

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**A warning to America from
our greatest past presidents**

The finance of the future?

Turkey's authoritarian shift

**The camping trip that
changed history**

How to pray



Is it real?

FEATURES

- 1 FROM THE EDITOR**
**A Warning to America From
Our Greatest Past Presidents**

- 3 COVER STORY**
**The U.S. Government
Is at War With Itself**

- 6 Come Meet Isaiah and King Hezekiah**

- 8 The Finance of the Future?**
- 10 Blockchain 10110110**

- 14 Is the ‘Deep State’ Real?**

- 18 INFOGRAPHIC**
America’s Deep State

- 20 An Injury, a Camping Trip and a
Better United States**

- 23 Exiled Journalist: Beware Turkey’s
Authoritarian Shift**

- 26 How to Pray**

DEPARTMENTS

- 28 WORLDWATCH**

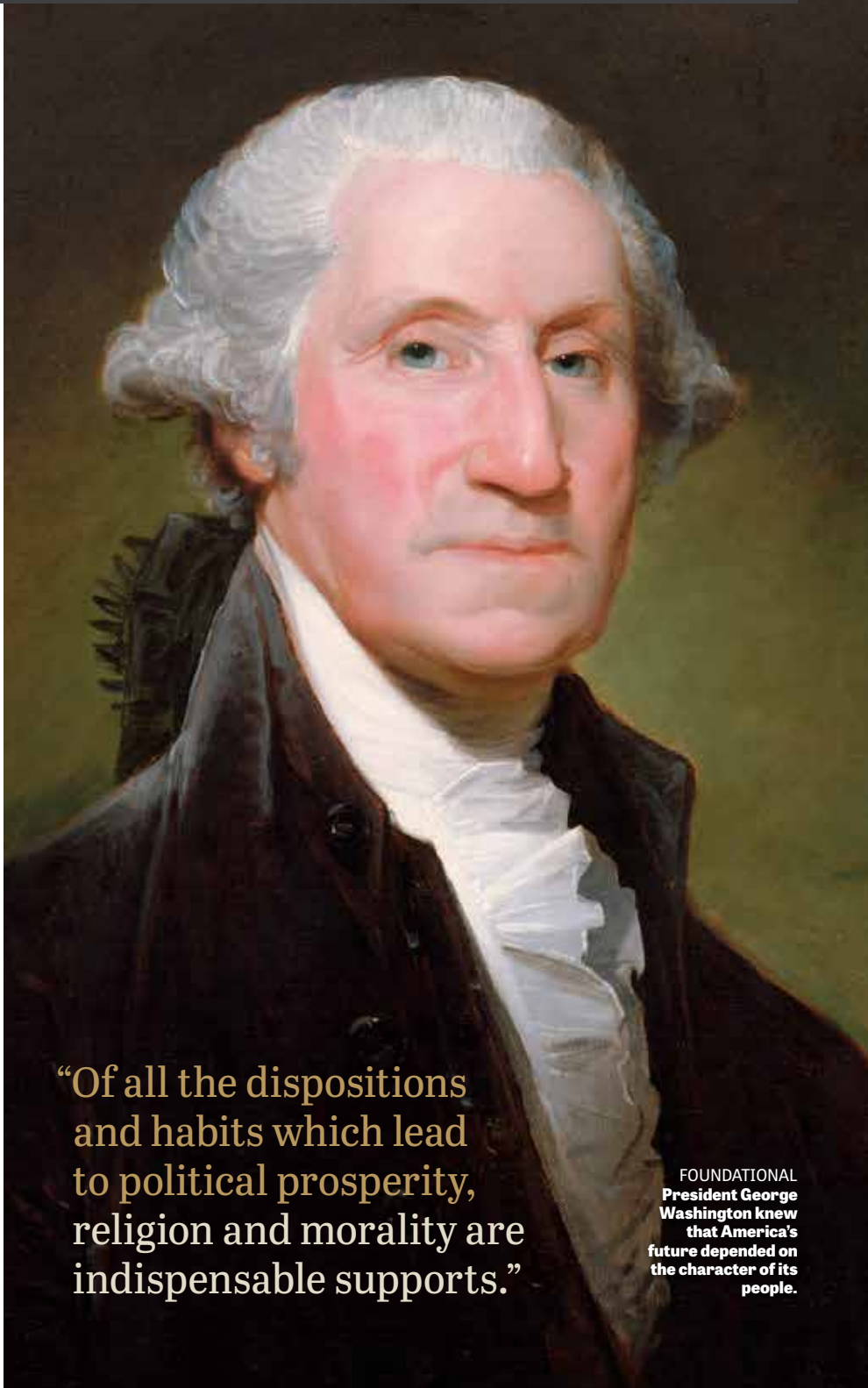
- 31 SOCIETYWATCH**

- 33 PRINCIPLES OF LIVING**
Young and Old, Together

- 34 DISCUSSION BOARD**

- 35 COMMENTARY**
What More Can You Do?

- 36 THE KEY OF DAVID TELEVISION LOG**



“Of all the dispositions
and habits which lead
to political prosperity,
religion and morality are
indispensable supports.”

FOUNDATIONAL
President George
Washington knew
that America’s
future depended on
the character of its
people.

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A Warning to America From Our Greatest Past Presidents

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln knew the secret to national success.

NEARLY EVERY HISTORIAN BELIEVES THAT GEORGE WASHINGTON and Abraham Lincoln were America's two greatest presidents. These men faced monumental crises—survival-of-the-nation problems. And if you look at their inspiring examples, you can see how they met and conquered those crises.

These great men actually gave a warning that the American people should heed today. President Washington and President Lincoln showed us how to solve our nation's major problems. If we followed their examples, we could do the same today. That may seem astounding, but it is the inspiring truth of history!

Really, this applies to all the Western world and anybody who would apply these lessons. Even if our *nations* do not follow these examples, God says He will save us individually if we do so.



GERALD FLURRY

America's earliest settlers believed that America was the new Israel. They didn't know that this belief was literally true. (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*

for proof.) In his book *Our Sacred Honor*, William J. Bennett writes: "What made this country different from all others was a prevalent belief that God played a direct and active hand in founding a people. Like the Jerusalem of old, America's 'New Jerusalem' was to become God's promised land to the oppressed—an example to all humankind."

