

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**The evidence shows
family is under attack**

France: Saved from abyss?

China engages the Mideast

Germany's high-tech war

**Immortal cyborgs: Is this
humanity's future?**



Why Moral Decline Matters

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FOUNDATIONAL
The family is the foundation of a stable nation.
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The Evidence Shows Family Is Under Attack

Learn the facts—and follow the evidence to the real solution!

MELANIE PHILLIPS IS A JOURNALIST WHO WRITES FOR THE *Times* of London, one of the greatest newspapers in the world. She visited the *Trumpet* staff here at our offices in May and delivered a public lecture at Armstrong Auditorium. In 2013, she wrote her memoir, *Guardian Angel: My Story, My Britain*. In it she discusses the problems

plaguing Britain. Her insights into the culture wars are based on the evidence, and the evidence matches the *Trumpet*'s main source—a source that warns that the family is under attack, and it is going to end very badly indeed.



GERALD FLURRY

Ms. Phillips began her career identifying more with the liberal left, politically. She still identifies with *true liberal* values, like the capacity of human beings

to better their society and other classical liberal perspectives. But she saw the liberal left turn **RADICAL** before her eyes.

From 1977 to 1993, Phillips was a journalist, editor and columnist for the *Guardian* newspaper in London. She saw writers and editors put their liberal Marxist ideologies ahead of the evidence and ahead of objective facts. She saw this bias turn radical as she covered Britain's educational system and family policy.

She also proved that the same problem plagues America.

Although many characterize her as a political conservative, Phillips says she is simply an advocate for *what the evidence shows*. And the evidence she dug up from statistics, from experts, from politicians showed that introducing cultural Marxism into schools and intentionally providing government incentives that break down the family hurts students, hurts children and hurts society.

Traditional Family

Following the evidence led Ms. Phillips to somewhat accidentally stumble into the culture wars. But she has adroitly perceived that it is, in fact, a war—an *all-out WAR*. She charges that liberals not only *dislike* traditional family, but they are actively, intentionally and successfully **DESTROYING** traditional family!

Could that be true? If so, that is a diabolical plot! The strength of any nation—from America to Britain to China to Zimbabwe—lies in its *families!*

At the *Guardian*, Ms. Phillips wrote about Britain's family policy. She saw overwhelming evidence that it was in the nation's best interest for families to stay together whenever possible, as a general policy. But what did her colleagues say?

In *Guardian Angel*, she writes, “And when I started writing about family breakdown, I was also called ‘an Old Testament fundamentalist.’ At the time, I shrugged this aside as merely a gratuitous bit of bigotry. Much later, however, I came to realize that it was actually a rather precise insult. My assailants had immediately understood something I did not myself at the time understand, that the destruction of the traditional family had, as its real target, the destruction of biblical morality.”

Writing as one of Britain's most prominent journalists, informed by dozens of contacts, digging into thousands of statistics, Ms. Phillips found that family unity caused national stability—and that family breakdown caused national instability. That is just what *the facts* showed. And even though she did not realize it at the time, accepting the real-world evidence supporting traditional family brought her thinking in line with the ultimate source of traditional family: the Holy Bible.

Her critics recognized this. “But they understood that the banner behind which I was actually marching was the biblical moral law,” she writes (*ibid*). It is ironic that sometimes the opponents of traditional family see the link clearer than the supporters of traditional family. They know that attacking

“[T]he destruction of the traditional family had, as its real target, the destruction of biblical morality.” —MELANIE PHILLIPS

the traditional family means attacking biblical morality, and that attacking biblical morality means attacking the traditional family!

The Bigger Picture

Ms. Phillips writes that “the family was the issue of issues.” It's the most important of all. *Guardian Angel* shows not only the link between the Bible and the family but also the links between the Bible, the family **AND THE NATION**.

Ms. Phillips provides examples of how her colleagues believed in cultural Marxism (now called political correctness) and believed that Western nations like Britain and America were *inherently evil*. “The belief that the Western nation was innately and oppressively judgmental gave rise to a parallel onslaught against its Judeo-Christian heritage,” she writes. Go to the homepage of any national news website and it will take you about five seconds to see multiple examples of that onslaught.

“THIS GREAT MARCH THROUGH THE INSTITUTIONS CAPTURED VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE BRITISH INTELLECTUAL AND GOVERNING ESTABLISHMENT,” she writes. “It led to the undermining of education and the traditional family and behavioral constraints in favor of cultural and moral relativism and hyper-individualism” (emphasis mine throughout). This is a mind-staggering attack.

If you have a breakdown of biblical morality, you have a breakdown of the family. If you have a breakdown of the family, you have a breakdown of the nation.

But you have something even worse than that.

The physical family is not just a convenient and useful arrangement. It is something far greater.

Unlike the vast majority of journalists and even regular citizens in Britain and the West, let’s recognize this undeniable fact: The strength of the nation comes from the strength of the family—and the strength of the family comes from obeying the one book that *defines* family: the Holy Bible!

“The ideological dogmas behind the unraveling of education were also eroding family life and the moral codes that kept civilized society together” —MELANIE PHILLIPS

What a unique book the Bible is. How its timeless principles have strengthened our nations when we have obeyed them. How DANGEROUS it is to be ignorant about it, or to dismiss it—or to attack it!

Rejecting the Bible is horrendous because IT DESTROYS MAN’S ONLY HOPE!

IF YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE, YOU WILL FIND THAT THE PHYSICAL FAMILY IS A TYPE OF GOD’S MASTER PLAN FOR HUMAN BEINGS! If the family breaks down, the nation breaks down, and the purpose and potential for *humankind* breaks down! This is what your Bible shows. (If you want to prove this for yourself, request a free copy of our booklet *God Is a Family*, and we will gladly send you one—at no cost or obligation.)

God is not an impersonal force or a trinity (a term that, believe it or not, is found nowhere in the Bible). There is a Father and a Son. John 1:18 says that Jesus Christ came to declare His Father. The Father is the Head of the Family, and Christ is the Son of God. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten SON.” That is a *Family*! God is a FAMILY, and it is a family full of the ultimate love.

The gospel itself is the good news of the coming Kingdom or Family of God! And the true Church—which is the Family of God on Earth—is actually the Kingdom of God in embryo! The physical family is a type of the God Family! It is right at the heart of the whole master plan of God. God created human beings and sacrificed His own Son so that we can become part of His Family! That includes all those who have lived and died without ever knowing God. The Bible reveals that He has

a plan to resurrect them and give them that opportunity as well (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 20).

Indeed, FAMILY IS THE ISSUE OF ISSUES!

I would add to that: THIS GOES MUCH DEEPER THAN JUST THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY. THE *GOD FAMILY* IS THE ISSUE OF ISSUES IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE!

How wonderfully profound this subject truly is.

The Enemy of Family

The Bible has lasted for millennia. The closer that people and families and nations have tried to obey it, the stronger they have been. Our modern societies have ignored, neglected and rejected the Bible to the point that even most Christians don’t know or believe much of what it says.

The Bible reveals that there is not only a God but also a devil. This evil fallen angel is *real*. Look at the grotesque evil in the world around you and in the newspaper headlines, and ask yourself, *Where does that come from?* It comes from a very real Satan the devil!

The Bible says not only that he is real, but that he is “the GOD OF THIS WORLD” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and has *deceived* the WHOLE WORLD (Revelation 12:9)—not just a few really extreme “devil-worshippers” out beyond the fringe of society, but the *whole world*! Do you believe these scriptures? Very few people do.

Revelation 12:12 says, “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. WOE to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for *the devil is come down unto you*, having GREAT WRATH, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” If you truly believe the Bible, then you have to believe that the devil has come or is coming to Earth, and in a white-hot wrath!

“And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman [a prophetic symbol here for God’s Church] which brought forth the man child” (verse 13). When Satan was cast down, the very first target he attacked was the true Church of God, which is the embryo of the Family of God! The Kingdom of God is ruled by the Family of God!

Satan’s number one goal after being cast down is to attack the spiritual Family, the Church of God. SATAN’S SECOND TARGET IS THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY.

Could the real power behind this coordinated attack on family be an evil spirit being? Could the evidence of family destruction that Ms. Phillips has highlighted actually be caused by Satan?

If you believe the Bible, the answer is a thundering YES!

Where It Starts: Education

One of the most vulnerable targets in the culture war is the child. That fact is not lost on THOSE WHO WANT TO REDEFINE FAMILY AND REDEFINE THE WEST. They actively, aggressively target the schoolchildren.

Education was one of the first areas Ms. Phillips investigated. She found that “education standards had not only plummeted, but EDUCATION ITSELF HAD BEEN REDEFINED.” The more she dug, the more she saw that this was not just a simple matter of accident or neglect. It was because administrators, teachers and professors worshiped liberal ideologies over and above actually educating children.

See and hear Melanie

Melanie Phillips visited the *Trumpet's* offices in Edmond, Oklahoma, on May 7 and gave an outstanding public lecture about the Arab-Israeli impasse. Watch her address for free online at theTrumpet.com/go/15782.

In anticipation of the lecture, *Trumpet* managing editor Joel Hilliker interviewed Ms. Phillips for the *Trumpet Hour* radio program. In their session, she spoke about how Britain came to embrace a radical-left view, and of how her determination to stick to the facts put her at odds with the journalistic establishment over issue after issue—from the family, to education, to multiculturalism, to Islam, to Israel. Listen to the interview at theTrumpet.com/go/15736.

Ms. Phillips also writes, “The ideological dogmas behind the unraveling of education were also eroding family life and the moral codes that kept civilized society together, replacing those by the no-blame, no-shame, no-pain society. Respect for authority, both in and outside the classroom, had collapsed.” She writes, “AUTHORITY WAS BEING DISASTROUSLY CONFUSED WITH AUTHORITARIANISM.” That leads us into LAWLESSNESS and the catastrophic breakdown of our societies!

This was a report from ground zero of the culture war zone. Nations depend on families, families depend on proper authority, and authority is exactly what was being bombarded in the minds of children inside and outside of the school classroom.

Ms. Phillips writes, “Most teachers, I wrote, were unaware that they were the unwitting troops of a cultural revolution being now taught to TEACH ACCORDING TO DOCTRINE, WHOSE CORE AIM WAS TO SUBVERT THE FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF WESTERN SOCIETY.” Wow!

She also writes, “A generation of activists had captured academia.” You may agree with that or not, but this is a bold and serious charge she makes, and it needs to be answered. Ms. Phillips is among very few people who are so knowledgeable in this area of British society, and she says that a generation of activists has captured academia. They learned cultural Marxism in school. Then, when they became administrators, professors and teachers, they spread that ideology.

Britain and the West are in a WAR—a CULTURE WAR. And this is a war we are losing! But it is really much more than a “culture war.” IT IS A WAR AGAINST THE BIBLE AND GOD HIMSELF! (Our free book *Mystery of the Ages* proves this statement. You desperately need this book. It gives a clear understanding of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.) The traditional family—the strength of the nation—is already mostly destroyed! What does this mean for all of us?

History, an ‘Elitist Irrelevance’?

Ms. Phillips writes about “[h]istory teachers who resist the very idea that they should teach British history as an elitist irrelevance.” If it’s “elitist” and “irrelevant” to teach Britain’s past and the teachers responsible for teaching it resist the

very idea of doing so, THAT IS LITERALLY A DIRECT STRATEGY TO DESTROY WESTERN CIVILIZATION!

Winston Churchill led Britain to victory in World War II. He saved Britain from Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. He succeeded because *he was absolutely steeped in history*. As a result, he was able to foresee what was coming out of Germany—and what was coming upon Britain!

If you don’t know history, you cannot see into the future.

Today’s educators ignore, erase and rewrite history to suit their purposes. They move people to push aside facts and allow emotions, impressions and feelings to determine what is “true.”

“Most teachers ... were unaware that they were the unwitting troops of a cultural revolution being now taught to teach according to doctrine, whose core aim was to subvert the fundamental tenets of Western society.” —MELANIE PHILLIPS

This is the classic tool of dictators and tyrants. They *bully* people into accepting their “truth”—regardless of evidence and facts. They play on people’s emotions. They stir crowds into irrational frenzy and inspire fanatical devotion to falsehood!

You can read a chapter on “the law of history” in my free book *The Former Prophets*.

Will Worship

Adolf Hitler once said, “What you tell people in the mass in a receptive state of fanatic devotion will remain. Words received under A HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE are radical and impervious to every reasonable explanation.” Can that be true? Are people that easily hypnotized? Well, Hitler said they are.

“A new age of magic interpretation of the world is coming,” Hitler said, “of interpretation in terms of the WILL and not

of the INTELLIGENCE.” This is exactly what is happening to many people today! They push facts aside—and they say that whatever you WILL to be, SO IT IS! Like magic!

It is by this illogic that the family is being attacked. In spite of all evidence to the contrary, people insist that sexual license has no consequences—that divorce is liberating—that children are better off without both their biological parents—that a child can be raised by a man and his homosexual lover just as well—that marriage is oppressive, unless it is between two people of the same sex—that biological sex isn’t reality—that “gender” is whatever a person thinks in his mind, and that anyone who won’t play along is a hateful bigot—and many other bizarre fantasies.

We are being told that we should enthusiastically dismantle the traditional family—the ENTIRE FOUNDATION OF CIVILIZATION—and that we will be stronger as a society for doing so!

That is an abominable LIE! It is DEADLY DECEIT! It is *satanic propaganda* that will destroy our nations and our civilization!

Can you recognize how the radical left is leading the West into a world ruled by the WILL and not by intelligence? And many others follow along or do nothing to oppose this satanic, nation-destroying evil.

Notice what the Apostle Paul said about this subject. He warned, “Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of [*demons*, it should read], intruding into those things which he [*has*] seen [that is the correct translation], vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in WILL WORSHIP ...” (Colossians 2:18, 23). WILL WORSHIP! This is a grave danger: people worshipping their own WILL!

Realize, Paul was writing this to Christians in the first century—people who were members of the very Church of God—and some of them were falling victim to this disastrous tendency! If *they* were susceptible, shouldn’t we be on guard against it?

When a person worships *will* instead of God, the devil can lead that person into ANYTHING! Look at the sins and perversions people are getting into and celebrating today. Who would have ever thought it could get so egregiously bad? But Satan is an extremely powerful and deceptive being.

Thayer’s Lexicon says that *intruding* in verse 18 means to invade or make a hostile incursion into. That is exactly what Satan has done. He has done it successfully in God’s own Church, and the evidence is all around us that he has done it successfully in today’s society.

How did he succeed? Notice verse 8: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” What does that mean? The *New Testament in*

Today’s English Version translates “rudiments of the world” as “ruling spirits of the universe”; it says this refers to a *demon attack through philosophy*—through EDUCATION.

The Apostle Paul warned us to beware of the philosophy and reasoning of this world—because evil spirits have influenced it more than we realize! Can you see that, when you see how educators are tearing apart the family? Those in formal education should beware! Again, Satan has deceived the WHOLE WORLD!

Ending the Devil’s Influence

Nothing shows the devil’s influence on today’s society quite like the assault on the family. It is a hate-filled attack on everything God stands for!

Ezekiel 28:15 describes Satan the devil: “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till *iniquity* was found in thee.” “Iniquity” here means LAWLESSNESS. Satan is LAWLESS. He hates the law of God and has convinced most people to rebel against it. Society is doing so more and more passionately—to our great peril!

“By the multitude of thy merchandise they have FILLED THE MIDST OF THEE WITH VIOLENCE” (verse 16). The Earth is filling with violence now because Satan has been cast down and his influence is growing stronger and stronger in our day. Satan and his millions of demons are attacking America and they’re attacking Britain and they’re attacking the Jewish nation in the Middle East. They are attacking education and family and the West.

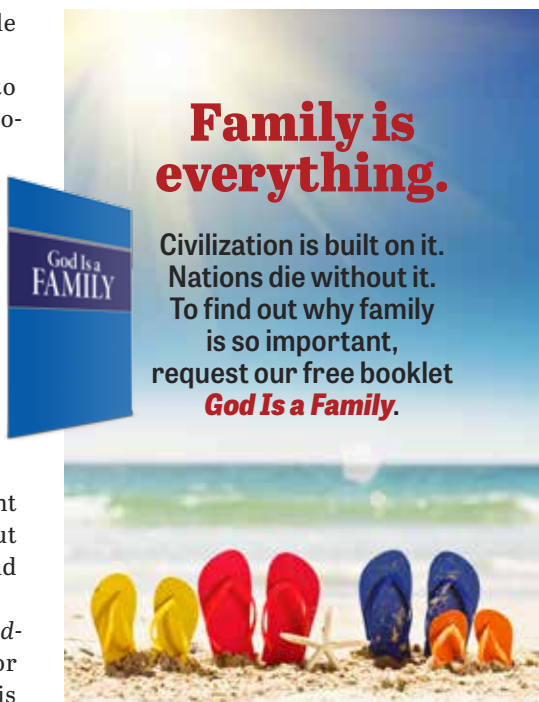
Thankfully, as Revelation 12:12 prophesies, he has only “a short time” remaining to do his destructive work. Ezekiel 28:19 says that God is going to deal with him decisively: “... thou shalt be a terror, and NEVER SHALT THOU BE ANY MORE.” God will put a stop to him.

You need God’s help to put a stop to the devil’s influence in your own life and in your own family.

Recognize the propaganda Satan is peddling today. Understand how dangerous and deadly it is, and how it is crippling our nations! Reject the lies about the family. Put the highest value on TRUTH—and follow the evidence where it leads you.

If you really believe the truth, it will set you free (John 8:32). It will FREE you from Satan’s deceits. And it will lead you right to God. *His Word* is truth! (John 17:17). He created

family—surely we should put high value on His guidance in how to make it work! He can make your marriage happy and teach you how to turn your heart to your children and their hearts to you (Malachi 4:6). He will teach you how to structure your family in a way that leads to beautiful and eternal results!



Family is everything.

Civilization is built on it.
Nations die without it.
To find out why family is so important,
request our free booklet
God Is a Family.

God is a FAMILY

WHY MORAL DECLINE MATTERS

The consequences of discarding a sacred moral code to govern the actions of individuals are far graver than most people realize. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

WHY DO NATIONS FALL? THE GREATEST EMPIRES of the past, down to the last one, have each collapsed. Why? Is every civilization destined to decline and fall? Or is such a catastrophic disaster the effect of a specific cause?

