

THE PHILADELPHIA **Trumpet**

Coronavirus and the Holy Roman Empire

The China-America divorce

The beautiful effects of 'Great Tribulation'

Environmentalism is the new paganism

How do you deal with death?



Why the World Targets America **(and its president)**

**“Hungary’s prime minister
has abolished democracy.
If the EU does not act,
authoritarianism will
spread in Europe.”**

SPIEGEL ONLINE



Hungarian Prime Minister
Viktor Orbán

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Coronavirus and the Holy Roman Empire

Europe's response to COVID-19 has set the stage for dictators to rise.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF THE GLOBAL PANIC over COVID-19 has been almost overlooked. Europe's response to the pandemic is accelerating the fulfillment of one of the most crucial end-time prophecies of your Bible!

The coronavirus is hastening the arrival of the prophesied Holy Roman Empire.

This church-state union has ruled Europe for centuries. But previous inquisitions, religious wars, crusades and the Holocaust *have been a mere foreshadow* of what the Bible calls the "Great Tribulation" (Matthew 24:21).

The Bible says 10 kings will rise in Europe in this end time, led by one overarching strongman. These kings will form the Holy Roman Empire.



THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IS HELPING USHER IN THESE 10 KINGS!

We need to be thinking about these prophesied kings, who are rising now. As a result of the recent crisis, various European leaders have taken dictatorial measures. In several cases they have done so with direct

approval from the Roman Catholic Church.

Many people have voiced fear that the recent crisis will destroy the European Union. But although it may look that way, Europe is in fact about to unite in a powerful way.

The Bible reveals that the EU is about to be pared down to a 10-nation superstate. This prophecy will be fulfilled very soon—I see biblical evidence of probably no more than two to four years, and perhaps even as soon as *this year*.

The Apostle John saw this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire in vision depicted as a beast with seven heads and 10 horns. God revealed the symbolism to him. The seven heads are seven successive resurrections of this beast-like empire. Revelation 17:1-2 show this empire in an alliance with a church, symbolized by a woman. This is an exact prophecy of the Holy Roman Empire—a church-state alliance.

As we explain in our free booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*, six of these resurrections have come and gone through history, and the seventh is rising now!

The 10 horns of this beast are *on the seventh head*. The symbolism is explained: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are *ten kings*, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (verses 12-13). This prophecy was written nearly 2,000 years ago, and these "ten kings" are rising in Europe today!

Verse 14 states that these kings would "make war with the Lamb"—Jesus Christ. So this is clearly a prophecy of events to occur right before Christ's Second Coming.

In the first issues of the *Plain Truth* magazine, predecessor to the *Trumpet*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong warned of this resurrected empire. In the July 24, 1983, issue he wrote: "The very first issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine appeared February 1934—just 50 years ago lacking about six months. The article starting on the cover page warned of a coming sudden appearance of a resurrected 'Holy Roman Empire' in Europe—a union of 10 nations in Europe under one government, with one united military force. For 50 years I have been crying out to the world the Bible prophecies of this coming 'United States of Europe'—a new united superpower perhaps more powerful than either the Soviet Union or the United States!"

Verse 10 says, "And there are SEVEN KINGS [this is referring to the seven heads of the beast, or the seven historical resurrections of this empire]; *five are fallen*, and *one is*, and THE OTHER IS NOT YET COME; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space." This prophecy describes a specific moment in time: It was when Mr. Armstrong was on the scene and first explaining these end-time biblical prophecies. That was first during the 1930s. At that time, the "one is"—Adolf Hitler—was leading the sixth resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. Today, the "other," prophesied to continue a "short space," is soon to arrive.

Other prophecies show that the "short space" this beast will hold power is not much longer than 3½ years—the duration of the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord.

For over 75 years we have been prophesying the arrival of this empire. Now you can see it coming to pass exactly as God recorded for us in the Bible. I have been a part of this work for decades. And it is amazing to me, almost overwhelming, how minutely these prophecies have been and are being fulfilled!

This coming empire will affect your life directly. Its arrival will shock every nation on Earth as no power has in modern times. This is the paramount prophecy of the end time.

Taking Advantage of Crisis

God revealed many of these prophecies to Mr. Armstrong around the time of World War II and in the decades thereafter. God has been warning this world all these years about the horrifying times ahead, and we need to understand why.

In 1984 Mr. Armstrong wrote that he could foresee a *massive banking crisis* being the trigger for European nations to suddenly coalesce into a superpower. Today, European countries are racking up debt at rates unprecedented in peace time—with many countries perilously close to financial collapse.

Italy has been the epicenter for the coronavirus in Europe. Its economy took a massive hit. "The economy has basically been stopped," said Prof. Nicola Borri of Luiss University. "We are probably going to see massive defaults. Clearly, Italian

banks will be badly hit” (*New York Times*, March 17). Spain and France are also suffering serious debt issues. Events in Italy give us insight into what could happen to *all* the economies of the European Union.

Here are some telling headlines from prominent news sources: “Coronavirus Could Break the EU” (*Politico*); “With Borders Going Up Around Europe, Coronavirus Is Devastating the EU’s Superstate Pretensions” (*Telegraph*); “Coronavirus Tests Europe’s Cohesion, Alliances and Even Democracy” (*New York Times*). EU nations are very divided. That division is preventing them from pooling their efforts to deal with the virus.

Many experts will tell you that Europe is about to break apart. If these nations’ response to the coronavirus does not cause an immediate economic meltdown, the debt they are accumulating will still come due at some point. Some kind of financial crisis is inevitable. When it comes, watch what happens! A crisis like the current one is exactly what European leaders have longed for to forge a European superstate!

One of the EU’s founders, Jean Monnet, said, “Europe will be forged in crises and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises.” German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said, “Crisis represents an opportunity. Europe always moved forward in times of crisis. Sometimes you need a little pressure for certain decisions to be taken.” The founders of the European project knew that creating the euro—a unified European currency—without all the other aspects of a unified government would provoke economic crisis. Yet they still deliberately proceeded with their plan, knowing that crisis would provide the pretext for transforming Europe into a superpower!

This has happened repeatedly throughout history with the other six heads of the Holy Roman Empire. In times of crisis, Europe has united under one overarching leader.

Mr. Armstrong consistently taught that the nations of Europe are going to cry out for political unity. That is what we see happening today. Europe is weak and divided. The coronavirus is only further weakening the Continent. Watch closely to see how it responds. The German people in particular cannot live with the current circumstances. The economic distress of several European nations makes them vulnerable—and gives economically strong Germany an opportunity to increase its domination of the Union. Leaders of Italy and other nations have accused Germany of protecting and advancing its own interests at the expense of other nations, but they also know that the European project will utterly fail without Germany’s leadership.

History shows that Germany is going to act! In the second half of 2020, Germany will hold the European Council presidency. What timing! In this crisis, when Europe is being forced to adapt, Germany is in a position to shape the EU’s future according to its own liking.

Dictators Rise With Rome’s Blessing

Yet the question remains: How will Europe come together?

Throughout Europe’s history, what has helped it to overcome its division has been a unity of purpose between church and

state. Charlemagne showed how strong Europe could be when he formed a partnership between Germany and the Roman Catholic Church to create the Holy Roman Empire. That empire has risen up repeatedly since that time.

But this church-state union hasn’t always been a happy marriage. Usually the two have been drawn together because of a crisis—an emergency.

Herbert W. Armstrong believed the same pattern would occur again in our time—that European nations would unify suddenly because of a crisis, and that the Roman Catholic Church would play a huge role in solving that emergency. In times of crisis, religion has a way of pulling people together!

In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John prophesies of a woman who “sitteth upon many waters,” committing fornication with powerful world leaders (Revelation 17:1-2). This woman, which in Bible prophecy symbolizes a church (e.g. Isaiah 47; Ephesians 5:25; 2 Corinthians 11:2), has global influence, guiding a great beast, which represents a political power (Revelation 17:3).

The Bible also reveals that this church sits on “seven mountains” and has influence over “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” (verses 9, 15). A mountain is a symbol of government in the Bible. The Catholic Church has combined with six governments of the Holy Roman Empire and will also join the seventh. Beyond that, a look at a topographic map shows that Rome, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, is literally situated on seven hills. This is a double proof of the Bible prophecies. And Europe is a continent that unites “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” The description in Revelation 17 of this empire can only refer to the Roman Catholic Church and its alliance with various European countries. (For more information about this empire, request our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.)

This prophecy shows that Europe in this end time will see the rise of various strongmen who ally themselves with the Roman Catholic Church. In the coronavirus crisis, this is happening.

Popular satisfaction with democracy is at an all-time low, Cambridge’s Department of Politics noted in January. Europeans increasingly believe democracy cannot solve their problems, and coronavirus has only intensified this belief. Nations are increasingly taking extreme measures to deal with the virus. More and more Europeans are looking for a *strongman*.

“Austria has massively restricted civil liberties due to coronavirus,” *Zeit Online* wrote. “This is understandable in this situation, but it is also dangerous” (March 16; *Trumpet* translation throughout). Considering Europe’s long, painful history of strong leaders restricting freedoms to realize their ambitions, it is *extremely* dangerous!

Austria was the first European country to go into coronavirus lockdown. For doing so, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz received much praise from the Roman Catholic Church, Europe’s oldest institution. “I am very grateful that the government is wise and is taking steps to create trust,” said the archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, in a ZIB 2 special. Catholic leaders backed each severe step Kurz took.



AUSTRIA was the first European country to go into coronavirus lockdown. For doing so, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz received much praise from the Roman Catholic Church, Europe’s oldest institution.

Kurz applauded the church for its support. “Especially in times of crisis,” he said, “the church offers people support and provides important help.”

CHANCELLOR KURZ SEEKS REGULAR COUNSEL FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WHICH GUIDES HIS POLITICS. If you understand history, you will find this troubling. This is exactly what the Holy Roman Empire is: AN AUTHORITARIAN STATE-CHURCH COMBINE.

France's Connection

French President Emmanuel Macron took similar drastic measures. He declared war on the coronavirus, mobilized the army, and made himself France's commander in chief. He had rebellion against government orders forcibly put down. By doing so, he surged in popularity.

Throughout his presidency and especially during the coronavirus crisis, Macron has also worked to improve ties with the Catholic Church and bring the Vatican more into Europe's affairs. For a nation that has been moving in the opposite direction for generations, this is significant.

Emmanuel Macron was not born Catholic; he chose Roman Catholic baptism at age 12 and attended a Jesuit secondary school. As an adult, he is said to have turned increasingly secular. But in 2018 at the annual conference of the bishops of France, he promised to restore the “strained” link between church and state, and has since worked to fulfill his promise.

In a March 2019 letter to European citizens, Macron called for a conference for Europe that would “engage with citizens’ panels and hear academics, business and labor representatives, *and religious and spiritual leaders*” (emphasis mine throughout). In August, he received the new secretary general of the French Bishops’ Conference to discuss the reception of migrants and other subjects. Though he campaigned as a pro-immigration centrist, he is now pushing one of France's most right-wing agendas. In November, he announced new immigration measures and has grown increasingly critical of Islamic ideology. In January he announced his plan to “Recapture the Republic,” a plan to fight growing Islamism in the country.

After a telephone conversation with Pope Francis, Macron met with representatives of religious and secular associations in France. “It was an opportunity to maintain dialogue between public authorities and religions during the population's confinement in the COVID-19 pandemic,” *vaticannews.va/fr* reported. The president of the Protestant Federation of France said: “For Emmanuel Macron, religious denominations bring social cohesion. Faced with this global health crisis, he is determined to call upon all resources, including spiritual resources.” So Macron seeks to use religion to unite his divided country.

Hungary, Too

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is also growing more autocratic in this crisis. Hungary was only mildly affected by coronavirus, yet on March 30, Hungary's parliament gave Orbán dictatorial powers. Now parliament is closed, elections are canceled, and anyone spreading “false” information can

be imprisoned for five years. Democracy has been replaced by rule of decree.

The *Guardian* wrote that the new law gives Orbán “what amounts to one-man rule in an EU state.” Richard Palmer, assistant managing editor for the *Trumpet.com*, formulated it more clearly: “Coronavirus Brings the EU Its First Dictator” (*theTrumpet.com/22160*).

Orbán's power grab may affect the whole Continent. “HUNGARY'S PRIME MINISTER HAS ABOLISHED DEMOCRACY,” Spiegel Online warned on April 3. “If the EU does not act, authoritarianism will spread in Europe.” But the EU *did not act* to punish Orbán—it did nothing. And what Spiegel warned of is exactly what the Bible says will happen: AUTHORITARIANISM WILL SPREAD IN EUROPE!

Is the acceptance of Orbán's dictatorship in the EU *a sign* THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR EUROPE'S 10 KINGS TO EMERGE? It is almost certain that Hungary will be part of the coming 10-nation European superpower.

For decades following World War II, Hungary was under Soviet rule. As our free booklet *He Was Right* explains, it was partly due to the Catholic Church's influence that Hungary joined the European Union. Hungary has for centuries been ruled by the Habsburg dynasty. The religion, culture and ties to Rome outlasted its occupation by the Soviet Union.

The *Plain Truth* wrote in February 1972: “One of the biggest roles desired by the Vatican is that of mediator between East and West. ... The Vatican, you can be sure, will continue to do its part in courting the Eastern European countries. Its *Ostpolitik* has been to bring them back into the ‘fold’ for a long time. And that is certainly the path it must continue to travel.”

THIS ASTONISHING FORECAST IS PROVING TRUE! The Catholic

Church has done its part to break Hungary's strong ties to Russia, and there are indications it is enabling Orbán's recent power grab.

Orbán has formed an alliance with the Catholic Church and with Calvinist

churches in Hungary. He handed Hungary's educational system back to the churches and cooperates with the Catholic Church in the Middle East, restoring churches and rebuilding Christian communities. In 2019, Orbán was listed in “Top 10 People” of the American Catholic magazine *Inside the Vatican*.

Orbán's cooperation with the Catholic Church is most astonishing if you consider that he himself is Calvinist. He recognizes the power the Catholic Church has in his country and globally and seeks its alliance. This cooperation with Europe's churches continued while Orbán pursued dictatorial powers.

EUROPEAN LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY BEHAVING LIKE DICTATORS AND ASSUMING DICTATORIAL POWER. THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE ARE BEING CONDITIONED TO ACCEPT MORE TYRANNICAL LEADERSHIP. Yet these rising strongmen are not yet united as the Bible says they will be. The Holy Roman Empire yet lacks its overarching leader.

One Strongman

The coronavirus is causing more and more people in Europe to talk about the need for a strongman. Zeit Online further wrote



FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron declared war on the coronavirus, mobilized the army, and made himself France's commander in chief. He had rebellion against government orders forcibly put down. By doing so, he surged in popularity.

that “THE LONGING FOR THE PROVERBIAL STRONGMAN, WHO FINALLY TAKES ACTION, WILL GROW STRONGER” (op cit). There is a lack of leadership to effectively deal with the virus and economic issues. People want that vacuum filled.

When we see a news source talking about Europeans longing for a “strongman,” it really arrests our attention! We have been prophesying about this individual’s arrival for many years—and now, news sources are talking about it more publicly than ever. The greater the crises it experiences, the more its people will cry out for a strongman to guide them and deal with this problem. (Read more about this in our last *Trumpet* issue: “Will Coronavirus Wreck the EU?”—theTrumpet.com/22172.)

Bible prophecy shows this strongman is coming! Here is how the Prophet Daniel describes this individual: “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power, and he shall destroy wonderfully [*mightily*, it should read], and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people” (Daniel 8:23-24). This strongman will rule “not by his own power”—but by Satan’s power. He will have a *mind change* because the devil will get to him (Habakkuk 1:11) and use him as a tool to wreak tremendous destruction!

Daniel wrote that this man will “destroy the mighty and the holy people.” That is referring to the 95 percent of God’s own people who turned away from God in the end time. God will plunge His rebellious people into the Great Tribulation if they don’t repent before that time. Of all people, they should know what is happening and obey God, but they are not.

We all need to understand better why this is happening! Revelation 17:17 says that “God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his

will” While Satan is controlling this empire, GOD IS USING IT ALL TO BRING PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE. HE WANTS THEM TO TURN FROM THE WAYS OF THIS WORLD AND ITS EVILS AND TURN TO HIM!

Led by Germany

Isaiah 10 tells us that this empire will most certainly be led by Assyria, which is biblically prophetic language for modern-day Germany. The Germans are a great people in many ways, but they have also started two world wars, and your Bible says they will be responsible for starting a third!

Germany has already risen to unmatched power within Europe. From the beginning of the European unification project, Germany has worked to dominate and even domineer. If it had really repented of its sins of World War II, in which over 60 million people died, it would not be doing that today.

Britain left the European Union because it could see what was happening and would not submit to that. Bible prophecy also made clear that Britain would not be part of the EU, which is why we foretold its exit for decades.

In 1978, with Britain firmly entrenched in the European Economic Community, Mr. Armstrong continued to prophesy of a “soon-coming resurrected ‘Holy Roman Empire’—a sort of soon-coming ‘United States of Europe’—a union of 10 nations to rise up out of or following the Common Market of today.” In conclusion of the article he wrote: “Britain will not be in that empire soon to come.”

HOW ACCURATE THIS FORECAST WAS!

In 1945, when Germany was still smoldering in ruins after World War II, he said, “Europe, or Germany, is going to rise again, and so is the Holy Roman Empire.” The sixth resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, led by Hitler, had just been defeated.



AFTER CHARLEMAGNE “CHRISTIANIZED” Europe in the eighth and ninth centuries, Germany was predominantly Catholic. It took the helm of the Holy Roman Empire and ruled it off and on for almost a thousand years. German kings were crowned emperors by the Roman Catholic Church.

But Germany is also where Protestantism started. Its alliance with the Catholic Church suffered a blow in the 16th century, when Martin Luther launched the Reformation and transformed Germany’s religious landscape for centuries to come.

The Catholic Church and the Habsburg Empire tried to put a bloody

end to the uprising, but the reformers formed their own military alliances. In the 17th century, the conflict culminated in the Thirty Years’ War.

The church’s efforts to reclaim its Protestant “daughters” never ceased. But as its alliance with German leaders broke, so too did the hope for a unified Christian body.

Around half of Germany’s population today still call themselves Christians, of whom the Roman Catholic Church can claim slightly more than a quarter. The rest adhere to Lutheran-Protestantism or Calvinism, united in the Evangelical Church in Germany.