Early Americans believed it was their destiny to set an example for the world!

Religion and Morality

In his inaugural address on April 30, 1789, George Washington said, "[T]he foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality" In other words, private morality is not a peripheral issue; it is **FOUNDATIONAL**.

In his farewell address in 1796, Washington said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." He knew that without religion and morality, America was doomed. Washington continued, "In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens."

Historians believe that America *wouldn't even exist* without the leadership of George Washington. God was with him, the first great American warrior.

President Washington believed, in essence, that **CHARACTER IS EVERYTHING**. "We have now a national *character* to establish," he said. In political campaigns today, character isn't mentioned at all. Most Americans seem to think it has no bearing on a man's fitness to govern. Private morality and public duty are considered separate issues. Washington would have been *appalled* by that kind of thinking!

America's second president, John Adams, followed Washington's lead. He said that the foundation of national morality "must be laid in private families." He also said, "OUR CONSTITUTION WAS MADE ONLY FOR A MORAL AND A RELIGIOUS PEOPLE" (emphasis mine throughout).

"Early American society was one built around the biblical sanctity of marriage and family," writes Angelo Codevilla in *The Character of Nations*. "Since the founders had no doubt that popular government is possible only among virtuous people, they revered marriage as few people before or since." Those early Americans were right: Strong marriages and families are crucial to national success! If you understand what the Bible teaches about marriage, you can see why their reverence for this institution was so important. Scripture shows that God designed marriage and family for many vital reasons. Marriage is a God-plane relationship—a type of the saints' marriage to Jesus Christ at His Second Coming!

French historian Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "Religion and morality were indispensable to the maintenance of the American republic. While the constitutional law of liberty allowed Americans complete freedom to do as they pleased, religion prevented them from doing that which is immoral and unjust."

Tocqueville surmised, "Liberty could not be governed apart from religious faith, lest there be anarchy." America's founders knew that the Constitution allows humans tremendous freedoms, so there must be some kind of restraint to prevent lawlessness. That restraint is religion and morality.

