growth in Asian immigration. Just over one in eight people in New Zealand are Asian (with most

China

SUPERPOWER OF THE FUTURE?

China will take more than your manufacturing job.

BY DAVID VEJIL

CHINA IS A SOVEREIGN STATE in East Asia with a population of over 1.3 billion people. The nation possesses the world's largest economy by some measurements, the world's largest population and the fourth-largest territory. These are the building blocks of a superpower. While the world anticipates China gaining superpower status, analysts debate on when and whether its rise will be peaceful.

The *Trumpet* forecasts that China will continue to grow as a formidable power, combining its strength with Russia. Further, we forecast that it will play a major role in waging economic war that will devastate America.

22 THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

HISTORY

China is located in East Asia. Its east borders the Pacific Ocean. Its south-eastern border is mostly a hilly jungle difficult to travel through. The south and west of China border the Himalayas, the world's tallest mountain range. This poses another barrier to trade and military forces, except on its north-western border through Kazakhstan. The famous medieval network of trade routes from Europe to Asia, called the Silk Road, ran through Kazakhstan to China. To China's north, the Gobi Desert runs along China's border with Mongolia. China also borders Russia to the north in a relatively uninhabited region.

With borders like these, China is geographically secure. Historically, its geography allowed China to develop without much interaction with foreign powers, unless it chose to. Its territory and population size also make it hard to conquer. The only successful invasion of China was by the Mongolian horsemen in the 1200s. Even though the Japanese invaded and occupied large parts of eastern China in the 1930s, they could never get the Chinese to capitulate.

Geographically, China's coast is its most vulnerable frontier. It is where the Japanese invaded and how the British Empire forced the Chinese into trade concessions in the 1800s. The British Empire's prosperous trade actually destabilized China. The rich coastal areas benefiting from the trade resisted government policies and control that sought to curb trade. This led to the collapse of the central government and civil war. It was in this context that Japan invaded and remarkably failed to conquer.

All of this shows that while China is vulnerable to invasion from the coast, the real threat isn't from a military invasion. No nation has the interest or the forces to invade and occupy mainland China and hope to win. The real threat is economic. It is vital to China's prosperity that no nation can threaten it economically through its coast.

Modern History

The history that is important to the *Trumpet's* forecasts begins in 1949 when Mao Tse-tung established the



People's Republic of China. Mao modeled China's political structures on those of the Communist Soviet Union. This attracted Soviet loans, boosted growth in the Chinese economy, and put it on an ideological path opposite to the United States.

At first the relationship between Russia and China was successful. The Soviet advisers and loans increased industrialization in a backward agrarian society. Mao signed a mutual defense treaty with the Soviet Union in February 1950 and declared that the Chinese-Soviet friendship would be "everlasting, indestructible and inalienable."

The relationship began to break down after Mao launched his own modernization program in 1958 that failed. His radical attempts to remake China's society reversed many of the economic gains. Russia openly criticized China and cut off military aid. Within 15 years, the friendship ended.

The Chinese began to drift from Soviet Russia both philosophically and strategically, and began to look elsewhere for economic prosperity.

In 1971, China gained membership in the United Nations, raising its status to a major world political power. The following year, U.S. President Richard Nixon visited China, the first step in formalizing relations between the two countries. It paved the way to the strong economic ties the two nations share today.

It was in the 1970s that China's economic growth really began to take off. In December 1978, China allowed farmers to sell their produce in local markets, a step away from pure communism. The government also allowed individual businesses to conduct trade with foreign businesses.

From 1978 to 2012, China's gross domestic product grew an average of 9.4 percent every year. No other nation's economy has grown so fast for so long. After 35 years of almost uninterrupted growth by some measures, such as purchasing power, China's economy is now the largest in the world.

China's per capita GDP rose from \$439 in 1950 to \$7,578 in 2014. That was a remarkable achievement. Since opening up trade to foreign markets, China has abandoned its historic isolation.

The *Trumpet* also watches China's relationship with Russia, which has undergone dramatic changes. The relationship reached a low in 1969 when Russian and Chinese troops fought a border battle. But beginning in 1989, when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visited Beijing, China and Russia's relationship has strengthened. In 1991 the two countries resolved their border differences, and in 2001 they signed a "friendship cooperation agreement."

The two nations formed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 1996 to strengthen political and economic cooperation with Central Asian states. China is now Russia's largest trading partner, while Russia is a valuable source of oil and natural gas for China.

It is these two factors, China's increasing economic power and its strengthening relationship with Russia, that the *Trumpet* follows—and both of these trends continue to grow. The question on analysts' minds is whether China's growth and ambition will continue to be peaceful, or if it will turn to war. China's recent actions give a clear answer.

A Belt, a Road, a Bank ...

Recently, China has been expanding its ties with the rest of Asia. In 2013, China launched its "One Belt, One Road" strategy to build transportation infrastructure routes for trade from Asia to Africa and Europe. It covers an area that holds 55 percent of the world's gross national product, 70 percent of the global population and 75 percent of known energy reserves.

In 2016, China launched the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a new Chinese-run international bank. The bank reduces Asia's dependence on the U.S.-controlled World Bank and aims to replace the U.S. dollar with the Chinese yuan in trade.

When the bank was proposed in 2015, the U.S. tried to convince other

nations not to join, but failed even to persuade its closest allies. This handed the U.S. an embarrassing defeat and clearly signaled that China is aggressively looking to replace the U.S. in certain markets.

And Many Islands

The clearest indication that its challenge will not be peaceful comes from what China is doing militarily. In 2008, China became the second-largest military spender. It has been modernizing its navy and is set to have more ships than the U.S. Navy by 2020.

In 2014, China ramped up its territorial claims in the South China Sea when it began creating artificial islands in disputed waters and militarizing them. Some of the islands are as far as 800 miles from mainland China, but only 150 miles from the Philippines. According to United Nations law and the International Court for Arbitration's 2016 ruling, such turf belongs to the Philippines. But China refuses to accept the court's ruling or international law, and neither is enforced.

China has also bolstered its military cooperation with Russia. Since 2005, Russia and China have conducted joint military exercises.

While Chinese troops haven't been sent against the U.S., China is already attacking America—through cyberwarfare.

China's Direct Challenges to America

In 2013, China hacked and stole two dozen major weapons systems from the U.S. It was one of the largest breaches in U.S. military security. Since then, multiple high-profile hacks have targeted U.S. utility companies and American government officials.

China also opened a new front in its challenge to the U.S.—space warfare. In 2007, China shot a ballistic missile into space to destroy an old weather satellite, proving it could threaten U.S. satellites.

All these actions show China's plans to challenge and eventually replace the U.S. as a superpower.

What does it matter?



DISPLAY OF FORCE Chinese military parade in Tiananmen Square

PROPHECY

Gerald Flurry forecasts that China will aggressively seek to replace the U.S. so much so that it will go to economic war. This is not a popular view, because China and the U.S. are so economically tied together.

First, China holds \$1.2 trillion in U.S. federal debt, making China the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt. A conflict between the two nations would see the value of China's investment drop.

Second, trade between the two nations is enormous. Altogether, \$598 billion worth of goods was traded between China and America in 2015. This makes China America's third-biggest trade partner. America is China's second-largest trading partner after the European Union. However, of those goods, the U.S. only exported \$116 billion worth while it imported \$482 from China. That is a trade deficit of \$366 billion, meaning China has more to lose if a conflict does erupt. That's nearly half of the total U.S. trade deficit.