The coronavirus has given the Catholic Church a rare opportunity. In this increasingly secular country, where the influence of its major churches has waned and denominational divisions seemed insurmountable, this virus has caused many to lay aside differences.

But when all the world said Germany would never rise again, Mr. Armstrong prophesied it would—and would lead the most tyrannical and destructive resurrection by far!

In 1967, Mr. Armstrong said that once the population of Europe came together, you would see a superpower that would probably grow to become the greatest power on Earth. That power is forming now. Germany is the third-leading exporting nation in the world. It is an economic and political powerhouse. It has grown to a prominence that the Allies in World War II pledged it would never have again. Even militarily, it has become extraordinarily powerful.

During the Cold War, the leading generals in Europe adamantly warned that rearming Germany to help fight off the Soviet Union was a calculated risk. But we decided to take that risk. The world is about to experience the terrifying results of rearming the German war machine.

When the Prophet Daniel saw visions of what this empire would do in the end time, he was so astonished that he fainted! (Daniel 8:27). Now, unless this world repents and heeds God's warning, we are going to *literally experience* those events Daniel saw only in vision! We need to do some deep repenting, and quickly, because time is running out.

Prince of Peace

The coronavirus has created problems for Europe that have increased the pressure for unity. Right now, Europe is weak and divided—a condition that the German people, most of all, cannot live with. They are going to respond, you can be sure. People's yearning for a "strongman, who finally takes action, will grow stronger." And they will get their strongman. That man will hijack Europe and transform it into another iteration

of the Holy Roman Empire, just as previous strongmen have done including Charlemagne, Otto the Great and Adolf Hitler.

The details of these prophecies we have been proclaiming for over 75 years are now coming to pass. You can see even the twigs on the tree beginning to sprout.

I hope YOU will repent and heed God's message, so God can help you and protect you through the terrible times that are coming.

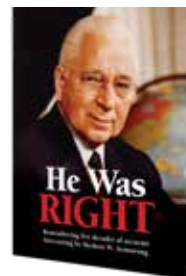
But even in all of this terrible news, there is good news. Daniel 8:25 reads, "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: *he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but HE SHALL BE BROKEN WITHOUT HAND.*" This powerful strongman will act like he wants peace when he really wants war. But he will make the terrible mistake of *fighting against Jesus Christ Himself!* Is that logical? This illustrates how evil that empire is! But at His return, Jesus Christ will destroy this man and the armies of the Holy Roman Empire.

This world knows so little about God and His prophecies. They simply don't understand what is written in the Bible. But you can. This is all explained in our booklets *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* and *He Was Right* (all our literature is free).

People must start looking to God and His Word. That is the only way we can have peace in this world. True peace is coming shortly—in just a very few years! We can thank God for that! ■

Put the Trumpet to the test.

Over 75 years of evidence proves biblical prophecies true. Compare recent events beside Bible prophecy. Request *He Was Right*.



Bible prophecy says German religion will revive and reunite. Coronavirus is propelling the nation in that direction. For example, on April 12, the chairman of the Catholic German Bishops' Conference and the chairman of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany appeared together on the *The Word for Sunday*—a first in the TV program's 65-year history. German news broadcaster ARD said this unprecedented "ecumenical cooperation" happened "due to the special situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic."

'Germany United in Prayer'

One prominent politician who is rising in popularity is helping drive the denominations back together: Bavarian State Premier Markus Söder.

On March 22 Söder encouraged believers to "pray that Germany will not be hit too hard" by the virus (*Trumpet*

translation throughout). Various Christian representatives responded by forming an ecumenical event on April 8 called "Germany Unites in Prayer." Uniting Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and Free Church Christians, the event was advertised as "the largest prayer campaign that Germany has ever seen." In a video message at the event, Söder said community prayer connects denominations and religions. "Linking arms in faith, and the commitment to the values of the faith, is what connects us all," he said. This event highlights that in crisis, people turn to religion and faith, and even put aside denominational differences and unite.

Germany's basic law calls on German politicians to abide by the principle of state neutrality. It's rare for a German politician to talk about his personal religion, even rarer to call on people to pray. Söder has done both, and his example is inspiring religious unity in Germany.

In 2017, Söder called himself a "fan of ecumenism." He believes the various Christian denominations should work closer together. "Jesus Christ is the standard for me," Söder told *Münchener Kirchenzeitung*. "He knew no denomination. I am always fascinated by Jesus Christ."

Though Protestant, Söder maintains close ties with the Catholic Church. "I am a Lutheran," he said, "and we are regarded as 'half Catholics' in the German Evangelical Church anyway." When asked what he envies Catholics for, Söder said: "I like to be Protestant, and I appreciate my regional bishop, but we don't have a holy father. This center of Christianity in Rome and the world church are particularly beautiful."

Such comments from a rising political star are notable given the Bible's prophecies of religious unification within Germany. Protestant and Free churches could follow Söder's lead in submitting

to Catholic rule. Whatever role Söder and other European leaders play, it is certain that Europe's religious roots are about to give new life to an empire that was thought dead. And while these efforts appear to be about unity and goodwill, history and prophecy make clear that such developments are leading to a frightening end.

The Churches Will Unite

The late Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed as far back as the 1930s that the Catholic Church would unite with its Protestant and Orthodox daughters. In October 1961, for example, his *Plain Truth* newsmagazine proclaimed: "Protestantism will be absorbed into the 'mother church'—and totally abolished."

He based this forecast on various Bible prophecies such as those in Revelation 13 and 17, and, in particular, Isaiah 47.

That chapter reads, "Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate" (verse 1). God is addressing not *ancient* Babylon, but the "daughter of Babylon." A church in Bible prophecy is often depicted as a woman. For example, Ephesians 5:23-33 and Revelation 19:7 describe God's true Church as the woman, or bride, who will marry Christ at His return. But Isaiah 47 is obviously not referring to God's true Church. So who is the "daughter of Babylon"?

Daniel 2 prophesies of four world-ruling empires, starting with Babylon,—then followed by the Persian, Greek and Roman empires. Rome entered a church-state union with the Roman Catholic Church, which adopted the Babylonian mystery religion and cloaked it with Christianity (explained in detail in Mr. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages*; request a free copy).

Isaiah 47:1 shows that this church claims "a throne" but that God will strip it of that authority. The Catholic Church is the only church that claims a throne, and it even receives ambassadors from countries around the world.

The "daughter of Babylon" refers to the Roman Catholic Church.

This same church is depicted in Revelation 17 as a whore riding a beast, symbolizing the Roman Empire. This is

how the Bible depicts the Holy Roman Empire. This church-state union has repeatedly risen throughout history, and its final resurrection is prophesied to rise in our time. As Mr. Flurry explains in his article in this issue (page 1), this church-state axis is now reemerging.

For this reason we have expected a religious revival in Germany. Mr. Flurry explained in 2011: "God does ALLOW this church to gain control of this German-led European beast power. Expect the Catholic Church to become more vocal and for this church-state axis to become more evident" (*Trumpet*, February 2011).

The Bible also forecasts that Europe's Christian churches are about to reunite.

Isaiah 47 continues, "And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of

Efforts toward ecumenism have made great strides in recent decades, and now the coronavirus crisis looks to be further healing the wound left by the Protestant Reformation.

it. Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children" (verses 7-8). This refers to a time when the Catholic Church reunites with its Protestant daughters. The church will boast about overcoming "the loss of children," or daughter churches.

Many have dismissed these prophecies, pointing to Europe's drift toward secularism and the seemingly irreconcilable differences between Catholic and Protestant churches. But efforts toward ecumenism have made great strides in recent decades, and now the coronavirus crisis looks to be further healing the wound left by the Protestant Reformation.

Yet ultimately, ecumenical prayers and joint TV appearances will not be enough to bridge that gulf. "Indeed, biblical prophecy indicates that full unity will not be achieved purely voluntarily,"

Mr. Flurry wrote. "At a certain point, the mother church will abandon its efforts to woo her daughters back by flatteries and instead revert to the age-old method of preserving 'Christian' unity by exerting physical force" (*Trumpet*, May 2007).

For five centuries, the Catholic Church has dreamed of reuniting with its daughter churches and regaining its former power. During the Dark Ages the church controlled Europe's scientific research and educational system, and it led the empire into various crusades. But religious disunity has broken the church's power over Europe. What will happen when the church regains that power?

The answer to that question can be surmised in part by the history of the Holy Roman Empire. Charlemagne was able to unite Europe not only under one government but also under one religion—the religion of the Roman Catholic Church. He promoted the Roman Catholic Church, converted "heretics" by the sword, and conquered Europe. That is how every resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire has operated. Unity in Europe comes with a price, and this price is blood.

The Catholic Church and Europe's leaders well understand the history of the Holy Roman Empire. This empire has endeavored in the past to rule not only Europe *but the whole world*. In the last few centuries, Europe has been occupied largely by attempts to unite its continent. Once that unity is achieved, the Bible clearly says that the Holy Roman Empire will again seek world dominion.

To learn more about these prophecies, request a free copy of *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*. It will help you understand the history of this bloody empire and reveal the Bible's perspective on the evil it has caused. It will also show how Christ Himself will end it forever. At that point, the world will experience unity like nothing it has ever imagined. ■

When Europe combines church and state, there will be blood in the streets. It has happened before, and biblical prophecies warn that it is about to happen again. Study these prophecies in your free copy of *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.





The Global Ambition to Destroy America and Its President

A look at the supreme goal that excites America's enemies **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

REMEMBER THE GREAT FACE mask scandal? It occurred in April, at the height of the coronavirus crisis. It started in Bangkok, Thailand, where a shipping container filled with face masks destined for Germany was at the last minute inexplicably rerouted to the United States.

The Germans were furious. Andreas Geisel, Berlin's interior minister, called America's behavior an "act of modern piracy." Berlin's mayor, Michael Müller, pegged the blame squarely on Donald Trump. "The actions of the U.S. president do not just betray a lack of solidarity, they are inhumane and irresponsible," he tweeted. German

Chancellor Angela Merkel tacitly endorsed the remarks, stating that it was "important that we get to the bottom of it."

As it turned out, there was no sinister plot to steal Germany's masks. The Germans perceived a conspiracy that did not exist and massively overreacted. To their credit, the interior minister and mayor admitted their mistake and apologized.

Among geopolitical events, it was a minor scandal. But it is revealing. That such high-level German leaders would spontaneously combust over such an incident reveals an extreme sensitivity. Combined with other evidence, it shows a distinct and intensifying hostility toward America, especially President Trump.

But it's not just Germany. Anti-American sentiment is increasing all over Europe. It is rife in Europe's media, where Donald Trump is routinely portrayed as a colossal doofus and the root of world problems. Meanwhile, Europe's leaders and officials outdo themselves trying to land digs at America and its president.

And it's not just Europe. Today many of the world's most influential countries, institutions and organizations are brazenly anti-American. Everyone knows Russia and China consider the U.S. an adversary, and that Germany and France are taking on the same view; but even America's relations with traditional allies such as South Korea, the Philippines and Japan are deteriorating.

This same trend is happening with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the International Monetary Fund, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations. Pope Francis, another influential voice in global affairs, also loathes Donald Trump and America.

Why is the world turning on the U.S. and its president?

Most people blame Mr. Trump. Many consider America's president ignorant and offensive, the antithesis of a statesman. Critics despise his "America

and mismanaged the crisis.

The reason had nothing to do with bureaucracy or resources. "The WHO has failed for a very simple reason: Both it and its director general are far too close to China (which is, by the way, a large investor in Dr. Tedros's native Ethiopia)" (*Spectator*, April 18). From the outset, Dr. Tedros and the WHO were working to defend Beijing and further its interests.

Though it had some understanding about the trouble in Wuhan, China, as early as November, the WHO was slow

to raise questions about its relations with other key international organizations and institutions. Is it turning others against America as well?

Kristine Lee, an associate fellow in the Asia-Pacific Program at the Center for a New American Security, wrote about this for *Politico*: "For people who've been watching China's growing activism in the United Nations closely, the WHO's deference to China is no surprise. In fact, IT'S JUST THE EXPOSED TIP OF A DANGEROUS ICEBERG" (April 15; emphasis added throughout). Lee explained how Beijing in recent years has "systematically positioned Chinese nationals at the head of a wide range of UN agencies."

Just this year, China was appointed one of five seats on the Consultative Group that heads the United Nations Human Rights Council. It holds similar positions of influence in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Meanwhile, America left both agencies in 2018.

Lee wrote, "Beijing's leverage over the WHO cannot be understood *independently of a much longer and broader campaign*, one that aims to bend the arc of global governance toward a more illiberal orientation that privileges the interests of authoritarian actors."

That is a powerful statement: This Sino-who axis is part of a larger global crusade to weaken America's leadership and orient the international community around authoritarian governments.

Further Evidence

Perhaps such subversion should be expected from the likes of China, Russia, the WHO and the UN. But we are also seeing America's longtime friends and allies growing apathetic and even hostile.

A January Pew research poll revealed that Germans' trust in America's president has declined from 51 percent in 2001 to just 13 percent. In Spain, it dropped from 26 percent to 21 percent.

"Most Europeans and Latin Americans have little confidence in the U.S. president to do the right thing regarding world affairs," the Pew Research Center reported. The share of Europeans who expressed "no confidence" in Mr. Trump (64 percent) is higher than any other world leader mentioned in the poll. The study revealed that Europeans have



This Sino-WHO axis is part of a larger global crusade to weaken America's leadership.

first" worldview. They hate the fact that he's prepared to hold other nations to account, and that he wants America to pull back as the world's preeminent financier, policeman and all-round troubleshooter. These are the reasons, we are told, that nations are distancing themselves from Washington.

Of course, the leaders of *every* nation put the interests of their country first, even when it hurts others. That alone does not explain the antagonism toward America. The contempt for President Trump is consistent even when his decisions are provably correct. Pinning all the blame on this man is simplistic and superficial. And it obscures the larger, more sinister reason for this trend.

The truth is, a higher and much more evil and dangerous power is behind this welling hatred for America.

Hating On America

China's disdain for America and its ongoing effort to challenge America's power are obvious. Few, however, recognize the extent to which Beijing works to poison others against the U.S.

Consider Beijing's association with the WHO, which was exposed by the COVID-19 crisis. The WHO and its director general, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesu, received a lot of criticism for their dawdling, inept response to the virus. From the start, the WHO manipulated facts

to reveal the facts, especially how contagious the virus was. Throughout January it warned *against* imposing travel restrictions on China, even as hundreds of thousands of people poured in and out of Wuhan. Instead of asking China some hard questions, it praised Beijing for the way it handled the crisis.

At a January 28 press conference, Dr. Tedros said, "We appreciate the seriousness with which China is taking this outbreak, especially the commitment from top leadership, and the transparency they have demonstrated" There is strong evidence that this virus originated in a Chinese laboratory, but the WHO remains silent on this!

Meanwhile as the crisis progressed, Dr. Tedros and the WHO grew more critical of America's president. On April 9, with Mr. Trump talking about investigating the WHO, Dr. Tedros reprimanded him for "politicizing" the crisis, a course that would result in "many more body bags." "You have many other ways to prove yourselves," he chided. "This is not the one to use for politics; it's like playing with fire."

Talk about politicizing the crisis: Dr. Tedros and the WHO were in China's pocket. Yet America is by far the largest donor to the WHO, supplying nearly 15 percent of its total funding. Why shouldn't its president investigate the conduct of an organization that receives *hundreds of millions of American dollars*?

Beijing's infiltration of the WHO ought

more confidence in *Russian President Vladimir Putin* than in Donald Trump.

Another poll showed that the majority of Germans consider Mr. Trump more dangerous than Putin, China's President Xi Jinping, Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and North Korea's Kim Jong-un.

Germany's feelings about America in general are changing too. In 2000, 80 percent of Germans favored America. By 2015, the number had fallen to 50 percent. By spring 2019, it was only 39 percent. This trend has played out less dramatically in other European nations: In Italy in 2000 the favorable view toward America was 76 percent; today it's 62 percent. In France it was 62 percent (the lowest in Europe in 2000); today it's 48 percent. Only 52 percent of the Spanish have a favorable view of the U.S.

Today it is routine to see disrespect and hostility toward America in the decisions, speeches and policies of Europe's leaders. French President Emmanuel Macron says NATO is undergoing "brain death" and blames Donald Trump. Mr. Macron became an international hero at the NATO conference last December when he publicly corrected America's president, telling him to "be serious" after remarks Mr. Trump made about the Islamic State.

Many of Europe's leaders now agree with Chancellor Merkel's assessment after returning from the G-7 summit in 2017: "The era in which we could fully rely on others is over to some extent. ... We Europeans truly have to take our fate into our own hands We have to know that we Europeans must fight for our own

future and destiny." A recent poll commissioned by the Körber Foundation found that 47 percent of Germans believe Berlin should cooperate less with America.

In February, the theme of this year's Munich Security Conference—the world's most important meeting of world leaders on security issues—was "Westlessness" and the fragmentation of the West. With leaders from the U.S. and Europe speaking on the big issues of the day, the conference exposed the massive divide between the two. America and Europe "aren't just far apart on the big questions facing the West (threats from Russia, Iran, China)," wrote *Politico*, "they're in parallel universes."

President Macron was especially forceful in his views at the conference. He spoke about the need for Europe to become more militarily independent, to break away from being America's junior partner, and to draw closer to Russia.

Another strong critic is Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, Germany's former defense minister. Some speculate that Guttenberg, widely considered an expert on U.S.-German relations, will soon make a political comeback. Though he supports warm U.S.-German relations, he has ferociously denigrated America under Donald Trump, whom he has referred to as the "clown in the White House" and a "jack in the box."

Guttenberg's view of Mr. Trump resonates throughout Europe, where top newspapers and television stations routinely portray him as an ignorant buffoon. In recent years, the covers of *Der Spiegel*, Europe's largest newsmagazine, have depicted America's president as a middle finger to Europe, a terrorist beheading Lady Liberty, a subhuman ape, a baby riding a nuclear bomb, a meteor poised to destroy the planet, and a tsunami destroying Washington, D.C.

Another key figure with notable animus toward America is Pope Francis. Francis has called U.S.-style capitalism "a new tyranny" and the "dung of the devil." In 2016, during a visit to the U.S.-Mexico border, the pope said any man who builds a wall couldn't call himself a Christian; an obvious swipe at Mr. Trump.

"If Pope Francis is to be taken at his word, he could not possibly wish for the leader of the capitalist system to thrive and prosper, continuing to inflict its



Guttenberg refers to President Trump as the "clown in the White House" and a "jack in the box."