Historians attribute the collapse of various civilizations to disease, climate change, demographics, political corruption, mass immigration, economic stagnation, inferior technology and/or foreign invasion. But are weapons, applied sciences and jobs the way to make a civilization invincible? Many people today apparently think so.

Could *America* fall? Could *Britain* fall? Or are our societies too modern, too sophisticated, too enlightened for such a cataclysm?

The longest-standing and most consistent forecast the *Trumpet* has made since Volume 1, Issue 2, in June 1990, has been that America and Britain *will* fall, and that the fundamental cause will not be birth rates, weather phenomena, superbug

epidemics, gross domestic product or carrier strike groups.

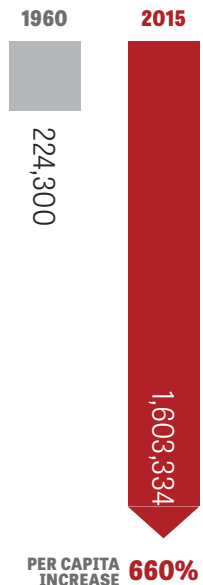
Fundamentally, it will be because of *failed morals*.

America and Britain's Moral History

In the early modern period, the U.S. and Britain were growing in power on the world scene. Against that backdrop, many great statesmen debated the root cause behind the rise and fall of empires.

A year before the U.S. Constitution was ratified, Edward Gibbon published the final volume of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Gibbon identified five major causes behind the fall of one of history's greatest empires. Declining demographics didn't make the list. Nor did

Consider the astonishing increase in out-of-wedlock births in the United States.



insufficient technology or climate change. His first fundamental factor was the breakdown of the family. Then he listed increased taxation, an insatiable craving for pleasure, an unsustainable buildup of armaments, and the decay of religion.

According to Gibbon, the root cause of Roman societal collapse was their loss of *civic virtue* and *individual morality*. Gibbon believed the laws of morality were as unchanging as the laws of mathematics and physics.

English statesman Edmund Burke, a colleague of Gibbon's, is often called the father of modern conservatism. He summarized his beliefs about morality in a letter to the sheriffs of Bristol in 1777: "All who have ever written on government are unanimous, that among a people generally corrupt, liberty cannot long exist."

The first president of the United States was also familiar with Gibbon. George Washington owned a copy of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. In his famous farewell address, Washington said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

Gibbon, Burke and Washington believed that the safeguards of society were not military legions or productive merchants or prosperous consumers but *high morals* and *sincere religion*. Yet most politicians and educators today reject this belief. They say that what people do in the privacy of their own homes has no connection to national security.

The *Trumpet* newsmagazine and its predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, have published since 1934 that Britain and America will experience a collapse more devastating than the fall of Rome. This is because these nations have rejected the foundation of national stability: the laws of morality.

Religion and Morality

During the sexual revolution of the 1960s, a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States said it was impossible to define character. That was a radical departure from what prior generations believed: They knew what character meant. It meant things like honoring your parents, not murdering, not stealing, not lying, not coveting and not committing adultery.

In short, it meant keeping the Ten Commandments, the laws of the Bible.

There is a cause for every effect. The 10 laws outlined in these commandments cause political prosperity. At least, that is what America's second president believed. John Adams wrote in a letter to Thomas Jefferson, "The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount contain my religion."

During the 18th century, the United States and British Empire were, generally speaking, religious. Of course, the people of these rising powers were

full of failures, flaws and vices. Lying, coveting, stealing, killing and every other sin could be found among them. But the society as a whole held its citizens, its families and its leaders to a high moral standard—the moral standard of the Holy Bible. And many of them believed that only if a majority of their families were God-fearing, obedient and faithful could their nations survive.

In *The Character of Nations*, Angelo Codevilla wrote that there was a strong tendency among early Americans "to equate themselves with the children of Israel." That is why they studied the Bible. That is why they sought to obey the Ten Commandments. That is why their children learned the histories of when ancient Israel turned to sin and suffered invasion, and when it turned to God and was liberated. Nowhere else in the world was the notion of God as moral lawgiver so widespread. Early America and Britain believed national greatness depended on *ethical* and *moral* behavior.

Throughout the English-speaking world, families were organized with each member fulfilling his or her natural role. The father was the head of the family, the provider and protector. A wife respected her husband's authority, took pride in her role as helper, and excelled at managing the household. Society viewed the wife's role as complementary to the husband's. Together, a husband and wife formed a complete team—a well-organized family in which children could be responsibly reared.

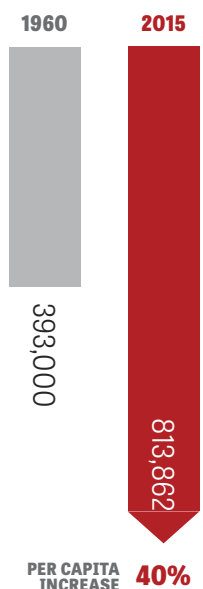
Alexis de Tocqueville studied America in depth and concluded with this remarkable assessment of the American family: "As for myself, I do not hesitate to avow that although the women of the United States are confined within the narrow circle of domestic life, and their situation is in some respects one of extreme dependence, I have nowhere seen woman occupying a loftier position; and if I were asked, now that I am drawing to the close of this work, in which I have spoken of so many important things done by the Americans, to what the singular prosperity and growing strength of that people ought mainly to be attributed, I should reply: To the superiority of their women."

Whether they realized it or not, the families of the English-speaking nations were patterned after the commands of the Holy Bible.

This strong family structure produced virtuous children. These children grew up to be good fathers, mothers, teachers, ministers, judges, engineers, orators and statesmen.

Policymakers understood the connection between family breakdown and societal problems like alcoholism, drug addiction, welfare addiction, juvenile delinquency and violent crime. They believed the Bible when it claimed that only nations that obey the moral laws of God are blessed.

The rate of divorce has continued to grow.



Family Breakdown

Around the turn of the 20th century, educators in the United States and the British Commonwealth began rejecting the idea that laws of morality are eternal and unchanging. As the evolutionary hypothesis took root in the public conscience, people came to believe that what was right in the past may not be right today.

Commandments like “honor your father and mother” and “thou shalt not commit adultery” began to sound old-fashioned. People abandoned the absolute morality of Moses and Jesus Christ. They embraced the evolving morality of Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud.

The moral landscape of today’s world is now utterly transformed.

Before 1912, an estimated 80 percent-plus of brides entered marriage as virgins. Today, only about 3 percent wait until marriage to have sex. Even among religious people, this figure is only about 20 percent. Two thirds of those living in the U.S. and Britain do not even consider fornication to be wrong.

Many people celebrate such statistics as a cultural victory. But widespread acceptance of premarital sex led to epidemic levels of out-of-wedlock childbirths. In colonial Massachusetts, only 1 out of every 200 babies was conceived out of wedlock. In modern America, 40 percent of babies are born to single women. In Britain, if current trends continue, by 2025 the *majority* of babies will be born out of wedlock.

Such fracturing of families is the inevitable consequence of breaking the Ten Commandments.

The growing acceptance of pornography and premarital sex has undermined marriages that once bound families together. This has fueled the rapid increase in divorce. In 1890, there was one divorce for every 18 marriages in the U.S. Today the number is one divorce for every 2½ marriages. In England and Wales, there is an average of 13 divorces every hour. To paraphrase the ancient Roman statesman Seneca, people “divorce in order to remarry. They marry in order to divorce.”

The result? One third of American children grow up without their biological father. Britain has the highest proportion of children brought up in one-parent families of any major European country.

People can argue that these children are no worse off. But the facts prove otherwise. Children who grow up without a father figure are four times likelier to be poor, nine times likelier to drop out of school, 11 times likelier to commit violent crimes, and 20 times likelier to be arrested. There is a direct link between the fracturing of families and major societal problems (infographic, page 18). It is no coincidence that the per capita rate of violent crime has doubled in the United States since 1960,

and the percentage of Americans living in a home that receives some form of means-tested welfare has also doubled.

According to projections by the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, rising entitlement spending and interest on the national debt will consume 99 percent of all tax revenues within the coming decade. This means the nation’s entire discretionary-spending budget will be financed by debt.

Financial historian Niall Ferguson has warned that empires usually disintegrate when the costs of paying their debt exceeds the cost of defending their borders. This was true of Rome. More recently, it was true of the Soviet Union.

To quote John Adams, “The foundations of national morality must be laid in *private families*.”

It takes strong families to produce upstanding citizens capable of providing for themselves. When a nation begins to look instead to its government to provide, it is on a path to societal collapse. Family breakdown brought Rome’s fall. It is bringing about the fall of Britain and America today.

Homosexual Revolution

In Gibbon’s time, the United States and British Empire had laws against homosexual behavior. In fact, Gibbon noted that Rome’s cultural acceptance of sodomy and sexual debauchery was a key factor in the destruction of its family life.

Sodomy was regarded as the last symptoms of a dying culture. The 1833 edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* refers to it as “the nameless crime, which was the disgrace of Greek and Roman civilization.” Today such a statement is simply derided as bigotry, regardless of whether or not it is true.

Noah Webster is often called the father of American scholarship and education. In the first edition of his famous *Webster’s Dictionary*, he defined *sodomy* as “a crime against nature.” Before 1962, every American state considered sodomy a felony. And before 1973, the American Psychological Association considered homosexuality a mental disorder.

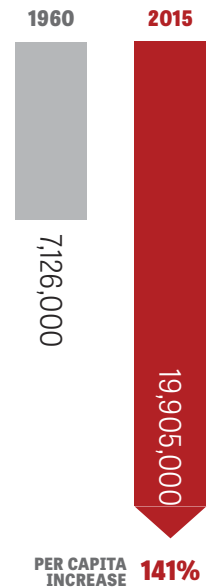
But in the 1970s, public opposition to homosexuality in America and Britain began to melt away.

As society embraced the notion that morality is subjective, evolutionary philosophers spread the idea that fornication, adultery, homosexuality and even pedophilia were not evil. They were natural results of the evolutionary process.

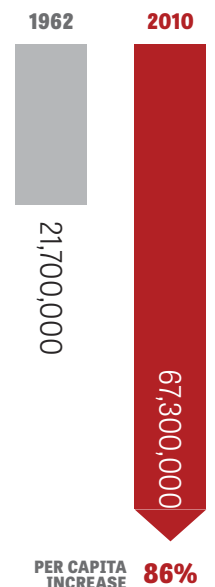
Without masculine fathers and feminine mothers to teach children about sex roles, gender confusion reached a new height in 2014. That was the year the British Parliament legalized homosexual “marriage.” The U.S. Supreme Court followed suit a year later.

These changes signaled a new era: an era where marriage was not defined as a divinely sanctioned partnership between a man and a woman; an era

This means there are a lot more children raised in homes without fathers.



Consequently, more of the population receives government assistance.





CHINA'S ONE BELT, ONE ROAD

China's growing power in the Middle East and its attempts to exert ever more influence in the region are motivated largely by Beijing's quest to rebuild the Silk Road. The modern Belt and Road project aims to rebuild that ancient trade route from China to Europe by enhancing connectivity and transport infrastructure along the thousands of miles that lie between the two, including a route through the Middle East.

-  CHINA'S MIDDLE EASTERN COMRADES
-  LAND ROUTES (ONE BELT)
-  SEA ROUTES (ONE ROAD)

GETTING AROUND **Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with leaders from (clockwise, from left) Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.**

Comrade to All, Opponent to None?

Whether influencing Syria, walking the Palestinian-Israeli tightrope, or balancing the Iran-Saudi Arabia rivalry, China's neutrality places it in a unique position in the Middle East. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

IN RECENT CENTURIES, MANY OF THE great global powers have involved themselves deeply in the Middle East. The United Kingdom, France, Russia and the United States have all engaged with nations in the region to varying degrees. Each was unsuccessful at bringing long-term stability to the volatile region. Each became friends with a few Middle Eastern nations—and enemies with far more.

China, however, has historically played only a marginal role in the Middle East. China was a latecomer to the international system, and its decades-old policy of noninterference has minimized its diplomatic and security

engagement abroad. In the Middle East, this has allowed Beijing to posture itself, at least superficially, as a comrade to all countries, and an opponent of none.

“Instead of looking for a proxy in the Middle East, we promote peace talks,” Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a speech to the Arab League in January. “[I]nstead of seeking any sphere of influence, we call on all parties to join the circle of friends for the Belt and Road Initiative; instead of attempting to fill the ‘vacuum,’ we build a cooperative partnership network for win-win outcomes.”

It is clear that the rapidly rising China is scorning the forays the traditional

great powers have made into the Middle East and is now attempting to capitalize on its unique position of neutrality to exert more influence in the region.

Backing Syria With ‘Noninterference’

China's relationship with the Syrian regime is often overshadowed by that of Russia and Iran. But Beijing and Damascus have maintained close diplomatic ties since 1956, and China is among the few nations to retain its Syrian Embassy throughout the ongoing war. In 2014, China sold hundreds of antitank missiles to the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Last year, China appointed a special envoy to deal with the Syria crisis and said it would boost military cooperation with Assad's regime.

During an interview in March, Assad called China “a real friend” he could rely on and said Syria-China ties would be “on the rise.”

Assad's kind words followed China's decision in February to wield its United Nations Security Council veto power to help block a resolution that would have sanctioned Assad's regime for using



illegal chemical weapons against Syrians. “In that veto,” Assad said, “China ... restored stability in the world” and protected “world interests.” It marked the sixth time China had used its UN veto to protect Assad’s murderous regime.

Already, China is involved in numerous building projects in Syria, mostly in the nation’s industrial sectors. Assad has said that after the Syrian conflict ends, “China can be in every sector with no exception, because we have damage in every sector.”

In Assad’s view, China is welcome to play basically as large a role as the Beijing leadership would like in the war-torn nation.

Balancing Between Iran and Saudis

In February 2016, the first cargo train from China arrived in Iran after traveling some 5,900 miles. It marked a major milestone in China’s drive to revive the ancient Silk Road, with its Belt and Road, or One Belt, One Road, initiative. China’s Xinhua news agency said the train’s arrival also “opened a new chapter of win-win cooperation between China and Iran.”

But even before this “new chapter” was opened, China-Iran ties were strong. During the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, China was the Islamic Republic’s primary weapons supplier. During the decades when international economic sanctions were in place against Iran, China’s relationship with the Islamic Republic continued to improve. In 2009, when antigovernment protests erupted in Iran, China even sold the regime anti-riot equipment to help it squelch the demonstrations.

In March of 2017, China’s largest telecom equipment manufacturer pleaded guilty to accusations from the U.S. that it sold American-made electronics to Iran from January 2010 to April 2016, in violation of the U.S. embargo on Iran. The company agreed to pay \$1.19 billion for its crimes.

Beijing also played a key role in the P5+1 negotiations that dismantled those sanctions on Iran. In January 2016, just after the sanctions had been lifted, President Xi became the first international leader to travel to Tehran. During the visit, he signed 17 deals with Iranian leaders. China is now Iran’s

largest trade partner, and over the next decade, the two nations plan to boost trade to \$600 billion.

Yet even as China has forged a partnership with the Iranians, it has managed to simultaneously build ties with Iran’s longtime regional nemesis, Saudi Arabia.

For decades, Saudi Arabia has depended on China for weapons, including armaments that the U.S. refuses to sell the Saudis due to their opposition to Israel. In 2016, China and Saudi Arabia held their first joint military exercises. On March 16 this year, another milestone was reached when Saudi Arabia said it would be partnering with Beijing to build missile-armed drones in Saudi Arabia. This was the first such project Beijing has licensed in the Middle East.

From 2002 to 2016, Saudi Arabia was China’s top supplier of imported crude oil. Although Russia overtook the Saudis last year, they remain a close second. In March 2017, Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz traveled to Beijing, and reports emerged that China would become the main investor in the forthcoming initial public offering of Aramco, Saudi Arabia’s state-owned

oil firm. At an estimated \$2 trillion, Aramco will be by far the highest-valued company on the planet, and China is set to buy a substantial share of it.

Just days before King Salman's visit, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi portrayed his nation as a comrade to both Saudi Arabia and Iran, and said China can resolve their rivalry. "We hope that Saudi Arabia and Iran can resolve the problems that exist between them via equal and friendly consultations," Wang said at his annual news conference. He added: "China is friends with both Saudi Arabia and Iran. If there is a need, China is willing to play our necessary role."

China also offered in December to broker a peace deal in Yemen between the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the Saudi-led coalition fighting against them, and the Houthis' chief negotiator met with the Chinese director-general in Beijing to discuss terms.

The Century Foundation says China's success in fostering partnerships with both Riyadh and Tehran means Beijing is "well placed, and apparently interested, in mediating the simmering rivalry between two of its closest allies in the region, Iran and Saudi Arabia" (April 6).

Walking Israel-Palestinian Tightrope

Regarding the Middle East's most volatile conflict, China has successfully walked the tightrope for many years, establishing an ostensibly neutral position for itself.

Back in 1988, Beijing won great favor with the Palestinians when it became one of the first powers to recognize their self-declared state of Palestine. Since then, the Chinese leadership has been calling for a two-state solution, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem designated as the Palestinians' capital. In 2016, in a diplomatic victory for the Palestinians, China formalized these appeals in its first Arab Policy Paper.

Though uneasy about China's historic support for the Palestinian cause, Israel has developed a strong economic relationship with China. During a visit to Beijing in March, Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu said China should "assume its rightful place ... on the world stage." He added: "We are your perfect junior partner for that effort. We are eager to work with you ... I believe this is a marriage made in heaven."

The visit concluded with China and Israel agreeing to boost their relationship to an "innovative comprehensive partnership," and negotiating the establishment of what Xinhua called "a global technology transfer center,



REVIVAL A freight train from China delivers goods in London.

innovation parks and an innovative cooperation center."

Back in 2013, after hosting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Netanyahu in Beijing in rapid succession, President Xi published a four-point plan to bring a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The next year, the Chinese upgraded it to a five-point plan.

So far, neither proposal has advanced, but both Israel and the Palestinians seem open to the idea of allowing China to mediate. Writing for *Quartz*, Beijing University's Hebrew Studies director, Yiyi Chen, said Beijing's unique position means "China is destined to interfere in the conflict between Israel and Palestine" (May 11, 2015).