With trillions at stake, it seems hard to believe the two nations would risk any kind of conflict. But tensions are already deepening.

The U.S. has seen its manufacturing factories and jobs outsourced. Some estimates put it at over 3 million jobs lost from the trade deficit. This is turning U.S. domestic policies more anti-China.

China has pushed the value of the yuan to a low against the dollar. This currency manipulation that makes China's goods even cheaper has angered American firms. But China is facing a slowing economy and labor unrest as it struggles to keep its people employed.

Depending on whom you ask, you will receive different answers on whether the trade deficit and debt is a negative or a positive for either nation. What can't be denied is the scope of trade at stake.

But even with all that at stake, the *Trumpet* forecasts that a trade war will erupt. China will participate in crippling the U.S. in a trade war. But how can it do so without crippling itself and committing economic suicide?

FORECASTS

The *Trumpet* follows its parent magazine, the *Plain Truth*, by reporting and analyzing Chinese cooperation with Russia and its recent economic growth. During a time when China was an undeveloped nation squabbling with Russia, *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong forecast that China would soon become a powerful nation that would rally behind Russia to counter threats from the West.

A December 1959 *Plain Truth* issue stated: "Lenin wrote that the way to Paris, London and New York is via [Beijing] and Delhi. [P]art of the Communist plan [is] to place India and Pakistan in a giant vice between Russia and China. ... Red China insists it has a legal right not only to Tibet but [also] to many parts of India and Southeast Asia. ... Their constant dream for centuries has been ultimate world conquest! ... China knows, however, that in this highly

industrialized age she can accomplish this dream only as an ally of Russia. ... China is now ready to begin devouring the rest of Asia with Russia's secret military backing ..."

It is hard to think that in 1959 someone was warning that China would be a threat to the world order and that it would side with Russia to do so. But Mr. Armstrong did and he was right. China is still trying to achieve its dream to become a world superpower. Current Chinese President Xi Jinping promised in his book *The Governance of China* that China will achieve this by 2049. And today it is once again an ally of Russia.

Since that forecast, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has added more detail to how China will attempt to achieve its dream. And it has everything to do with the West and its standard of living.



It will have help. China will achieve this crippling trade blockade with help from the world's biggest trade bloc, the European Union. The EU is the world's largest exporter and accounts for 16 percent of the world's imports and exports.

These two trade giants could work together to bring down the U.S. By working together, two of its top three trade partners could destroy the U.S. economy rapidly.

Gerald Flurry writes, "EUROPE AND ASIA MAY WORK TOGETHER TO ECONOMICALLY BESIEGE AMERICA" (*Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*).

What informs this bold forecast? Bible prophecy says it will happen.

Bible prophecy is the guide. It is why Mr. Armstrong was accurate in his forecasts. A third of the Bible is prophecy and most of it is for our time today. Bible prophecy describes an economic siege on America and Britain that is orchestrated by the EU and China.

This economic warfare is described by the Prophet Isaiah. In chapter 23 of his prophetic book, he discusses a powerful "mart of nations" that includes both European and Asian nations. The prophecy is coded. It uses a different name to refer to China. That name is Chittim and is related to the Russian term for China, Khitan. You can find out more on how Chittim refers to China by reading our article "Is China in the Bible?" (theTrumpet.com/go/7583).

Events are moving toward the fulfillment of this prophecy. In recent years, the EU's economic powerhouse overtook the U.S. and Japan to become China's biggest trading partner. China and Europe have undertaken many joint ventures in recent years, including a 2015 landmark deal between Germany's largest exchange and China's Foreign Exchange Trade System, a deal which is significantly strengthening financial links between the two sides.

The *Trumpet* forecasts that the U.S. and British peoples are going to be left out in the cold as Europe and Asia cooperate and call the shots in the global economy. The U.S. will be literally besieged, economically frozen out of world trade!

This prophecy is also described in Deuteronomy 28. Mr. Flurry writes: "For many years, Mr. Armstrong said the siege prophesied in verse 52 symbolized America's economy being battered by foreign competition. 'And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates ...'" (ibid).

These gates refer to strategic choke points in world trade. Over 90 percent of world trade is carried on the seas. These choke points are narrow shipping lanes through which much of world trade travels. In fact, more than 40 percent of the world's oil supply passes through six relatively narrow shipping lanes. The choke points of world trade are strategic sea gates that can be used to shut down trade, such as the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, the Turkish Straits, Gibraltar, the Strait of Malacca by Singapore and the Strait of Hormuz by Iran.

China has acquired real estate in many important ports and choke points. It bought Panama's largest port (article, page 30) and the Pakistani port of Gwadar, close to the Strait of Hormuz. It now controls the Australian port city of Darwin. Most of these gates were once controlled by the United States and the British Empire, but the tide has turned in the last few decades.

Mr. Flurry continues concerning these gates: "Who has those gates? America and Britain have or had the gates, and we are going to be besieged in all of them. We have already virtually lost control of all of them. This is a prophecy for this end time.

"The Holy Roman Empire, [a 10-nation European federation that will soon come out of the EU] along with the kings of the east (the Asian nations), will cause economic problems and bring on destruction in many ways 'until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee' (verse 52). The real pressure is coming from without. 'In all thy gates' refers to a trade war."

Because of these prophecies, the *Trumpet* watches China as it acquires

more ports and continues to challenge America economically. For much of China's history it was an isolationist regional power. But now, thanks to Soviet and American help, China is a world heavyweight. And in order to protect itself and to secure its economic needs, it will act aggressively.

These prophecies go beyond a currency war or a loss of manufacturing jobs. They foretell an all-out economic war that will destroy America's economy! Imagine what would happen if China unloaded all its holdings of U.S. debt. Imagine what would happen to America's standard of living if cheap Chinese goods were no longer sold. Imagine what would happen to U.S. trade if ports and sea gates were closed off. China will be one of the leading nations to bring these scenarios to fruition.

Why the Trumpet Watches China

It is amazing to see how God's prophecies about China for our day coincide with China's recent activity. God gave China its unique geography and influenced world events enough to ensure they would unfold according to His prophecies. Now this Asian giant is coming out of its isolationist ways. It has gained tremendous economic clout that poses a considerable threat to the United States. Its capability as a military power is also rising to levels commensurate with those foretold in Scripture.

But that doesn't get to the heart of why the *Trumpet* reports on China's rise. We follow this trend because of what will happen after the siege. All of these major events prophesied in the Bible are part of a series of events that lead right up to the return of Jesus Christ. You can read what these events are in specific detail by ordering our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

So when the *Trumpet* reports on these disturbing trends, it's with the anticipation and hope of what they ultimately lead to: a better world, led by the only government capable of bringing peace. ■

The Road to Peace

All over the globe, people are trying to establish world peace. But will man ever be able to bring about world peace on his own?

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!

WORLD WAR I WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE “WAR to end all wars.” When it ended, the League of Nations was founded to ensure continued peace. In this aspiration, it clearly failed.

A mere 21 years later, an even worse global conflict erupted: World War II. At the end of that war, the United Nations was established to keep the peace. For 70 years, the UN’s primary purpose, as stated in its constitution, has been to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.”