Today, those restraints have been largely cast aside in American society! If the founders were correct—that these restraints were "indispensable" to our national survival—then this has grave implications for America's future! The abysmal state of America's character, its religion and morality, is putting the nation's survival in grave danger!

Ancient Israel's Poor Example

Early Americans considered themselves "new Israel" and looked to the example of biblical Israel. Anciently those Israelites were delivered from slavery in Egypt. At Mount Sinai, God delivered to them a moral code—the Ten Commandments, and a civil law,

which they agreed to obey. However, they then rebelled and, as punishment, they were forced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. When all the rebellious adults died, God used Joshua to lead the next generation into the Promised Land.

After Joshua died, Israel ran into real trouble, entering a period of unparalleled lawlessness and rebellion. You can read about this in the biblical book of Judges, which is the bloodiest book in the Bible! The general moral condition of the nation is summarized in this verse: “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). When Israel lost its strong leader and cast aside character, it led to anarchy and, eventually, captivity! The book of Judges is part of the former prophets, which are prophecy mainly for today.

Is there any better description for what is happening in America today than everyone doing what is “right in his own eyes”? Immorality is rife within the American populace. And we have the government we deserve. Core institutions of American society can no longer be trusted because of a lack of strong religion and private morality—and institutional morality. Unsurprisingly, these institutions are held in contempt today. Congress has about a 17 percent approval rating. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department have betrayed the American people by trying to overthrow the fairly elected president. There is a WAR going on *within* the very highest levels of government! This is a CURSE on our nation!

Tocqueville wrote, “Any free society founded on liberty, yet without a sacred moral code to govern the actions of individuals, CANNOT STAND.” Look at the embarrassing spectacle in America today, and you have to say that it proves Tocqueville right!

A House Divided

Abraham Lincoln dealt with a nation that was ripped in two by civil war! He knew firsthand just how dangerous *division* within a nation can be. Surely Americans can recognize just how divided we have become. Should we not listen to what one of our greatest-ever presidents said on this subject?

“In my opinion, [national division] will not cease until a crisis shall have been reached and passed,” he said in 1858. Why must we *suffer through a crisis* to learn these lessons? Lincoln continued, quoting from the Bible, “A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND.”

Attitudes among Americans today are similar to those of Americans before the Civil War! We are a house divided! And the division is going to have some terrifying consequences.

Here are the words Lincoln quoted—and they come from Jesus Christ: “And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:24-25).

America is on the brink of DESTRUCTION! Do people really not recognize the danger? People are fighting each other over political differences, racial differences, ideological differences, and they don’t even seem *interested* in coming to agreement—they just want to DESTROY each other! And in so many cases, they are telling and believing lies so rank and abominable you couldn’t even impose them on a *child* ordinarily!

On March 30, 1863, Lincoln issued a proclamation designating a day of prayer and fasting. “We have been the recipients of the

choicest bounties of heaven,” he wrote. He was right! We enjoy what the Bible calls national “birthright blessings” from God! “We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown,” he continued. “But WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD.”

Would a president today ever stand up and admit that we have forgotten God? The scorn and ridicule he would suffer for doing so would be beyond imagination!

“[W]e have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own,” Lincoln continued. “It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”

Lincoln’s national day of prayer and fasting HEALED THE NATION. This is the truth of America’s history.

In a previous proclamation, on Aug. 12, 1861, Lincoln urged Americans to “humble ourselves before Him and to pray for His mercy—to pray that we may be spared further punishment, though most justly deserved.” Who in America, Britain or the Jewish state in the Middle East could issue strong correction like this today and actually be *heard*?

As Lincoln left Illinois for the White House, he spoke to those gathered for his departure: “Unless the great God who assisted [George Washington] shall be with and aid me, I must fail. But if [He] shall guide and support me, I shall not fail, I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now.” In other words, the only way to succeed is to follow Washington’s example and LOOK TO GOD!

Will America take this route today? Will we follow George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and GO TO GOD TO HEAL OUR NATION? Will we confess our sins?

This is America’s own history—the greatest history you can imagine if you really understand it. Think on these examples, and you can see why these two presidents were so great. There was a reason, and it goes *far beyond* mere human ingenuity!