"By working bilaterally with all countries in the Middle East, China will be able to exert greater pressure on them," Yiyi wrote. "Each country will be willing to give up more for long-term peace in the region because each realizes that it needs China more than China needs it. This is a position that the United States envies. Whether China is fully ready or not, the question now is when—not if—China will 'interfere' in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Growing Influence

China's growing power in the Middle East and its attempts to exert ever more influence in the region are motivated largely by Beijing's quest to rebuild the Silk Road. The modern Belt and Road project aims to rebuild the ancient trade route from China to Europe by enhancing connectivity and transport infrastructure along the thousands of miles that lie between the two, including a route through the Middle East.

In addition to the Middle Eastern players mentioned above, China has also developed close ties with Egypt, Kuwait, Libya, Turkey, Yemen, Pakistan and Djibouti. The sum of it all has already made China the number one exporter to the region. And it has improved not only Beijing's economic power but also its military posturing. In Pakistan and Djibouti, for example, China controls ports that afford it precious access to

the Strait of Hormuz, the Arabian Gulf, the Bab el-Mandeb, the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

Observers can plainly see that China's control over such potential maritime choke points is rapidly increasing. Anyone can also see that the groundwork being laid by the Belt and Road initiative—in the Middle East and beyond—is boosting China-Europe cooperation.

But what is not immediately apparent is that these developments are leading to the fulfillment of Bible prophecies. They are leading to biblically prophesied developments that have the potential to affect every man, woman and child alive.

What Is Ahead

Isaiah 23 warns of a "mart of nations" in our lifetime, which will operate in economic partnership. The chapter says that at the helm of the partnership will be Chittim—an ancient name for modern China—and Tyre—a city representing modern Europe's commercial center. Isaiah 23, alongside other Bible passages, says these mighty economic powers will become partners to control global commerce for a brief time.

A photograph of Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, smiling and waving his right hand. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The background is dark and out of focus.

France: Saved From the Abyss?

What Emmanuel Macron's victory means for France and for Europe
BY RICHARD PALMER

WHEN THE RESULTS HIT THE headlines, people across the world sighed in relief.

Disaster was averted. Extremism had been defeated. On May 7, the people of France had stepped away from the brink of pitching the European Union into utter turmoil by awarding a landslide victory in the presidential elections to Emmanuel Macron, over far-right candidate Marine Le Pen.

It was the second big European election in two months, and in many ways, the result was the same. In the Netherlands in March, the party of Geert Wilders—widely viewed as an extremist—took second place to that of a more mainstream candidate, Mark Rutte, for the prime ministership.

In both these cases, however, to characterize what happened as a defeat for extremists—as has been done in

VICTORY Macron hopes to bring France back into the limelight within the European Union.

the mainstream press—is to miss the lesson entirely.

These formerly fringe parties—though not yet claiming majority support—are rising in dramatic fashion. This is a symptom of much deeper problems facing Europe. And these problems—unlike the torn-up posters in rubbish bins along the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré reading “Le Pen in 2017”—are not going away.

Less Popular Than Clovis the Lazy

It is already clear that French politics is in crisis. Former President François Hollande at one point saw his approval rating mired at a dismal 4 percent, making him the most unpopular leader

in France's history. Granted, in the days of French leaders like Clovis the Lazy, Charles the Fat, or Philip the Amorous, there were no opinion polls; if there were, giving a pollster the “wrong answer” would probably have gotten you killed. Still, it's hard to imagine even Louis the Stammerer faring worse than poor President Hollande.

Meanwhile, *neither* of France's two main parties got their candidates to the second round of the French election. That is almost as major an event as both Republicans *and* Democrats losing a general election in the United States.

What we are seeing in France goes far beyond ordinary political dissatisfaction. It is reaching *revolutionary* levels.

“[T]he French are discussing whether their country's institutions have maneuvered themselves into a pre-revolutionary plight as a result of the continued incompetence of public officials,” wrote *Der Spiegel*. “They wonder whether today's state is, in fact, more similar to the monarchy of old—to the rotten *Ancien Régime* shortly before the French Revolution. ...

“It is no accident that this election includes a number of candidates who are calling for the abolition of the French Republic in its current form and the creation of a new constitution” (April 15).

Macron's landslide victory does not fix this.

He won not so much because people like him, but because they wanted to block Le Pen. Only 24 percent said they thought Macron has the stuff to be president. One rallying cry was, “Neither Macron nor Le Pen.” Another was, “Neither cholera nor the plague.”

The real test for Macron will come on June 11 and 18, in France's parliamentary elections. Macron leads a brand new party, En Marche!, which he founded just last year. For a political party to go from just bursting into existence to achieving a parliamentary majority in little more than a year seems an impossible task.

It's more than likely that Macron will begin his presidency without parliamentary support, and confronted with monumental challenges.

Perhaps the record Hollande set for unpopularity won't last long.

Half-Pregnancy and Other Troubles

Consider the troubles waiting on Macron's desk his first day as president.

France is saddled with major economic problems. Its unemployment rate is over 10 percent—close to the highest level in 35 years. (By contrast, Germany's unemployment rate is under 4 percent.) Among French young people looking for a job, 1 in 4 can't get work. France's economy is barely growing, and during the second quarter last year it actually shrank.

There is a simple solution to this—the one Britain and America have taken: borrow and spend. Ballooning debts tend to get rid of the immediate headaches. The trouble is, they contribute to even bigger problems in the future.

The problem here is the euro. Eurozone rules limit the amount the government can borrow each year, and France is already maxed out. This has triggered a backlash against the euro. In the first round of the election, a staggering 48 percent of French voters chose parties that want to take France out of the euro. Italy is in a similar situation. If this growing proportion of the people in either of these countries gets its way, the eurozone is in major trouble.

This predicament stems from a more fundamental problem. Sharing a currency means sharing sovereignty. The French, Spanish, Greeks and other Europeans are understandably upset when the Germans want to curb their spending. After all, why should another nation tell their governments what to do? At the same time, the Germans are understandably upset that other countries are accumulating debt. After all, their debt directly affects Germany's economy. Germans want to make sure their own taxpayer money doesn't go to bailing out other countries that are drowning in debt.

This conflict of interests is simply inherent in the nature of a currency union. Europeans were never informed of the true cost of joining the eurozone, and they never approved it. But they are stuck in it—for now.

Macron has a two-step solution, and neither step is easy. The first is to revise France's convoluted labor laws and taxes.

"The labyrinthine legal system has 400,000 business norms and regulations,

with 360 separate taxes, some pre-dating the French Revolution," wrote the *Telegraph's* international business editor Ambrose Evans-Pritchard (May 9).

"As the saying goes, it takes three days to fire somebody in London, three months in Switzerland, and three years in Paris," said Jean-Frédéric de Leusse, head of UBS in France. "It may be an exaggeration, but it is probably quite close to reality."

French governments have typically confronted new challenges with knee-jerk reactions that address effects and never causes. For example, the government feared that bookshops were going bust because they couldn't compete with online book retailer Amazon.

"As the saying goes, it takes three days to fire somebody in London, three months in Switzerland, and three years in Paris. It may be an exaggeration, but it is probably quite close to reality."

JEAN-FRÉDÉRIC DE LEUSSE

Instead of undertaking a study of *why* brick-and-mortar businesses were failing, it simply outlawed free delivery. Amazon responded by charging *one euro cent* for delivery. The entire economy is held back by thousands of such useless regulations.

But these regulations are popular, and Macron will probably not have a mandate or support in Parliament to change them.

His second line of attack is at the EU level. Macron has criticized the eurozone in its current form for being like a "half-pregnancy": It cannot exist as it is—it must be all or nothing. Macron wants all: closer cooperation, a eurozone treasury, a eurozone finance minister, and eurozone nations handing over chunks of their tax revenues.

Macron is proposing the right *technical* solution, and it could well be the solution the EU ultimately accepts. But

it is a rough road from here to there. With the EU in its current form, it would mean Germany agreeing to subsidize poorer countries like Greece—forever. The only way Germany could possibly agree to subsidize the eurozone is if it gets to *control* the eurozone. This is exactly the same conflict that has played out year after year in Greece—except that here, it is spread over the whole of Europe. And it is a conflict where neither side can give ground easily.

If Macron does manage to get a majority in Parliament in June, he could take strides to reform France's economy, and possibly even gain popular support for a deal with Germany—a deal that would turn Europe into a superstate.

However, if, as is far likelier, this doesn't happen, problems in France and in the EU will get worse and economic crises will continue. In that case, the time is likely to come that EU nations are FORCED to create this superstate.

The Muslim Crisis

On April 20, Karim Cheurfi shoved his AK-47 through the window of a police van on France's Champs-Élysées and pulled the trigger. At the same time, France's presidential candidates were holding their final debates before the first round of elections.

It was a sad but appropriate end to the presidential campaign. The nation has been under a state of emergency since November 2015. During that time, Muslim terrorists have killed 240 people. "[I]t is no longer extraordinary to observe armed military patrols weaving among the hordes of fanny-packed, selfie-stick-wielding tourists below the Eiffel Tower. Similarly, an army squad with weapons drawn on the Renaissance-era Cours Mirabeau in the southern city of Aix-en-Provence on Wednesday hardly drew a single turned head from the scores of café revelers enjoying the shaded sidewalk terraces," wrote the *Daily Signal*. "[T]he French people have adapted to living with the terror threat and the state's protective measures against it as a part of life's normal background din" (May 4).

Macron has no solution. At that debate—the night a Paris police officer was murdered by a man with a Koran in his car, a note praising the Islamic State

in his pocket, and an automatic rifle in his hands—Macron admitted that France will have to live with terrorist attacks “for years to come.”

But terrorism is not something you can ignore and hope it will go away.

Meanwhile, Europe’s immigration problem will also worsen. “The crisis most likely to overwhelm Europe in the coming years and bring populist or nationalist leaders like Marine Le Pen to power is an uncontrollable rise in immigration from Africa and the Middle East,” warned former British Foreign Minister William Hague (*Telegraph*, May 9).

“In the corridors of Brussels and other capitals much time is spent on this issue,” he continued, “but always to find sticking plaster solutions, such as buying Turkish cooperation rather than a long-term strategy. ...

“Left to develop, the future migration crisis is the one that will break the Schengen zone, the EU, and the mainstream leadership of Europe. There is no sign yet that enough action is being taken to avert it. Macron should add preparing for this to his list of what needs to be done. If not, the populists, including Marine Le Pen, will be back with a vengeance.”

These are problems Macron openly admits he has no solution for. And they have already led to widespread dissatisfaction in France, dissatisfaction deep enough to motivate 10.6 million French to vote for Le Pen.

Where Europe Will Be Tomorrow

France is suffering from the same problems hitting Western-style democracies around the world. All have their problems with radical Islam. All have the stubborn tendency to vote for social policies that they cannot afford. Just about all are struggling with their own political upstarts and extremists, both from the left and the right.

But across the eurozone, the situation is uniquely bad. Leaders lack the power to fix the problems, even if they have solutions. France’s economy and borders are beyond its control, and its

inability to solve these crises makes the political crisis worse.

Clearly, Europe’s crises will drag on.

This is not just a French problem. Italy has spent the last few years desperately avoiding elections for fear that a vote would cause the euro to melt down. Greece causes a panic every time it holds one. Even the Netherlands—far outside the southern European danger zone—caused the world to hold its breath in March when anti-EU populist politician Geert Wilders made a strong run for the prime minister’s office.

But where is this taking Europe?

Europe’s world is changing fast. It used to be able to rely on America to protect it and keep the peace in



TERROR CONTINUES A funeral is held for the policeman killed just days before the French presidential election.

its neighborhood. At the same time, Europe’s political system is crumbling. And no one has a solution.

Democracy has often proved vulnerable, and in Europe it is only decades old. It is already clear that what was once unthinkable was recently a close call—and in the immediate future remains a strong possibility.

The Bible gives the same warning about Europe. In his booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes: “Daniel 8 is one of the most astonishing prophecies in the Bible, and we need to understand it.”

He quotes the last part of verse 17, which gives the time frame of the prophecy: “for at the *time of the end* shall be the vision.” Then in verse 19, it gets even more specific: “And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the *last end* of the indignation.” “He not only talks about the end time, but God wants us to realize the URGENCY of this,” Mr. Flurry writes. “*This is the LAST END—the END of the end time!* Daniel was written *only* for the end time (Daniel 12:4, 9). God wants us to become URGENT about this.”

Now notice Daniel 8:23, which describes a strong leader who is about to arise in Europe: “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.”

“God calls this leader ‘A KING,’” Mr. Flurry writes. “This soon-coming ruler could literally be called a *king*. Even if he is not, the Bible gives him that label. When the Bible talks about a king, in most cases it’s saying that this is not a democratic government. Even if he doesn’t have that title, he is going to *lead like a king*. This vision in Daniel shows

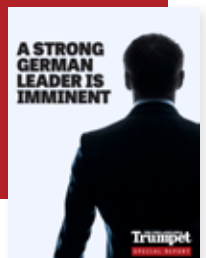
that the European empire is about to become a lot more authoritative.”

You can see in Daniel 11:21 that this leader will come to power “by flatteries.” That means “probably not by votes, but through a coalition government of some kind,” Mr. Flurry writes. “We need to watch Germany and Europe carefully. Although Bible prophecy gives us the outline of how it will unfold, we don’t know the details.”

This is where Europe’s crisis is leading. It will build and build until Europe’s current political system is destroyed. ■

When democracies fail, dictators succeed.

Germany in the 1930s gives a clear example of what happens when democracies collapse. History is repeating today. To learn more, request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet ***A Strong German Leader Is Imminent***.





Germany Prepares for the WAR OF THE FUTURE

Berlin has created a new military branch to take the lead in high-tech hybrid war. **BY JOSUÉ MICHELS**

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TARGETS around the world were struck by dangerous weapons in May. These weapons were not kinetic, biological, chemical or nuclear; they were electronic. The targets were computers across 150 countries, including an estimated 70,000 devices inside Britain's National Health Service such as computers, scanners and storage equipment. The attack also struck FedEx, Deutsche Bahn, Telefónica, Taiwan Power Co., investment firms, insurance companies and numerous other companies, organizations and individuals.

The weapons were variations of a cyberattack called WannaCry. The malicious software accesses computer files, encrypts them, and holds them ransom, demanding payments of \$300 to \$600 per computer in exchange for returning the files to their unencrypted state. Europol called the attack unprecedented.

Wanna Cry is the latest reminder that the world has entered a new age that was formerly only science fiction. Cyberwar is no longer a movie fantasy but rather a real-world reality that threatens entire nations. A new arms race has begun,

not for warships, planes, tanks or even nukes, but for cyberweapons.

And Germany has just lurched forward in the race, in a big way.

On April 1, the German military launched its biggest venture to combat cyberthreats, establishing a new sixth branch: Cyber and Information Space Command. The command will operate on the same level as the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen appointed Lt. Gen. Ludwig Leinhos to be Germany's first cybergeneral. Leinhos will eventually head a team of 13,500 computer specialists, many of whom are already employed by the Bundeswehr in various locations. This is a huge force. The staff comes close in number to that of the German Navy.

Germany wants to take this massive cybermilitary and train it not just to defend against attacks like WannaCry, but also to launch its own cyberattacks.

'More Than a Milestone'

April 5 was the first day in the office for the new team and a big day in German military history. Von der Leyen called

it "more than a milestone" for the Bundeswehr. "This puts us in the top field internationally," she said (*Trumpet* translation throughout).

The weekly newspaper of the German Army, *Bundeswehr Aktuell*, praised the new command in April and said that with it the German Army "takes on a pioneering role within NATO."

Germany's Ministry of Defense says cybersecurity is crucial. It estimates that up to 80 percent of military-relevant new developments are now taking place in the cyberarena, and says most conflicts today are fought—in part or entirely—in cyberspace.

In just the first nine weeks of this year, 284,000 attacks were aimed at Bundeswehr computers.

Germany is also creating a cyber-research center at Bundeswehr University in Munich. This Cyber Innovation Hub aims to combine the resources of the Bundeswehr with the ingenuity of private-sector, start-up entrepreneurs. In 2016, the Bundeswehr hired 60 percent more computer scientists than it hired in 2015, thanks largely to successful public relations campaigns and generous benefits. If this trend continues, obtaining skilled personnel will be a problem of the past.

The Best Defense: A Good Offense

As in any other type of warfare, offense is the best defense. The only way to completely eliminate the threat of cyberattack is to eliminate the source.

Wars are no longer decided on the ground, in the air and on the water’

—LT. GEN. LUDWIG LEINHOS



“If the German military’s networks are attacked, then we can defend ourselves,” von der Leyen said at the launch of the new facility. “As soon as an attack endangers the functional and operational readiness of combat forces, we can respond with offensive measures.”

Deputy Defense Secretary Katrin Suder described part of the Cyber and Information Space Command’s foreign mission as monitoring, disturbing and isolating opponents’ communications.

The new team will have the technological means and training to lead these offensive strikes, but the legal basis still needs clarification. In an interview with *Die Welt* published on April 16, von der Leyen said that, according to German Basic Law, the Bundeswehr is allowed to strike back when the Army itself is under direct attack. She said the same is true in cyberspace. But the situation is different when the German state is attacked. If there is an attack on the Bundestag, for example, von der Leyen wants the Army to be able to strike back. Since cyber-capabilities developed long after the German Basic Law was formulated, German courts will have to clarify to what extent the team can use its offensive capacities.

An Age of Post-Deterrence

Regardless of legality, Germany is building the capability to launch cyberattacks in an age where we are only just beginning to see the potential power of such attacks. Leaders are comparing

the potential potency of cyberweapons to nuclear weapons. In 2013, U.S. Sen. John Kerry called the new cyber technologies the “21st-century nuclear weapons equivalent.”

A nation no longer needs to fear its opponent’s nuclear weapons if it can use cyberwarfare to paralyze its ability to launch those weapons. The nation with sufficiently superior cyber-technology could freeze the infrastructure of its opponent and immobilize its ability to go to war.

Just decades ago, Germany was the greatest threat to world peace. Today it is beginning to develop powerful technology that could pose a major threat, yet the world is unconcerned.