Has this worked? More than 280 local and regional armed conflicts have occurred since. Today, a new threat to peace exists: Islamist terrorism. Iran is on a path to becoming a nuclear power. Russia and China are becoming increasingly aggressive. World peace is nowhere in sight.

Is world peace even possible?

Many heads of government, diplomats, UN delegates—as well as leaders in science and education—believe that world peace is possible only through a single world government. These same leaders, however, generally admit that this could happen only in a dream world. This world’s nations cannot agree on who would rule, or how.

Yet, as we shall see in this study, world government and universal peace is no mere fantasy. In fact, a world full of peace, happiness and abundance will be realized—and in our time!

An Important Announcement!

1. Nearly 2,000 years ago, God sent a special messenger to Earth to proclaim important news for mankind. Who was that messenger, and what was His message? Matthew 9:35; Mark 1:14-15.

Jesus Christ was the divine Messenger who delivered God’s message, the gospel, everywhere He went. The English word *gospel* in the Bible comes from the Greek word meaning *good news*. The message Christ delivered was sensational news, for it announced the biggest future event ever to occur in human history: the establishment of a new government on Earth—the Kingdom of God!

2. Who will be the head of that world-ruling government in the near future? Luke 1:30-33; John 18:36-37; Revelation 11:15.

3. Where did Jesus Christ go after His resurrection? Acts 1:11. Will He return to the Earth, or remain in heaven? Compare Acts 1:11 with John 14:3.

After being killed and then resurrected by a miracle of God, Christ went to His Father’s throne in the heavens from which they rule the universe (Hebrews 1:1-3; 8:1). Christ is now looking forward to the “times of restitution of all things” (Acts 3:20-21), when He will return to restore the government of God over the entire Earth.

The Bible reveals that God’s government existed on Earth once before, perhaps millions of years ago, when God placed a third of His created angels here. That government stopped being administered, however, when the super-archangel Lucifer (now Satan), whom God made ruler over Earth, rebelled against God and attempted to replace Him as sovereign of the entire universe (Isaiah 14:12-14).

When Will This Happen?

1. Can we know the day or the hour of Christ’s return? Matthew 24:36; 25:13. Can we know approximately when it will happen? Matthew 24:32-33. What signs did Jesus say would precede His Second Coming? Verses 3-31.

Just as we know spring is here and summer is near when the trees put out new leaves, so we will know Christ’s return is near when we see the events He described occurring.

2. How bad will world conditions become just prior to Christ’s Second Coming? Verse 21. What would happen if these days of world chaos, or tribulation, were allowed to continue? Verse 22.

Jesus knew where the ideas of men would lead in millennia to come. He knew that in the last days, human leaders would be groping in the dark for peace, but would actually be on the verge of wiping out every man, woman and child on the planet! Jesus knew that no flesh would be saved alive from the terrible time of world crisis yet ahead unless He supernaturally intervened.

3. Has there ever been a time of trouble as will occur just before Christ’s return? Mark 13:19. Also read Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1 and Joel 2:2.

Each of these references shows that this future time of crisis is unequalled. Thus, they must *all* be referring to the same great climactic period of worldwide trouble!

Total annihilation of the human race by weapons of mass destruction (WMD) was never possible—at any time in world history—until the invention of atomic and hydrogen bombs in the 1940s and ’50s. Today, those ruinous weapons are proliferating; some are falling into extremely dangerous hands! Only in this age of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons could Christ’s words be fulfilled. Indeed, the intervention of a higher power is the only real solution for this world’s problems!

4. Will Christ’s return cut short the number of days of the world-engulfing war that shall be waged during the Great Tribulation? Mark 13:20.

Christ will be forced to intervene at His Second Coming in order to save man from the brink of his self-inflicted extinction. Christ will return—at the end of World War III—just before all human life would otherwise be destroyed!

What Will His Return Be Like?

1. Will the entire world see Christ at His return? Matthew 24:27, 30. Will a mighty trumpet blast heralding His return be heard by all? Verse 31.

The greatest event in human history will be Christ's Second Coming to Earth! It will happen with great drama. His return will not happen secretly. It will be very visible with physical effects. And the people of this world will be shocked!

2. When Christ descends from the sky, who else will accompany Him? Matthew 25:31; Revelation 19:11, 14. What else will occur at that moment? 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17.

Christ will be accompanied by a powerful army composed of millions of angels. And just as He is returning, the dead in Christ—including all the prophets of old (Luke 13:28)—will rise in a great resurrection and be made immortal spirit beings. Also, the members of God's true Church, then living, shall be instantaneously changed from mortal to immortal (1 Corinthians 15:50-53) and, together with those resurrected, shall rise to meet the descending glorified Jesus Christ in the air!

3. Will Christ (the "Lamb") be welcomed by everyone, or will many view Him as an alien invader and attempt to fight Him? Revelation 17:14. What will be the outcome of that war? Same verse.

You would think humanity—especially the churches of traditional Christianity—would shout with joy and welcome Christ with ecstasy and enthusiasm. But they will not. They will believe, because the false ministers of Satan (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) have deceived them, that He is the antichrist. The churches and the nations will be angry (Revelation 11:15, 18), and military forces will actually attempt to fight and destroy Him!

Many of Earth's inhabitants will refuse to submit to Christ's authority, perhaps thinking He is an enemy alien. He will thus have to overpower the world and *force* mankind, at first, to yield to His rule! But the nations will finally come to learn, through experience, that the returned Christ is a *loving* ruler, and that His righteous rule leads to peace, happiness and prosperity.

Establishing Peace

1. What is one of the first things that will be done after Christ returns? Revelation 20:1-3.

Satan, who is responsible for influencing mankind to sin (Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9), will be exiled! His evil influence will no longer be present.



More than 280 local and regional armed conflicts have occurred since the establishment of the UN.

2. Will the changed, converted saints, now made immortal, then assist in ruling the nations—nations of mortals—under Christ for 1,000 years? Daniel 7:22; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21.

In the coming government of God, in Christ's administration will be the resurrected saints—spirit beings—appointed by Him to many different positions of responsibility.

3. Will there be a very unusual and famous road leading to the capital city of the world—Jerusalem (Zion), the seat of God's government—built in the World Tomorrow? Isaiah 35:8-10. Will this actual highway be known among the nations as representative of another way—God's way of peaceful, abundant and holy living? Verse 8.

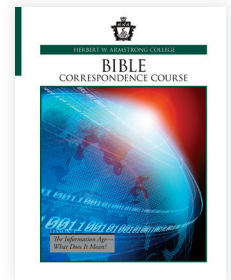
4. Will Christ and His assistants rule righteously and justly from Jerusalem? Isaiah 11:2-5; Matthew 20:25-28. Will the knowledge of God's way be taught throughout the Earth in the wonderful World Tomorrow? Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:9.

After establishing His government over the nations, Christ and His saints will begin to reeducate the world, teaching mankind the true way to peace. Christ and the saints will rule with godly love, with outgoing concern for the welfare of their subjects. Their rule will be for the good of all the people.

Outside the United Nations building in New York City sits a sculpture called "Let Us Beat Swords Into Plowshares." The bronze statue, based on Isaiah 2:4, depicts a man forging a sword into a plowshare, representing mankind's desire to use the materials and energy once used for war for the purpose of benefiting all men.

Humanity's road to peace has indeed been paved with good intentions. Yet, as Jesus said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). But like its predecessor, the League of Nations, the UN will not be able to bring peace to this world. No man or organization built by man can ultimately bring about peace. But the good news is that in the very near future the Family of God is destined to impose, under the King of kings, Jesus Christ, a new world government—and world peace at last!