‘tyranny’ on the world,” wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in his 2016 article “Why Is the Pope Meddling in American Politics?” “If he believes the free market is a force of destruction, then he would feel not only justified, but *obligated* to use his power to weaken it” (theTrumpet.com/13725).

Beyond Europe, America’s relations with Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, all longtime solid allies, are also coming under tremendous strain.

It is easy to blame all this on Donald Trump. As president, he has withdrawn America from the Paris climate agreement and the Iran nuclear deal, which the Europeans favored; he has criticized Europe’s meager contributions to NATO and demanded that it pay more; he has supported Brexit, withdrawn America’s troops from Syria without consulting European allies, and called on friends like Japan, South Korea and the Philippines to provide compensation for U.S. support. In March, when Europe became a hot spot for COVID-19, the president quickly locked America’s borders to Europeans.

These measures *are* dramatic. And there is no doubt that President Trump engages with the international community very differently than any of his predecessors. But while these decisions might upset world leaders, they were not unreasonable. There is nearly always merit to Mr. Trump’s actions

are international organizations trying to please China and undermine America?

The Ultimate Cause

For nearly 10 years now, the *Trumpet* has reported on the rise of the radical left and its sustained attack on America’s Constitution, the rule of law and the nation’s Judeo-Christian heritage. In *America Under Attack*, first published in 2013, Mr. Flurry identifies the ultimate source of this campaign to destroy America.

This enlightening booklet focuses on biblical passages that reveal the existence of a devil, an inherently wicked spirit being who is “the god of this world” and “the prince of the power of the air” (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2).

As we will see, the devil has extraordinary hatred for the United States. Regarding the growing problems undermining America today, Mr. Flurry writes in that booklet, “We are seeing the aftereffects of a calculated, aggressive, SATANIC ATTACK aimed at weakening and ultimately destroying the nations of Israel, starting with the world’s most powerful nation!” When he refers to “the nations of Israel,” Mr. Flurry is talking about America and Britain (and its Commonwealth), the end-time descendants of ancient Israel. (Prove this by studying *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, free upon request.)

Bible history shows that the devil has *always* sought the destruction of the

confined to this Earth. They can no longer go out into the universe.”

Now Satan again seeks to “blot out the name of Israel,” both spiritual and physical. “Satan hates everything God is about,” wrote Mr. Flurry. “He harbors terrible hatred for Israel—spiritual Israel (God’s Church) and physical Israel (modern-day nations descended from ancient Israel, particularly America, Britain and the Jewish state in the Middle East)” (*Trumpet*, March 2020).

Today this campaign, which has been at work for decades, is in its final stages.

Over the years, we have exposed how Satan has deployed the radical left *inside* America. But when you consider the actions of Russia, China, Germany, France and a host of other countries, organizations and institutions, it raises the question: Is the devil orchestrating a GLOBAL CAMPAIGN to destroy America?

The radical left in America is in close contact with America’s enemies. During February’s Munich Security Conference, a delegation of Democrats met with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, without the approval or knowledge of the U.S. State Department. John Kerry, Barack Obama’s secretary of state, has also met with Zarif several times.

Hillary Clinton, another secretary of state under Obama, also appears to be working behind the scenes against the White House. Last autumn, with Brexit hanging in the balance, Clinton visited the UK and encouraged the nation to stop Brexit and remain with the EU. In 2017, Obama visited Germany at the same time as President Trump and met with Angela Merkel just before Mr. Trump did. “We can’t isolate ourselves,” he told her. “We can’t hide behind a wall.” By arguing against Mr. Trump’s signature project, he was showing Germany there are alternatives to Mr. Trump. More recently, the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, Joe Biden, has tried to protect and encourage China even as the president seeks to pressure China.

THESE TOP AMERICAN POLITICIANS ARE MORE LOYAL TO THE LEADERS OF GERMANY AND CHINA THAN TO THEIR OWN PRESIDENT AND THEIR OWN NATION!

“[T]he devil is attacking the nations of Israel,” Mr. Flurry writes in *America Under Attack*. This is the context in which we should evaluate the actions of

America’s relations with Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, all longtime solid allies, are also coming under strain.

and decisions, even if the execution can be undiplomatic or unconventional. The Paris climate deal hurt America’s economy more than anyone else’s by far; the U.S. has spent billions on NATO for decades; the Iran deal was a known travesty from the beginning. In each case, the president was sincerely acting in America’s best interest—as a president should, and as all world leaders do.

So why does the world go ballistic almost anytime Donald Trump speaks? Why are Europe’s leading media outlets and politicians so disrespectful? Why

people of Israel and Judah. 2 Kings 14, for example, reveals the devil’s ancient campaign to “blot out the name of Israel from under heaven.”

Revelation 12:9, a prophecy for the end time, says, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” This milestone event has happened. Satan has been cast down to Earth. As Mr. Flurry explains in *America Under Attack*, “The devil and millions of demons are now

China, the UN and the WHO, Germany, France, the remarks of Guttenberg and Macron, and even the polls and surveys showing hostility building in Europe toward the U.S. Remember, Satan is “the god of this world”—and he is turning it against America!

When you understand the devil’s deep hatred for “Israel” and all that this term encompasses, the world suddenly makes a lot of sense!

Let’s look at these prophecies even more deeply.

These top American politicians are more loyal to Germany and China than to their own president and nation.

What Prophecy Says

To understand the Bible, we must grasp the principle noted in Isaiah 28:10: “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.” Bible prophecies and doctrines are understood by considering multiple books and chapters. End-time prophecies about America and its relations with the rest of the world involve multiple passages, but there are perhaps four key ones: 2 Kings 14:23-29; Amos 7; Daniel 8 and Revelation 12.

The passage in 2 Kings describes the history of King Jeroboam II, who ruled the kingdom of Israel in the eighth century B.C. Over his 41-year reign, the kingdom experienced an impressive resurgence, enlarging its territory, increasing its military strength, enhancing its political power, and expanding its material prosperity.

The Prophet Amos lived in the eighth century B.C. and delivered a warning from God to King Jeroboam II. Part of this message is recorded in Amos 7. However, the message of Amos is *dual*; this book carries a warning for Israel in the “latter days,” or the end time. (All of what we call “the minor prophets” contain end-time prophecy.) Amos 7 is both history and prophecy. It records God’s message to the ancient Jeroboam, but it is also a prophecy about God’s message to an end-time type of King Jeroboam in Israel.

Does America have a king, someone

who rules in the same spirit of Jeroboam and has overseen a remarkable resurgence? Although it was written thousands of years ago, 2 Kings 14:25-28 perfectly describe Donald Trump’s presidency!

2 Kings 14 records that Jeroboam II became king during a time of extreme national upheaval. Verses 25-26 record that Jeroboam “restored the coast of Israel For the Lord saw the AFFLICTION OF ISRAEL, THAT IT WAS VERY BITTER: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.”

The Hebrew word for *affliction* means depression or misery. Albert Barnes’s commentary says Jeroboam became king when Israel was in “extreme depression and weakness.” You could use the same language to describe America in 2016, when the nation was suffering the devastating effects of a president who hated the Constitution and rule of law.

Verse 27 reveals the severity of Israel’s condition: “And the Lord said not that he would BLOT OUT THE NAME OF ISRAEL FROM UNDER HEAVEN: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.” The kingdom was in an existential crisis. There was a massive conspiracy afoot to “blot out the name of Israel.”

This is why God backed Jeroboam II and created a resurgence. He didn’t want this colossal surge of hatred to destroy the kingdom, so, God “saved them by the hand of Jeroboam” He used this man to prevent Israel from being blotted out.

Today there is again a major conspiracy to “blot out the name of Israel”—and God has raised up another Jeroboam! This is ultimately why the radical left hates Donald Trump’s vision of America: because he is, at least for now, DEFENDING ISRAEL!

Antiochus

Now consider another important dimension of this prophecy. The prophecy in Daniel 8 is also dual, meaning this history would repeat in what Daniel

called the “latter days,” the time just before Jesus Christ’s return. Daniel 8 is mainly a prophecy about Antiochus Epiphanes, the third-century B.C. Greek tyrant who destroyed the Jews and the Jewish temple. Antiochus was used by the devil to try to “blot out the name of Israel.” (The Jews are part of Israel.)

Both Daniel 8 and 10 prophesy the emergence of end-time Antiochus figures—tyrannical men who will seek to destroy Israel. Daniel 8:12-13 record that the original Antiochus “cast down the truth to the ground” and saw the people of God (the Jews) “trodden under foot.” Verse 23 records that he “understand[s] dark sentences,” which implies he is directly influenced by Satan and demons. Verse 25 says he will “destroy many” and fight directly against the “Prince of princes”—Jesus Christ!

Mr. Flurry has explained that we can expect Satan to work through *three* Antiochus-type men in the end time. One of these men operates within God’s Church, spiritual Israel (this man is the “Amaziah” mentioned in Amos 7). Another Antiochus will emerge in Europe—he is the mighty political strongman mentioned in passages like Habakkuk 1:11. Finally, there is a political Antiochus operating *within America*, casting truth to the ground and behaving lawlessly. This man leads the radical left.

Can we recognize what the devil is doing? He has three Antiochuses in this end time, and all three have the same supreme objective—to destroy Israel!

In *America Under Attack*, Mr. Flurry exposes the behavior of Barack Obama and explains how the former president presided over a new age of lawlessness in America. Mr. Obama dramatically empowered the radical left movement, a movement that seeks to destroy traditional America.

But as we are now seeing, the Antiochus spirit—and the campaign to “blot out the name of Israel”—isn’t merely a domestic problem. The same spirit that motivated Antiochus is animating nations, organizations and media outlets all over the Earth, and it is taking over the minds of some of the world’s top leaders!

These stunning prophecies explain the reality at the heart of virtually all the major trends in America, Britain and the Jewish state. Just as there was



anciently, there is today a diabolical conspiracy to “BLOT OUT THE NAME OF ISRAEL FROM UNDER HEAVEN”!

Why Destroy Israel?

2 Kings 14:27 says the devil wants to “blot out the name of Israel from UNDER HEAVEN” He wants the truth about Israel not just removed from Earth, but *eradicated from the universe*. The world has never seen hatred this deep.

Why does the devil hate the nations of Israel (America, Britain and the Jewish state) so passionately?

In *Mystery of the Ages*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “The truly amazing truth about Israel is a mystery totally unknown by any religion—by Christianity—by even Judaism!” To understand why God raised up the people of Israel, and why the Bible talks so much about Israel, read *Mystery of the Ages*.

The truth about Israel revolves around God’s towering twofold promise to Abraham found in Genesis 12 and 17. This promise explains human civilization since Abraham and gives context and meaning to world history. It explains Britain’s empire and colonial past, its monarchy and its many wonderful traditions and institutions. This prophecy explains why America is exceptional, the reason for the success of the Constitution, and how this nation became the single greatest nation on Earth.

But there is more to the Abrahamic promise and the “mystery of Israel” than just this *physical* dimension. “It is indeed true that the nation Israel was God’s chosen people. But understand: They were not chosen as ‘teacher’s pet’ nor for special favors. *They were chosen for a special purpose* preparatory to the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God!” Mr. Armstrong wrote.

The undeniable virtues preserved and shared with the world by the descendants of Abraham did not originate in Abraham. **THEY CAME FROM GOD!** The entire purpose of God granting these

blessings to Israel was to spread them to humanity. This isn’t just about a family or a race or nations. This is about GOD WORKING WITH HUMANITY.

When you truly understand the “mystery of Israel,” you understand the truth about human nature, the need for God’s Holy Spirit, the path to salvation, how to have a relationship with God, and the gospel of the coming government of God. You also understand the incredible human potential: to be born into the Family of God.

The “mystery of Israel,” explained Mr. Armstrong, “has GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ALL PEOPLES! One cannot understand the real purpose and incredible potential of man without this vital knowledge.” *God reveals His spectacular plan for man through Israel.*

Satan doesn’t just hate the people of Israel, the nations which through no individual merit have been the blessed inheritors of God’s promises to Abraham. The devil hates the “name,” the truth and knowledge—the divinely revealed understanding—embodied in Israel’s history.

He hates Israel because America and Britain’s *existence* proves God’s existence and proves that the Bible is God’s Word!

He hates Israel because its presence and history reveals the Gospel of the Kingdom of God!

He hates Israel because Israel has the throne of David from which Jesus Christ Himself will rule when He returns!

Satan the devil hates Israel because as long as this name exists, men will have the opportunity to consider and study God’s purpose for Israel. And this study will lead a person into the greatest, most fascinating, most inspiring knowledge he could ever learn.

Ultimately, this is why the devil seeks to “blot out the name of Israel”—it’s because the name “Israel” introduces us to the mind and plan of God! ■



The key that unlocks Bible prophecy

Understanding the Bible and your world today requires knowing the identity of modern nations in prophecy. Unlock the Bible and current events with this key. Request ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy***.

The CHI



The breakup between the world’s two largest economies will shake the world. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

“IT IS UTTERLY UNREALISTIC TO uncouple China and the United States economically.” “I don’t see the two giants, the world’s two biggest economies decoupling. I don’t think it’s feasible.” “It’s too late to decouple.” The United States and China “are too deeply entwined to be separated.”

These were the words of China experts in the latter half of last year. They matched the view of most analysts over

Divorce of MERICA



the past 40 years or so, since shortly after U.S. President Richard Nixon changed policy from countering the massive Communist nation to partnering with it. Within a few years of Nixon's landmark outreach, the economies of the U.S. and China grew so interconnected that the pairing seemed irreversible. Some discussed the future in terms of "Chimerica" and the "Group of Two."

It is true that the two clashed over the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) authoritarianism, human rights abuses, illegal trade practices and more. But they always managed these tensions

because they were outweighed by the hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of annual trade between them.

After Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, frictions intensified regarding trade, Chinese militarization of the South China Sea, the independence of Taiwan and Hong Kong, and the CCP's human rights violations against China's Uyghur population. Yet even then, the belief that the Eagle and Dragon were too entwined to decouple remained prevalent not just among geopolitical experts, but also among U.S. multinationals. A poll in October 2019

by the American Chambers of Commerce in Beijing and Shanghai surveyed 25 of the largest U.S. companies with operations in China, asking if they could pull out of the country. Two thirds said it would be "impossible."

This was two years into the trade war, and even business stakeholders with plenty to lose still felt that, despite tensions, the clock couldn't be turned back on globalization. Like most geopolitical analysts, these company representatives felt America's economy was irrevocably dependent on cheap Chinese labor, and that the U.S. and China were simply too interlocked to come undone.

Then came 2020.

A Pathogen Unleashed

In January, when reports first started reaching the West about a new pneumonia-like illness emerging in Wuhan, China, few would have guessed how fundamentally it would alter the world economy. But the SARS-CoV-2 virus quickly spilled over China's borders and began infecting nations around the globe with both the illness and something even more virulent: fear.

Governments worldwide enforced unprecedented directives to keep people apart, restricting or banning some or all activity at conferences, festivals, rallies, meetings, concerts, hotels, theaters, libraries, parks, sporting events, beaches, weddings, funerals, religious services, gyms, community centers, restaurants, schools, businesses, factories, distribution centers and shops. Economic activity slowed or stopped, production plummeted, imports and exports fell, and debts of all kinds soared.

More Americans have lost jobs than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The federal government spent enormous amounts of money in handouts to businesses and individuals, adding trillions to the national debt. "The economy went into an ice age overnight," Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, told the *Washington Post*. "We're in a deep freeze" (April 22).

As the freeze deepened, American policymakers came together in rare agreement to lay the blame at the feet of the regime to which it belongs.

'It Could Have Been Stopped in China'

Rep. Seth Moulton, a Democrat from Massachusetts, joined a resolution at the end of March saying China made “multiple, serious mistakes” in the early days of the outbreak, including the “intentional spread of misinformation to downplay the risks,” which increased “the severity and spread of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.”

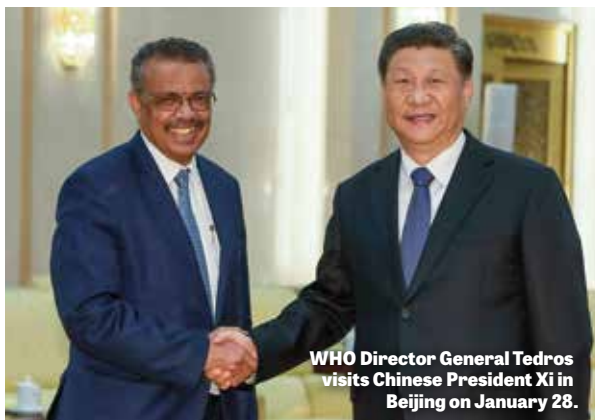
Indiana Republican Rep. Trey Hollingsworth expressed similar sentiments in an April 14 interview with WIBC radio: “We have seen them ... hide the coronavirus, not tell us the full story, not give us the full scope of the problem in China,” he said. “[T]hat has led to a hugely deleterious outcome.”

The perception is similar among average Americans. In April, a Harris Poll survey of 1,993 American adults found that nearly 80 percent believe China lied about COVID-19 and neglected to share vital data with the world that could have been used to slow its spread. An April 21 Pew poll and an April 22 McLaughlin & Associates survey found similar sentiments.

We now know that at early as November, China's ruling Communist Party (CCP) received warnings from medical authorities about this new pathogen that was resistant to common flu medications. Instead of taking measures to contain the virus in those early days, CCP officials ignored it and covered it up. Government agents detained journalists who reported the story, arrested citizens who posted about it online, and incarcerated doctors, forcing them to retract the warnings they had issued. The party destroyed lab samples, refused to admit medical experts from other nations, and lied to other governments and the media, repeatedly and boldly. And some Chinese critics of their handling of the outbreak—including a property tycoon, a prominent blogger and the head of

Emergency at Wuhan Central Hospital—were simply disappeared by the regime.

As the outbreak spread around the globe, the CCP behaved perhaps even more viciously. It is trying to blame the U.S. military for planting the pathogen. It refused to send medical equipment manufactured in China but owned by Americans to the U.S. It tried to portray its sales of (often faulty) medical equipment to other nations as donations. It waged online disinformation campaigns to stoke fear and panic among Americans. It used the global turmoil as cover to advance China's aggressive geopolitical agenda in the South China Sea and beyond.



“It's as much of a consensus issue as you can get in today's divided world. Overall, there's very little trust for anything that the Chinese government says or does, especially its premier.”

MARK PENN CHAIRMAN OF THE HARRIS POLL

In all this, the CCP showed that it has no moral limits and is concerned only with weakening its rivals and preserving and enriching itself.