The American economy and military rely heavily on exactly the types of information systems that can be exploited by cyberattacks. One would think the U.S. would try its utmost to stay ahead in the race so nobody could exploit its weakness. But in reality, the U.S. is actually urging the German military to catch up. Washington has encouraged Germany to double its military budget and has upgraded the nuclear weapons it has stationed in Germany.

The world would be shocked to see Germany suddenly enter the nuclear arms race, yet it has just moved forward dramatically in another threatening race, the winner of which could gain control over its opponent without launching a single missile or dropping a single bomb.

None Goes to Battle

What would a war be like when a nation like the U.S. finds itself under attack and calls up its military to go to war—but not a ship, plane or tank makes a move?

The Bible describes exactly this scenario. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry pointed to that description in 2005: “I believe one key *end-time Bible prophecy* could well be fulfilled through ... cyberterrorism ...: ‘They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof’ (Ezekiel 7:14). The trumpet of war is to be blown in Israel—mainly America and Britain. ... It seems everybody is expecting our people to go into battle, but the greatest tragedy imaginable occurs! Nobody goes to battle—even though the trumpet is blown! Will it be because of computer terrorism?” (*Trumpet*, May 2005).

Technology has finally caught up with a prophecy that was recorded more than 2,000 years ago.

The threats are real, and anyone can recognize them. But, apparently having largely forgotten what happened in two world wars, the world seems unconcerned about German advances in cyberwarfare. This is certain to prove to be a critical miscalculation. As technology drives us into an uncertain future of new dimensions in war-making, Germany is positioning itself to be at the vanguard. ■

“If the German military’s networks are attacked, then we can defend ourselves. As soon as an attack endangers the functional and operational readiness of combat forces, we can respond with offensive measures.”

—DEFENSE MINISTER URSULA VON DER LEYEN



HUMAN BEINGS DESIRE ETERNAL life. Since ancient times, we have sought elixirs of life, fountains of youth and other means of escaping death. In a more recent iteration to this quest, we have turned to science. Some leading biotechnology experts are now predicting that the human body may be obsolete in 60 years as something more long-lasting takes its place.

The movement called *transhumanism* is now moving from the fringes of science fiction into the academic mainstream. This movement aims to achieve nothing less than transcending the biological constraints on human beings. Its supporters are developing new technologies to enhance human intellectual and physical abilities. Scholars like Prof. Yuval Harari are suggesting that breakthroughs in biotechnology will soon allow humans to “upgrade themselves into gods.”

Many people are currently debating the scientific plausibility of such revolutionary ideas. Far fewer are seriously considering the *moral* ramifications. Transcending our biological limitations can only be a good thing—right?

Evolutionists often claim there is no omnipotent Creator who designed human beings. If there were, why would He create the human body with so many limitations?

But what if there *is* a Creator? What if He designed the human body to be limited for a good reason?

Transcending our biological limitations would take us deep into the unknown—and it might be a very dark place.

Utopian Dream

Transhumanism seeks to exceed human beings’ current physical and mental limitations by using science and technology. The father of the modern transhumanist movement was evolutionary biologist Julian Huxley. In a 1957 essay, “New Bottles for New Wine,” Huxley claimed that after hundreds of thousands of years of evolution by natural selection, mankind was finally ready to become “the managing director of the biggest business of all—the business of evolution.” He claimed powerful new technologies were just over the

horizon, technologies that would allow the human race to reengineer its own biology and become its own creator.

For decades after Huxley coined the term, many dismissed transhumanism as a fringe idea. But now in the 21st century, it is moving toward the mainstream of futurist thinking in Silicon Valley and other centers of innovation.

Hedge fund manager Joon Yung is offering \$1 million to any scientist who can “hack the code of life” and genetically engineer humans who can live beyond 120 years. Molecular biologist Cynthia Kenyon has already engineered roundworms that live six times longer than usual. Google has opened an entire division, which includes Kenyon, dedicated to reverse engineering the genes that control human life spans.

The chief science officer of the SENS Research Foundation, Aubrey de Gray, claims that the first person to live to 1,000 years old has probably already been born.

Other scientists claim that the key to extending longevity isn’t necessarily biological, but technological. They have dedicated their lives to inventing mechanical human organs. These organs could be substituted for natural organs, and they themselves could be replaced when they wear out—like replacing an automobile alternator every 100,000 miles. The first synthetic trachea, grown from a patient’s own stem cells, was transplanted into a man with tracheal cancer in 2011. With synthetic tissue growth and 3-D printing technology, scientists say it may soon be difficult to distinguish manufactured mechanical organs from natural biological ones.

The term *cyborg* was coined in 1960 to describe a fictitious, mechanically enhanced human who could survive in extraterrestrial environments.

Fast-forward 57 years. There are now over a million people with mechanical pacemakers regulating their heartbeats.

Devoted transhumanism disciples foretell a day when our bodies, our brains and the machines around us will merge into a single massive communal intelligence. At the core of transhumanism is the “technological singularity.” According to computer scientist Ray Kurzweil, this is the hypothetical moment when artificial intelligence will exceed natural human intelligence. Sometime after the singularity is achieved, the great transhumanist hope is to be able to upload a human consciousness to a computer. Then, when this computer becomes obsolete, the human consciousness could be transferred to another computer, then to another. Biological human bodies with limited life spans would no longer be necessary, and human beings could finally experience immortality.

Dystopian Nightmare

Most people are excited about technologies like the pacemaker, which has added years to many people’s lives. But technologies like stem cell research and genetic engineering have been controversial. Many are concerned that scientists “playing God” with human genes could inadvertently create new diseases or super viruses and unleash massive problems.

There is also concern over what will happen if these scientists are *successful*. If we get what we want and we liberate ourselves from our current biological constraints, *what will happen?*

Ironically, Julian Huxley’s younger brother Aldous is famous as the author of *Brave New World*. This dystopian novel warns of a dark side to scientific progress. It describes a future where

IMMORTAL CY **Is This Humanity’s**

Transhumanists say we could engineer ourselves to live forever.

BY ANDREW MILLER

a totalitarian world state genetically engineers humans to fulfill predetermined roles in a caste system. Aldous did not share his older brother's blind faith in human progress. He feared that technology could be misused to bring about unprecedented suffering.

Political philosopher Francis Fukuyama describes transhumanism as perhaps the world's most dangerous ideology. "The first victim of transhumanism might be equality," he wrote in *Foreign Policy*. "The U.S. Declaration of Independence says that 'all men are created equal,' and the most serious political fights in the history of the United States have been over who qualifies as fully human. ... If we start transforming ourselves into something superior, what rights will these enhanced creatures claim, and what rights will they possess compared to those left behind?" (Oct. 23, 2009).

Sir Winston Churchill wrote an essay in 1932 warning of the dangers of technological advancements without moral progress. "[I]n a future which our children may live to see, powers will be in the hands of men altogether different from any by which human nature has been molded," he wrote. "Explosive forces, energy, materials, machinery will be available upon a scale which can annihilate whole nations. Despotisms

and tyrannies will be able to prescribe the lives and even the wishes of their subjects in a manner never known since time began. If to these tremendous and awful powers is added the pitiless sub-human wickedness which we now see embodied in one of the most powerful reigning governments, who shall say that the world itself will not be wrecked, or indeed that it ought not to be wrecked? There are nightmares of the future from which a fortunate collision with some wandering star, reducing the Earth to incandescent gas, might be a merciful deliverance."

What Huxley, Fukuyama and Churchill feared was *human nature*. Providing human beings with new tools, new weapons and enhanced bodies does not change how human beings *think*.

Even if it were possible for humans to transcend our biological limitations, just imagine what the world would be like if we did. It would be a world ruled by bionically enhanced superhumans—whose human nature remains profoundly unenhanced. Imagine a world where dictators like Adolf Hitler or Joseph Stalin used their positions of power to take advantage of such enhancements—and lived for 1,000 years. Imagine corrupt governments awarding political lackeys with perpetual youth; power-hungry generals deploying super-soldiers to slaughter their enemies. Imagine the rich using their wealth to buy not only more things, but more life. Imagine *Brave New World* not as a dystopian nightmare but a living reality.

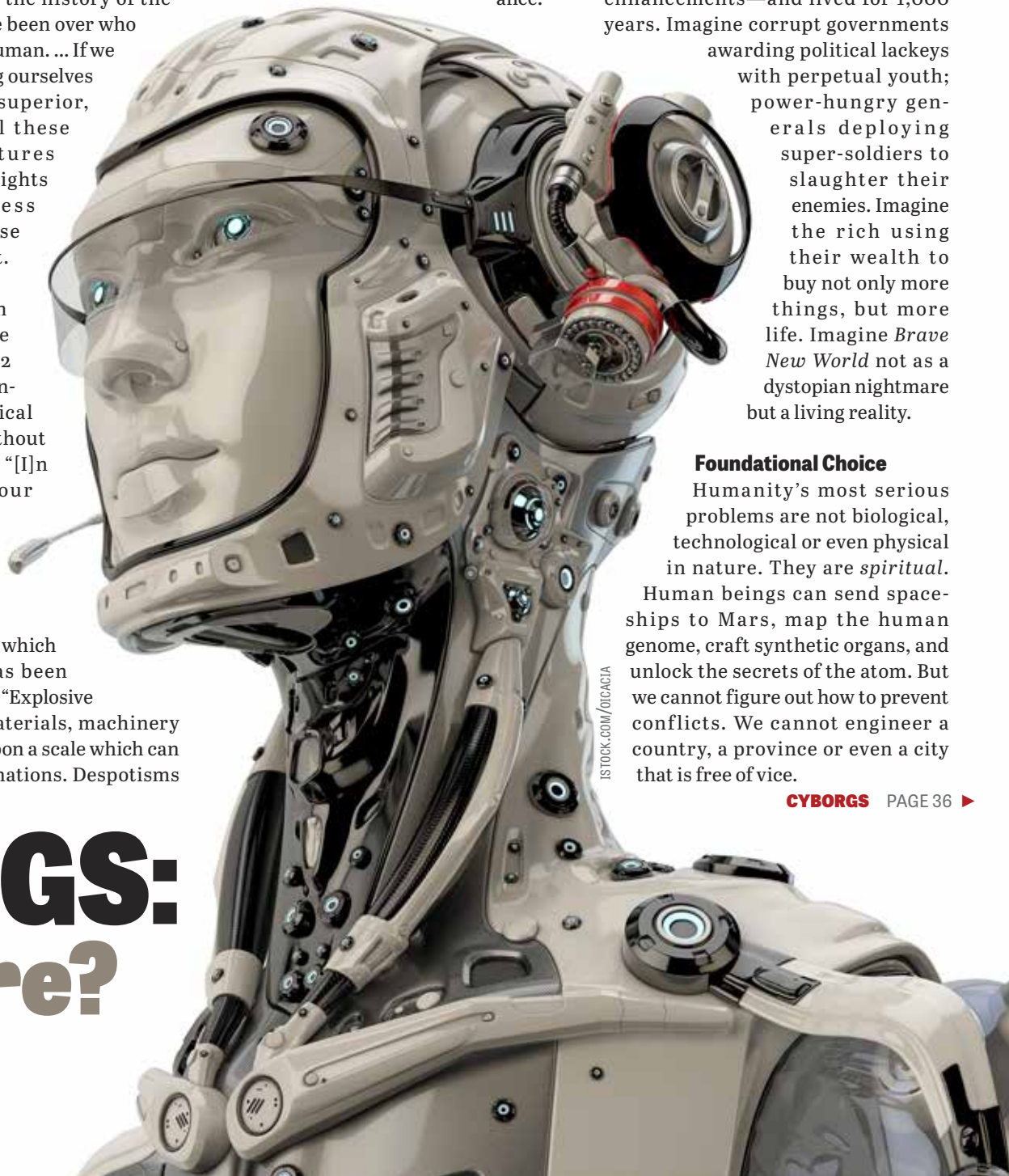
Foundational Choice

Humanity's most serious problems are not biological, technological or even physical in nature. They are *spiritual*.

Human beings can send spaceships to Mars, map the human genome, craft synthetic organs, and unlock the secrets of the atom. But we cannot figure out how to prevent conflicts. We cannot engineer a country, a province or even a city that is free of vice.

CYBORGS PAGE 36 ►

BORGS: Future?



ISTOCK.COM/OTACIA

FATHERLESS CHILDREN

DISMANTLE THE FAMILY, RUIN A NATION

The breakdown of marriage and family has brought widespread fatherlessness to the United States. While only 1 in 10 American children lived without a father in the home in 1960, approximately 1 in 4 children are growing up in a household without the physical presence of a father today. This means there are over 20 million Americans under age 18 living without a dad in the home. The cold, hard statistics show that children who grow up without a father are more likely to live in poverty, more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, more likely to drop out of school, more likely to become violent criminals, and more likely to become single parents themselves.

1. CHILDREN WITHOUT A DAD TEND TO STRUGGLE IN SCHOOL

According to an associate professor of social work at the University of British Columbia, fatherless children generally score lower in reading, math and thinking skills. They are also more likely to be truant from school, more likely to leave school by age 16, and less likely to attain academic and professional qualifications in adulthood.



9X more likely to drop out of school

2. AND WITHOUT THE GUIDANCE OF A FATHER, MORE KIDS ABUSE ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

A 1993 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report found that "[f]atherless children are at a greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse." The University of British Columbia found that even those who grew up in a two-parent home were more likely to abuse drugs if they had a poor relationship with their father.

10X more likely to abuse chemical substances

71% of all adolescent substance abuse comes from a fatherless home

4. THEY'LL MORE LIKELY BE RAISED IN POVERTY

A 2013 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report found the poverty rate for children raised in female-headed households was 45.8 percent, while the rate for children raised in married-couple households was 9.5 percent.



90% of homeless and runaway children are fatherless

4X more likely to be raised in poverty

5. AND FATHERLESS KIDS GET INTO MORE TROUBLE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

A 2005 study published in the *Journal of Family Psychology* found that a 1 percent increase in the proportion of fatherless children in a neighborhood is associated with a 3 percent increase in the rate of violent crime.

20X more likely to be incarcerated

70% of adolescents in correctional facilities come from fatherless homes

60% of rapists were raised in fatherless homes

TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS UNDER 18 LIVING WITH NO FATHER IN THE HOME

CAUSES OF FATHERLESSNESS

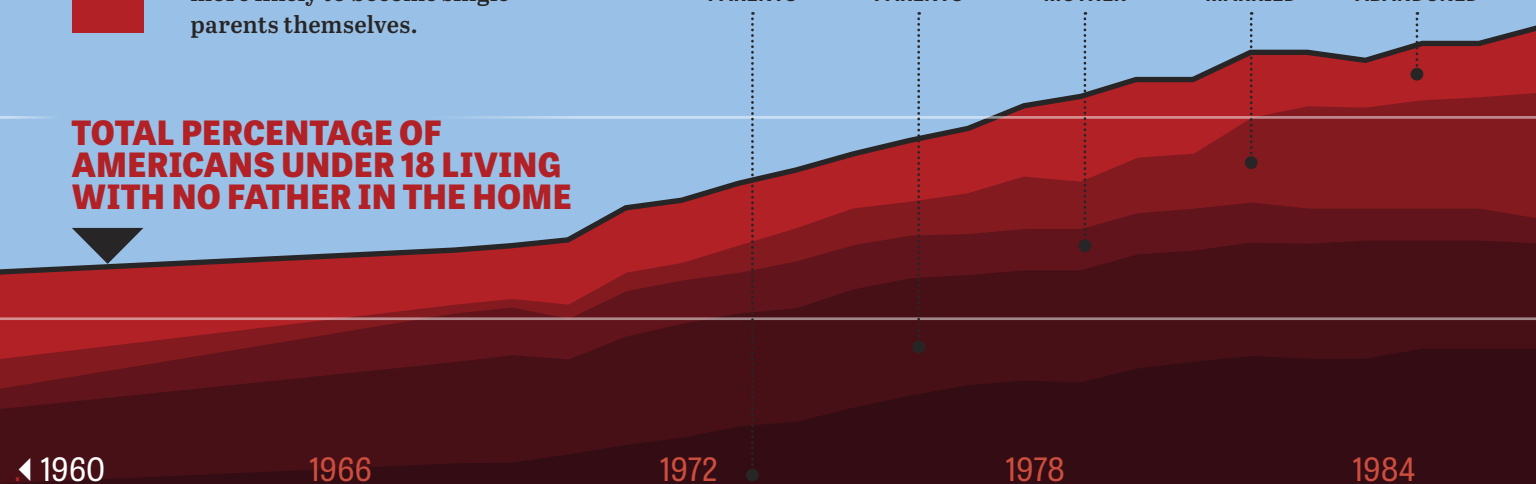
DIVORCED PARENTS

SEPARATED PARENTS

WIDOWED MOTHER

MOTHER NEVER MARRIED

ORPHANED OR ABANDONED



◀ 1960 1966 1972 1978 1984

ANCE BUSE

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Researchers at
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n their father.



ousers

ET INTO F SCHOOL

Marriage and Family found
of single-parent families in a
ent increase in teenage violence.



11X more likely to have
violent behavior

al
s homes

3. THIS CONTRIBUTES TO POOR HEALTH IN FATHERLESS KIDS COMPARED TO THEIR PEERS

A 2005 study published in the *Journal of American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* found that middle schoolers not living with both biological parents were more likely to suffer from a psychiatric mood disorder.



80% of adolescents in psychiatric hospitals come from fatherless homes

2X more likely to
commit suicide

6. AND FATHERLESS KIDS MAKE MORE FATHERLESS KIDS

A 2004 study published in the *Journal of Family Issues* found that being raised by a single mother raises the likelihood of teenage pregnancy, as well as the likelihood of marrying with less than a high school degree.



70% of teen pregnancies happen in fatherless homes

9X more likely to be raped
or sexually abused

THESE ARE THE STATS SOCIETY WANTS YOU TO IGNORE.

You've been told single-parent homes are just as stable as two-parent homes—even when all the evidence says otherwise. Why the cover-up? To get the story behind fake news on family, request a free copy of *Redefining Family*.