For more information, request *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.



Deutsche Bank

Is another European banking crisis near?

Europe's banks are on the brink of triggering an international crisis, not just within Europe, but globally.

Germany's most prestigious and influential financial institution is facing disaster. Deutsche Bank's share price has dropped 90 percent from nearly €120 (US\$133) before the 2008 financial crisis to about €12.

The bank has been fined \$2.5 billion for manipulating the LIBOR. It was forced to spend \$8 billion on litigation. Its losses last year came to \$7.4 billion.

The International Monetary Fund recently declared Deutsche Bank the most dangerous bank in the world. Among global systemically important banks, "Deutsche Bank appears to be the most important net contributor to systemic risks," the IMF wrote in a report published on June 30. The United States Federal Reserve recently found that the American branch of Deutsche Bank and the U.S. arm of Spanish bank Santander were the only banks to fail its stress tests.

The bank could fall into bankruptcy. It has \$1.82 trillion in assets and \$1.75 trillion in liabilities. With just a slight shift of a few percentage points, Deutsche Bank will be literally less than worthless.

Deutsche Bank is at the foundation of Germany's entire

economic system. Jacob Shapiro and Lili Bayer wrote on Geopolitical Futures that "Deutsche Bank's importance to Germany is many times greater than that of an investment bank like Lehman Brothers to the U.S. in 2008" (July 1).

"Its fate will be shared by all of Germany," they wrote. For well over 100 years, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank and Dresdner Bank (now owned by Commerzbank) funded German industry. "By the mid-1980s, according to a German government study, the Big Three were estimated to control the voting authority of over three quarters of the shares of most major German

companies" (ibid).

Italy's banks also present a major risk to the world economy. Seventeen percent of their loans are nonperforming, meaning an equivalent of \$399 billion is not being repaid. During the height of America's financial crisis in 2008, this figure reached only 5 percent. Shares in some Italian banks have halved just since April.

Italy has one of Europe's most flawed economies. Government debt is 135 percent of its annual economic output. Unemployment stands at 11.5 percent. In 2015, youth unemployment exceeded 40 percent.

On June 30, the *Wall Street Journal* revealed that in the wake of Brexit, on June 26, the European Commission "authorized Italy to use government guarantees to provide liquidity support to its banks." The Commission spokeswoman said the support was approved "under extraordinary crisis rules for state aid to banks."

The general consensus is that Brexit doesn't have much to do with Italy's problems—but it provided an opportunity for the government to bail out its sinking banks.

To make matters worse, Italy could be heading for a political

crisis with a referendum of its own. In October, the nation will vote on reforms to the nation's electoral system. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has said he will step down if he does not get the approval he wants. Analysts at Citi warned that the vote was "probably the single biggest risk on the European political landscape this year" outside the United Kingdom. Italian business lobby Confindustria said that if Renzi loses, there will be "political chaos."

In "Forget Brexit—Italy Is Poised to Tear Europe Apart," *Business Insider* wrote, "Italy is on the cusp of tearing Europe apart, but the economic and political crisis brewing in the nation is largely going unnoticed. [I]f you look at the country's economic data, bank issues, and the impending constitutional referendum coming up, Italy is like a bomb waiting to explode" (July 5).

It's hard to imagine scenarios in which Europe will avoid an economic crisis—worse than America's 2008 disaster—at some point within the next few years. This would hasten Europe's unification and invite the rise of an authoritarian leader, just as is prophesied in Scripture. ■

EU upgrades Libya naval mission

When the European Union launched Operation Sophia in June 2015, it limited its operational existence to 12 months and confined its mandate to anti-human trafficking in the Mediterranean. On June 20 this year, EU foreign ministers extended Sophia through July 2017 and expanded the mission to include training Libyan naval forces as well as to enforce a United Nations arms embargo.

Before the decision to

expand Sophia, the EU had been granted its request for the authority to enforce the embargo on Libya by the UN Security Council. The request was presented as an effort to reduce the Islamic State's access to weapons shipments.

While the Security Council supported the mission in a unanimous vote, the Russian delegation was noticeably concerned that the EU had additional reasons for upgrading the operation. Moscow's deputy

UN ambassador, Vladimir Safronkov, questioned the "real motives" behind Europe's sponsorship of the deal and complained that the text didn't stress the goal of establishing a united security force in Libya.

Some of the suspicions regarding Operation Sophia stem from the EU's decision in May to partially lift the arms embargo for the EU-backed Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA). According to the decision, the GNA will be the "sole legitimate recipient of international security assistance."

Iran sought nuclear technology—from Germany

In its annual report released July 7, Germany's domestic intelligence agency, the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, stated that Iran has increased its efforts to obtain nuclear technology since the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal in July last year. Iran made most of these efforts in Germany.

Throughout 2015, the report said, Tehran's illegal efforts to purchase nuclear technology "continued on a quantitatively high level by international standards."

The report starkly contrasts comments made by the United Nations and the P5+1 nations, which previously indicated that Iran had been fulfilling its obligations under the nuclear deal.

Another more detailed regional report by the agency released on July 14 alleged that counterintelligence agents had recorded 141 attempts to acquire technology for "proliferation" purposes in 2015. The number was nearly double that of 2014, and Iran was behind

nearly 100 of those attempts.

The report exposed Iran's procurement procedure of forging documentation, stating that the technology was needed for peaceful industrial use, particularly in the oil, gas and steel industries. The report also indicated that Iran tried to use front companies to gain access to technology and then ship it to bogus companies in the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and China. From there, the material would be shipped to Iran.

The report also said that "it is safe to expect that Iran will continue its intensive procurement activities in Germany using clandestine methods to achieve its objectives." A spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry said there are "forces within Iran" that want to torpedo the Iran nuclear deal. Iran's covert efforts to obtain this technology are illegal under the nuclear deal, under United Nations law and under United States law.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *The King of the South* that Iran's radical thinking is leading to "state-sponsored terrorism—which is going to trigger a nuclear World War III!" ■

Court rules against China's territorial claims

The International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled on July 12 against China's claims of ownership over the South China Sea. The case had been brought to the court by the Philippines, one of several countries whose territorial waters are being claimed by China.

Despite Beijing's claims to the contrary, the court saw no evidence that China historically exercised exclusive control over the waters of the region. The court also accused China of acting in violation of the Philippines' sovereign rights by building and militarizing islands off the coast of the Philippines and by encroaching on the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Though the ruling was a harsh rebuke to China, it is unlikely to subdue Beijing's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea, as the court has no powers of enforcement.

In a July 12 article for the *Telegraph*, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote that instead of calming the South China Sea, The Hague ruling will escalate tensions at "the most dangerous fault line" on the planet. "Beijing



and Washington are on a collision course over these contested waters, the shipping lane for 60 percent of global trade," he wrote. "It is the latest in a series [of] ominous developments in Asia and Europe that are rapidly subverting the Western international system and setting off a global rearmament race with strong echoes of the late-1930s. ... The great worry is that parallel dramas in East Asia and in Europe could feed on each other."