So the mask was off. And Americans, regardless of political affiliation, began increasingly to blame China. “It's as much of a consensus issue as you can get in today's divided world,” said Mark Penn, chairman of the Harris Poll. “Overall,” he said, there is suddenly “very little trust” among Americans “for anything that the Chinese government says or does.”

For months, President Donald Trump refrained from pointing the finger too rigidly at Beijing. But at a White House briefing on April 18, he changed course,

with a statement confirming what most Americans already understood: “It could have been stopped in China before it started, and it wasn't,” he said, “and the whole world is suffering because of it.”

The U.S. sees that the CCP's corruption and negligence unleashed COVID-19 on the world. Now many American policymakers, business moguls and individuals are undertaking some long overdue soul-searching about the true price of hitching the U.S.'s economic wagon to China.

Readying for the 'Impossible'

McLaughlin & Associates published another finding even more significant than the number of Americans who correctly blame China for COVID-19's spread. Among the 2,075 American adults they surveyed, 72 percent seek to stop sending key manufacturing to China and to end American dependence on Chinese technology and medical equipment.

This is huge because of something that's usually quite small: the price tag.

A “Made in China” label typically means a product is considerably less expensive than an equivalent labeled “Made in the U.S.A.” This is partly because the CCP manipulates the nation's currency to keep Chinese goods cheap. It is also because the line between Chinese government and Chinese business is blurry or nonexistent. In 2011, for example, 43 percent of all profits generated by China came from firms that the government had a controlling interest in. In most other cases, business owners still do the CCP's bidding for fear losing favor with the tyrannical regime.

The CCP often uses its control over the country's businesses and 1.4 billion citizens to force people into slave labor or arrangements close to it. Chinese firms aiming to impress the CCP with strong balance sheets often do the same. In *The Dark Side of Labor in China*, Karine Lepillez writes: “The country's unique combination of Communist ideology and decentralized economic power has contributed to the use of both state-sanctioned and unsanctioned forced labor.”

Lepillez discusses China's use of child labor, dissident exploitation, forced domestic work, withheld wages, coercions of internal migrants and ubiquitous corruption. She writes: “Systematic

statistics on the extent of forced labor are not available due to China's repressive political system. However, news articles, reports, research, and the testimonies of past forced laborers attest to the severity of the situation."

The CCP also uses its control over China's economy and all the money that would otherwise go to its people to instead subsidize entire industries, artificially lowering prices and bankrupting competition in other nations.

When perusing Walmart's array of wares, American shoppers have not generally been preoccupied with thoughts of the tiny fingers in hazardous factories that made some of them, or about the CCP's illegal subsidies that dried up American businesses large and small. Instead, they have thought mainly about the price tag. And since American factories pay their workers a fairer wage, which results in a more expensive product, many shoppers in America and around the world have chosen to buy Chinese.

But now it appears Americans are becoming so disillusioned with China over COVID-19 that they may be willing to pay more to end this "deal with the devil."

The McLaughlin survey analysis said: "The pandemic has forged a historic consensus that crosses party lines on the need for unity, an embrace of American domestic manufacturing capability to restore our economy, and the need to recognize that China seeks to leverage the aftershocks of COVID-19 to advance their own geopolitical agenda."

American policymakers presented a slew of bills in Congress in April, including one with bipartisan support that calls for America to greatly reduce supply chain dependence on China. Sen. Marco Rubio, who introduced the bill, said, "It is unfortunate that it took a global pandemic to make clear the ramifications of offshoring our industrial base to countries like China."

A U.S. congressional report made public on April 21 stated: "Because China is a global manufacturing hub, domestic supply chain disruptions sparked by COVID-19 have triggered shocks across the global economy and brought into sharp relief the risk of reliance on China as a source of intermediate and finished goods."

White House Senior Adviser Jared Kushner said during an April 26

interview with Steve Hilton that due to COVID-19, the U.S. is already "working to make sure we're never reliant on foreign supplies again."

Businesses, too, are now contemplating what just months ago looked "impossible." In March, the American chambers of commerce in Beijing and Shanghai repeated the survey they had conducted in October. The change was stark: Most of the American entrepreneurs surveyed said this time around that decoupling from China appears necessary. More than a quarter were already taking steps to source materials from new locations after the coronavirus outbreak, and many expressed intentions to pull all production out of China.

As much as U.S. firms and consumers profited from "Chimerica," it was even more beneficial to the CCP, which used it to transform a fragile economy into a global powerhouse. But the Chinese, too, are now readying to decouple. They know that the days of exchanging slave labor for cash, investing in American assets, getting a free pass on stealing U.S. technology, and flouting World Trade Organization rules are ending. They see that the Trump administration is now serious about constraining the export of any American goods to China that could have a military application—including the semiconductors that the Chinese desperately need.

China is preparing to reroute its supply lines. And this seemingly distant, macroeconomic shift will ultimately shake all of us.

Alex Capri of the National University of Singapore explained in an interview with the *South China Morning Post*: "As the U.S. tightens the chokehold, tech companies in China ... will double-down on efforts to de-Americanize their supply chains."

The unthinkable is suddenly not just thinkable. It is already in the early phases. The two largest economies in world history are beginning to tear away from each other.

U.S. Resurgence Vs. 'Mart of Nations'

In the short term, reducing supply chain dependence on a duplicitous and vicious nation, and bringing manufacturing back home, particularly at a time when unemployment rates are soaring, could

significantly benefit America. This could extend the temporary resurgence now underway in the United States.

But decoupling from China also sets the stage for America to suffer a catastrophic economic, political and military defeat. That defeat is forecast in your Bible.

Some 2,700 years ago, God inspired the Prophet Isaiah to write about a globe-girdling, anti-American trade bloc that would arise in our lifetime. Isaiah 23:3 describes it as a "mart of nations."

Verse 1 names "Chittim" as one of the head countries in this conglomerate. In his booklet *Isaiah's End-Time Vision*, Mr. Flurry writes: "Kittim is synonymous with the *Chittim* of Isaiah's prophecy. ... After their migration through Central Asia, the Kittim made their appearance in modern-day northeastern China and Mongolia under the name of *Khitan* in the fourth century A.D."

Isaiah goes on to say that "Tyre" will also be a lead power in this mart of nations. Mr. Flurry explains that this city represents modern Europe's "com-

China is preparing to reroute its supply lines. This seemingly distant shift will ultimately shake all of us.

mercial center." He writes: "The *spiritual center* of the [modern European] Holy Roman Empire is called *Babylon* in your Bible (Revelation 17:5; 18:1-3). But here in Isaiah, the Bible refers to Tyre (and its allies Zidon, etc) as the *commercial center* of this European power. By understanding the spiritual and the commercial powers, you can understand what a colossus is rising in Europe."

A related passage in Ezekiel 27 also lists "Meshech" and "Tarshish," ancient names indicating modern Russia and Japan, showing that they too will be part of this enormous trade bloc.

The Scriptures show that connections between these Asian and European nations will continue to develop in the years ahead, and that these nations will all turn more radically against the U.S. and some of its allies.

Read about this prophesied resurgence in "Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily," by Gerald Flurry: theTrumpet.com/17092.

How Do You Deal With DEATH?

COVID-19 has the world hiding from it and hyperventilating over it. You need to look squarely at it.

BY JOEL HILLIKER



FEAR OF DEATH IS A POWERFUL MOTIVATOR. Right now, this fear is imprisoning masses of people in their homes. It is inducing people to strap on awkward, ugly masks anytime proximity to other humans is inescapable. For fear of death, passersby in groceries are eyeballing each other warily; neighbors are spying and reporting each other for infractions. Politicians are enacting policies that doom millions to hibernation, inactivity, solitude, joblessness and deprivation; rules that wreck businesses, ruin industries and ground national economies; decrees that obliterate hard-won, long-cherished civil liberties—and justifying them with the need to save “just one life.”

The world’s response to COVID-19 is the most sweeping example of the extremes to which people will go to repel death. And most people apparently deem the economic, financial, mental and emotional costs acceptable if they reduce the death rate. Many speak as though it is *immoral* to consider any factors besides the sanctity of life itself.

Without doubt, the questions and trials surrounding dying and death are among the most excruciating that human beings face. We don’t want to die, and don’t want to think about dying.

For far too many people, this doesn’t mean making sensible choices that optimize health and increase longevity. It means pretending they can abuse their body without consequences, then, when

that fails, expecting to be rescued by advanced medicine. And when *serious* disease or injury intrudes, it means fighting their mortality using any tool science can supply.

This tendency was vividly illustrated in the COVID-19 scramble to mass-manufacture ventilators. People spoke as if these machines are a failsafe cure for respiratory distress in COVID patients. Not so. The aggressiveness of the procedure often permanently damages the lungs, and can introduce pneumonia. You’d never know it from the media coverage, but the overwhelming majority of ventilator users with coronavirus—indications are in the 80 to 90 percent range—die before leaving the hospital.

But the medical profession is the only hope most people have. And that profession is very willing to peddle hope. To patients stricken with fatal conditions, it offers an ever growing menu of treatments—a chance of escaping the inescapable. But it also creates some gut-wrenching conundrums.

Besides that, it raises important questions: At what cost to others should a physical human life be preserved? What is its value? What is the *meaning* of a human life? And what happens after death?

Extending a Life

How much medical intervention would you accept to extend your life? At what financial and emotional cost to yourself

and your family? How much have you thought about it?

Medicinal and therapeutic innovation expands the decision-making capacity and responsibility for people facing death. The individual with a bad heart can receive a heart transplant. Lungs, intestines, bone marrow, livers, kidneys—all can be replaced through surgery. Someone with terminal cancer is offered surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy, cryoablation and still more options. And machinery makes it possible to keep a body’s vital functions operating—heart

beating, blood flowing, lungs pumping—almost indefinitely.

The drive to use any means necessary to preserve life is understandable—some would even say heroic. But these advancements also have a downside. While offering promise to sick patients, the range of possible treatments also creates a formidable set of expectations for modern medicine to live up to. In most cases, the disease itself has an inevitability to it—yet somehow people think not using a particular technology or applying a certain treatment means *deciding to die*.

Nobody wants to die. But accepting the reality of a body succumbing to a fatal disease becomes *more* difficult when accompanied by the notion—however false—that it was a *choice*. *I choose death*.

Given that choice, fewer and fewer take it. So health-care costs keep escalating. Each of those transplant procedures cost somewhere between half a million and 2 million dollars. Cancer treatments easily exceed \$10,000 per month and can be 10 times that amount. And the success rate—depending on how you define it in terms of length and quality of life—varies wildly. In the end, most people end up dying in hospitals, often after significant medical intervention.

Doctors are pursuing the fundamentally benevolent goal of giving individuals a valuable, albeit fleeting gift: more years of precious life. Yet they recognize that it is impossible to indefinitely defy human mortality. They have no power to heal.

And in many cases, their treatments actually *harm* patients, diminishing quality of life and hastening death. Besides that, medical mistakes and malpractice in hospitals and health-care facilities are startlingly common. In America, they are the *third leading cause* of death.

Facing these realities, doctors, along with patients and their families, confront agonizing choices about how much therapy to administer, treading uncertain ground, guided by probabilities and feelings.

Facing the Big Questions

Modern medical advances have clearly given years—of varying quality—to many people. At the same time, these advances have enabled us to *put off* the fundamental questions that our mortality raises. With death looming, we become preoccupied with essentially *material* concerns—options, treatments, schedules, odds. For so many, the last days of life are spent not in peace, but in warfare, armed only with faith in the frail weapons of science. We pour what little life we have into fighting the enemy that will end it. And ultimately, that fight *always* ends in defeat.

Modern medicine promises a kind of immortality. It suggests that our energies are best put toward employing every means to extend physical existence as

At what cost to others should a physical human life be preserved? What is its value? What is the meaning of a human life?

long as possible. If we are not careful, this fiction can preempt the important *spiritual* concerns that should dominate our thinking, even our decision-making, as we consider the inescapability of death.

Even with faith in God, facing death can be exceedingly difficult, particularly when ongoing pain is involved. Even Jesus Christ, who was perfect in faith, struggled mightily as He faced His own death, praying with penetrating emotion that He could *avoid* that suffering (Luke 22:41-44). Still, there is a serenity that comes from saying, as Jesus did, “Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

And there is tremendous peace in

recognizing and understanding the value of the spiritual over and above the physical. What, after all, *is* the real *purpose* for life? And what happens after it ends? Using every possible means to stretch it for a few more years effectively distracts people from facing these fundamental questions.

Life After Death?

Three in four Americans say they believe in life after death. But just what that might be remains cloaked in mystery for most people. They simply have never closely examined the subject. Maybe they are afraid to.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “If *in this life ONLY* we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1 Corinthians 15:19).

This was a man who faced death with confidence. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand,” he wrote. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day ...” (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Paul longed to *live*, as we all do. But what he alluded to was not an empty hope of extending his physical life—but the *true* hope expounded in Scripture.

It is a hope founded in understanding God’s wonderful purpose in creating man *mortal*, subjecting us to the trials of the flesh—an experience that, to fulfill that purpose, He even put His only begotten Son through.

Many people believe that human beings possess immortal souls, and that when they die, they go to either heaven or hell. The Bible is clear, however, that souls are *not* immortal—they can die (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). Scripture says that when we die, our “thoughts perish” and that “the dead know not anything” (Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5). Christ Himself said that “no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven” (John 3:13).

The true hope of Scripture is not about our possessing an “immortal soul,” or

about the “miracles” of medical intercession. It is the promise of **RESURRECTION**. It is the promise that, “as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall **ALL** be *made alive*”—and that ultimately, “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:22, 26). To God, human death is just *temporary sleep*, because He can **RESURRECT** humans from the grave!

This understanding supplies a dimension to questions of life and death that science cannot address. Paul said for those staring at death—either their own or that of a loved one—this truth enables you to “sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.” After explaining about the resurrection to come, he said, “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

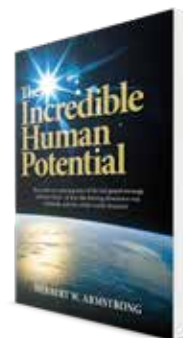
Scripture shows that a great many will be resurrected to a second physical life in a future world governed by the King of kings rather than by the evil “prince of this world” (John 14:30), as it is now. However, physical life is only a proving ground, preparatory to resurrection into *spirit life*. “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:53).

There is a wonderful, inspiring reason—that something within us clings to life. There is a reason we crave permanence, even as our physical existence passes like a shadow. The Creator has revealed His purpose for creating human beings and imbuing us with thought, intellect, creativity, self-awareness and spiritual yearnings. You have a purpose and a potential that transcends anything this material world can offer. You were, in fact, created to *inherit eternity*.

Learn about that purpose, and build your life around it. Then you, like Paul, can look unblinkingly at death. Not with fear, but with sober confidence, saying, “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and *not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*” ■

Is this the only life you get?

Study what the Bible says. Request your free copies of the reprint article “**Is There Life After Death?**” and Herbert W. Armstrong’s inspiring book ***The Incredible Human Potential***.



THE REAL DEATH RATE

Estimating the death rate for COVID-19 is nearly impossible. In March the director general of the World Health Organization said that “about 3.4 percent of reported COVID-19 cases have died.”

But subsequent studies have found that up to 80 percent of those infected with COVID-19 show no symptoms. This means the real COVID-19 death rate is lower than reported. You cannot calculate an accurate death rate for a virus without knowing how many people are infected. Without this information, the most accurate way to think about coronavirus deaths is to compare that number against the entire human population.



Consider these two pages

In 2017, out of the Earth's 7.55 billion inhabitants, 56 million people died. **This entire two-page spread represents 1 million people, of which 992,581 survived in 2017.** The bars below show the leading causes of death that year, and the area of each bar represents the death rate per million for the entire globe.

CANCERS
1,266

RESPIRATORY DISEASES
1,014

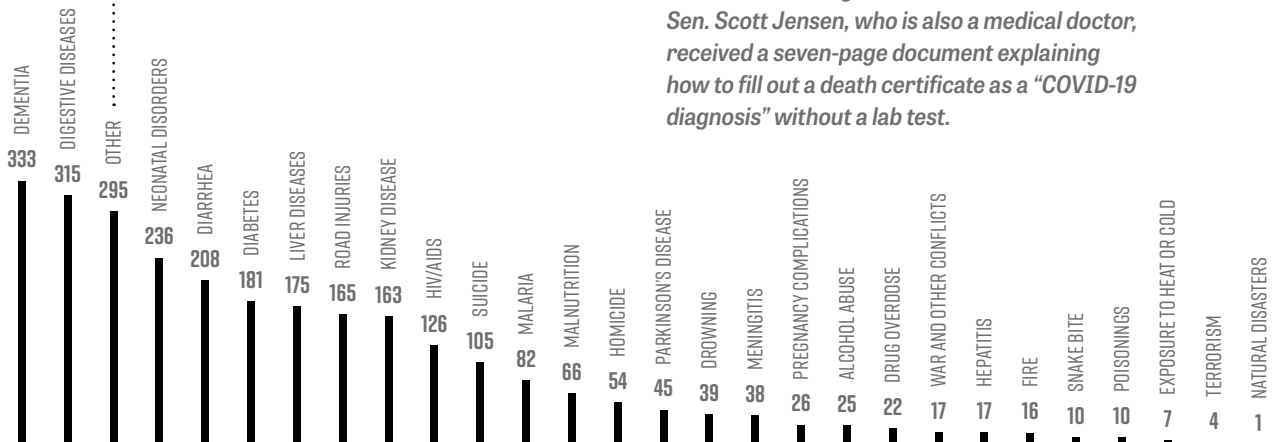
Respiratory disease is a leading cause of death even in normal times.

COVID-19 is a lung disease caused by a novel coronavirus first detected in late 2019. Respiratory diseases such as influenza, the common cold, sinus infections, tonsillitis, laryngitis, bronchitis, pneumonia and tuberculosis are the third-leading cause of death even in normal times. The normal influenza death rate is roughly 84 per million, which is in the range of the potential COVID-19 death rate.

What is other? This category includes all deaths from unknown circumstances, as well as deaths caused by factors that kill less than one person per million each year (e.g. shark attacks, workplace accidents, etc.).

COVID-19 deaths are likely overestimates.

Since many hospitals with COVID-19 patients receive special government funding, some doctors are filling out death certificates with a “COVID-19 diagnosis” even when there is not a lab test confirming the actual cause of death. Sen. Scott Jensen, who is also a medical doctor, received a seven-page document explaining how to fill out a death certificate as a “COVID-19 diagnosis” without a lab test.