90%

80%

70%

60%

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

1990

1996

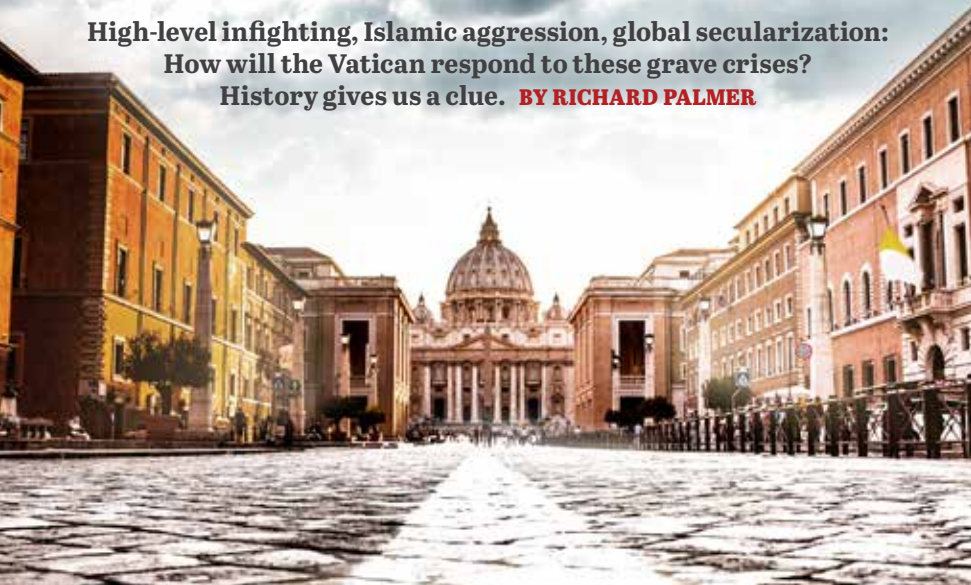
2002

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2014 ▶

CROSSROADS FOR CATHOLICISM

High-level infighting, Islamic aggression, global secularization:
How will the Vatican respond to these grave crises?
History gives us a clue. **BY RICHARD PALMER**



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IS IN crisis. Both within its traditional stronghold of Europe and without, it is under attack.

For one, the church stands on the brink of civil war. Cardinal Robert Sarah warned on April 18 that the church faces a “grave risk” of schism over the issue of divorce and remarriage. Some—most notably among the wealthy German church—want to loosen restrictions, while Catholics elsewhere are against it. Antonio Socci, a well-regarded Vatican watcher, has reported that some former Pope Francis supporters are so worried about schism that they are trying to persuade the pope to step down.

“It is no secret in Rome that certain cardinals who voted for Francis are now worried that he is leading the church towards schism, and that he must therefore be stopped,” wrote Damian Thompson in the *Spectator*. “There are many more than a dozen of them and, though they may not yet be ready to act upon their concerns, they would like this pontificate to end

sooner rather than later” (March 11).

Meanwhile, what was once called *Christendom* is becoming “secularism.” In France, one of Europe’s most Catholic countries, only 1 person in 20 attends mass. Two thirds of French youth describe themselves as “nonreligious.” Since 1980, the number of Catholic priests across Europe has dropped by nearly 80,000—a decline of nearly a third. In the United Kingdom, 10,000 people stop attending church services (of any kind) each week. Catholicism is shrinking faster in Western nations than any other major denomination.

While the Catholic Church is still the world’s largest Christian denomination by far, its popularity is shrinking fastest in the areas it has historically been strongest. In 1965, approximately 9 out of 10 Central and South Americans identified as Catholic. By 2010, nearly every country in the Western Hemisphere saw its Catholic population decline—in many of them by more than *one third*. In the United States, for every individual who becomes Catholic, another six leave.

At the same time, Christianity is literally under attack in the Middle East. On April 9, an Islamic State terrorist came within a whisker of assassinating the Coptic pope. As it was, the Islamic State killed 44 people in two bombing attacks that day. Since the Arab Spring of 2011, some 200,000 Christians have reportedly fled Egypt. Iraq’s Christian population has fallen from 1.4 million in 2003 to an estimated 275,000. If Christians in Iraq cannot be protected, “they have no future—it’s as bleak and as simple as that,” wrote Benedict Kiely, a priest who runs Nasarean.org, a website drawing attention to the plight of Christians in the Middle East.

Recent popes seemed to acknowledge the ongoing crisis and have reached back in history for ways to fix it. The last pope, Benedict XVI, named himself after St. Benedict, the founder of a system of monasteries that helped Catholicism survive the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. The current pope named himself after St. Francis of Assisi, who reinvigorated Catholicism with his message of pious poverty.

But there is perhaps a more effective—albeit far more threatening—template for the church’s current problems: the late 11th century.

Pope Gregory VII had decided to pick a fight with the most powerful king in the Western world, Henry IV, ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. Gregory launched an audacious power grab, pushing what historian Paul Johnson calls “a theory of papal world-government” in his book *History of Christianity*.

At one point, Henry IV was reduced to groveling barefoot in the snow outside the pope’s residence, a testament to the power of the papacy. But the fight between pope and emperor continued, and it took a heavy toll on both sides.

Gregory was forced out of Rome. His successor, Pope Victor III, was in poor health and held the papacy for little over a year. At this point, the situation for the Vatican was dire. The papacy was still at war with the Holy Roman Empire. It had also made an enemy of Europe’s second-most powerful ruler, King Philip I of France. After the already-married king married an already-married woman, the church excommunicated him, earning his enmity.

Besides that, a few decades earlier, a major chunk of the church had split off, when in 1054 the Eastern Orthodox Christians split from Rome. To make matters worse, Christianity's eastern bastion was at risk of being wiped out. Invaders poured into what is now Turkey and were banging on the doors of Constantinople, Christendom's richest and most glorious city. Even though Eastern Christianity was now independent of the Roman Catholic Church, its fall would deal a major blow to the Vatican. If it fell, Eastern Europe could turn Muslim, the way so much of the rest of the world already had. The church's political power seemed on the brink of being broken forever.

Few would expect that in just a few years, it would blaze with renewed glory.

The Solution

In 1088, Pope Urban II took the throne. He found one solution that solved all these problems. It is the single event for which he is most remembered—the act that wrote him into the history books forever. He launched the Crusades.

“War with Germany, conflict in France, a rival pope and Christians in the East under siege: Remarkably, the Crusade could solve all of these problems,” writes Jay Rubenstein in *Armies of Heaven: The First Crusade and the Quest for Apocalypse*. “If the initial rallying cry were successful, it would unite behind Urban II a significant portion of Christian Europe The advantages of the Crusade, in retrospect, seem obvious.”

In 1095, Urban received an ambassador from Byzantine Emperor Alexios I asking for help against the invading Turks. “The help the emperor of Byzantium had in mind was probably a couple of thousand mercenaries,” write Terry Jones and Alan Ereira in their book *Crusades*. “What Urban saw in the requests, however, was the chance to make himself the savior of the Eastern Church and thus move closer to his goal of supremacy over the whole church. So instead of writing a few letters to the Western barons, requesting them to send forces east, the pope stood up on the rostrum in that field outside Clermont, before the vast multitude buzzing with anticipation, and made an announcement that would change the world.”

The Crusade was far more than a response to Turkish attacks from the east. It was aimed not only at destroying aggressive enemies, but also at solving problems and divisions within Europe.

“By summoning an army under the banner of the cross, the pope was extending the church's mantle over all Christendom. This was the idea at the very heart of the revolutionary papacy; in place of separate local churches at the center of discrete communities, there was to be one overarching church, ruled by one overarching pope. The Crusade was to be its expression and its instrument” (ibid).

The plan worked. In 1122, the Holy Roman Empire came to an agreement with the church. (The church never forgave Henry IV: It finally hunted down and killed his last descendants 200 years later.) The church also compromised with King Philip of France. He performed public penance, and the church tolerated his bigamous wife, provided that he kept the matter discreet.

More importantly, the Crusades forged a new unity in Europe. “The Crusade helped to fashion a broader sense of Christian identity in an otherwise divided European homeland,” writes Rubenstein. “Pilgrims came from different cultures and spoke different languages—German, Flemish, Norman, French, Provençal and Italian—but their shared experiences instilled in them a common identity. ... It would

together. But things quickly fell apart. When Emperor Alexius had asked for help, he was looking for a small group of elite mercenaries to bolster his own army. Instead he got masses of Crusaders serving under foreign lords, in foreign armies. He feared the new forces would overrun his lands just as surely as the Turks they had come to fight. With the emperor offering, at best, lukewarm support for the Crusades, the Vatican and the Eastern Orthodox Church quickly fell out.

A New Calling

Today's Roman Catholic Church has received a plea for help from the East in the form of millions of fleeing Christians. The Vatican is yet to respond with much beyond words. But already those words are healing old divides.

Pope Francis visited Egypt on April 28, meeting with the Coptic pope who had escaped assassination just days earlier. The two signed a joint declaration recognizing each other's church's baptisms as valid within his own.

This is a major step in the healing of a divide far older than even the Orthodox Schism. The Copts split off in 451, in a ridiculously complicated disagreement over the exact nature of Christ, in the Monophysite controversy. Much blood has been spilled over the issue. It is part of the reason why the former Christian strongholds of Egypt and Syria are now mostly Muslim.

In 1088, Pope Urban II took the throne. He found one solution that solved all these problems. It wrote him into the history books forever. He launched the Crusades.

be no exaggeration to say that the economy, spirituality, technology and morality—the foundations of Western culture—would be remade because of the First Crusade” (op cit).

Only when it came to reunifying East and West did Urban fail. The effort began positively enough. The pope sent Bishop Adhemar of Le Puy as a papal legate to negotiate and boost cooperation with the Eastern Church. He took concrete steps to get Eastern patriarchs and Western bishops working

Yet in the face of renewed persecution, all this history has been glossed over.

“Today, there's the ecumenism of blood,” Pope Francis told an Italian reporter in December 2013. “In some countries they kill Christians because they wear a cross or have a Bible, and before killing them they don't ask if they're Anglicans, Lutherans, Catholic or Orthodox. The blood is mixed. For those who kill, we're Christians. We're united in blood, even if among ourselves we still haven't succeeded in

taking the necessary steps toward unity and perhaps the moment hasn't arrived. Unity is a grace that we have to ask for."

How much more unity could the church achieve if it mounted a more vigorous defense of Christians in the East? If the Vatican saves the day and arrests the persecution, could it win full unity with the Orthodox churches—a dream that eluded even Urban?

In scoring such a victory, the church would gain renewed relevance in a secularizing world. The debate over divorce and remarriage, which currently threatens to break out in a religious war between the pope and the cardinals, would become a mere distraction. It's hard to sustain a civil war when you are busy fighting outsiders. This kind

and tried to kill the Coptic pope. The Islamic State is specifically and repeatedly targeting this church, and packing as much symbolism as possible into its attacks. It wants war.

Islamic State leaders have perverse theological reasons for what they are doing. But conveniently, their aggression also helps fulfill their domestic goals within Egypt. "Targeting Egypt's Christians is a cold and calculated strategy for the group," wrote the *Atlantic* magazine. The Islamic State "hopes that inflaming sectarian strife in Egypt will be the first step in the country's unraveling" (April 9). Islamic State leaders believe that if they can divide Egypt's Muslims and Christians, the Muslims will side with them.

So far, terror groups have been met with a very soft response. Europeans are starving for someone to respond with strength.

of renewed mission and purpose is exactly what the church needs in order to distract attention away from and to diminish its divisions.

By no means is this a recommendation for such a course of action. A crusading Catholic Church is one of the bloodiest, most fearsome threats the world has faced, and it has faced it time after time. But it is important to realize that this exact type of aggression is an option the church is well aware of—a "nuclear option" it has used repeatedly.

Exactly what role the current pope will have in a resurgent, more aggressive Vatican is unknown. But surely the Vatican recognizes the success that such a policy has enjoyed in the Islamic State.

A Rally to War

The Islamic State is doing all it can to pick a fight with the Vatican. It too remembers the Crusades: After all, the other belligerent in those wars was Islam. Last December, the Islamic State attacked a building next to the Coptic Church's headquarters, which is the biggest cathedral in the Middle East and Africa. In April, on Palm Sunday, it attacked a church the Copts claim is built on the site of a church founded by the man who wrote the Gospel of Mark,

When Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi first declared an Islamic State caliphate in 2014, he said, "Rush, O Muslims, to your state. Yes, it is your state. Rush, because Syria is not for the Syrians and Iraq is not for the Iraqis The land is for the Muslims, all the Muslims This is my advice to you. If you hold to it, you will *conquer Rome and own the world*, if Allah wills" (emphasis added). All along, Rome has been the top target. The Islamic State's main propaganda magazine is called *Dabiq*. Why? "According to the *hadith* [tradition], the area [of Dabiq] will play a historical role in the battles leading up to the conquests of Constantinople, then Rome," the cover article of its first issue stated.

This is the same strategy that it is employing in Egypt, but on a much larger scale: Pick a fight with Christianity in the hope that it rallies all Muslims.

It may not work for the Islamic State. But as the conflict over the Copts shows, it is already working for Rome.

A much more forceful defense of Christians in the Middle East is the next logical step. A Catholic leader traveling around Europe goading politicians to take real action to defend Christians in the Middle East would be instantly popular.

So far, the evil building in the Middle East within the Islamic State and Iranian-backed terror groups has been met with an incredibly soft response by Europe and the rest of the West. But Europeans are starving for someone to finally respond with strength.

The Catholic Church greatly benefited from the First Crusade, but many people did not. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims and even Jews were massacred. And only a century or so after Urban's speech, the crusading knights began spilling the blood of Europeans themselves. Constantinople fell, not to invading Muslims, but to Crusader armies attacking and killing Eastern Orthodox Christians as heretics. Five years later, Pope Innocent III sent Crusaders to southern France to kill Christians he regarded as heretics.

Once the Roman Catholic Church rose in power, all non-Catholics suffered.

This has been a constant throughout history. As recently as the 1960s and '70s, when the Catholic Church had major power in Ireland and Spain, it carried out atrocities such as the sale of infants, mass child sexual abuse and child slave labor.

History warns of what can happen when the Catholic Church rises in power. Bible prophecy gives the same warning.

The Warning in Prophecy

The Bible often portrays churches symbolically as women (e.g. Revelation 12). Isaiah 47 describes a church called "the lady of kingdoms." She has power over many nations. This church has protesting daughters: separate churches that owe much of their heritage to the mother church but have split away. However, this chapter prophesies that the Catholic mother church will bring them back, saying, "I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children."

This forecasts that the daughter churches which left the Catholic Church in protest will be brought back under its control. The church has already made huge strides in this regard. The push for unity with Christians of all different kinds has been one of the biggest themes of Francis's papacy. The church has signed agreements with Lutherans,

DO YOU START LIFESTYLE GOALS with zeal and excitement, only to have them end with disappointment? If you relate to this, then like about 90 percent of the population, you may be guilty of allowing failure through unclear goals or procrastination.

Whether you desire to lose weight, eat better, become stronger or overcome an injury, there's one thing you absolutely need: *self-discipline*. The hard truth is, you're either disciplined or you're unsuccessful.

With self-discipline you can defeat virtually any obstacles facing you. It is what you need to finally punch through and reach your life goals.

What Is Self-discipline?

Self-discipline is a dirty word these days. Just ask media advertisers who push fast-and-easy diet pills or absurd exercise equipment predicated on overnight results. Consumers fall for these superficial opportunities because they look for easy solutions.

Self-discipline is the opposite. It's the ability to overcome your weaknesses by facing challenges with strong effort, attaining strong results. Disciplining yourself to do what is hard rewards you with results that the undisciplined majority simply cannot attain.

The principles of self-discipline are simple. They produce reliable cause-and-effect outcomes. The results are universal. But most people fail to utilize them. The reason: It takes hard work! And most of us simply don't want to do hard work.

Think of it like progressive weight training to build muscle. The more effort you put into training your muscles, the stronger they become. The less you train them, the weaker they become. Similarly, the basic method to attaining self-discipline is to get out of your comfort zone and push hard toward your goals. Self-discipline will help you achieve your goals, and you will then be able to use more of this virtue to reach greater and higher goals.



You Can't Change Without It!

To make positive change in your life, you need this ingredient.

BY JORG MARDIAN

How can you put self-discipline to work right now? How can you achieve your goals in life? Here are five worthy goals, five profitable methods that are worth your effort in disciplining yourself. Create structure in your life through these strong habits, use self-discipline to hold yourself to them, even after you slip up, and you will achieve greater success in your life.

1) GET UP EARLY.

Go to bed at a set time, even on weekends; don't just fall into bed when you've exhausted yourself and can think of nothing else to do. Plan for about eight hours of sleep. Then rise before dawn. "Just on a practical side, if you wake up early in the morning—like at 4:30 in the morning—you're going to have some free time to yourself to make things happen, to take care of things that are important to you," said Navy SEAL veteran Jocko Willink. Your boss, your family and your other obligations are all asleep at 4:30 a.m., he said, so no one is going to chip away at your time. As the saying goes, you can't soar with the eagles if you're up late with the turkeys.

2) KEEP LEARNING.

In *No Excuses: The Power of Self-discipline*, author Brian Tracy states, "If you want to be successful, your first job is to learn what you need to learn in order to achieve the success you desire." To move ahead consistently with your life goals, read about great lives for inspiration and self-help books to consistently improve your skills and knowledge.

3) START SMALL, WORK UP TO BIG.

Many people start with big goals and fail big. With improved diet for example, the goal is not to quit bad habits cold turkey all at once. Your body will rebel with cravings. Introduce healthier foods over a period of time and strive for balance and moderation. The same is true for exercise: Jumping straight into intense workouts is a sure way to overwhelm yourself. Begin by disciplining yourself to do 20 to 30 minutes of moderate activity and work your way up from there.

4) BE PERSISTENT.

There will always be failures in life, but persistence is the ability to effectively respond to setbacks. Motivation may wax and wane, but only persistent action produces results, even when you don't feel like doing what is right. A new exercise program will need time as your body adapts to movement, so don't quit when uncomfortable. Resolve in advance to doggedly stick to your program to get results.

5) MANAGE YOUR TIME EFFECTIVELY.

Time is a limited resource and cannot be replaced. Learning how to manage it makes you more productive, more efficient and more likely to meet deadlines.