The Philippines' response to its victory at The Hague was subdued. The BBC's Jonah Fisher says this may be due to the country's recent change of government. He said it is likely that the new Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte sought promises of Chinese investment in exchange for a restrained response to the ruling. This may signal that, under Duterte, the Philippines will be more submissive to China. ■

All other groups, including the Libyan National Army, which has been the most effective force fighting the Islamic State in Libya thus far, were deemed illegitimate and therefore disqualified to receive help in the fight.

Europe's ultimate goals in Libya go beyond merely fighting the Islamic State. The expansion of Operation Sophia better positions the Continent to dominate and control the southern Mediterranean.

Germany's Office of the Federal Government explained that "Operation Sophia is an EU

strategy that ... also addresses the root causes of displacement in the countries of origin of migrants and the transit countries they use." German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said her nation has an interest in creating "more order" along the border to Europe. To help create that order, Germany is working to expand its contribution to Sophia from its current 400 personnel to 950 through next year.

This latest addition to Operation Sophia is only phase one of the plan. According to



a classified report obtained by WikiLeaks earlier this year, Operation Sophia's last two phases will see EU military

operations inside Libyan territorial waters and ultimately European boots on the ground in Libya. ■



China buys Panama's largest port

On May 12, the Panama Canal's largest port was purchased by a Chinese company called Landbridge Group. Margarita Island Port, located on the canal's Atlantic side opposite Cristobal Port, offers the company access to one of the most important goods-distribution centers in the world. Though Landbridge is officially a private company, it takes orders from the Central

Committee of the Communist Party of China and has deep ties with the Chinese military.

Landbridge is by no means the first Chinese company to move into the Panama Canal. On March 1, 1997, Chinese corporation Hutchinson Whampoa took control of the ports of Balboa and Cristobal. Late *Trumpet* columnist Ron Fraser wrote extensively on the dangers of this modern

Tensions between Russia and NATO mount in Eastern Europe

The nations of NATO met in Warsaw, Poland, on July 8 to ink a plan to send more military forces to Eastern Europe. The bloc's leadership said NATO must increase its presence there because of increasingly aggressive posturing from Russia, which some fear could culminate in Moscow invading one of the Baltic states.

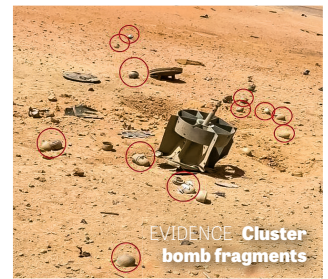
The plan calls for NATO to deploy four "robust" multinational battalions to Estonia,

Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, involving 4,000 troops, making it the largest reinforcement of NATO's collective defense since the end of the Cold War.

Yet some analysts say that since the Russians now have some 30,000 troops based in the region, these new forces are insufficient to deter or counter Russian aggression there. Luke Coffey, director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation, said: "I

geopolitical phenomenon in the February 1999 *Trumpet* issue: "The 50-year contract between Panama and Hutchinson Whampoa effectively places the ability to open and shut this great sea gate into the hands of an enterprise based in, and subject to, the influence and direction of Communist China. Not only has Hutchinson Whampoa been granted full control over the ports at both entry and exit points of the Canal, the Panamanian government has granted long-term options to this Chinese enterprise for the takeover of a number of military installations scheduled for evacuation by the U.S. ... The potential threat to U.S. and world security posed by the apparent willing acquiescence of the current U.S. administration to the Panama-China deal is difficult for sensible minds to underestimate."

Landbridge's acquisition of the Margarita port in many ways completes its control over the canal, yet the development has garnered little media coverage. Few appear to consider the purchase a threat. But each purchase and each new dock or pier is cementing China's ability to control—or turn off—world trade (article, page 22). ■



Russia humiliates America, again

Russian jets bombed the New Syrian Army on June 16 in al-Tanf, near the Syria-Jordan border. This was not an area Russia had bombed before, and it was not a hotbed of terrorist activity. The Russians carried out the bombing despite the fact that United States fighter jets were near the location of the strikes. The facts also indicate that, in conducting the bombing, the Russians used illegal incendiary cluster bombs.

What was America's response to this brazen move? CBS News reported, "Aides to Defense Secretary [Ash] Carter described him as irate at the Russian action, although publicly he confined himself to calling them unprofessional" (June 17). Russia has faced no known consequences for its actions. ■



think it's a step in the right direction. I think it sends the right message. I don't think it's

enough They have a strategy, and we have a response. ... We should be in it to win it." ■

A problem with gun control proposals

The United States Senate voted down two competing proposals on June 20. Though these two proposals differed substantially, each was based on the premise of using the federal government's terror watch list to determine which citizens have the right to own a firearm.

Senators couldn't muster enough bipartisan support to pass either proposal, but a new CNN/ORC survey shows that a majority of Americans think that those on a watch list should be restricted from owning guns.

While this may sound like a common sense solution, the American Civil Liberties Union has expressed concern that the Federal Bureau of Investigation could use such a watch list for racial or religious profiling. Currently there are 1 million people in the government's Terrorist Screening Database. They are suspected terrorists simply because the FBI says so.

About 1,000 American citizens are on the current federal no-fly list, and 5,000 American citizens are in the Terrorist Screening Database. While most of these individuals probably have some connection to terrorism, tying the constitutionally protected freedoms of American citizens to the whims of federal bureaucracy raises serious concerns.

Stephen F. Hayes, a conservative journalist, was recently

put on a terror watch list after he took a vacation with his wife to the Republic of Turkey. In 2012, Mississippi resident Wade Hicks found himself on the federal no-fly list due to a "clerical error." Some believe Wade's political views were the real reason the government blocked his right to board an airplane. Wade was a member

Expensive child care

The United States Department of Education released a report on June 14 titled "High-Quality Early Learning Settings Depend on a High-Quality Workforce." The authors decried the low earnings of child-care workers in contrast to the important role they play in society.

The report, along with the journalists who picked up the story, was clear in its analysis: Child-care workers are extremely important to a child's development, and the government should ensure they are paid enough so these jobs attract higher-quality workers.

But will paying workers more solve the problem?

The earliest years of a child's life are crucial to that child's later development. It is widely understood that, as one journalist noted, "good early-childhood education can help prevent

of the Mississippi Preparedness Project, a nonviolent organization that advocates storing food for an economic emergency.

Currently, an American citizen can only have his constitutional right to gun ownership revoked if he is convicted of a felony by a jury of his peers. Granting a government agency from the executive branch the power to revoke this right purely on its suspicions of what that person might do explicitly violates the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It also violates the Fifth Amendment provision that American citizens cannot be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The main reason Americans adopted the Second Amendment was to protect people from government tyranny. Yet America's founders also knew

that no society could be free simply because the people toted guns. They specifically stated that freedom could only be preserved if the American people held fast to principles of morality and the rule of law.

According to one Harvard research study, the rate of mass shootings in America has tripled since 2011. Past generations of Americans had more access to guns, yet committed fewer mass shootings. The reason mass shootings are increasing is Americans' loss of virtue and morality. When the people are out of control, when personal responsibility and morality degenerate, freedom diminishes and tyrants rise. Micromanaging gun ownership won't make America safe; it will only foster tyranny. The true department of homeland security exists not in Washington, but in America's homes. ■

later gaps in test scores and graduation rates from emerging between poor and well-off children" (*Atlantic*, June 14).

Child-care work is more involved than many people appreciate. Marcy Whitebook, director of the Center for the Study of Child-Care Employment at the University of California-Berkeley, said, "People tend to think of this as unskilled work, when in fact the work of facilitating the education and development of babies is every bit as complex as working with kindergartners."