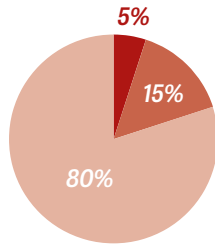


COVID-19

While there is still a lot that the world does not know about COVID-19, the data that is available shows that the vast majority of those who catch the novel coronavirus will only get mild symptoms and then recover. Those who die from the disease are mostly elderly people with serious preexisting health conditions.

Severity

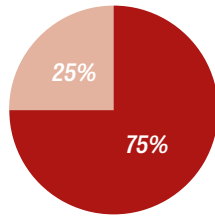
Data published by the Chinese Center for Disease Control indicates that 80 percent of COVID-19 patients only develop mild symptoms like cough, fever and aches.



■ MILD ■ SEVERE ■ CRITICAL

Conditional

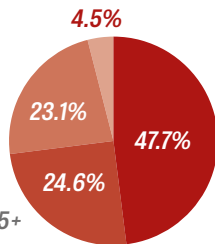
Data from New York City Health shows that 75 percent of those who die from COVID-19 had preexisting conditions.



■ YES ■ NO

Risk factor

Data from New York City Health shows that almost half of those who die from COVID-19 are age 75 or older.



■ 18-44 ■ 45-64 ■ 65-74 ■ 75+

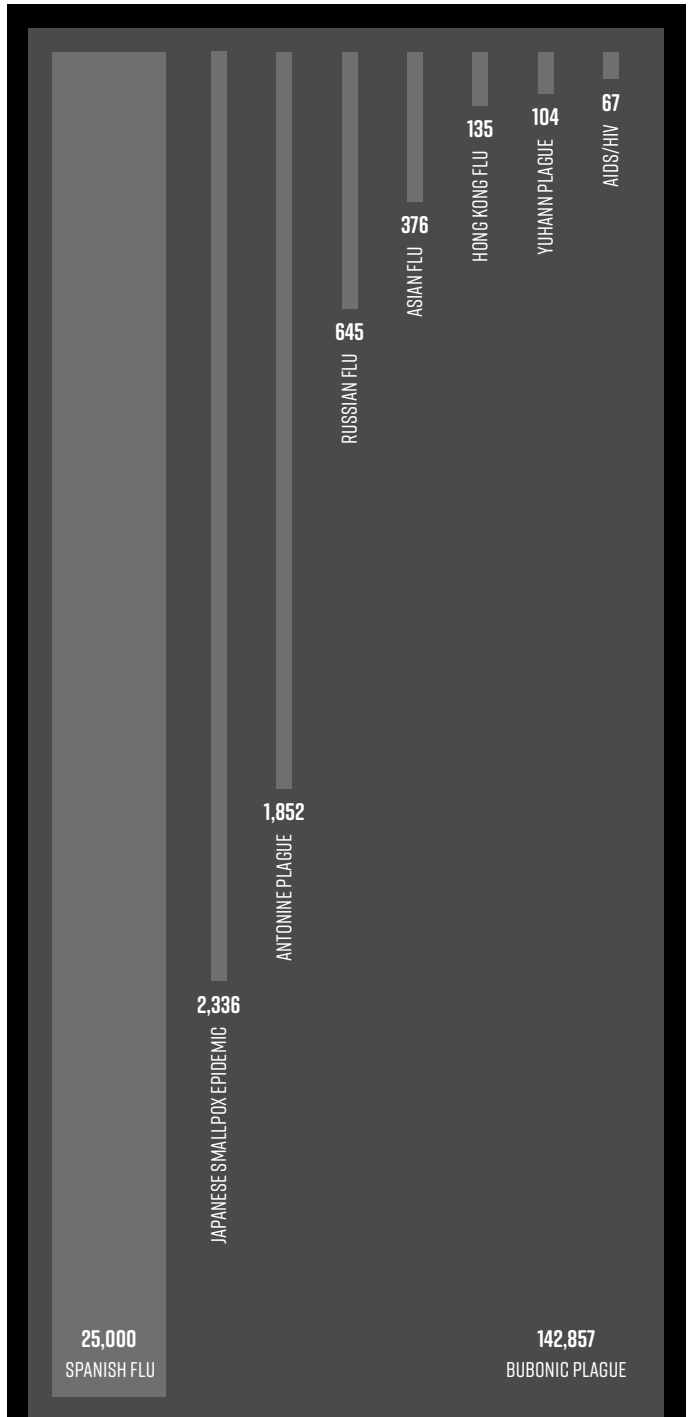
Best guess?

Imperial College of London originally estimated that 2.2 million people in the United States and 510,000 people in the United Kingdom would die from COVID-19 without government lockdowns. While it is now impossible to know what the death rate would have been without the lockdowns, updated information about the number of mild COVID-19 cases shows that these initial death toll estimates were gross exaggerations.



COVID-19 death rate for the first third of 2020

Projected national death rate per million (area of these 2 pages = 1 million people)



Past Pandemics

Compared to past disease pandemics, COVID-19 is relatively mild. The bars in this section represent the death rate per 1 million per year based on the average global population during each pandemic. The entire two-page spread represents 1 million people.



The Beautiful Effects of ‘Great Tribulation’

Jesus prophesied a time of unequalled suffering—and a cause for immense hope. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

JESUS CHRIST SAID SOMETHING shocking—and it should have far greater force in our modern minds than for His disciples. After all, we know about Hitler and Stalin, death camps and gulags, atomic bombs and nuclear warfare.

When asked about conditions at the end of the world, Jesus prophesied that the nations would experience “*GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be*” (Matthew 24:21).

We want to believe that history’s worst is behind us. And truly, humanity’s past is painfully rife with poverty, disease, starvation, torment, oppression, massacre, genocide and war. But Christ’s words signal that we are *YET* to experience *worse tribulation* than any ever suffered!

He said further (in verse 22) that “except those days should be shortened,” *every human being would die*.

These words have particular poignancy right now, in a world gripped by despair

and fear caused by pandemic and panic among peoples and their governments. Overnight, we have seen food supply disruptions, record unemployment, masses of people lining up for food handouts. We have seen rule of law destroyed, oppression enacted, freedoms revoked.

It is startling. But compared to the suffering prophesied by Jesus Christ and forecast throughout the Old Testament and New Testament, it is *mild*. According to prophecy, looming ahead are race war, economic besiegement, financial collapse, starvation, far deadlier pandemics, nuclear war, foreign invasion, national captivity and literally *billions* dying.

Yet in the current crisis, a striking trend: Many people are thinking about God. A March survey of 1,000 likely American voters found 22 percent believe coronavirus and economic meltdown are signs of God’s “coming judgment” and a “wake-up call for us to turn back to faith in God”; 22 percent more believe one of those things. Nearly 3 in 10

believe these are signs we are in the “last days.” Pew Research found 55 percent of Americans say they are praying for the pandemic to end. There has reportedly been a 40 percent spike worldwide in Google searches for the term “prayer.”

God *does* intend this adversity to provoke such thinking. Sadly, a great many people are responding in rather the opposite way. Rather than using confinement for reflection, religious devotion or family bonding, they are bingeing on television, movies, video games, pornography or marijuana use.

Thus, if God is using this crisis as a “wake-up call,” clearly the calamities will have to intensify before they truly jolt a great many people.

This points to the *reason* for Christ’s prophetic warning. And it illuminates the way to *AVOID* the suffering to come.

The Gulag

That the Great Tribulation will be harsher than anything in history is stunning



when you consider the industrial scale of suffering in the 20th century.

World War I was called “the war to end war” because it was so massive, so murderous and so horrific that people couldn’t fathom going to war again. But before it was even over, something happened that would perpetuate the nightmares of the 20th century: the Russian Revolution. Once in power, the Bolsheviks began mass arrests and imprisonment. Captives included millions of peaceful, innocent citizens perversely deemed enemies of the cause.

Then World War II came, and it eclipsed the horrors of World War I tenfold. It was terrible tribulation, such as the world had never seen: submarine warfare, V-2 rockets, aircraft carriers, concentration camps, atomic bombs. And

conditions in Russia had deteriorated dramatically under Joseph Stalin, one of history’s greatest mass murderers. Even while hurling men by the millions into fighting the Germans, he continued the imprisonments and purges of millions more of his own people—tribulation that ground on long after the war ended.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was one of those prisoners. He would later write a series of books describing life in captivity: *The Gulag Archipelago*. This meticulous account powerfully describes tribulation and captivity. It portrays shattered freedoms, rampant injustices, brutal arrests, torturous interrogations, horrifying camp conditions, and countless grotesque manifestations of human nature among both officers and prisoners. It makes the reality of the coming Tribulation achingly real.

Captives of the gulag numbered in the millions. Soviet officials extracted as much work from them as possible while providing as little care as possible.

Camps were devastatingly filthy and diseased. Captives were starved or literally worked to death.

“[T]he life of the natives consists of work, work, work; of starvation, cold and cunning,” Solzhenitsyn wrote. Prisoners were barefoot and nearly naked—and this in a wasteland tundra that “was eternally covered with snow and the blizzards eternally raged over it.” At times on a given work site, *hundreds* of laborers froze to death.

The utter disregard for human life led to unthinkable atrocities. Despite requiring prisoners to labor in the cold for 10 to 12 hours a day or more, officials fed them next to nothing: “They poured water into a pot, and the best one might expect was that they would drop unscrubbed small potatoes into it And wherever there was a water shortage ... only one bowl of gruel was cooked a day, and they also gave out a ration of two cups of turbid salty water. Everything any good was always and without fail stolen for the chiefs, for the trustees, and for the thieves”

In such conditions, only one thing dominates the mind: “Hunger, which forces an honest person to reach out and steal (‘When the belly rumbles, conscience flees’). Hunger, which compels the most unselfish person to look with envy into someone else’s bowl, and to try painfully to estimate what weight of ration his neighbor is receiving. Hunger, which darkens the brain and refuses to allow it to be distracted by anything else at all, or to think about anything else at all, or to speak about anything else at all except food, food and food. Hunger, from which it is impossible to escape even in dreams—dreams are about food, and insomnia is over food. And soon—just insomnia.”

Sickness and disease were rampant, yet, Solzhenitsyn writes acerbically, “there was no doctor’s aide, not even an orderly, and as a result there were no sick, and anyone who pretended to be sick was taken out to the wood in his comrades’ arms, and they also took a board and rope along so they could drag the corpse back the more easily.”

The work projects—clearing forests, breaking rocks, mining ore, building railroads and canals—staggered forward at incalculable human cost. The

system’s “principle form of waste,” Solzhenitsyn writes, was “the *last-leggers*.” “[E]verything built by the Archipelago had been squeezed out of the muscles of the last-leggers (before they became last-leggers). And those who survived ... must take upon themselves the disgrace of their own preserved lives.”

“Philosophers, psychologists, medical men, and writers could have observed in our camps, as nowhere else, in detail and on a large scale,” he wrote, “the special process of *the narrowing of the intellectual and spiritual horizons of a human being, the reduction of the human being to an animal* and THE PROCESS OF DYING ALIVE” (emphasis added throughout).

Jesus Christ says the Tribulation to come will be *worse*.

God doesn’t want to put anyone through that if He doesn’t have to.

God’s Hammers

The Great Tribulation that Christ prophesied will not arrive without warning. He personally warned of it 2,000 years ago. Centuries before that, God warned through Moses, Hosea, Amos and other prophets. He warned through Ezekiel, *after* he and his people had suffered nation-destroying tribulation, conquest and enslavement.

Ezekiel, a captive himself, prophesied that in the future, Israel’s descendants would again suffer tribulation on an epic scale. These descendants make up modern nations that include, most prominently, America and Britain (for proof, request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). Ezekiel 5 prophesies that a *third* of these nations’ populations will die in violence within cities, and *another third* in nuclear attacks. The surviving third will be ENSLAVED, just as Ezekiel was. The numbers—more than 100 million in each of these waves—defy imagination.

Why would God allow and, yes, *cause* such suffering? Not simply to punish, but, in fact, to *correct*.

God is trying to *reach people*, to help them repent. He is a Father, trying to reach His sons. “For whom the Lord LOVETH he *chasteneth*, and *scourgeth* every son whom he receiveth” (Hebrews 12:6). Though God’s correction is grievous in the moment, when someone responds positively it brings beautiful results (verse 11).

God has a set of hammers. If we fail to heed the gentler correction, we force Him to use bigger hammers and harder blows to dissuade us from living the way that leads to death.

The Great Tribulation is the biggest hammer of all—but even it is a *corrective* tool. It will succeed in driving thousands of His own wayward Spirit-begotten saints back to Him. It will bring “a great multitude, which no man could number” into His Family (Revelation 7:9). Ultimately it will do much to prepare the *whole world* to come to know Him!

The Gulag Archipelago illustrates how the Tribulation will actually succeed as a tool of correction. Horrible as it is to contemplate, the Tribulation is actually an expression of God’s love.

Convicted by Conscience

The great majority who entered the Soviet gulags were broken by them. Yet Solzhenitsyn documented how some few, though crushed in body, actually *grew stronger in mind and spirit*.

When someone is forcibly plucked from his life and thrust into a world where survival is the lone goal, in a sense life becomes exceedingly simple. One prisoner described the slow hours of internment, the quiet, the time to think: “Here all the trivia and fuss have decreased. ... I have experienced a turning point. ... Here you harken to that voice deep inside you, which amid the surfeit and vanity used to be stifled by the roar from outside.”

Consider it: Right now, even amid global crisis, people remain distracted and self-absorbed. Thus God, rather than give us up to sinful self-destruction, must find a way to cut through the noise if He is to reach people and teach people.

Solzhenitsyn quoted a proverb: “Poverty and prison give wisdom.” And another: “Freedom spoils, and lack of freedom teaches.”

“Torn from the hustle-bustle of everyday life in so absolute a degree that even counting the passing minutes puts him intimately in touch with the universe,” he wrote, “the lonely prisoner has to have been purged of every imperfection, of everything that has stirred and troubled him in his former life, that has prevented his muddied waters from settling into transparency.” How much

does life’s tumult muddy the waters of your mind and inhibit contemplation?

In captivity, there is so much time, and so much motive, to think deeply and examine yourself differently. “Here is a rewarding and inexhaustible direction for your thoughts,” Solzhenitsyn wrote: “Reconsider all your previous life. Remember everything you did that was bad and shameful and take thought—can’t you possibly correct it now? Yes, you have been imprisoned for nothing. You have nothing to repent of before the state and its laws. But ... before your own conscience? But ... in relation to other individuals?”

If you were to be enslaved this way, would you look back with regret at how you lived and the choices you made?

“I have become convinced that *there is no punishment that comes to us in this life on Earth which is undeserved*,” said another captive, Boris Kornfeld. “Superficially it can have nothing to do with what we are guilty of in actual fact, but if you go over your life with a fine-tooth comb and ponder it deeply, you will always be able to hunt down that transgression of yours for which you have now received this blow.”

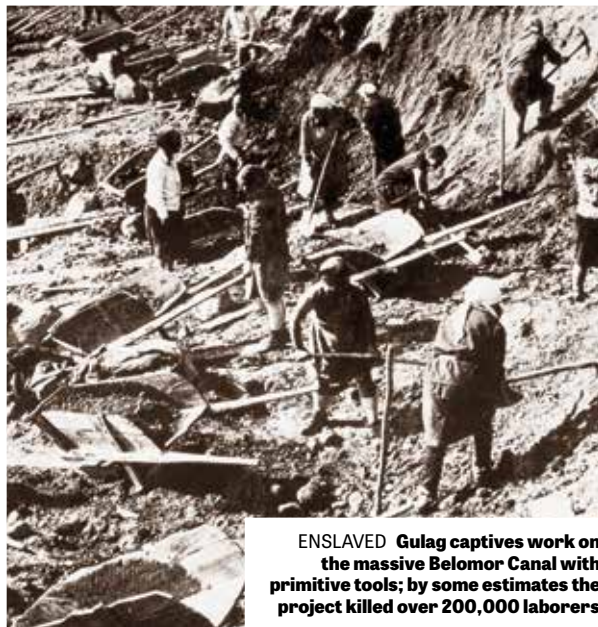
Solzhenitsyn recognized that you may argue this point when you see children and other innocents brutally punished—yet, he wrote, “there was something in Kornfeld’s last words that touched a sensitive chord, and that I accept quite completely *for myself*. And many will accept the same for themselves.”

This man had been a hardened Russian officer. Yet there in the gulag, as he contemplated life, he thought, “There is nothing that so aids and assists the awakening of omniscience within us as insistent thoughts about one’s own transgressions, errors, mistakes.” Recalling his past, he thought, “How many unused opportunities there were. When will we now make up for it? If I only manage to survive—oh, how differently, how

wisely, I am going to live. The day of our future *release*? It shines like a rising sun.”

Refining

Zechariah 13:8 describes the same Tribulation that Ezekiel 5 prophesies: Only one third will yet live. What will God do with these survivors? “And I will bring the third part through the fire, and *will refine them as silver is refined*, and *will try them as gold is tried*: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The



ENSLAVED Gulag captives work on the massive Belomor Canal with primitive tools; by some estimates the project killed over 200,000 laborers.

Lord is my God” (Zechariah 13:9). Yes, this cruel captivity will accomplish God’s purpose by *refining* these victims. God will work with them to help them ascend in character. “Behold, I have refined you, but not like silver,” He says; “I have tried you in the furnace of affliction” (Isaiah 48:10; Revised Standard Version).

Solzhenitsyn movingly described the refining that captivity can effect: “Your soul, which formerly was dry, now ripens from suffering. And even if you haven’t come to love your neighbors in the Christian sense, you are at least learning to love those close to you. ... It is particularly in slavery that for the first time we have learned to recognize genuine friendship.”

Immersed in an environment of unspeakable barbarity, some rare individuals gain moral clarity. “Once upon a time you were sharply intolerant,” he continued. “You were constantly in a rush. And you were constantly short

of time. And now you have time with interest. You are surfeited with it, with its months and its years, behind you and ahead of you—and a beneficial calming fluid pours through your blood vessels—patience. *You are ascending* Formerly you never forgave anyone. You judged people without mercy. And you praised people with equal lack of moderation. And now an understanding mildness has become the basis of your uncategorical judgments. You have come to realize your own weakness—and you can there-

“If you go over your life with a fine-tooth comb and ponder it deeply, you will always be able to hunt down that transgression of yours for which you have now received this blow.”