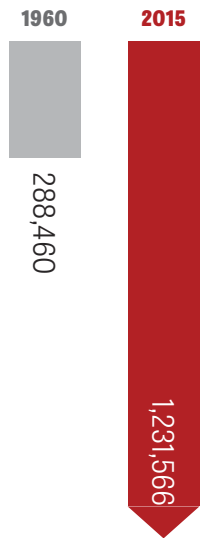
Keep an eye on the most important and time-sensitive tasks early in the day, with a tight focus on productive endeavors while limiting the amount of time spent on nonessential duties. That way you still have lots of time to get in those crucial lifestyle changes and stay healthy.

Self-discipline isn't just about self-denial: It means saving now for long-term satisfaction and success. With continued use, self-discipline increases, becoming automatic, habitual and natural as you push through failure and adversity to finally achieve real accomplishment. ■

For more real-life tips you can put into practice, request a free copy of *The Seven Laws of Success*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.

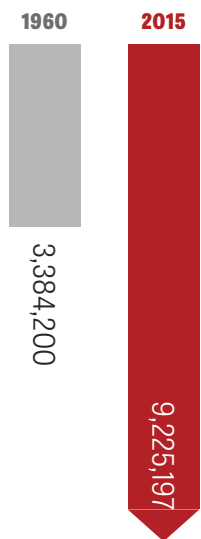


Domestic instability has contributed to more violent crime.



PER CAPITA INCREASE **138%**

And the total amount of crime committed has also increased.



PER CAPITA INCREASE **52%**

► **MORAL DECLINE** FROM PAGE 7

where marriage could be defined as any sexual relationship between consenting partners.

Instead of viewing homosexuality as a sin, the majority in the U.S. and Britain now consider homosexuality a *right*.

Some go even further and assert that it is *the traditional family* that is harmful—that its very structure is a type of slavery of women and children.

Broken homes and illegitimate children are now so common that it is considered insensitive to even suggest that such individuals may be disadvantaged.

Rather than accepting the notion that society is falling short of the biblical standard, society has *changed the standard*. The virtually unanimous failure to follow the scriptural formula for family success has resulted in a *redefinition* of marriage and family. (For more information on this trend, request a free copy of our booklet *Redefining Family*.)

Today, most people reject the law of cause and effect. They think society can discard marriage and family and not suffer any consequences. But both the Bible and secular history show what the fruits of family breakdown are—and will be!

Blessings and Curses

Since June 1990, the *Trumpet* has forecast that America and Britain will experience a collapse more devastating than Rome’s.

The *Plain Truth* made the same bold forecast from its inception in 1934. The rationale underlying the forecast is that both the Americans and British have turned away from God’s standard of morality.

Great historians like Edward Gibbon knew that family breakdown and moral decay led to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. But even Gibbon didn’t understand that the American and British peoples have a history with God’s law that began long before the founding of Rome.

There was a tendency among 18th-century Americans to equate themselves with the children of Israel. *Plain Truth* founder Herbert W. Armstrong proved in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that the people who settled Britain and America literally *are* the descendants of ancient Israel.

The Bible says that after mankind turned away from God’s inexorable laws of morality, God called and founded the nation of Israel. He gave this people His laws so they could be an example to all other nations. Through their actions, the Israelites would prove that blessings come from obedience to God’s laws, and curses come from disobedience.

In the May-June 1938 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong wrote: “At Mount Sinai God made Israel a proposition. If they would obey His voice and keep His commandments (Exodus 19:5-6)—that is, build a civilization based on the principles of God’s fundamental spiritual law—on the principles of love

to God and love to neighbor—the principle of give, instead of the selfish human principle of get—then God agreed to give them prosperity and power to dominate the world—‘above all nations.’”

The ancient Israelites were blessed when they obeyed “the principles of God’s fundamental spiritual law” during the days of King David and King Solomon. This national greatness would have continued—but then the people spurned God’s principles of moral living. As a result, their society collapsed. The Assyrian Empire carried away the Israelites as slaves in 718 B.C. After Israel’s fall, other Gentile kingdoms like Rome rose to greatness.

Yet God had promised the Israelites that He would restore them to greatness after they experienced 2,520 years of punishment. (This prophecy is explained in Chapter 10 of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Request a free copy.)

In the September 1966 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong wrote: “The first beginning of Shalmaneser’s siege against ancient Israel was 721 B.C. The defeat of Israel was complete in 718 B.C.; 2,520 years from 721 B.C. is the year A.D. 1800, and 2,520 years from 718 B.C. is A.D. 1803. Now you know why Britain and the United States suddenly spurted from minor nations to the greatest wealth and power ever enjoyed by any nations, beginning 1800–1803!”

Those who settled in the United States and Britain learned from hard experience that obedience to God’s law is a prerequisite of national greatness. But their children soon forgot. In the April-May 1976 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “What have we done with these multitudes of national and individual blessings, which actually were the gift of the living God? God did not promise to continue the blessings if we rebelled. We have been rebellious and unwilling to yield to our God and His ways, which would have guaranteed lasting peace and prosperity. We have become arrogant and selfish. We have polluted the fertile lands the living God gave us. We have polluted the air, the rivers, lakes and oceans. We have polluted our own minds and those of our children—teaching the anti-God fable of evolution. We have given public acceptance to the misnamed ‘new morality,’ which is gross immorality! We have given public acceptance to homosexuality, premarital sex and perversion. We have polluted the sacred institution of marriage, and through a constantly increasing divorce rate, we have started on a course of destroying the home and family relationship—the foundation of any stable society.”

It should be clear to anyone who believes the lessons of ancient history that moral decay has set America and Britain on the path to societal collapse.

But biblical prophecy makes even clearer that this is the inevitable outcome of our current immoral course.

Prophesied to Happen

The Bible plainly reveals that God has set spiritual and physical laws in motion. At present, God is allowing humans to develop their own ways of living, which are contrary to His laws. He has been allowing us to reap the natural consequences that result from those ways. But the Scriptures record that God has begun to intervene and punish modern-day Israel with seven times more intensity of punishment on us.

Leviticus 26 is called the blessings and curses chapter. It prophesies what will happen to the nations of Israel—primarily America and Britain today: If they obeyed God’s laws, blessings; and if they disobeyed, curses.

“But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments ... I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you” (verses 14, 17). Yes, the great God actually said He would “set [His] face against” our nations for our rebellion!

“And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power” (verses 18-19). If we disobey, God promises to break the pride of our power. Though we have enjoyed tremendous national power, our *will* has been broken, just as God promised!

Look at the history of ancient Israel, and you see that our nations today are following the same course.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote that the morality of the ancient Israelites deteriorated to the point where they were actually proud of their sins. They “declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not” (Isaiah 3:9). Sadly, you could hardly find a more apt way to describe society today.

Hosea, one of Isaiah’s contemporaries, wrote that God had “a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.” Instead, Israel was full of “swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery.” Violence filled the nation, until “blood toucheth blood.” Because of this ghastly state, God decreed that the land shall mourn, and all who dwelled “therein shall languish” (Hosea 4:1-3). Hosea prophesied that because the Israelites refused “to turn unto their God,” they would “fall in their iniquity” (Hosea 5:1-5).

The prophecies of Isaiah and Hosea, like all the other minor and major prophets, focus primarily

on “the latter days” (Hosea 3:5). God, the master sociologist, foretold that the end-time descendants of the Israelites would once again rebel against His moral laws and would suffer the same consequences as their ancestors.

Anciently, after the Israelites’ morals declined to the point of societal meltdown, God allowed the Assyrian Empire to take them away captive! Many prophecies show that the same fate awaits our nations in this end time! God will again allow a foreign nation to punish the peoples of America and Britain because of our many sins.

This severe punishment is simply the correction needed to teach people the error of sin, and to lead them toward living the way of life that brings blessings, instead of terrible curses. Once modern-day Britons and Americans have their wealth, prosperity, land and everything they possess taken from them, they will at last cry out to God for mercy and deliverance!

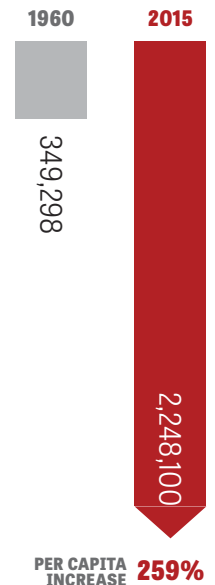
God told the Prophet Jeremiah that the day would come when He would “bring again the captivity of my people Israel” (Jeremiah 30:3). This prophecy isn’t about Israel’s ancient captivity, which had already occurred by that point. It is about an end-time captivity, called “the time of *Jacob’s trouble*” (verse 7). Jacob was the father of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Yet even as God uttered these words to Jeremiah, He mercifully prophesied of a subsequent time when He would cause the Israelites “to return to the land that I gave to their fathers” (verse 3).

“Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither,” God declares in Jeremiah 31:8-9. “They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.”

God will gather the outcasts from these nations like a shepherd gathers his flock (verse 10), showering them with blessings (verses 12-17), and establishing His New Covenant with them (verses 31-34). God promises to restore prosperity to America and Britain, and to make them a positive example. But first, they must learn that any society without God’s sacred moral code to govern the actions of individuals cannot stand! ■

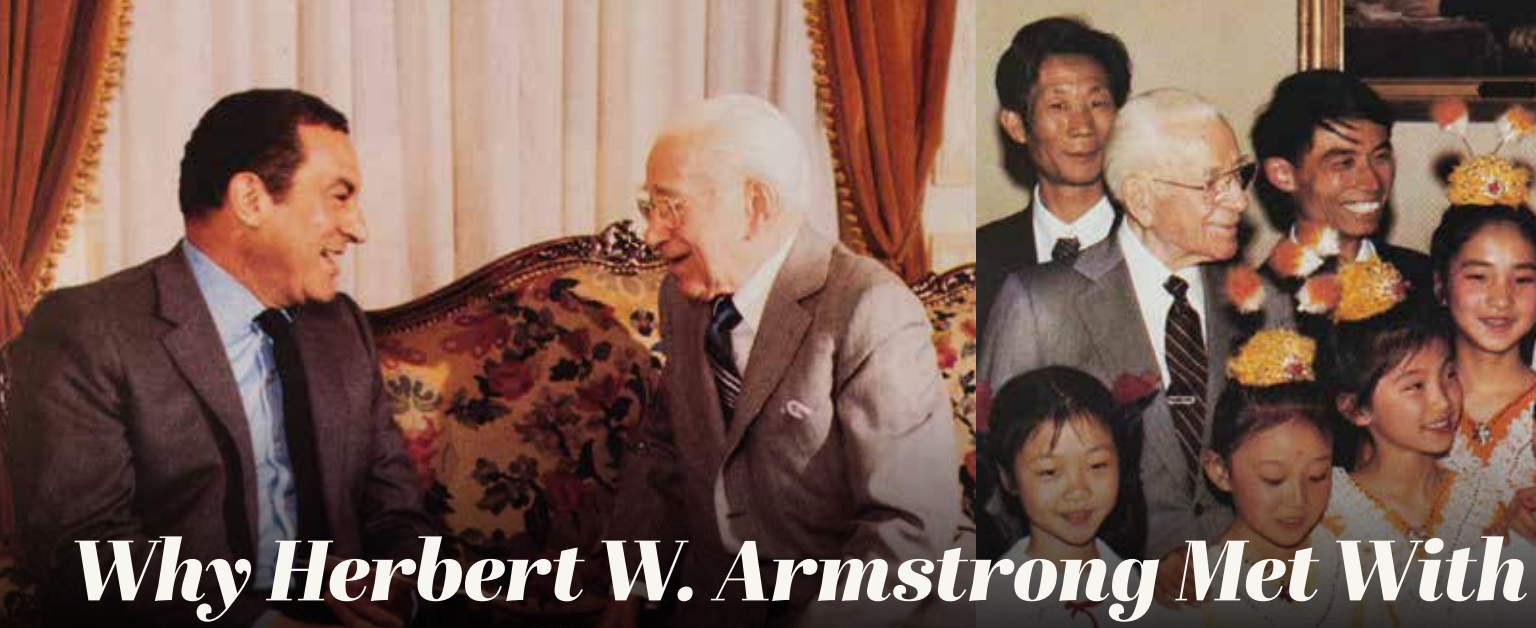
This has led to a greater percentage of the population being incarcerated.



Blessings and curses

American and British history is the story of blessings and curses. God blessed these two nations more than any others, but with those blessings comes responsibility. To find out why America and Britain have been so blessed, request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.





Why Herbert W. Armstrong Met With

This man showed people the cause of their horrendous problems and how they could and would be solved. He gave them hope—a hope that this world does not understand. BY GERALD FLURRY

IN THE 1970S AND 1980S, ONE PRIVATE citizen was jetting around the world and meeting with hundreds of world leaders. He met presidents, prime ministers, kings, emperors, princes, legislators, ambassadors, generals, officers, mayors, judges, scientists, educators, magnates and executives. He talked with heads of state and heads of government in their offices at their invitations. Who was this man?

He wasn't a head of government; he wasn't even a government official. He wasn't a captain of industry; he wasn't even a businessman. He wasn't a billionaire or millionaire. He was a man named Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong was a man who actually gave up his business to follow what he read in the Bible. He followed God and lived for decades in poverty. He eventually led a church and a college. He did not seek to become a world traveler, a friend of prime ministers, an unofficial ambassador for world peace. Even if he had tried, he never could have achieved a fraction of what he ended up doing.

What Mr. Armstrong did in the 1970s and 1980s was nothing short of miraculous.

"I have exciting news!" he wrote from Hong Kong in a Nov. 26, 1973, letter to

supporters of the church he led, the Worldwide Church of God. "As this new dimension of the great Work of the living God gets under way there is already tremendous accomplishment! Never in the history of humanity has anything like it happened before! Never has the living God carried His message through His human servants in this manner before." The "tremendous accomplishment" Mr. Armstrong was referring to was his taking the message of God to prominent world leaders.

When God called Mr. Armstrong into His ministry, Mr. Armstrong taught God's message, the good news of the coming Kingdom of God, to only a few scattered people in Oregon. Then the message reached several cities over the radio. Mr. Armstrong dreamed of God's message reaching the whole northwest region of the United States. By the 1960s and 1970s, that message was reaching *millions* of people around the world.

Despite the global reach among the English-speaking world, Mr. Armstrong was troubled. He wanted God's message to reach Russians, Chinese, Indians, Japanese, Indonesians, Bangladeshis and others. But how could he reach them? In countries like the United States, Canada and Australia, the message could go straight to the people through television, radio or literature.

Mr. Armstrong prayed earnestly about it and asked God to help him see how to reach them. God answered his prayer. He showed Mr. Armstrong that in order to be heard by the populations

of these countries, he had to reach the *national leaders* first!

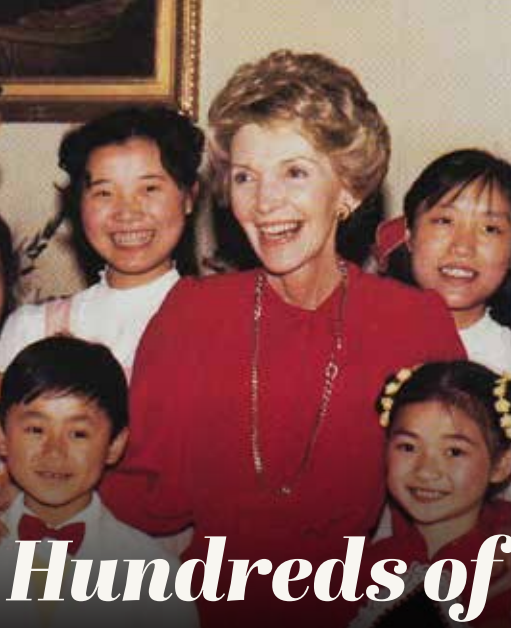
An Open Door

Sometime after Mr. Armstrong began praying about it, he received invitations to meet world leaders: one from a European king, then another from Jewish leaders. He couldn't understand what was really happening or why. Gradually, the invitations began piling up. Yet he was still puzzled about *why* God was opening those doors. Finally, he made the connection: This was how God planned to get the gospel to those people!

Mr. Armstrong frequently visited top government officials, including leaders who shaped the thoughts of their populations. These officials were in charge of communication; it was their responsibility to get information to the people.

It is phenomenal how much Mr. Armstrong accomplished in those primarily Gentile nations. He visited presidents and kings who wanted to know what his beliefs were!

In that 1973 co-worker letter, Mr. Armstrong continued: "Last April 28, I was decorated by the emperor and the government of Japan with the highest honor ever bestowed on a nonofficial non-Japanese. This gave me a very great credibility in Japan. Then I learned Prince Mikasa, brother of the emperor, had asked for me to give a Bible study on my next visit to Tokyo." They wanted Mr. Armstrong to give them a Bible study! How unusual for a Gentile nation to ask to be taught from God's Word!



AMBASSADOR Mr. Armstrong met with many world leaders, including (from left) Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, U.S. First Lady Nancy Reagan and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.

Hundreds of World Leaders

After Japan, Mr. Armstrong carried on to Saigon, Vietnam. There Mr. Armstrong spoke to senators, members of Congress and the president. They asked him to return the following year and hold a four-day public appearance campaign. God was giving Mr. Armstrong special favor in the eyes of these world leaders. Mr. Armstrong said he was moved by their affection for him.

After Vietnam, Mr. Armstrong went to Manila, Philippines. He said he was getting bolder all the time. He realized that this was a new dimension to the gospel—it had never been done this way before!

When you study what Mr. Armstrong was doing in these various nations and think about the impact he was having, you begin to see how much God loves this world. This wasn't from Mr. Armstrong—it wasn't from a man—this was GOD'S LOVE FOR HUMANITY! Jesus Christ died for all mankind, expressing the highest level of love. Through Mr. Armstrong, He was again showing His love!

God's Spiritual Law in Motion

Mr. Armstrong would speak to these leaders about the terrible state of affairs in the world. And he would show

them that there is a cause for poverty, violence, war and everything else that plagues mankind today. "[T]he living God had revealed to me the cause of all the world's terrible evils and the suffering of humanity," he wrote (ibid). Nobody else understood the cause of these nations' difficulties. But Mr. Armstrong told national leaders the cause!

That cause went right back to what happened in the Garden of Eden, where mankind rejected the tree of life symbolizing peace, prosperity and the abundant life that all men should be living. For 6,000 years, mankind has rejected this way of life, and instead chose another tree—the tree of death. Choosing this tree has resulted in the world we see around us.