Studies show that low teacher-to-student ratios are beneficial for overall academic achievement, language development and thought processes. The greatest benefits come from those ratios being low in the early years of schooling.



What many overlook is that these exact benefits are maximized if the child is cared for not by a low-paid or even a higher-paid day care worker, but instead by his or her *parents*. The child can be educated from the youngest age, given the attention from someone whose primary goal is the child's best interest, and offered the smallest teacher-to-student ratio possible: one to one.

America and all countries need high-quality child care. The real question is whether that care comes from someone who is paid to do it or from the child's own parents. ■

from China)—and they are set to soon overtake the number of native Maori in the land. In fact, in a number of New Zealand territorial authorities, the Asian population is projected to be *near-or-over the 50 percent mark* by 2038. That’s likely to mean a sea change in New Zealand language as well. Perhaps before long, we will see Mandarin as one of the official New Zealand languages, along with English, Maori and New Zealand Sign Language. The Chinese government is currently *funding* our schools to teach Mandarin. The Confucius Institute is a non-profit educational organization that promotes Chinese language and culture and is supported by the Chinese government. It has said that learning a second language should be compulsory in New Zealand. I don’t suppose they were insinuating German or French? One of the critics writes: “I have no problem with NZ children learning another language I do have a problem with any other country’s government saying what NZ kids should or should not do in our schools and stumping up with the cash uninvited.”

The *near* future, within the lives of this very generation, promises a very different New Zealand. The country is being swallowed up—be it by current land sales, by future population rates, and even by debt—to the tune of nearly half a trillion New Zealand dollars. What happens when the debt collector decides not to play nice? Who owns New



Zealand debt? You guessed it: Much of it is owned by *China*. China has been buying huge amounts of it. Debt is one of the greatest bargaining chips. As Proverbs 22:7 says, the borrower is *slave* to the lender. New Zealand could be forced into selling off even more land as payment for money owed, or perhaps giving up other assets, such as seaports or airports. One thing is certain: We are certainly not in any military position to say “no.”

Why Are We in Such a Mess?

Why is New Zealand in such a predicament? And by extension, why does the entire British Commonwealth seem to be doing so poorly, along with its ally, the United States? Why are they all running up oceans of debt? Why are they losing sovereign territory? Why do they allow foreign nations to walk all over them?

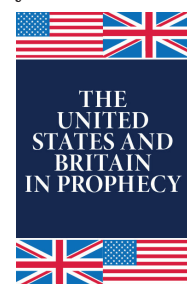
Your Bible said this would happen. And it said this would happen for *very specific* reasons. That’s an unusual thing for a New Zealander or Aussie to talk about; religion is a hush-hush subject in the lands Down Under. But take it or leave it, *the Bible describes these times we English-speaking peoples are experiencing to a T.*

The Bible describes our *English-speaking* peoples today when it says that “strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not” (Hosea 7:9); when it says “ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it” (Leviticus 26:16); when it says, “The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed away The stranger *that is within thee* shall get up above thee *very high*; and thou shalt come down very low. *He shall*

lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: *he shall be the head*, and thou shalt be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:33, 43-44). Our peoples have placed their trust in nations and peoples that are, in fact, our *enemies*. This is going to prove a fatal mistake. Why? There is a cause for every effect. The following verse answers: “[B]ecause thou hearkenedst *not* unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to *keep his commandments and his statutes* which he commanded thee” (verse 45).

You don’t need to look far to see how godless the U.S. and British Commonwealth have become. Our societies are leaders in the world of pornography and drug use. Leaders in homosexuality and transgender rights. (New Zealand was the *first* country in the Pacific region to legalize homosexual “marriage.”) Rife with perversity in music, movies and other entertainment. “In God We Trust”? Just the opposite.

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries in particular, the United States and British Commonwealth received abundant blessings *prophesied* to be delivered to us *at that very time* as a result of the obedience of our forefather Abraham. Those rich blessings included the finest farmland on Earth, control of worldwide sea gates, dominance in trade and industry. But God also guaranteed that if His commandments were not followed, those blessings would be removed as quickly as they had been given. Taking their place would be the national *curses* quoted earlier, and far more besides—to the point of foreign military invasions, slaughter and mass deportations. This is too important to ignore. To gain a full understanding of this subject, and what it means for you and me today, you need to read



our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, written by Herbert W. Armstrong, as well as our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

In this literature, you will see that the Bible accurately prophesied the rise to power of the United States and the British Commonwealth during the 19th century and their subsequent *fall*. You will see that the Bible accurately prophesied of an allied Asian juggernaut made up of Russia and China. And you will *also* see that, in a tradition of accuracy, it prophesies of a future time when the U.S. and British Commonwealth will *once again* rise to heights of power *never before seen*. A time when Christ will return to Earth and teach the nations of Israel—and all mankind—the way that results in peace and abundant blessings. ■

Improve Your Memory

How to sharpen your mind and improve your quality of life

HOW GOOD IS YOUR MEMORY? *I JUST READ AN ARTICLE THE other day that 37 percent of women—or wait, was it 73 percent? Like the old proverb goes, today is the yesterday, no—today is the tomorrow that you put off.... Oh, what did I come in this room for? Does this feel familiar?*

Few of us have naturally great memories. Whether it's retaining tasks or names or an important spiritual principle from the Bible, forgetfulness is frustrating and debilitating and affects your quality of life.



JOEL HILLIKER

Memory is essential to salvation. Like any parent, God needs His children to remember what He teaches them. With something so crucial, you cannot simply say, *Oops, forgot; oh well.*

Maybe you never thought of this, but memory is like so many other aspects of this physical creation: God designed it to be improved, but you can do so only through *diligent work*. Generally, we only recall those things we have repeatedly studied.

How much easier it would be if you could hear something just once and retain it permanently! But *easier* isn't always good for you. God wants you to develop godly character. He created your mind to require consistent, daily *study* in order to remember and recall. He created your memory to require exercise and discipline in order to become sharp. He wants to see how hard you are willing to work in order to remember things.

Here are five points on how to improve your memory:

1) Remember by being impressed: Whether something locks into your memory depends on the strength of the impression it makes when you encounter it. It's like driving a nail into a board. If you tap on it lightly, it will not penetrate and fasten. Something that makes little impression on your mind will fade from your memory. Whatever you want to remember, think of ways to make it leave a stronger impression on your mind. For example, don't read over that section of the book the same way you normally read. Stop and let the words sink in. Engage them: Ask why the writer or speaker chose to use the word "values" instead of "virtues," for example. Take notes; allow yourself to be creative. Spend time with your notes; read them out loud to yourself; rewrite them in the form of a test—whatever it takes.

2) Remember by concentrating: When you study, you won't remember much if you only read casually and quickly, like you would read a novel. Studies show the act of concentrating releases hormones that set off a chain reaction of signals through memory-forming areas of the brain. When

HOW MUCH EASIER IT WOULD BE
IF YOU COULD HEAR SOMETHING
JUST ONCE AND RETAIN
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studying, eliminate distractions: Turn off the music; silence your phone; turn off your e-mail. The more you concentrate like this, the easier it becomes, and the better you will get at it. Once you are free from distraction, focus in on the words and their meaning. Actively engage the book, scripture, face, name, conversation or whatever it is you want to remember, and bring your whole mind to bear on that one thing.