BORIS KORNFELD

fore understand the weakness of others. And be astonished at another's strength.”

The *humiliation of captivity* can lead to a *humility of spirit*. When pomp and vanity are exposed as false and worthless, space can be created for something more pure. The mind can awaken to all it once took for granted. The captive clutches for meaning, for hope and humanity, for God. “How gratefully his fingers reach out to feel and crumble the lumps of earth in the vegetable garden (but, alas, it is all asphalt). How his head rises of itself toward the eternal heavens (but, alas, this is forbidden). And how much touching attention the little bird on the window still arouses in him (but, alas, there is that ‘muzzle’ there ... and the hinged ventilation pane is locked).”

How achingly easy it is to neglect what is truly important. Soon, though, many millions will have their illusions exposed and everything they cherish stripped. Untold millions will become even more depraved and animalistic.

But in that darkness, something truly beautiful will occur: An innumerable host will accept the chastening and scourging, they will take hold of humility, they will embrace the correction, and they will be refined like molten gold.

Among the things people will be deprived of in the Tribulation is God's truth. God prophesies of a famine of the word (Amos 8:11). Today, that truth is

abundant. People can readily access it through the *Trumpet* magazine, the *Key of David* television program, radio programs, podcasts and many publications. But soon it will be gone.

This is why we are urgent to publicize God's warning message while we can. Those future captives need this message. They need *He Was Right*. They need *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's booklets on *Lamentations* and *The Song of Songs*—special messages from God to His recalcitrant spiritual sons.

We say, like Christ, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

The founding book of the *Trumpet's* publisher, the Philadelphia Church of God, is *Mal-*

achi's Message. In that book, Mr. Flurry shows that the last era of God's Church before Christ's return—called the Laodicean era—began after the leader of God's Church, Herbert W. Armstrong, died in 1986. (Read Christ's message of correction to this rebellious era in Revelation 3:14-22.) Since that time, the true Church of God has splintered and resplintered. Yet God has been knocking on the Laodiceans' door for 30 years through the PCG. He is still knocking, beseeching them to open the door to Him.

Those who fail to heed will be thrust into the Great Tribulation. Scripture prophesies that in this holocaust, they will have to repent or lose their eternal lives. And to prove their hearts, God will actually give them an important work to do *in their captivity*—testifying to *their captors* about the truth of God.

The Value of Memory

Solzhenitsyn wrote a lot on the importance of *memory* in captivity. “Own nothing! Possess nothing!” he wrote. “Own only what you can always carry with you: know languages, know countries, know people. *Let your memory be your travel bag*. Use your memory! Use your memory! It is those bitter seeds alone which might sprout and grow someday.”

This prisoner used his memory to extraordinary effect. He composed hundreds of lines of poetry in his mind,

endlessly rehearsing and refining them, without committing them to paper. “This was very rewarding, in that it helped me not to notice what was being done with my body,” he wrote. “Memory was the only hidey-hole in which you could keep what you had written and carry it through all the searches and journeys under escort. ... No longer burdened with frivolous and superfluous knowledge, a prisoner's memory is astonishingly capacious, and can expand indefinitely. We have too little faith in memory.”

Amid the Tribulation, God's people in captivity will search their memories, and God will help them remember. They will recall remnants of God's truth. They will recollect their time in God's Church. They will think on Psalm 137 and the hymns they sang. Like those who composed that psalm, they will be exiles in captivity, mourning. They will actually remember that psalm by remembering that hymn from *The Bible Hymnal*.

And verses 8-9 show that they will *testify to their captors*. They will deliver God's warning to their guards and officers of the fate that awaits them!

The Bible says that God's people, who have finally repented and are doing His warning work, will be martyred for it. Yet because they repented, they will have qualified to receive eternal life.

Solzhenitsyn described astronomer Nikolai Kozyrev, a fellow prisoner who “saved himself by thinking of the eternal and infinite: of the order of the universe—and of its Supreme Spirit; of the stars; of their internal state; and what time and the passing of time really are.” Contemplating God enabled him to survive despite being confined for a year with a man who had literally gone insane.

Nikolai thought and thought, until he reached the limits of his own knowledge. He cried out: “Please, God! I have done everything I could. Please help me! Please help me continue!”

Just *half an hour later*, the guards came and gave him a book: *A Course in Astrophysics*.

“Where had it come from?” Solzhenitsyn wrote. The prison library generally held only Communist propaganda. “Aware of the brief duration of the coincidence, Kozyrev threw himself on it and began to memorize everything he needed immediately, and everything

he might need later on.” Imagine the hunger for true knowledge people will possess during the famine of the word. They will hunger for meaning and for hope! If only we could appreciate these things now, while they are abundant.

The book exchange at this prison would swap out the books every 10 days. But just two days after Nikolai received this book, the prison chief made an unscheduled inspection. “His eagle eye noticed immediately. ‘But you are an astronomer?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Take this book away from him!’ But its mystical arrival had opened the way for further work, which he then continued in the camp in Norilsk.”

Can such an event be explained any way other than that the omnipotent, omniscient God was watching and listening and working in the life of an unconverted prisoner in a Soviet gulag?

How closely attentive will God be in the lives of the captives and exiles of the Great Tribulation? He will be meticulously orchestrating circumstances for the Laodiceans, for the innumerable multitude that never knew God until the Tribulation struck, for the nations of Israel, and in fact for all humanity.

‘I Will Sow Them’

Of those experiencing this severest of punishments, God says in Zechariah 10:9, “And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.” As their ordeal leads them to repent, God will actually use them to reach still others.

“God will sow the Laodiceans in far countries during the Tribulation. Half of them will ‘turn again’ to God—realizing what they almost lost,” Mr. Flurry writes in his booklet on Zechariah. “But what makes this verse so inspiring is the fact that God is in control of the situation. He says, ‘I will sow them.’ Why does a farmer sow seed? So he can have a harvest! ... God will actually sow them in foreign countries so they can teach the Gentiles. Even as the Gentiles threaten to kill them, they will say, *Go ahead—but I’m telling you what’s coming*. God’s message will be taught all over the world by the Laodiceans! Isn’t that amazing? God sows them so He can reap a harvest.”

Today, these people are rebelling against God—yet He is preparing to

correct them and save them from spiritual death—and far beyond that! He is preparing to use them to save still more people, even their own captors!

Love Is Strong as Death

Solzhenitsyn described an array of tools and tortures Soviet interrogators used to break captives and extract confessions. They interrogated one old woman repeatedly, but she refused to tell them anything. “At first the interrogators took turns, and then they went after her in groups. They shook their fists in the

Given harsh enough conditions, everyone can be broken. That means God must protect us and those in the Tribulation from those conditions that would break us.

little old woman’s face, and she replied, “There is nothing you can do with me, even if you cut me into pieces. After all, you are afraid of your bosses, and you are afraid of each other, and you are even afraid of killing me. But I am not afraid of anything. I would be glad to be judged by God right this minute.”

Solzhenitsyn knew of several people like her, who would choose death rather than cooperate or sign anything denouncing anyone.

Song of Songs 8:6 describes the Laodicean woman, suffering in the Tribulation, and turning to God. “Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm,” she says, “for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.”

“There is coming a time when this repentant Bride of Christ will become a courageous witness for her Husband in the face of death, amid the nightmares of the Tribulation,” Mr. Flurry writes in *The Song of Songs*. “She will look her persecutors squarely in the face, and say, *Love is strong as death! I can love God and I can die for Him because I love Him so much!*”

“Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his

house for love, it would utterly be condemned” (verse 7). “What a breathtaking scripture,” Mr. Flurry writes. “If we are loyal to God, nothing can destroy true love—nothing! Not even death.”

Amid so much tragedy in the Church today, God is full of hope that His *precious Spirit-begotten sons* will make it.

It will take extraordinary moral and spiritual courage to do what these saints do. Yet at the same time, God will have to carefully calibrate their experience to give them the opportunity. Solzhenitsyn made a crucial point. He said *every person has a breaking point*. When a prisoner didn’t comply, it was really a sign that his captors hadn’t successfully pushed him to that point. Regarding the defiant captive, he wrote, “For a reader who is not in the know this is a model of heroism. For a reader with a bitter Gulag past, it’s a model of inefficient interrogation.”

Given harsh enough conditions, everyone can be broken. That means God must protect us and those in the Tribulation from those conditions that would break us. “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

‘Our Last Prison Sky’

The Laodiceans will die in that captivity. Sadly, far too many will die not for God, but trying to save their lives by submitting to their captors and other criminal activity in captivity.

But a great many will repent and be martyred for God, proving themselves worthy of becoming the Bride of the Lamb who was slain.

Isaiah 54:4-5 have a thrilling message to the Laodiceans who will repent: By turning to God and giving up their physical lives, they will be resurrected not only into His Family but as part of the Bride of Christ. “Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.” Yes, God hid His face, but only for a moment. And for a magnificent purpose. Think of all that God will accomplish through the

Is God's Church Divided?

Many people believe there are true Christians scattered in various churches. What does the Bible say? **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HERBERT W. Armstrong in the 1980s, the new leadership of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) fired my father for faithfully following in Mr. Armstrong's steps. After God established the Philadelphia Church of God through my father in 1989, a number of other churches broke away from the WCG in the early to mid-1990s.

Since that time, many of God's people have come to believe that there are true Christians in many different "branches" of God's Church. *We're all God's Church*, they reason. But that is *not* what they believed when they were in the WCG before Mr. Armstrong's death.

What does your Bible teach?

Does it say there are many different religious organizations with different leaders and different beliefs, yet all of them are right with God?

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all *speake the same thing*, and that there be *no divisions* among you; but that ye be *perfectly joined together* in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

About this passage, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Some of them wanted to follow Peter, some wanted to follow Apollos, some Paul. But PAUL was their apostle, and Christ taught them by PAUL. The separated individual believer will follow *his own* idea of God's truth. THAT IS NOT GOD'S WAY. God in His almighty wisdom has raised up the CHURCH as HIS MEANS of teaching all the SAME TRUTH—all speaking the SAME THING! Not each individual *his own thing!*" (*The Incredible Human Potential*).

There is *one Church*. That Church must speak that same thing or it will become divided. That's what happened after Mr. Armstrong's death: The Church split apart and everyone started

speaking different things. *God's Church is not divided!*

Why Division

Many people who were part of God's one true Church and are now in various groups take comfort in the idea that God's Church is divided into "branches": different organizations, different leaders and yes, different doctrines. They believe that all the Catholic and Protestant Christians are divided and wrong, but the divided churches that still hold most or some or a few of the biblical doctrines Mr. Armstrong taught are right; they are divided yet united.

As Mr. Armstrong wrote in Chapter 6 of *Mystery of the Ages*, the Church of God is a spiritual organism. It is the body through which Jesus Christ is doing His work. He is its spiritual Head, and He actively leads it! Those who have the Holy Spirit are His people. That is what constitutes His Church; that is what constitutes true Christians. Through His Church, Christ feeds, guides and governs God's begotten children.

But by neglect or by choice, people can stop believing and obeying. They compromise; they think and act contrary to the Holy Spirit. They leave the spiritual body that is being actively led by Christ. They can and do ultimately lose the Holy Spirit and eternal life!

How does God nurture His begotten people so they grow enough spiritually to be born

into His Family? Not through separate and opposing governments, but *one government* (Ephesians 4:11-13). Not through separate and opposing bodies of doctrine but pure, true doctrine.

Those true Christians who were taught the truth in the WCG splintered into dozens of different groups after Mr. Armstrong died. The reason *different* groups exist is that they have *different* beliefs—disagreements, divisions!

Where is Jesus Christ in this? He commanded that His people be the opposite, *unified* in the faith. The night before He was crucified, His thoughts were on His people, His Church, "[t]hat they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21).

Did Christ become more like worldly Christianity, or did worldly Christianity seep into His Church?

Does your Bible say there are many different religious organizations with different leaders and different beliefs
YET ALL OF THEM ARE RIGHT WITH GOD?



Is Jesus Christ the reason for the division among these churches, or it is us? Is the existence of divergent “branches” because of righteousness or because of sin? Is Christ the cause for difference, disagreement and division—or are *we*?

Jesus Christ is not distant. Nor is He actively working through hundreds of different presidents, boards, ministries and voters to do His work.

Christ still leads His Church! Christ still feeds His Church! Christ still governs His Church! Your duty and only hope is to *find Him!* You must grow more believing, more obedient, more close, more at one with Him.

Many in the scattered Church of God groups do still have God’s Holy Spirit. But unless they are part of the body where He is, they are growing increasingly separated and divided from Christ!

The books of Malachi, Hosea, James and Revelation *prophecy* that many in God’s Church would turn away from God and Jesus Christ.

The thousands who truly did receive God’s Holy Spirit as a result of Mr. Armstrong’s teaching were indeed begotten by the Father into His Family. But if they are no longer in the Church He is leading, then *they are losing what truth and what Holy Spirit they have!* But they still have a chance to repent and turn to Him.

Read Chapter 6 of *Mystery of the Ages*. Read these scriptures: John 6:44; Hosea 4:6; 6:1; Revelation 3:14-22; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:18.

Is the current state of the scattered Church of God groups what Jesus described, saying those the Father draws through apostles and prophets become a “body fitly joined,” “all speak[ing] the same thing”?

Perhaps many think that the days of a Church of God like that ended with Mr. Armstrong’s death. Not true! The one true Church of God that Jesus Christ directly leads is *alive*. The Church described in those scriptures is here today!

A Tragic Example

One prominent leader to break away from the Worldwide Church of God in the early 1990s was the late Rod Meredith. When he left the WCG to start a new

church in 1992, he wrote a booklet called *Church Government and Church Unity*. In it he rejected the way Mr. Armstrong had governed the WCG; he said the Church had seriously misunderstood church government. He wrote that God’s Church had *rarely* ever been governed by one administration, with one man in charge—and *Mr. Armstrong knew it*.

Christ still leads His Church. Christ still feeds His Church. Christ still governs His Church. YOUR DUTY AND ONLY HOPE IS TO FIND HIM.

The fruits show this is totally false. Especially in the later years of his ministry, Mr. Armstrong understood and wrote CLEARLY about this subject and its crucial importance. He wrote in April 1981 that God *always* works through one man at a time, under Jesus Christ: “He worked through Abraham. He worked through Moses, through Joshua, through one ‘judge’ at a time, through Samuel, through David, through Solomon. He worked through Peter and when Peter had left the Middle East, through Paul. These men had, in greater or lesser number, staff assistants under them, but *God’s work was through the one man at a time!*” (*Good News*; emphasis added throughout).

In his Dec. 17, 1983, sermon, Mr. Armstrong listed the government of God as one of the major restored doctrines of the Church. In a subsequent list of these truths that was published, “the government of God” was number one! Everyone in the WCG at the time knew Mr. Armstrong taught clearly and emphatically about the biblical doctrine of God’s government.

But after Mr. Armstrong was gone, Mr. Meredith tried to spin a confusing and deceitful web. He said Mr. Armstrong supposedly knew God *did not* work through one man. In his booklet, Mr. Meredith said he and fellow

minister Herman Hoeh were largely responsible for the top-down government Mr. Armstrong adopted. “*Even after several years* of guiding the college [which began in 1947], Mr. Armstrong still did not understand much about Church government,” Meredith wrote. “Consequently, in the early to mid-1950s, Herman Hoeh and I each were inspired to write articles along this line.”

According to this story, *Mr. Meredith and Mr. Hoeh were the ones responsible for helping Mr. Armstrong set up the government structure*. Mr. Meredith noted that “all of us *leading ministers*” understood that for the WCG to do God’s work, it needed to be unified. He wrote that as long as there was a dedicated man like Mr. Armstrong at the top, a hierarchical government would best preserve unity. Meredith’s description was that the leading ministers devised this pyramid structure and wrote about it in articles; then, “Mr. Armstrong accepted these articles and *immediately* published them in the *Good News*.”

Meredith said that, over time, this form of government led to all sorts of hardships and abuses. According to his booklet, everything started going haywire when WCG ministers began to compare Mr. Armstrong to *Moses*.

“Frankly there was never—in the New Testament Church—any example of a *Moses figure*,” Meredith wrote. “God guided many apostles and elders to work in a brotherly, nonthreatening, collegial atmosphere, and no single one of the apostles towered over the others.”

According to Meredith, this collegial “New Testament” approach is what the Church failed to grasp during the days of Mr. Armstrong. “I’ve learned the right approach in *servant leadership*,” Meredith said at a ministerial conference in July 1993. Later he added, “Let’s try to do it right *this time*, as shepherds with a *loving approach*.”

The ‘Loving Approach’

The inescapable implication is that Church government under Mr. Armstrong was not loving, not shepherding, not servant leadership, not brotherly, but dominated by one man

towering over the others in a threatening atmosphere.

It is well worth noting that this is the same deplorable tactic Mr. Armstrong's immediate successor, Joseph Tkach, and especially his son, Joe Jr., used to destroy Mr. Armstrong's legacy. *We've made so many mistakes in our past, they repeatedly said. And unfortunately, Mr. Armstrong didn't live long enough to correct these many errors. But now, God has led us to make the necessary changes!*

Mr. Meredith implied, *If only Mr. Armstrong would have lived long enough to learn the right approach to servant leadership. If only he would have been able to administer government the right way, with a loving approach.* That message was clear in Mr. Meredith's *Church Government and Church Unity* booklet. From beginning to end, that booklet blatantly attacked the form of government Mr. Armstrong administered—which was God's government! It revealed so much about the problem Mr. Meredith had with that government.

Men like Mr. Meredith had been called into God's Church decades after God had used Mr. Armstrong to build it. They had been taught, trained, baptized and ordained by Herbert W. Armstrong. But then they *thought they knew more than he did*—and on the subject of Church government, of all things!

The notion that the New Testament had no Moses-like figure in the Church is provably wrong. "Peter was the *first* and chief apostle," Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*. The surname that *Jesus Christ Himself* gave him was a *title* designating a religious leader!

Mr. Meredith rejected this truth, then added that it was incorrect to even think that Jesus Christ *directly* guides His Church! Instead, Meredith wrote, Christ uses many "different branches"—all coexisting—to do His work.

That might sound reasonable. But is it biblical?