Nobody else ever talked to these leaders about that cause! They were fascinated by this understanding. They knew Mr. Armstrong didn't come seeking an offering; he didn't ask for anything. He came to tell them the cause of all the horrific problems, something they had never heard before.

"I explained how God's invisible spiritual law (the law of love—the Ten Commandments) was set in motion to cause peace, happiness, abundant

well-being," he continued.

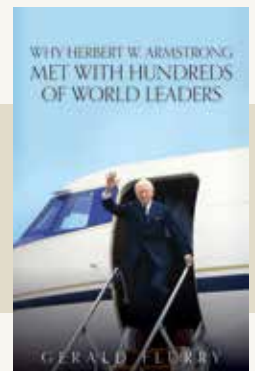
This law is invisible; you can't see it. But it is in operation right now; it is active and living. Whether you keep it or not has a huge impact. If you transgress it, you will have terror, unhappiness and all kinds of problems in your personal life or nation. If you keep this law the way God intends, it makes marriages, families and colleges work! It brings peace! The law is alive and in motion now! And we are blessed according to how well we obey—and cursed if we disobey.

This is basic understanding. But most people don't recognize that God's law is a LAW OF LOVE. Man has decided to take on Satan's nature and the way of vanity instead of God's nature. It's all a matter of choice. The way we decide to go determines the result. It gets down to choosing the tree of life or the tree of death.

Soon, God and Jesus Christ are going to teach this invisible law to all mankind, and it will put this world on a totally different course. The way to have peace and joy in every phase of life will go out from Jerusalem to the whole world! This invisible law will put mankind at one with God. ■

**But wait—
there's more.**

This article is excerpted from Gerald Flurry's new booklet, **Why Herbert W. Armstrong Met With Hundreds of World Leaders**. Learn more about who he visited and the hope-filled message he brought to them by ordering a free copy.



INNOCENT **A Syrian child injured by a chemical attack**

Did Assad launch his last chemical strike?

Syrrian forces loyal to President Bashar Assad carried out a chemical attack on April 4 that killed dozens of civilians in the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun in northern Syria. According to Human Rights Watch, the attack killed about 92 people, 30 of whom were children. These people died vomiting, urinating and foaming at the mouth from what appeared to be the toxic nerve agent sarin. The strike is believed to have been authorized by Assad.

The Syrian regime and its chief backer, Russia, acknowledged that Syrian government forces

did drop bombs on Khan Sheikhoun, but said that the bombs were conventional weapons which only targeted al Qaeda-affiliated Tahrir al-Sham terrorists. The Assad government denied using chemical weapons and said the United States worked “hand-in-glove with the terrorists” to either fabricate or actually stage the chemical attack.

U.S. President Donald Trump, however, accused “Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad” of launching “a horrible chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians.” He also told reporters that the attack “crossed a lot of lines.” He added: “When you

kill innocent children, innocent babies—babies, little babies—with a chemical gas that is so lethal—people were shocked to hear what gas it was—that crosses many, many lines, beyond a red line. Many, many lines.”

Two days after the chemical attack, the U.S. launched its first direct assault on Assad’s forces in the six years of the Syrian civil war by striking a government air base south of Homs with 59 cruise missiles. The target was allegedly the base Syrian forces used to strike Khan Sheikhoun.

In his speech announcing the strike, Mr. Trump called for “civilized nations” to join America

“in seeking to end this slaughter and bloodshed in Syria.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel signed a joint statement with then French President François Hollande the following day, declaring that “Assad bears the only responsibility for this development” and warning that Assad’s gas attack “cannot remain unpunished.”

Experts say that the U.S. government will likely attempt to assemble a “coalition of the willing” in order to further isolate the Assad regime, and Europe could be a ready and willing ally.

In a September 2012 article titled “How the Syrian Crisis Will End,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry described a Syria we are likely to see in the near future: one without Assad and without Iran as an ally. Referencing a prophecy in Psalm 83, he said this future Syria will be confederate with Europe and certain Arab nations against the modern-day nations of biblical Israel. Assad’s alleged chemical attack and an American-led retaliation could mark the beginning of the end for the Assad regime and a future closer to Europe and further from Iran. ■

Iranian Army to become more offensive force

During a ceremony on Iran’s Army Day on April 18, Army commander Brig. Gen. Kiumars Heidari announced “major structural changes to Iran’s army encompassing everything from human resources to logistics to armaments in order to transform [the Army] into an ‘offensive’ force.”

Heidari announced a five-point plan to change structures and organization, human resources, combat capability, strategic planning and military engineering.

The Iranian Army was formed in 1924. In the aftermath of the 1979 revolution, Iran’s leaders formed the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to preserve the Islamic Revolution and keep the Army from switching its allegiance to the deposed shah. The revolutionaries resigned the army to a largely defensive posture, while the IRGC assumed a predominantly offensive role. Heidari’s announcement signals a change to that status quo “in favor of a more strident and muscular approach to regional crisis,” in



MOBILIZED **Iranian soldiers celebrate Army Day.**

the words of the Middle East Eye. “It is a radical shift whose repercussions will fundamentally alter Iran’s relationship with regional foes Saudi Arabia and Israel as well as the United States military in the Persian Gulf” (April 21).

Paired with the potential for Iran to dramatically transform

its “peaceful” nuclear program, its “defensive” ballistic missile program and its “economics driven” patrols in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb strait, refitting the Army for offensive warfare could give Iran even more power to push against its enemies. ■

First made-in-China aircraft carrier launched

China launched its second aircraft carrier on April 26 at the port city of Dalian. The warship, which is now in its final stages of construction and outfitting, is the first Chinese-manufactured aircraft carrier.

The People's Liberation Army said the launch "signified a major stage of progress of our country's indigenous design and construction of aircraft carriers."

The as-yet-unnamed vessel is based on the design of China's other carrier, the Liaoning, a Soviet ship that was originally launched in 1988, acquired from Ukraine in 1998 and relaunched by China in 2011. The new carrier features a few improvements, including a better radar system and a larger air-wing capacity of about 32 aircraft, eight more than the Liaoning.

To the United States and its Asian allies, the launch is a clear sign of China's growing



WITHOUT PEER China launches its first homemade aircraft carrier in April.

power and its intensifying determination to enforce its disputed territorial claims in the South China Sea and beyond.

"With each new aircraft carrier, China is sending a signal that it has no peer among its neighbors," said Patrick M. Cronin, head of the Washington-based Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security (*New York Times*, April 25).

Also significant is that while the Liaoning required

13 years of development and refitting, the new carrier began construction only about 3½ years ago. It still must undergo sea trials and will not be formally commissioned until 2020, but by that time it will have only taken about seven years to put a second carrier in operation.

Experts say China is planning to build up to four additional carriers, with construction already under way on at least one.

Saudi Arabia and Germany enhance military cooperation

On April 30, German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Saudi Arabia and agreed to help build up the Saudi defense industry.

Saudi Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Mohammed al-Tuwaijri told Spiegel Online that his nation "want[s] to make Germany one of [its] most important business partners." That cooperation has previously been complicated by Germany's strict export guidelines and Saudi Arabia's repeated humanitarian violations.

The solution? Chancellor Merkel said, "We cannot have German soldiers anywhere



TEAMWORK German Chancellor Merkel visits Saudi King Salman

in the world, but we can very well pass on our know-how." The agreement puts a hold on German weapons exports to Saudi Arabia while authorizing the German Army to train Saudi Arabian military personnel in Germany. The German and Saudi governments also signed a joint

declaration of intent for future police cooperation.

Germany's military is still comparatively small, but it is building an international military empire in other ways. The alliance between Germany and Saudi Arabia in particular is forecast in Psalm 83.

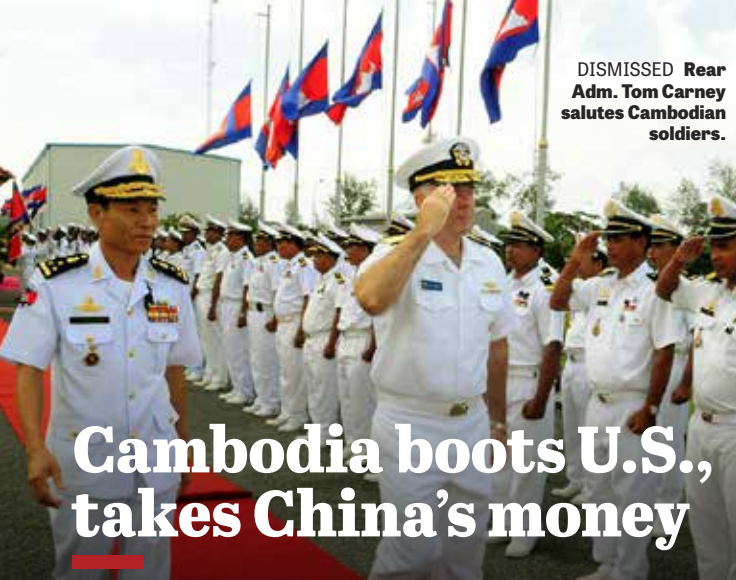
European military spending up

Military spending in Western and Central Europe grew by 2.6 percent and 2.4 percent respectively, according to raw data published April 24 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The growth, according to a researcher at SIPRI, "can be partly attributed to the perception of Russia posing a greater threat." Europe, it seems, is quite alarmed by its aggressive eastern neighbor.

"This is despite the fact that Russia's spending in 2016 was only 27 percent of the combined total of European NATO members," said Siemon Wezemen, a senior researcher at SIPRI.

Western Europe's spending makes up over two thirds of Europe's total, and it has declined nearly every year since 2009. On the other hand, Eastern Europe, positioned next to the historically land-hungry Russia, has steadily increased its military spending. With the changing circumstances—an increased Russian threat, a wavering United States president and Brexit—Western Europe has decided to step it up.

At the same time, the *Wall Street Journal* reported April 24 that "German military spending is rising more than at any time since the Cold War." With Poland purchasing Leopard tanks, Lithuania buying Boxer armored vehicles, and Scandinavian countries ordering upgrades of battle tanks and military trucks, weapons manufacturers' CEOs are getting excited. Rheinmetall AG, which has a near monopoly on the German arms market, posted a 63 percent jump in profit last year.



DISMISSED Rear Adm. Tom Carney salutes Cambodian soldiers.

Cambodia boots U.S., takes China's money

The Cambodian government abruptly told a United States Navy unit to leave the country on April 3, while nearly simultaneously accepting a new multimillion-dollar aid package from China. The moves indicate Cambodia is becoming the latest of several Southeast Asian nations to shift away from partnership with America and toward alignment with China.

The U.S. Embassy in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, announced, "The U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalion—better known as the Seabees—is departing Cambodia after a nine-year humanitarian assistance mission."

The announcement said the Cambodian government initiated the closure, and that the decision cancels some 20 planned projects around the country to construct such facilities as school bathrooms and hospital maternity wards.

The next day, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen accepted a \$157 million grant from China to build a new soccer stadium, where Cambodia plans to host the Southeast Asian Games in 2023. Since 2002, Cambodia has taken almost \$3 billion in loans from China for dozens of development projects, and last October, China forgave some

\$89 million of Cambodia's debts.

The shift from America to China is also under way militarily. Last year, Cambodia conducted its first-ever joint naval drills with China. This January, Cambodia canceled a major annual joint military exercise with the U.S.

Cambodia's shift away from the U.S. and toward China comes as similar realignments are under way in the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and other Southeast Asian nations. These states see America declining and China growing more powerful and more determined to use its power, and they are altering their foreign policy accordingly.

In a December strategy report, Ross Babbage, senior fellow at U.S. think tank Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, explained: "In effect, Beijing is pressuring regional countries into an arrangement that mirrors the contract struck with its own people: economic benefits in exchange for political compliance, with a big stick lurking in the background threatening retaliation for aberrant behavior. ... Significant damage is being done to U.S. and allied credibility. In the absence of major changes in allied policy, much of Southeast Asia will likely shift into Beijing's orbit." ■

Is Russia building a spy base in Nicaragua?

Russia may have opened a new military intelligence station in Nicaragua, the *Washington Post* reported on April 6, citing reports from anonymous United States officials. Construction on the "mysterious new Russian compound" is almost complete, the *Post* said (April 8).

The Nicaraguan government claims the facility is only a tracking hub to support a Russian satellite system similar to the GPS system used by the United States. "But is it also an intelligence base intended to surveil the Americans?" the *Post* asks.

Russia's presence in Nicaragua goes far beyond just

one possible listening post. In recent years, Moscow has sold armaments, stationed soldiers and built military training centers in the Central American country. In 2015, Nicaragua agreed to allow Russian ships to dock at its ports. Russia has been supplying Nicaragua with armored personnel carriers, rocket launchers and T-72 tanks.

"The Russian surge appears to be part of the Kremlin's expansionist foreign policy," the *Post* wrote, adding that "U.S. officials suspect that the new Russian facilities could have 'dual use' capabilities, particularly for electronic espionage aimed at the United States." ■



Not-so-fruited plains

The United States once fed the world, but now it is falling behind Russia and even Brazil in agricultural output. Typically, agriculture has been one industry where America exports more than it imports, helping reduce its trade deficit. However, this year's crop numbers show that "America's agricultural dominance has eroded," the *Wall Street Journal* reported on April 20.

This year, Brazil is expected to harvest a record soybean crop, producing 43 percent of world soybean exports. Thus, Brazil "can sway global prices with a weather hiccup or transportation snarl," the *Journal* continued. Brazil is also the second-largest corn producer. Last year, Russia outperformed America's amber waves of grain, exporting more wheat than the U.S.

American farming peaked at a record \$123 billion in 2013 but has since faced a three-year decline, the first such decline since the 1970s. American farming also depends heavily on federal government subsidies. From 2015 to 2027, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is expected to spend nearly \$87 billion protecting and propping up U.S. agriculture. This year, the department predicts net farm income will fall to \$62 billion, half of what it was in 2013.

President Donald Trump's pledges to restore American industry to greatness seem to exclude the farming sector. He withdrew the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which was heavily supported by the agricultural community. He has also threatened the North American Free Trade Agreement, another trade deal that boosts U.S. agricultural sales. ■

Americans' worries about race relations at record high

More Americans are worried about race relations than at any time since Gallup started tracking this trend in 2001. Forty-two percent said they were concerned a “great deal” over race relations, according to a poll published on March 15.

Leading up to the presidential election in 2008, Americans

were hopeful that candidate Barack Obama would heal race relations in the United States. A Gallup poll taken a day after the election revealed that only 10 percent of Americans were worried that race relations would worsen under his presidency, while 70 percent were optimistic that race relations would improve. It is now clear

Religious freedom is declining

Freedom of religion is declining across the world. A report released on April 26 by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom noted that “the state of affairs for international religious freedom is worsening in both the depth and breadth of violations.”

This report calls on the U.S. State Department to again designate 10 countries as “countries of particular concern” based on high levels of religious persecution: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The report also calls on the State Department to designate six new countries to the Tier 1 list: Central African Republic,

Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Syria and Vietnam.

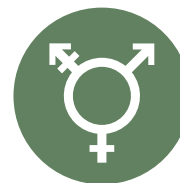
Russia was added to the Tier 1 list for the first time this year. Its inclusion was due to new Russian laws effectively criminalizing private religious speech not sanctioned by the state, a nationwide ban on the Jehovah’s Witness denomination, and Russian attempts to impose repressive religious policies on areas of Ukraine “by means of military invasion and occupation.”

A Pew Research Center study published on April 11 found that 23 of 198 countries assessed had “very high” levels of government restrictions on religious practices in 2015. That compares to only 16 countries ranked as having “very high” government

that race relations have not played out as expected.

Participants were asked if they were worried a “great deal,” a “fair amount,” “only a little,” or “not at all” about the state of race relations in America. Forty-two percent responded that they were worried a “great deal,” and 27 percent said they were concerned a “fair amount.” This means the ratio of Americans troubled over the state of race relations in their country has reached almost 70 percent. Americans are equally as worried over race relations today as they were optimistic of them nine years ago.

This spike in concern is not without cause. And biblical prophecy shows that incidents of race-related tension, social unrest and violence will increase on a huge scale in America. For more information, read Chapter 5 of Gerald Flurry’s free booklet *Great Again*, “Where America’s Race Riots Are Leading” (theTrumpet.com/go/ga). ■



‘Give your transgender student a cake’

British schoolteachers have been told to send an “upbeat” message to students who want to change their gender. Give them a cake, was the suggestion of activist Terry Reed to the Association of Teachers and Lecturers on April 11.

“It doesn’t have to be cake; it’s just making it an upbeat, ‘we’re absolutely behind you and with you’ message immediately, so that it doesn’t get downbeat,” said Reed, a campaigner for transsexual interests.

Also, all students will get an “education” about same-sex couples as part of their mandatory relationships curriculum that begins in 2019. The National Union of Teachers says that children should begin learning about same-sex relationships at age 2.

Teachers were told that although opinions have shifted and a “huge” surge of “transgender” and “non-binary” students are coming forward, there is still a “lack of policies which promote LGBT+ [Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender, plus] within schools.”

The phrase “non-binary” can mean any of the following: identifying with both genders, *between* both genders, no gender, varying between genders, only a partial gender, or a culturally specific gender.

This embracing of immorality and radical departure from reality is destined to have catastrophic consequences for American society. ■



restrictions on religious freedom the previous year. The Middle East, North Africa and Asia had worse restrictions on religious freedom than the Western world, yet 31 of 45 European nations increased government restrictions on freedom of worship between 2014 and 2015. Even the United States was assessed as having more government restrictions on freedom of religion in 2015 than in 2007. ■

► **CHINA** FROM PAGE 10

Deuteronomy 28:52 makes clear that this partnership will come at America's expense. "And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee." Other Bible passages such as Habakkuk 1 show that the power besieging the U.S. will be a German-led European bloc. Isaiah 23 shows that this European bloc will accomplish this besiegement with China's cooperation.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains in his booklet *Isaiah's End-Time Vision*: "The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America—and many other prophecies of America being *besieged*."