3) Remember by meditating: *Think about* what you study. Ask yourself how it applies to you and what lessons you should take from it. In studying the Bible, when you read a history, imagine yourself in that situation. When you read a principle of Christian living, ask yourself whether you are obeying it. When you face a decision, think about which scriptures apply to your situation. When you read prophecy, consider whether these ancient words match any modern situations you read in the news. When you have moments throughout the day, think about what you have been studying. Every now and then, resist the urge to turn on the radio as you drive to work or to pull out your phone as you stand in line. Use the time instead to concentrate on things you want to remember. The more you meditate, the more you will remember.

4) Remember by talking: If you want to remember something, talk to others about it. Share it. A large body of research shows that thinking about or discussing an event immediately after it occurs greatly enhances retrieval ability. This practice can also convert short-term memories into a long-term, more permanent form. So talk with your spouse about what you just read or heard. Bring up the book you read at the dinner-table discussion. Discuss what you remember about the latest news over lunch with others who are interested in the same topic.

5) Remember by repeating: If you encounter something only once, you are likely to forget it. Go over it again and again, and you will drill it in. In fact, studies show the key to locking things in long-term memory is *repetition* AT PRECISELY TIMED INTERVALS. After hearing a lecture, for example, get a first quick review in as soon as possible. Within 24 hours, review it again. This one-day-after refresher is shown to boost memory back to around 95 percent of what you originally knew. Then, do it again a week later—even if only for five minutes. Each time you review and repeat what you need to learn, you make the impression in your mind a little deeper, until it is locked into your long-term memory.

Your memory is an important gift from God. A sharper memory means a higher quality of life now and in the future. So put in some work at sharpening it!

I knew of this prophecy long ago because I have been reading Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's magazine the *Plain Truth* from the 1980s ("What's Next for Britain?", theTrumpet.com/go/14002). Many more major events will be revealed in the not-too-distant future. Thank you.

ROBERT MORGAN

Orlando attack

You're right about the sins of the United States causing God to curse this nation ("What Really Caused the Orlando Terrorist Attack," theTrumpet.com/go/14001). The more darkness that grows from sin, the more disasters are going to come upon the people.

John Park

Sobering truth

This needs to be on front pages or Internet headlines immediately across the U.S.A. ("America's Real Enemy," theTrumpet.com/go/14004). May our people see Ezekiel 7 for who it is intended. Strong article, but sorely needed.

Johnny Quinton TENNESSEE

There it is people—the truth. This article explains in clear, easy-to-understand language what is going on in America. One can see the hand of God in this writing.

Larry Rhodes FLORIDA

Wow! One of the best articles the *Trumpet* has written. I am going to save this one. It's a shame this article is not broadcast across all media.

Cody

True heroism

What an inspiring story ("Three Men Who Saved Millions," theTrumpet.com/go/14007). These three men knew they were going to die doing this and they dove right in to save millions. They loved their neighbors more than they did their own lives. Now that is true heroism. Thank you for telling their story of sacrifice.

Michelle Montgomery VIRGINIA

The new power

I can see a lot of secular-minded types rolling their eyes at an article such as this ("China's Hundred-Year Strategy," theTrumpet.com/go/14006). But God has a plan, and His plan is not mutually exclusive or independent to what's happening in the world now or in its history. Let the reader beware.

Charles Woelfel PHILIPPINES

I often discuss with various people if they think China will become the most powerful nation in the world within the next few years, because of its rapidly growing economic power and the rapid buildup of its military forces. Most still think China is still



a very backward nation and a very peace-loving people. How wrong or just plain ignorant most people are to the dangers posed by this regime.

John

Unknown history

Well-done article! ("Scientist, Astronomer, Mathematician—and Father of Nations," theTrumpet.com/go/14011). God said that all the truth would come out in the end time, and the truth about Abraham is an eye-opener. This is real history.

David Blondeau CANADA

Socialism's best

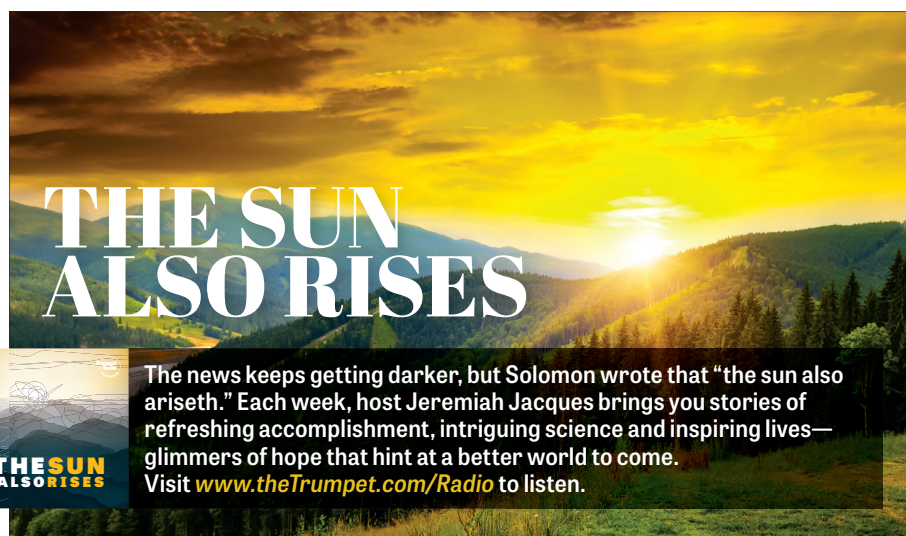
Venezuela is socialism at its best! ("Lessons From a Broken Land," theTrumpet.com/go/14012). If more Democrats get elected, this nightmare is coming to America!

Joe

Stuff never fails

Well not for me! ("Stuff Breaks—Deal With It," theTrumpet.com/go/14015). I have a so-called "disposable razor" that I have used every day for one year and four months! But regrettably, I broke it. I bought a new one and it's lasted six months! I have two identical watches. One broke a long time ago and I asked the Lord to fix it. The next day it started working again! I asked Him to fix the other one and it started working too! I have a gas lighter, the disposable kind, that I used every day. Its life expectancy is three weeks. Six months later, it is still going strong! I have no expectation of failure!

Alan Simpson



The news keeps getting darker, but Solomon wrote that "the sun also ariseth." Each week, host Jeremiah Jacques brings you stories of refreshing accomplishment, intriguing science and inspiring lives—glimmers of hope that hint at a better world to come. Visit www.theTrumpet.com/Radio to listen.

An Uncomfortable Possibility

What if ‘those bums in Washington’ aren’t bums? **BY PHILIP NICE**

WASHINGTON IS BROKEN. CONGRESS IS ROTTEN. THE president is a fool. Politicians are bums. The government is incompetent. The country is incurable.

Does this sound familiar? Millions of Americans from every ideology distrust their federal government. Year after year, polls show that large majorities of Americans disapprove of Congress, the president and the government as a whole. They view it as bloated, out of control, ineffective, untrustworthy and destructive of the rights it exists to protect.

How can America fix its government?

Many people seem as convinced about the solutions as they are about the problems. Get people in Washington who have common sense. Get people in there who have common decency. Get people in there who can get things done.

No matter how negatively American citizens view their government, many hold out hope that the next election will turn things around—that their candidate will fix everything, or at least slow the country’s slide toward oblivion. Disenchanted Americans always seem to believe that almost anyone will do a better job than those bums who are in there now.