In his landmark June 24, 1985, *Worldwide News* article, "Recent History of the Philadelphia Era of the Worldwide Church of God," Mr. Armstrong actually wrote that the "different branches" idea was one of the "fruits" of a 1970s-era

rebellion in the Church. He wrote: "Little groups, splintering off, centered in Washington, D.C.; Eugene, Oregon; Tyler, Texas; Monterey, California; and other places with groups too small to mention. They are not bearing fruit for the Kingdom. They are not pleasing God or being blessed by Him. Jesus said, 'By their fruits you shall know them.' *They usually claim to be 'branches' of the Church of God.* But Jesus said, 'I will build my church' (Matthew 16:18). He did not say denominations, sects, cults, branches or a church divided against itself. Rather He said a house divided against itself cannot stand. There is one true Church and one only. The Apostle Paul pictured humanly *self-appointed 'branches'* when he said to the elders of the local church at Ephesus that some of their own selves would depart to draw a following after themselves."

When you are trying to find God's true Church, the question isn't just whether one man is leading it, but IS JESUS CHRIST LEADING THAT MAN?

Mr. Armstrong then referred to 1 Corinthians 12:25, saying there should be no divisions in the body—"no branches or branch organizations." Paraphrasing Ephesians 4, he added, "[T]he Church is organized and fitly framed *together*, not organized with competing and differing branches."

History Repeating Itself

Now, please *consider this carefully*. The reason this history is so important is that there are many *thousands* of people who once devoted their lives to upholding the teachings of Herbert Armstrong who now are laboring under the notion that *there are many different branches of God's Church doing God's work today*.

That thinking is a deadly delusion. As Mr. Armstrong wrote in the article quoted above, it started during the

liberal rebellion against God's government in the 1970s. And six months before he died, he felt compelled to remind the brethren about this history.

"I want you, brethren, to think about and understand what happened to God's Church in the 1970s *'lest history repeat itself!'* I want you to see the 'fruits' of rebelling against God's way and God's government," Mr. Armstrong wrote.

Seven years after Mr. Armstrong delivered that sobering warning, Rod Meredith left the Worldwide Church of God to, as he claimed, *faithfully* preach "the truths proclaimed by Herbert W. Armstrong." And yet, in his very first booklet—the battle cry for his church and the establishment of its government—Mr. Meredith said Jesus Christ almost always uses many different coexisting branches to do His work. And *Mr. Armstrong*, he added, believed this too!

None of it was true. But many people believed it. And today, many still do.

Mr. Meredith's collegial government kicked him out of his own church in 1998. He then established a new church, this time resorting to a form of government in which he retained more power, prior to his death in 2017. It was a more hierarchical style, yes, with one man holding more power at the top. But when you are trying to find God's true Church, the question isn't just whether one man is leading it, but—far more importantly: *Is Jesus Christ leading that man?*

It falls to you to prove for yourself the one true Church (not branch) that Jesus Christ is *directly* leading. That means Jesus Christ is *directly governing* it. The fruits of Mr. Armstrong's ministry and the biblical doctrines God used him to restore prove that it was not just the work of a man. Today, many churches that splintered from the Worldwide Church of God—or splintered from those splinters—claim to continue parts of that legacy. But there is only one that has the doctrines of the Bible, the government of the Bible and the leadership of the Bible—not just the leadership of one man, but of *Jesus Christ*. ■



UNITED STATES TO UPGRADE NUKES IN GERMANY

The United States is beginning to send upgraded B-61 nuclear gravity bombs to Germany. The modernization project, which began nearly a decade ago, puts one of the world's deadliest nuclear weapons partially under German control.

The upgrades are costly: These bombs would be cheaper if they were solid gold. The new B-61-12

adds self-guidance capability to these aircraft-dropped weapons, making them accurate within about 30 yards. This type of bomb has an adjustable yield and is designed for precise tactical strikes on military bases, bunkers and other hardened targets. The U.S. currently stores 150 B-61 bombs at bases in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. They are designed to

EUROPEAN FUNDING, TROOPS ENTER LIBYA

On April 22, Germany committed 300 soldiers to Operation Irini in Libya. They will enforce a weapons-trafficking embargo on the war-torn country. At the same time, the European Union agreed to increase funding to

the Libyan Coast Guard as part of Operation Irini.

The operation's stated goal is to enforce the United Nations embargo on Libya, and it currently employs surveillance aircraft and spy satellites. Naval ships will soon be involved too.

Terrorist violence in North Africa and Europe has increased. Frequent and deadly attacks

be armed only if the U.S. provides the correct security code, then mounted on European fighter jets in the event of war with Russia.

However, it is possible that host countries like Germany could obtain the code, enabling them to use the bombs for their own strategy. No safety mechanism is foolproof. There is also a risk that the uranium in the warhead could be removed and transferred to another weapon. Germany manufactures nuclear missiles for France and could conceivably use this technology and key parts of the B-61-12 to arm the Luftwaffe with nuclear-strike capability.

Bible prophecy identifies modern Germany by the name of its ancient ancestors, the Assyrians. It identifies the U.S. and Britain as descendants of the ancient Israelites. As Herbert W. Armstrong proved in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Bible prophecies about the Assyrians attacking Israel are actually warning about Germany attacking the U.S. and Britain.

In the April 1980 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong wrote that Germany "will first attack Britain for standing firm with the United States, and then they will return a lot of hydrogen bombs the U.S. has stored now in Europe!" The bombs America has deployed to Germany will be detonated in American cities and military installations. For more information on this subject, read "Europe's Nuclear Secret" (theTrumpet.com/11136). ■

plague the Sahel region, despite European efforts to train local troops to defend against them. Libya has descended into a proxy war among outside nations. Somalia and other nations in the Horn of Africa are unstable. Watch for Europe, especially Germany, to increase its involvement in this region with more money and more force. ■

POPE FRANCIS CALLS FOR UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Pope Francis wrote a letter to social activists on Easter Sunday, April 12, in which he called for a universal basic income. Amid a global economic and health crisis, the Catholic Church has blamed the suffering of impoverished workers on the free market and, by extension, the United States.

The pope promoted "structural changes" and criticized the "economy of exclusion and inequality." He wrote, "This may be the time to consider a universal basic wage"

The pope has made similar criticisms before, including a 2013 letter that called capitalist free-market economies "naïve" because they "trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power"; the free market is "a new tyranny" and "a financial system which rules rather than serves."

"If Pope Francis is to be taken at his word, he could not possibly wish for the leader of the capitalist system to thrive and prosper, continuing to inflict its 'tyranny' on the world," wrote Gerald Flurry in his 2016 *Trumpet* article "Why Is the Pope Meddling in American Politics?" "If he believes the free market is a force of destruction, then he would feel not only justified, but *obligated* to use his power to weaken it" (theTrumpet.com/13725).

Now the pope is aligning with left-wing social causes and implying that the free market has caused needless suffering during the COVID-19 crisis. Unlike socialists, though, his solution is religious. Many find it hard to imagine the Catholic Church guiding economic, political and even military policy, but the Bible prophesies that the Catholic Church will soon guide Europe directly and aggressively. The pope's actions already reveal what the targets of that coming superpower will be. ■

NETANYAHU SECURES SOVEREIGNTY IN UNITY DEAL

After an unprecedented three general elections in Israel over the past year and a half, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed a coalition agreement with rival Benny Gantz on April 20. The pact stipulates that Netanyahu continue as prime minister for 18 months, then relinquish the role to Gantz and become deputy prime minister.

Netanyahu's negotiations secured the ability to advance Israeli sovereignty over parts of the West Bank as part of United States President Donald Trump's peace deal. Netanyahu will be able to bring to vote a bill on July 1 to extend Israeli sovereignty over 30 percent of the West Bank, including much of East Jerusalem, all the settlements and the Jordan Valley.

Netanyahu also secured a compromise in which his and Gantz's blocs will each select



Netanyahu outlines his plan to annex Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley.

the appointment of new judges to Israel's Supreme Court. This effectively curtails the court's ability to easily remove him from office and may make it less activist.

This means the stage is being set for unprecedented cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. Between now and the U.S. presidential election in November, President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu will work to enact the first part of the peace plan. But watch for this effort to put Israel in an even worse strategic situation. Hosea 5:13 characterizes the peace process as a "wound." The more the peace process is revived, the closer this prophecy is to being fulfilled. Read *Jerusalem in Prophecy* to learn more. ■



An Iraqi soldier stands guard at Qayyarah airbase.

AMERICA SIGNALS RETREAT IN IRAQ

On March 27, United States-led coalition forces withdrew from the K-1 military base in northern Iraq, where an American contractor

was killed by missiles from Iranian proxy Kataib Hezbollah in December. The U.S. handed the base and its approximately \$1.1 million of equipment over to the Iraqi Security Forces, which, ironically, are partially controlled by Iran.

The U.S. and coalition forces withdrew from six bases and posts in Iraq in a three-week period in March. The *Jerusalem Post's* Seth Frantzman wrote: "It appears the U.S. is now consolidating bases, leaving smaller posts ... leaving many places that

IRANIANS HARASS U.S. WARSHIPS IN PERSIAN GULF

Eleven Iranian Navy speedboats surrounded and harassed a fleet of United States Navy warships traversing the northern Persian Gulf on April 15. The U.S. Navy released a statement saying that the Iranians "repeatedly crossed the bows and sterns ... at extremely close range and high speeds" coming within 50 yards of an expeditionary sea-base vessel and within 10 yards of a patrol boat.

The Iranians initially ignored several warnings by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. A video showed the Iranians manning mounted machine guns. Only after an hour of harassment did they respond and keep their distance.

Iran's goal in the Persian Gulf and other vital waterways is to threaten or control oil shipping. The Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, which Iranian Navy Gen. Alireza Tangsiri threatened to close in 2019, facilitate roughly a third

of worldwide maritime oil shipments. Closing this shipping lane, even if only for a few days, would disrupt national economies that are already fragile.

The Bible prophesies that a group of radical Islamic nations, led by Iran, will gain control of territories along the Persian Gulf and Red Sea waterways and "push" at Europe, which relies heavily on oil imports. It is easy to foresee how, if this waterway were attacked and



IRGC members on speedboats have been harassing the U.S. Navy.

passage barred, Europe would forcibly "come against" Iran "with many ships," as prophesied in Daniel 11:40. ■

have been targeted by rocket fire and will stay in fewer locations."

While the U.S. is consolidating its troops, it has also deployed two of its Patriot air defense systems. One battery was sent to the Harir Air Base near Erbil, the other to the Ain al-Asad Air Base in Iraq's western desert.

America's military involvement in Iraq began in 2003, but the Obama administration initiated a rapid troop withdrawal in 2011. This power vacuum led to the rise of the Islamic State. At the invitation of the Iraqi prime minister, on June 15, 2014, the U.S. returned to Iraq to help fight the Islamic State. Since then, U.S. forces have remained at the invitation of the Iraqi government.

Many Iraqis have lost faith in the U.S. and are turning to Iran. Throughout the war against the Islamic State, Iran-backed Shiite militias proved to be strong allies. Now, militia members are in Iraq's security forces and parliament, working to oust the U.S. from Iraq. Now, by withdrawing from several bases and consolidating troops, the U.S. has signaled retreat.

Every important end-time Bible prophecy that takes place in the Middle East clearly occurs in a void left by the withdrawal of the United States. As the U.S. retreats even further from Iraq and the Middle East, watch for Iran to gain more control. ■



China's aircraft carrier, the Liaoning

CHINESE MILITARY ADVANCES UNDER COVER OF CORONAVIRUS

While national governments have been preoccupied with coronavirus, China is quietly asserting its military power around the world.

In the South China Sea, China has confronted Malaysian and Vietnamese vessels in their own waters, and even sank a Vietnamese boat. China also built new facilities on its artificial

islands in the South China Sea in areas that international law says belong to the Philippines.

In March, China invaded Taiwanese airspace, ran military exercises across the Taiwan Strait, and harassed a Taiwanese Coast Guard vessel with a speedboat, damaging it. The aggression prompted a Taiwanese defense official to reassure the public that the

island is prepared for an attack.

China has also been modernizing its military and enhancing its capabilities. On March 10, its army, navy and air force performed a joint exercise that “simulated face-to-face encounters with invading foreign aircraft and warships in the South China Sea.” The exercise rehearsed searching unidentified foreign aircraft, “driving enemy planes out of China’s airspace,” and even “shooting them down with missiles to stop them from attacking Chinese warships.” The military also announced on March 20 that its aircraft had performed an anti-submarine drill over the South China Sea.

Even as the rest of the world panics over coronavirus, don’t forget to watch Chinese territorial aggression. You can understand China’s alarming actions today by reading our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. ■

CHINA CONDUCTS ILLEGAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS

China appears to be setting off “zero yield” nuclear tests despite its claims of adhering to an international agreement forbidding such explosions, United States officials wrote in an April 15 State Department report.

Zero yield nuclear tests do not ignite an explosive chain reaction of the kind caused by detonating most nuclear warheads. This indicates that the weapons being tested are either tactical nuclear weapons or triggers for larger bombs. In either case, such explosions are easier for a nation to conceal from monitoring agencies, particularly when conducted deep underground. The Chinese tests are believed to have occurred throughout last year at underground locations at its Lop



China displays its nukes in a military parade.

Nur nuclear test site.

A senior U.S. official told Reuters on condition of anonymity, “The pace and manner by which the Chinese government is modernizing its stockpile is worrying, destabilizing, and illustrates why China should be brought into the global arms control framework.”

But China, with its arsenal of an estimated 290 nuclear weapons, has repeatedly rejected proposals to join such an agreement, insisting that its

arms are strictly for defensive purposes and pose no threat to global peace. Whether or not China joins an arms control pact with the U.S. and other nations, Bible prophecy makes clear that its nuclear stockpiles will soon be used in a global conflict far more violent than any in mankind’s strife-ridden history. To understand these prophecies, request a free copy of *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s booklet *Nuclear Armageddon Is ‘At the Door.’* ■

CHINA SPREAD CORONAVIRUS PANIC AMONG AMERICANS

United States intelligence agents have concluded that an onslaught of false and alarming messages about COVID-19 were spread by Chinese agents, the *New York Times* reported April 22.

One message, purportedly written by a commander in the Chicago Police Department, stated: “Homeland security is preparing to mobilize the national guard. Preparing to dispatch them across the U.S. along with military. ... They are preparing to announce a nationwide two-week quarantine for all citizens; all businesses closed. Everyone at home. They will announce this as soon as they have troops in place to help prevent looters and rioters”

The *Times* said this alarming message and hundreds like it were posted to the feeds of millions of Americans.

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that “Chinese operatives” were behind these messages’ broad dissemination. China used its armies of trolls and bots to “amplify” existing messages, putting them in front of the eyes of as many Americans as possible.

Adversaries like China seek to weaken the U.S. by exacerbating its divisions. In this case, alleged Chinese agents sought to make Americans fear a military takeover from their own government and perhaps resort to looting, hoarding and otherwise turning on each other.

In *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet*, Gerald Flurry shows that, with or without disinformation campaigns from Russia and China, the division and fears we see darkening America today will continue to get worse. They will culminate in a time of nationwide rioting and violence and civil war that will end up bringing the nation to its knees. ■

CONSUMER DEBT NOW HIGHER THAN 2008 CRISIS



Total household debt in the United States increased by \$155 billion in the first quarter of 2020, according to a new report from the Federal Reserve

Bank of New York. That means U.S. consumer debt stands at \$14.3 trillion, \$1.6 trillion higher than the pre-recession peak of \$12.68 trillion in the third quarter of 2008.

And this figure may be an underestimate. The report, which was published on May 5, noted, “The data do not fully reflect the potential effects of COVID-19 that materialized in the second half of March 2020.”

About \$890 billion of this consumer debt is credit card debt—over \$7,500 per household. And credit card debt is likely to rise further due to layoffs resulting from COVID-19 quarantine measures.

The main debt-based economic theory teaches that people should borrow when times are bad and save when times are good. But this is not what Americans have done. They borrowed their way out of the 2008 financial crisis, and they have kept borrowing

every year since. The average American household is more than \$119,000 in debt. Assets like houses and cars secure much of this debt, but almost 20 percent of it is unsecured.

And over 32 percent of Americans have no savings to use when their income drops.

The Bible says a wise person saves during times of plenty so he has an emergency fund when he needs it. “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest” (Proverbs 6:6-8). Summer is ending for America, and the nation has not saved for the hard times. ■

COLLATERAL DAMAGE FROM WAR ON COVID-19

The lockdown intended to reduce exposure to coronavirus increased television and movie binge-watching, pornography, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol abuse.

A OnePoll survey published on April 14 interviewed 2,000 American residents in lockdown and estimated that the average person streams eight hours of movies per day. Fifty percent of those surveyed admitted to watching a complete television series in 48 hours or less. Children are also watching more television and movies, said 65 percent of parents surveyed.

The poll found that the average American subscribes to four streaming services, and 38 percent are “usually logged into five or more at any given time.”

Pornography viewing is also increasing. The biggest seller of Internet pornography has offered more free access during the lockdown, and its web traffic has increased significantly.

Drug and alcohol consumption also rose. Marijuana purchases reached an estimated all-time high in March as people



stocked up in panic before the lockdown closures. Some areas deemed liquor stores “essential businesses” and allowed them to remain open. Places where liquor stores were closed reported an increase in alcohol purchases from supermarkets.

The COVID-19 scare is quantifying some aspects of

our moral decline. This decline was prophesied in the Bible thousands of years ago.

2 Timothy 3:1 warns of “perilous times” in the “last days.” These days we are now living in. “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (verses 2-5). ■

UK MARRIAGES AT NEW LOW

In 2017, traditional marriages in Britain hit an all-time low. This was revealed by an April 14, 2020, report from the Office of National Statistics, and it highlights a trend that has radically changed British society.

In total, 235,910 heterosexual marriages were registered in England and Wales during 2017.

Compared to 1972, the number of marriages has fallen by 45 percent. This continues a trend that began in the 1960s and '70s.

On average, marriage rates for younger people are falling. Those married before age 30 are now in the minority. The average age of marriage has gone up by 11 years since 1970. More people are waiting to marry, and many more people

are simply living together without getting married. In 2017, 88 percent of couples cohabited before marrying.

Marriage is not just a tradition. It was established by God, and it prepares human beings for their incredible potential, in this life and beyond. To learn more, request your free copy of *Why Marriage—Soon Obsolete?* by Herbert W. Armstrong. ■

NUMBER OF BRITISH MARRIAGES (THOUSANDS)



correction of captivity.

Solzhenitsyn called his time in the gulags “the most important years in my life, the years which put the finishing touches on my character.” He wrote, “Our initial, first prison sky consisted of black swirling storm clouds and black pillars of volcanic eruptions—this was the heaven of Pompeii, the heaven of the Day of Judgment, because it was not just anyone who had been arrested, but I—the center of this world. Our last prison sky was infinitely high, infinitely clear, even paler than sky-blue.”