"That is where China and the giants of Asia enter the picture. When the [European power] attacks North America, there will be no help or sympathy from Asia." Instead, Asia will likely help in the attack. Mr. Flurry says the fact that

"China has come to possess most of the world's strategic sea gates" shows that "there may be a brief alliance between the German-led Holy Roman Empire and certain Asian powers"

He continues: "Should Europe, the resurrected Holy Roman Empire, find a way to take advantage—even for a moment—of key resources and strategic holdings of China, Russia and Japan, it would have more than enough power to besiege the Anglo-Saxon nations"

The far deeper significance of China's growing presence in the Middle East is revealed in these Bible prophecies.

China's growing influence in the Middle East may well position Beijing to mediate in some of the region's prolonged rivalries. But the far deeper

significance of China's growing presence there is revealed in these Bible prophecies. China's Belt and Road initiative to connect itself to Europe through the Middle East is already redirecting some major avenues of international trade in a way that economically sidelines the United States.

These developments point to some dark times ahead for the U.S. and some of its allies. But these dark times will be immediately followed by the brightest and most radiant epoch in mankind's history. Mr. Flurry writes: "[W]hat a dynamic market of nations it is. All of them are going to besiege America, Britain and the Jewish nation. ... But that trading partnership won't last long. Soon they will clash, just before Jesus Christ returns and destroys both of them" (ibid).

China's growing power in the Middle East and beyond is leading to the return of Jesus Christ! He will return and usher in an age of peace, stability and prosperity for the Chinese, Middle Easterners, Europeans, Americans and all other peoples. ■

► **CATHOLIC CHURCH** FROM PAGE 22

Orthodox, Methodists, Anglicans, Armenian-Apostolic, Presbyterian and now Coptic Christians recognizing the validity of each other's baptisms. Pope Francis has even held receptions with top American televangelists, including Joel Osteen in 2014.

So much of this prophecy is already fulfilled. "Five hundred years ago, wars were fought over the very issues about which Lutherans and Roman Catholics have now achieved consensus," said Elizabeth A. Eaton, the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in October 2015.

In November 1963, in the midst of the Second Vatican Council, the *Plain Truth* reported: "Today, the time is ripe—according to official Catholic views—for making the final effort to unite the church bodies of the Christian world. The mighty problem of achieving unity is twofold. First, it involves reconciliation of the Orthodox Schism that officially commenced in 1054 and divided the churches in the East—Greece, Russia, the Balkans and

the Near East—from Rome. Second, it involves restoration to the Roman communion all Protestantism, which developed from 1517 onward."

Isn't it logical to trust the source of forecasts that have already proven so correct?

The Bible prophesies the next move of this church. This same "woman" will lead the political power in Europe (Revelation 17). This church-state combine is prophesied to attack Iran, cutting off the head of its Islamic terrorist empire (Daniel 11:41-44). Many other prophecies show that the

resulting conflagration will explode into globe-encompassing war.

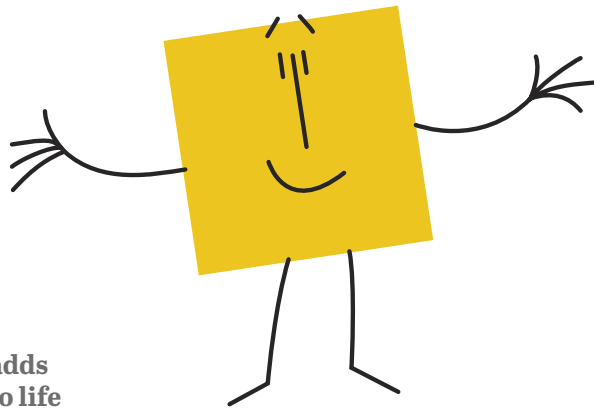
This is where the Catholic Church is heading! This is what a Pope Urban-inspired solution to its current crises will produce!

However, prophecy is also clear that, though this nightmare-inducing solution will boost the church's fortunes, this victory will be extremely short-lived. Read the rest of the story in Isaiah 47 and Revelation 17. God will bring this unholy empire to justice, and the world will never have to suffer under its dominion again! ■

A call to crusade

Historically, when the Catholic Church is down, it seeks help from the armies of Europe. Biblical prophecy states this will happen one more time. To learn more about this history and prophecy, request our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.





Dare to Be Square

A simple formula that adds meaning and purpose to life

EVERYONE IS CAPABLE OF DOING MORE—PRODUCING AT A higher level. *How?* Here is a simple formula.

Get a piece of paper and a pen. In the middle of your paper, draw a good-sized square. Now consider each side of it.

God designed our bodies to function according to definite physical laws. When we break them, we suffer sickness, disease, sluggishness and debility. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 say to glorify God *with our bodies*. This includes attending to our physical health.



STEPHEN FLURRY

Exercise is important to healthy living. Proper diet is also huge. As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “Since you ARE merely food converted into a human body and mind, is it not plain that what-

ever food you put into your mouth has a very great deal to do with what you are—and with your health, or lack of it” (*Plain Truth*, December 1967). God is our Creator. He knows what our bodies were made to utilize as good, healthful foods and what foods aren’t good for us. He set laws in motion regulating clean and unclean meats. Obey them, like Jesus and the apostles did.

“I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth,” John wrote (3 John 2). *Above all things!* Good health is foundational to successful living! Too often, health is not appreciated until it’s gone.

So, on your square, next to the line on the left, write “PHYSICAL STATURE.”

“Wisdom is the principal thing,” says Proverbs 4:7. But we have to go get it. “No one is going to get far these days unless he thinks for himself. This is going to take time and hard work, but the joy you will discover in knowing one thing well will more than repay you,” William Danforth wrote in his book *I Dare You!* “Most of us would like to be a Bernard Shaw or a Thomas A. Edison today. But how many would have been willing to be a Shaw or Edison many years ago when they were constantly laboring, studying, training and devouring all they could find which would fit them for the fame that was to be theirs?”

Characteristics of a sound mind include right mental habits, intellectual curiosity, mental discipline, clear and independent thinking, and a love of truth.

Next to the *right* side of your square, write “WISDOM.”

God’s law of love is the way of unselfish concern for the good and welfare of others. God was so concerned about the welfare and future of others that He gave up His **ONLY SON!** (Romans 5:8). God is a *people person!* What about you?

Learn to *share* yourself with others—your spouse, your children, your church congregation, your co-workers. Share your *warmth*, your *love*, your *plans* and your *dreams*. Give kindness and encouragement to those in distress. Offer sincere praise for those who perform something well.

You can *never* give away too much love. The beauty of it is, the more you give away, the happier you will be and the more you will grow. The Bible teaches that when we give, it automatically brings blessings into our lives (Acts 20:35).

Proverbs 18:24 says, “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly.” *Everyone* can enlarge their circle of friends and positively impact more lives. “I dare you to develop that magnetic personality that will lead and inspire others. You can have that personality if you have a great enough desire,” Danforth wrote. “Can you imagine a young man with a sincere and earnest desire to make friends ever turning out a grouch?”

On your square, above the top line, write “FAVOR WITH MAN.”

Even with three sides of our square filled in, we are woefully incomplete. What good is vibrant health, discerning wisdom and social magnetism without *purpose*?

Why are we here? Mr. Armstrong answered this question, and many more, in his profound work *Mystery of the Ages*.

Understanding man’s purpose begins with how we relate to God. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments” (Psalm 111:10). God tells us to fear Him and to obey His commandments *first*, and then deep understanding will follow.

Put God to the test by *doing* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Danforth wrote, “Physical strength demands exercise. Mental alertness demands study. Winsome personality thrives on service. Religious growth requires action, the actual doing of right things instead of the wrong. We advance only by doing. Say your prayers tonight, but unless tomorrow you can act on them, they are not worth much.”

On the final side of your square, on the bottom—the *foundation*—write, “FAVOR WITH GOD.”

So there you have it: *the square life*. Jesus perfectly exemplified this balanced lifestyle. As a young man, He increased in physical strength, wisdom and stature, “and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). Christ set a perfect example, but He also said following His example isn’t easy (Matthew 7:13-14). Most people choose the easy way—a life of poor health, lazy thinking and strained relationships.

Choose the difficult road—answer Danforth’s challenge: “How dare you have within yourself these fourfold capacities and not use them?” “[L]ife is a four-sided affair,” he continued, “your daring program is going to lead you into physical adventures, mental adventures, social adventures, spiritual adventures. You have not one, but four lives to live—a fourfold opportunity to grow. ... It is helping you touch life at all angles, absorb strength from all contacts, pour out power on all fronts.

“And here is another interesting thing. The more you pour out, the more you find to pour.”

Go ahead and try it—I dare you.

Your magazine and e-mail briefs are incredible and extremely timely. I'm totally thrilled to know where our world is in prophecy, and you are great researchers and providers. You sent me two magazines this month and I gave one to another Christian and she was surprised. She asked me where I got it and I told her. The first few pages of what's happening today compared to prophecy are extremely enlightening—along with matching Bible verses.

Beverly Peet SARASOTA, FLORIDA

I think the *Trumpet* is one of the most valuable publications in this whole wide world. What we learn from this is fantastic. I just wish more people would read it. I appreciate these materials more than I can say.

Lola Hammonds FLORIDA

I wish to continue your most unique and informative magazine. Not only are your articles thought-provoking and illuminated with Scripture, but more importantly,

your news items are virtually unavailable anywhere else. And you are quite correct; the fulfillment of prophecy is becoming apparent even to the casual observers—validating that we indeed are in the end of the age.

Jay Merrell FLORENCE, COLORADO

I first discovered a copy of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* in my doctor's waiting room. I immediately subscribed. I even saved the copies for my grown children to read. Now



getting the e-mail copy of the news is icing on the cake. Keep up the great reporting.

Jeri Moore

Please subscribe me to the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine, one of the two best real newsmagazines in world history; the other one being the *Plain Truth*.

Jeff Gordon



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ON TRIAL Gorsuch testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee.



Convicting the Constitution

The battle to confirm Judge Neil Gorsuch wasn't about Neil Gorsuch. It was about the philosophy of judicial restraint. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION IS ON TRIAL. FOR 30 years, America has been cross-examining its founding document. At the defendant's table are *constitutional originalists*. They testify that natural rights, individual liberties, limited government, federalism and the Constitution's other principles are as valid now as ever. At the plaintiff's table are *judicial activists*. They claim that the Constitution's principles are out of date and that judges must redefine the Constitution to fit current social conditions.

This legal battle began in earnest in June 1987. That year, U.S. President Ronald Reagan nominated Robert Bork, a highly respected judge, to become a Supreme Court justice. Within 45 minutes of the nomination, Sen. Ted Kennedy began demonizing the nominee in a shocking way. Why? Judge Bork was one of the nation's fiercest and most articulate defenders of the Constitution as it is written. Senator Kennedy and his affiliates considered this a ghastly thing.

Senator Kennedy argued Judge Bork's originalism would lead to a "Bork's America" of back-alley abortions, segregation, censorship and midnight police raids. None of these accusations was true, but the attack still worked. The Senate did not confirm Judge Bork, and he never took a seat on the Supreme Court. The *Oxford English Dictionary* gained a new verb: To *bork* means "to defame or vilify (a person) systematically, especially in the mass media, usually with the aim of preventing his or her appointment to public office."

The demonization of Robert Bork was the opening statement of a legal battle on judicial appointments that has lasted 30 years. The same plaintiffs who demonized Bork infamously tried to bork Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. More recently, they tried to bork Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. After President Donald Trump nominated Gorsuch on January 31 to fill the late Antonin Scalia's seat, opposition activists immediately began denouncing the nominee. They said he threatened environmental rights, abortion rights, homosexual rights and minority rights.

When Judge Gorsuch appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 20, Sen. Dianne Feinstein stated that she was troubled by his constitutional originalism. She said that "if we were to dogmatically adhere to originalist interpretations, then we would still have segregated schools" and that "women wouldn't be entitled to equal protection under the law." Judge Gorsuch replied that the Constitution leaves it up

to elected representatives of the people to change bad laws. An unelected judge has no authority to legislate from the bench. His responsibility, he said, "is to apply and enforce the law."

Appalled by his belief in the Constitution, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer announced that he would lead Democrats to filibuster Gorsuch's nomination.

This is a legal technique that blocks the Senate from voting on a nomination. To stop this plan, Republican senators voted to change Senate rules allowing the minority party to filibuster Supreme Court nominees. This opened the way for the Senate to confirm Judge Gorsuch on April 7 with a 54-45 majority.

Does this mean the 30-year legal battle is over? Has the Constitution been acquitted?

Justice Gorsuch has taken his seat on the Supreme Court, but the Constitution is still being tried in the court of public opinion. About half of the American public (46 percent) say that justices should rule based on what the Constitution "means in current times," an apparent reference to continuous "reinterpretation" of the Constitution and a precursor to ignoring it outright. Yet as Judge Bork wrote in *The Tempting of America*, "The truth is that the judge who looks outside the Constitution always looks inside himself and nowhere else."

A majority of Millennials view Donald Trump as an illegitimate president. They do not care what the Constitution says about electoral votes—they want Trump gone. Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez is tapping into this frustration. Days before Gorsuch's confirmation, Perez said any Supreme Court nominee named by Mr. Trump would be illegitimate until the Federal Bureau of Investigation rules out potential ties between Trump's campaign and alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Sen. Jeff Merkley went a step further: On March 30, he said any Republican attempt to confirm Gorsuch that alters Senate procedures would mean every future 5-4 Supreme Court decision would be illegitimate.

Such allegations are not aimed at disparaging Gorsuch as a person; they are meant to delegitimize the entire philosophy of judicial restraint for which Gorsuch stands. What happens when millions of young Americans believe that their government is illegitimate? Will #NotMyJustice rioters soon be joining the #NotMyPresident rioters?

"The tide turned in a big way in 1987," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *America Under Attack*. "Law started to get a lot weaker. And lawlessness started to get much, much stronger" (request a free copy of this booklet). The generation that has grown up since 1987 does not have the same respect for the rule of law as past generations. Unless this changes, the Constitution is going to be convicted of obsolescence and worse. If history is any guide, the rejection of their own foundational law will lead to deadly anarchy as Americans seek to destroy the current system and replace it with another. ■

In other words, human beings cannot solve *evil*. In fact, mankind's most powerful technological achievement has been the invention of weapons powerful enough to exterminate all life from Earth.

Some scientists still hold out hope that human beings will achieve moral perfection on our own, but the grand lesson of human history is that mankind does not know the way to peace, joy and abundant living.

Transhumanists, biologists and scientists in general have no explanation for human nature, what it is, or where it comes from. The Bible offers an explanation that is more than plausible.

Scripture says the Creator of human beings required the first humans to choose how to live: His way or their own way. His way is a giving, sharing, peaceful way of life. But human beings chose the way that led away from Him—and toward getting, selfishness, greed, contention and violence.

The Creator designed human beings so that if we choose the selfish, competitive, destructive way, we will not have to live eternally in a dystopian nightmare. He created humans to die and return to the dust we were made out of (Genesis 3:19). As Romans 6:23 puts it, “the wages of sin is death.”

“Why did God choose to make man out of physical matter instead of spirit?” Herbert W. Armstrong asked in *What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind*. “If God had made us of spirit, once the decision was made to reject God, we could never have repented ...! Man, composed of matter, is subject to change. Man, if called by God, can be made to realize that he has sinned, and he can repent—change from his sin—turn to God's way. And once his course is changed, with God's help he can pursue it. He can grow in spiritual knowledge, develop character, overcome wrong habits, weaknesses and faults.”

Human beings simply do not have the capacity to live much beyond 70 or 100 years. We are made of physical matter, which inevitably wears out and dies.

But our bodies and minds also enable us to do something else: We can choose the *other* way of life—the way that leads not only to a relationship with our Creator, but to the power to achieve nothing less than moral perfection and to the other eventuality listed in Romans 6:23: “[T]he gift of God is eternal life.”

God made humans out of physical matter so we can repent and change. He also made humans out of physical matter so we will die if we refuse to repent and change. This is why the omnipotent Creator did not create the human body with more longevity. He created it subject to decay for a very important reason.

Man can seek to extend his natural life span, but eventually he has to face the reality that not only is he mortal, but he is also *immoral*. Those who refuse to repent and turn from sin perish (John 3:16)—as though they had never been created in the first place (Obadiah 16). But those who repent of their evil past and willingly choose to become converted can ultimately receive eternal life—not in a computer, but as the gift of God! ■

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 keyof david.com.

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- Monterey** KION 9:30, Sun
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Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTX-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KWSW/KSUD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun
Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KSVI 7:00, Sun
KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun
Helena KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City WPXN 6:00, Fri; WWOR, 8:00, Sun
Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Asheville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun
Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Fayetteville WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun

North Dakota
Bismarck KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Dickinson KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Fargo KXJB 8:30, Sun

Minot KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Valley City KXJB 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Toledo WMNT 8:00, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun
Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Anderson WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KEVN 6:30, Sun
KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun
Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30
Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun
Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri; KTXH 7:30, Sun
Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun
Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KJTV 8:00, Sun
KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KDXE 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Waco-Temple-Bryan KYLE 9:00, Sun
Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVVN 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun

Spokane KGXP 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLXP 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun
Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Madison WREX 10:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Superior KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun
Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

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Nationwide satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Nationwide cable
 Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
Atlantic Provinces
 CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun
Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun
Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun
Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun
Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver
 CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
New Brunswick, Moncton CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Saint John CKLT-DT 11, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun; CJCH-DT 11, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun; CJCB-TV 11, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun
Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun; CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVVN 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun; WUHF 8:30, Sun

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

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

AUSTRALASIA

Australia
Nationwide 9GEM 8:00, Sun
Regional Western Australia 6:00, Sun
Regional Victoria 6:00, Sun
Regional New South Wales 6:00, Sun
Regional Queensland 6:00, Sun
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed
Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV4 7:30 PHT, Sun

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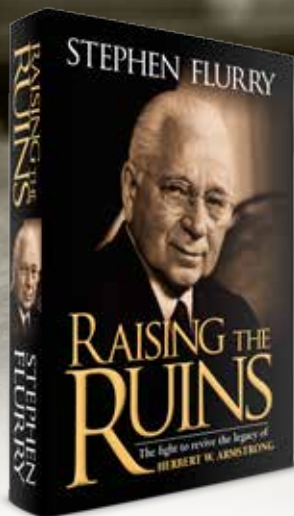
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CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 149	Ch. 197	Ch. 74	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

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