But this is the uncomfortable part: What if “those bums in Washington” aren’t bums?

How did America’s reviled politicians get their power, after all? Four years ago, eight years ago, 32 years ago, the American people elected them. Not because they were the crookedest and dumbest, but because they were the best and brightest.

Despite the terrible reputations that politicians have, when you meet one in person, you know you are encountering an impressive human being. Some are millionaires’ wastrels, devious manipulators or well-connected oafs, but most are formidable individuals with impressive qualities. They stood out in school, stood out in college, stood out in a profession, stood out in a city, stood out in a state, stood out from the entire country.

You vote for that policymaker because he is the most impressive person you can find. You believe he is a better representative than even you yourself would be. Because in America, if you can’t find anyone better and brighter than you, you can run for that office yourself.

Americans do not consistently elect the worst people in their society to become their leaders. They consistently elect the people they judge to be their very best. Yet yesterday’s “common-sense, American-values, fix-Washington” challenger is today’s out-of-touch, corrupt, insider politician. And he



is up for reelection against a new “common-sense, American-values, fix-Washington” challenger.

Why aren’t Americans sending their best people there? *Maybe they are.* And those people are still destroying the country.

It’s comforting to think Americans can save the nation by electing brighter people. But it’s not true. The truth is more disconcerting, because if there’s no hope in that, what hope is there? And if human beings can’t create free government in America, can they create it anywhere?

This lesson of our leaders is a lesson about ourselves. We are directly responsible: We voted for them. If they are ignorant, we have elected ignorant representatives. They represent our ignorance. If they are incompetent, we have elected incompetent representatives. They represent our incompetence. If they are corrupt, we have elected corrupt representatives. They represent our corruption.

If they are self-dealing, weak, petty, ineffective, detached, uninformed or dishonest, it is because they come from that kind of society, and voters could identify no better option. The pool of candidates we draw from is ourselves. Our leaders come from us. They are us. In office, they are what we ourselves would be. They become out-of-touch, ineffective and selfish, just as we ourselves would become out-of-touch, ineffective and selfish.

In America, we deserve the leaders we get.

And our leaders cannot make this country thrive or even survive. Our trial-and-error experiment in human government is about to expire. All that remains is for this precious republic that many of us love to succumb to its weakness, its indebtedness, its corruption and its depravity.

Where did we go wrong? We went wrong with something we barely clutched in 1776 and that we viciously slap away in 2016: “the laws of nature and of nature’s God.” We don’t elect our most God-fearing, law-abiding, moral, humble, obedient individuals; we don’t even want to. America’s relative greatness and its imminent fate depend on our obedience to nature’s God.

Of all mankind’s miserable forms of government, free government has been the greatest. Yet even it is terminal. We have no hope, not even in elections. This leaves us one last resort. The government that we have rejected for millennia is not only our last best hope, it is our only hope. We would never vote for it, but it’s the only government that will make us truly free: the government of God. ■

► **EUROPEAN ARMY** FROM PAGE 11

their safety in relying on United States military power to protect them than Americans realize! ...

“Europeans want their own united military power! They know that a political union of Europe would produce a *third major world power*, as strong as either the U.S. or the USSR—possibly stronger!”

But Mr. Armstrong also saw that this unification would not come easily. “The nations of Europe have been striving to become reunited,” he wrote in the January 1979 *Plain Truth*. “They desire a common currency, a *single combined military force*, a single united *government*. They have made a start in the Common Market. They are now working toward a common currency. Yet, on a purely political basis, they have been totally *unable* to unite.” Mr. Armstrong went on to explain that it would only be through the Vatican, “uniting church and state once again,” as has happened repeatedly in history, that a united Europe will be achieved.

On the military level, there is no sign yet that the really hard questions have been addressed, like who will pay for an EU military headquarters, how it will be structured, and who will be in command.

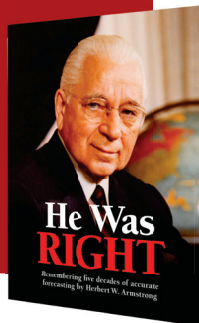
But Europeans are under great pressure. Major crises are driving this push for a European military. That is why it must be taken seriously, despite all past failed rhetoric. Terrorist attacks, the migrant crisis, Russia’s increasing aggression—none of these are going away. If Europe’s efforts stall, one or more of these forces will push Europe again toward its prophesied destiny: a superstate whose individual nations lose sovereignty but gain the power projection of a 21st-century superpower.

American leaders are happy to help in this project. But distrust of America is at the core of this push for militarization. Europe has not been able to project power outside of the Continent without U.S. help since the Suez Crisis in 1956. If you exclude Britain’s involvement, Europe itself hasn’t projected power since World War II. The arrival of an independent military force will be one of the most radical developments in decades. At the same time, Germany is emerging as a clear leader in this drive to form an army.

Though many nations support Europe’s efforts to expand its military power, biblical prophecy shows that this trend is one of the most dangerous happening in the world today.

- Trade Union
- Currency Union
- Military Union
- Political Union

Europe is uniting as forecast. Find out why the *Trumpet* has been so accurate. Request our free booklet *He Was Right*.



THE KEY OF DAVID



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.

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

UNITED STATES

- Nationwide Satellite**
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
- Direct TV**
CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
Discovery, Chan. 278, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, Chan. 307, 8:00 ET, Sun
- Dish Network**
Discovery, Chan. 182, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, Chan. 239, 8:00 ET, Sun
- Nationwide Cable**
CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
Discovery, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri
WGN, 8:00 ET, Sun
- Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00, Fri;
WVUA 8:30, Sun
Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun
Mobile WFGX 7:30, Sun
Montgomery WBMM-DT/WVCF-DT 8:30, Sun
- Alaska, Anchorage** KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun
Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun
Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun
- Arizona, Phoenix** KPPX 5:00, Fri;
KAZT 8:00, Sun
Yuma KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun
- Arkansas, El Dorado** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
Fayetteville KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
Fort Smith KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun
Rogers KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
Springdale KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
El Centro KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun
Eureka KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun
Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri;
TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
Monterey KION 9:30, Sun
Palm Springs 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 WTXX 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 WLTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Macon WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Savannah WWSA-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/Akaku
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 WCUI 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30,
Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
- Indiana, Fort Wayne** WPTA-DT 21:29:30, Sun
Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun
- Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri
Des Moines KFPX 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
Portland WPME 7:30, Sun; 7:00, Mon-Fri
Presque Isle WBQP 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke
 WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 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 KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings 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; KHGI 10:00 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 10:30, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun; WPXN 6:00, 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 WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 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
CincinnatiWSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Stuebenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Toledo WMNT 8:00, Sun
Zanesville WBVZ 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 WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence
 WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston
 WCCB-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, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun
Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIIH-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 10:30, 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. WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWXP 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima 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 WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun
Weston WVPX-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 KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun
Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, 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
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun
Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun
Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun
Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun
Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver
 CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; 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 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun; 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; 5:00, Wed
Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV49:30 PHT, Sun

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CBS United Kingdom

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CBS Action	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 64	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 149	Ch. 197	Ch. 71	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

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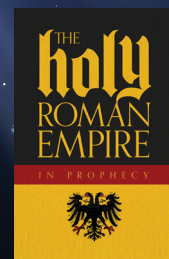
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