Revelation 7 describes two groups of people who will be protected from the horrors that immediately follow the 2½-year Tribulation in the terrible, yearlong Day of the Lord. The first group is the Laodiceans (verse 4), who die and are sealed: Their resurrection at Jesus Christ’s return is certain.

The second group is “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues” (verse 9)—including Israelites (people from the English-speaking nations) and Gentiles who listened to those Laodiceans. Verse 14 shows that these are people who repented in that merciful Tribulation.



The horrors of captivity will have softened their hearts so they will listen to God. That is all He ever wanted.

A Second Exodus

Isaiah 11:11 shows that God will protect individuals in that great multitude during the Day of the Lord, which is when He will pour out His fury upon their captor nations. Then, just as He did with the Israelites enslaved in Egypt, God will deliver these modern slaves with a mighty hand (Isaiah 27:12-13).

God will clear a path for this massive multitude by pushing mountains of water out of their way and shepherding them to their Promised Land. This modern exodus will be so vast that people won’t even remember the ancient Exodus through the Red Sea (Isaiah 11:15-16; Jeremiah 16:14-15).

The horrors of captivity will have *finally* softened these people’s hearts so they will listen to God. That is all

He ever wanted: for their hearts to be turned to Him so He can save them from sin and death, and lead them in the way that produces eternal life!

“Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd; and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. ... Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that

thy children shall come again to their own border” (Jeremiah 31:12, 16-17).

Imagine people you know—friends, neighbors, co-workers, family—having been taken captive. Imagine seeing them broken and emaciated, yet with softened hearts willing to submit to their great Creator. Imagine God’s emotion!

“Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord. ... Behold, the days come, saith

the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ... I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (verses 20, 31-34).

What a wonderful picture. This is what God is preparing for even today.

The coronavirus chaos is *merciful tribulation*, aimed at bringing people to repentance. And if they don’t repent now, God will increase the intensity of the tribulation—and even increase the intensity of His mercy.

How merciful is God, always seeking to turn hearts of the children to their Father. This is all the love of a Father, trying to reach His sons.

Reflecting on his captivity, Solzhenitsyn came to have this astounding attitude: “Bless you, prison.” Then he added, biting, “(And from beyond the grave come replies: It is very well for you to say that—when you came out of it alive.)”

Thankfully, Scripture reveals that the billions who never knew God and will not escape that merciful Tribulation alive will be resurrected and given another opportunity to repent.

We have a sliver of time left before the Tribulation Jesus Christ prophesied breaks out upon the world. **REPENT NOW**, while truth is abundantly available to you! Repent now and claim God’s promise to *protect* His faithful from the suffering to come. If you have turned away from God, turn back! If you have never committed to God, commit!

Join the work of God that is laboring urgently to use the few remaining moments we have to blast God’s message as loudly as possible to the largest audience possible! ■

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Spend Your Time Wisely

How to coax a much higher yield from your most precious commodity

EACH DAY, YOU START WITH A FULL BANK ACCOUNT—AN account *filled with time*. And each day, you spend all 24 hours of it. One of the smartest investments you can make is to stop and take stock: You're paying out a lot of hours. What are you gaining in exchange?

Paul understood the value of time—and how to spend it. In Romans 13, he admonishes us to awake out of sleep—because *we know the time!* (verse 11). As urgently as he lived his life, Paul's words are even more poignant today, when time is so short before the return of Jesus Christ! The key to redeeming our time for something of real value is to *live as Christ lived* in these urgent days (verses 12-14).

Yet there is a reason why that simple principle is so hard to live by. Satan is doing all he can to tempt you to nickel-and-dime your life away—or worse. He knows that you cannot serve both God and mammon (Matthew 6:24), and that a friend of the world cannot be a friend of God (James 4:4). So he wants to make you spend your time on anything but God.

So how should we spend our precious time? On the one thing that lasts: God's character!

Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." To spend your time wisely, God must come first in your life! You must give God your very *best* time! *Then He will be involved in how the rest of your time is spent.*

To keep this law, you must organize your time investment strategy around God. Every day, carefully budget how much of your valuable time you spend on various activities. An hour is a precious thing. Don't fritter it away!

In a 1999 study, a group of participants was asked to complete just 20 minutes of exercise at any time within the following week. Only 29 percent of the people took the time to do so. A second group was told how exercise reduces the risk of heart disease. In that group, 39 percent found the time to exercise. A third group was asked to exercise on a specific day, at a specific time and at a specific location. In that group, 91 percent completed the assignment (Tony Schwartz, *The Way We're Working Isn't Working*).

"By defining precisely when we're going to undertake a behavior, we reduce the amount of energy we have to expend to get it done," Schwartz wrote. "Often, when we make a commitment to a new behavior such as exercising, we fail to recognize that unless we set aside a specific time to do it, it's unlikely we will. In part, that's because there is another behavior we're more accustomed to doing, out of habit, or because there is something easier and more pleasurable we could do. Each time we have to think about whether or not to do an activity—in the face of other temptations and potential distractions—we deplete our limited reservoir of will and discipline. If you have to consciously think for very long about doing something, it's unlikely you'll end up doing it for very long. ...

"The more challenging the ritual—physically, mentally or emotionally—the greater the need to be precise in implementing it."

This same principle holds true for our *spiritual* rituals. The more challenging it is to carve out time for our daily spiritual needs, the more *precise* we must be in locking it into our schedules.

The Apostle Paul charged us to use this life to "present [our] bodies a living sacrifice" unto God (Romans 12:1). In the Old Testament, there were no living sacrifices. They were all dead. To be a *living* sacrifice, we must first put to death the lusts of the flesh and, by sacrificing the self, keep



“THE MORE CHALLENGING THE RITUAL—PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY OR EMOTIONALLY—

THE GREATER THE NEED TO BE PRECISE IN IMPLEMENTING IT.”

them dead (Romans 6). Secondly, we must lay down our lives—our energy, our effort, our *time*—to support God's purpose.

Just like us, Jesus had only 24 hours to work with every day. It was His practice to rise up a "great while before day" to allow plenty of time for His prayer (Mark 1:35). He studied God's Word; He trained His disciples; He fulfilled God's will. He spent all His time doing those things that pleased the Father.

Now God says to us, *You follow those steps—you organize your life the way Jesus Christ did* (1 Peter 2:21). *And if you overcome like He did, you will rule with Him on His throne* (Revelation 2:26).

When Christ returns to restore His government on Earth, He will need qualified leaders to assist Him in ruling the nations (see Daniel 7:27 and Luke 19:12-19). How we use—or *misuse*—our time will determine how God can use us in His Kingdom (Luke 16:10-11).

Christ is about to return. God is about to give human beings power and authority and eternity—an *unlimited amount of time*. That is a yield that is well worth learning to discipline ourselves and budget our time around Him today! ■

Thank you for the prophetic perspective of world events ("You Can Survive the Coronapocalypse," May-June, [theTrumpet.com/22175](https://www.thetrumpet.com/22175)). The panic people are displaying with so little provocation is something to behold. I don't recall ever seeing anything as drastic as this in my 72 years on this Earth. The panic buying of toilet paper of all things; they must be expecting a lot of diarrhea.

Jason DeLuca TEXAS

Your article is very informative and full of truth, especially regarding debts and money printed to bail out central banks and people ("Will Coronavirus Kill the Global Economy," May-June, [theTrumpet.com/22174](https://www.thetrumpet.com/22174)). Printing money is serious and dangerous as if we are playing with fire that will burn our fingers in the long run and bankrupt the country! If coronavirus cannot be eliminated by a drug or vaccine quickly, and if countries will go into long-term debt and cheat by printing the money to bail out, it will actually destroy the global economy!

Elma

I have been reading the *Trumpet* magazine 18 years now and never in my 68 years have I ever read a more informative magazine. I hope to one day soon be a part of setting this magazine into the hands of more people by sending a donation. But for now, I'll keep praying and thanking

God, as I know He is blessing you for such a great work.

Lewis W. Seay GEORGIA

Thank you all for the hard work done at the end of this age. I am rereading *The Incredible Human Potential* that I was sent along with Mr. Flurry's Zephaniah booklet. It's like finding an old friend, and the words flowed from memory after almost 40 years of first enjoying the words. Your e-mails are like fresh air in a world filled with the smog of confusion from this satanic swamp we live in.

Jerry

I believe the mark of the beast is whether we worship on God's Sabbath, the seventh day now named Saturday, or whether we will be ordered to all worship on Sunday, which is the first day ("Coronavirus and the Mark of the Beast," [theTrumpet.com/22230](https://www.thetrumpet.com/22230)). Read God's Word. He says the

seventh-day Sabbath is His sign forever.

Davina

I know your magazine is free because it is paid for by members and co-workers of the Philadelphia Church of God. Well, for what it's worth, your services are greatly appreciated, and I would like to say thank you to each and every member and co-worker.

Anthony Napoles CALIFORNIA

Mr. Flurry writes very good books. He is aware of what is happening now in this day and age and the Bible. I appreciate him for that. Thank you so much and God bless you. Keep doing this.

M. M. MICHIGAN

I want to thank your ministry very much because everything your ministry is teaching is true. I thank you very much! It's amazing because of all the



things I had read in the past. It's really nice to know that there are dedicated Christians putting out those books for free. This ministry is an open door to the truth for people to know. You don't charge anyone anything, and that's amazing!

F. R. MASSACHUSETTS

I truly enjoy reading your magazine each time I receive it. I share it with my friends and tell them that the *Trumpet* magazine is the real truth. Please send my sincere thanks to all the individuals who are part of making the *Philadelphia Trumpet* a worthwhile publication to read.

Sammy Barbagallo PENNSYLVANIA

Thanks for everything, *Trumpet* staff, and best wishes for the future. It feels like it's going bad real soon, so I just wanted to say thank you.

Glen Folkard

THETRUMPET.COM HIGHLIGHTS



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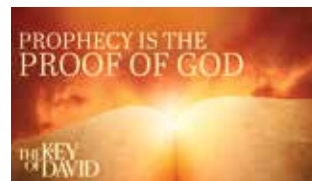
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Environmentalism Is the New Paganism

It is easier to confess to a houseplant than to ask God for forgiveness.

ON APRIL 22, PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATED Earth Day—or, as the United Nations rebranded it, “International Mother Earth Day.” Yet rather than focus on *real* solutions to *real* environmental problems like acid rain, soil degradation, urban sprawl and ozone layer depletion, UN officials sought to tie the COVID-19 pandemic to man-made climate change by taking a page from the playbook of ancient Greek pagans.

“Mother Earth is clearly urging a call to action,” said UN Secretary General António Guterres. “Nature is suffering. Australian fires, heat records and the worst locust invasion in Kenya. Now we face COVID-19, a worldwide health pandemic linked to the health of our ecosystem.” This is a strange statement. One theory of the outbreak’s origin in Wuhan, China, is that a coronavirus passed from bats to humans. But the Chinese have eaten bats since ancient times. Habitat degradation has nothing to do with this practice. Yet a number of environmentalists have embraced the notion that COVID-19 is “Mother Nature’s” revenge.

On March 18, climatologist Michael Mann asked whether pandemics were Gaia’s immune system fighting back, and shared a link to a *Guardian* article on Twitter attempting to connect coronavirus to habitat loss.

Yes, a so-called scientist is linking a pandemic to the immune system of the pagan Greek earth goddess Gaia, and people are taking it seriously. There is a growing trend among radical environmentalists to describe Earth as a sentient being. They link every natural disaster (whether there is a scientific link or not) to this being’s immune system. Now they link COVID-19 to urbanization and overpopulation.

Last year, the *Federalist* published an editorial titled “Climate Worship Is Nothing More Than Rebranded Paganism.” It reported that students at Union Theological Seminary in New York were instructed to confess their sins to potted plants as an “expression of worship.” It also reported that 250 people in funeral garb mourned the melting of a glacier in Switzerland. The notion that Gaia is punishing humanity is gaining ground.

NBC News even has a website where people can confess ecological sins like blasting the air conditioning, throwing away half their lunch, and grilling a steak every weekend.

You might think that religious leaders like Pope Francis would take offense at this budding Gaia worship. Yet even the pope is talking about “Mother Nature’s” revenge. “There is an expression in Spanish: ‘God always forgives, we forgive sometimes, but nature never forgives,’” he said in an interview published in the *Tablet*. “We did not respond to the partial catastrophes.



Environmental activists protest in the Netherlands.

Who now speaks of the fires in Australia, or remembers that 18 months ago a boat could cross the North Pole because the glaciers had all melted? Who speaks now of the floods? I don’t know if these are the revenge of nature, but they are certainly nature’s responses.” Is the pope really suggesting that if people emitted less carbon dioxide, then bushfires would stop, glaciers would spread, and coronavirus would go away?

British journalist Melanie Phillips wrote an April 10 editorial titled “Is the Pope a Pagan?” She noted, “In the Bible, the ultimate moral authority is God who dispenses justice, both forgiveness and punishment. The pope absolves Him of the punishment element, which he ascribes instead to the Earth, depicted as a female victim taking her revenge upon humanity for the harm it has done her. Thus the pope selectively edits the Bible’s moral teachings, strips justice itself of meaning, and invests the Earth with both human and divine qualities.”

Many people are coming to view natural disasters as punishment for sin, but they mock the notion that this punishment is coming from the God of the Bible. Hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, droughts, wildfires and disease pandemics are not part of Gaia’s immune system. They are punishments sent by the God of the Bible to wake people up to the fact that they have turned away from Him and His laws, which reveal the right way to live, interact, care for the environment, and succeed in every aspect of human existence.

Several chapters in the book of Job cover God’s explanations of how He controls the Earth’s climate. The systems He created and uses are beyond human comprehension. “God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend. For to the snow he says, ‘Fall on the earth,’ likewise to the downpour By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world. Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen” (Job 37:5-6, 10-13; English Standard Version).

This passage explicitly states that God commands the weather to work His purposes, whether to correct human beings or to show mercy to them. Rather than confessing to NBC News for eating steak, people should pray to the actual one, true Creator God to forgive them for attitudes of greed and selfishness and help them turn to a way of life that produces actual respect for God’s law and God’s creation!

Mr. Flurry examines these passages alongside Deuteronomy 28:52 and shows how this mart will wield its power. “The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America—and many other prophecies of America being *besieged*,” Mr. Flurry writes. “China and the giants of Asia” will form a “brief alliance” with the German-led European bloc, and they are all “going to besiege America, Britain and the Jewish nation.”

With “Chimerica” intact, it would be terribly costly and painful for China to target the U.S. in such a way. Suddenly shutting out its largest trade partner would pulverize its own economy. That’s not to say that the attack cannot happen if China and America remain linked; aggressors often wage acts of aggression despite short-term cost and pain—in pursuit of long-term gain. But if China and the U.S. continue the decoupling that COVID-19 has catalyzed, the costs for China to carry out this siege would be far lower.

These Bible passages are painful to read. The “mart of nations” prophecy means America, Britain and Israel are headed toward a time of horrifying hardship and suffering. It means that in a short time, children across these countries will be asking their parents why the family hasn’t had a proper meal in days, why their neighborhood has erupted into violence, and when it will all end.

If those parents would study their Bibles, they would be able to give their children answers—and hope.

They would be able to explain that the Creator God takes no pleasure in seeing these nations suffer so horrendously, but that He is trying to *reach* them (Ezekiel 33:11). He wants the U.S., UK and Israel—and all the world—to “have life” and “have it more abundantly,” but as long as they are in rank rebellion against Him and His law, this is impossible (John 10:10; Matthew 5:17). But by sending punishment onto the nations, He can lead them to repent, and then turn the peoples’ hearts of stone into hearts of flesh (Hebrews 12:6-11; Ezekiel 11:19; Jeremiah 31:33).

The parents could teach their children that the calamity is loving correction from our Creator, and that just beyond the siege and fall of these nations He will bring in the most abundant era in human history.

“[T]hat trading partnership won’t last long,” Mr. Flurry writes. “Soon they will clash, just before Jesus Christ returns and destroys both of them” (ibid). Christ will return to Earth, bring a swift end to mankind’s self-destruction, and usher in an epoch of peace and prosperity for the peoples of China, America and all the world.

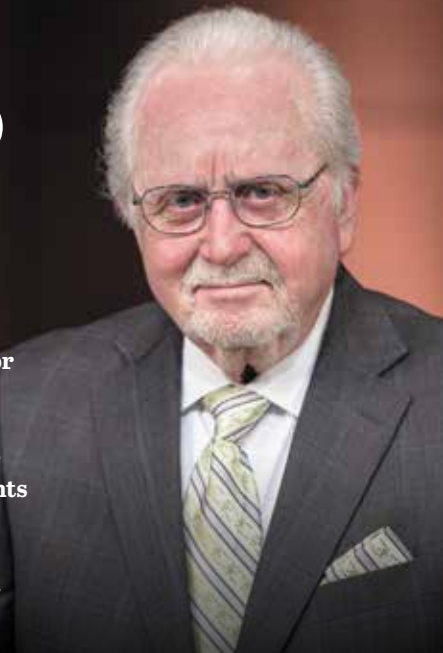
“Thank God,” Mr. Flurry writes, “there is great news beyond the bad news.” ■

Trade war!

The Bible prophesies the United States, China and other nations will become embroiled in economic war. To find out who will win and who will lose, read our reprint “**The Great ‘Mart of Nations’**” (theTrumpet.com/go/mart).

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.



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

Honolulu KPXO 5:00, Fri

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. 497:00, Sat

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

Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Pocatello KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun

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Peoria WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun

Rockford WREX 10:00, Sun; WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

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Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Lafayette WLFI-DT 9:30, Sun

South Bend ESBT/WSBT 7:30, Sun

Terre Haute WTHI-DT 9:30, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KFPP 5:00, Fri

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Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT/KYOU-DT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

Kansas, Pittsburg CWPL 8:30, Sun; KSXF 9:30, Sun

Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KALB-DT 8:30, Sun Lafayette KATC-DT 8:30, Sun; KLAJ 6:30, Sun
Lake Charles KPLC-DT 8:30, Sun
Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland WIPL 6:00, Fri
Presque Isle WAGM-DT3/WBPQ 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 WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun; WSYM, 7:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
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Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
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Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
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Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
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Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT/KYOU-DT 8:30, Sun
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Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
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North Platte KIIT-LD2/KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun
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Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
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North Carolina, Asheville WYCW 9:00, Sun
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Bismarck KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun
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Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun
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