Lincoln did all he could to unify the nation. He called for *all Americans* to HUMBLY SEEK GOD. He believed the words of Christ: “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or *house* divided against itself shall not stand” (Matthew 12:25).

NOTICE THAT: EVERY HOUSE—EVERY FAMILY! That means PRIVATE MORALITY! A family must be united if it is to stand. You cannot be *divided* and have a beautiful family. A nation cannot remain strong if it is consumed by infighting!

The way America is weakening itself and consuming itself through discord is direct proof of the problems that result when the pillars of religion and morality are removed. We must have strong religion and morality on a grand scale to succeed collectively.

God will still look after you and protect you individually if you will obey Him. Establish that private morality and religion in *your own life*! The scriptures make it plain and show it gets right down to the FAMILY! That is where you must begin. Strong, moral families are the backbone of your entire nation! We must look to God and humble ourselves before Him. That is really at the heart of the magnificent examples that President Washington and President Lincoln set for us, and that is how we can solve all our problems! ■

The U.S. Government Is at War With Itself

The 'deep state' and its allies are attacking not only the president but also the Constitution. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

What has happened to the United States federal government? Out from the maze of agencies, departments, offices, bureaus and bureaucracies in Washington, D.C., comes headline after headline:

“Scandal!” “Leaks!” “Lies!” “Spies!”

You probably have a strong sense that something serious is happening to the government—but it’s hard to tell what it is. Politicians, judges, agents, lawyers, journalists and commentators are filling thousands of pages and thousands of hours of airtime, but the truth remains murky.

It begins to make sense once you realize the horrifying truth that the United States government is actually at war with itself.

OVER THE LAST CENTURY, Americans have allowed the federal government to swell into exactly what the nation's founders sought to prevent.

It now includes millions of federal agents, secretaries, regulators and other unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats exerting enormous power over average people, over lawmakers, over judges and even over the president.

Many of these bureaucrats share the same ideology. They believe that much of the power over your life should be controlled, not by you but by the government.

The most forceful parts of this bureaucracy are its agents: regulators who restrict what you can do, judge whether you are guilty, and enforce punishment on you; spies who monitor your social media posts, e-mails, phone calls and location; armed agents who can raid your home and workplace. Most Americans assume that these powers are only used against “the bad guys,” but already many of these tactics have been used against millions of average people—and against the president they elected. The unconstitutional power exerted by unelected bureaucrats has a name: the “deep state.”

The *Trumpet* has unique insight into the civil war raging inside the United States government. This conflict is far worse than just paper-pushers fighting to keep their jobs or Republicans and Democrats bickering about the budget. This is an attempt by top leaders to destroy what remains of American constitutional government and to mutate it into something different.

We at the *Trumpet* know because we have seen it before.

The best way to understand the nature and the seriousness of what is happening to the U.S. government is to examine the events before, during and after the 2016 presidential election.

The Obama Administration

During eight years in power, President Barack Obama and his administration changed the American government and transformed America.

Through his heavy abuse of executive actions, the president became infamous

for overruling Congress, passing “laws” of his own, and choosing when and where to enforce them. He made illegal appointments and illegal changes to his health-care law without involving lawmakers. He ordered a federal review of state election systems. His Internal Revenue Service successfully targeted conservative political groups and got away with it. But that was not all.

Obama used the Department of Justice as a political weapon. Under Attorney General Eric Holder, it became filled with bureaucrats who were politically motivated or pressured to put radical ideology above the law. Prosecutors were found to be targeting innocent people for political reasons. The department worked to stop enforcement of immigration laws and threatened to sue states that enforced their own immigration laws. It also pressured agents at its Federal Bureau of Investigation to advance its political ideology.

The Department of Justice was found to be secretly monitoring thousands of phone calls from Associated Press journalists. It created legal arguments promoting the president’s power to assassinate people, including Americans on foreign soil and potential future drone strikes against American citizens on American soil.

The Supreme Court ruled against Obama’s Justice Department unanimously about 20 times; even the liberal justices Obama appointed to the court said he was exceeding his authority.

Obama’s National Security Agency was found to be spying on citizens’ international communications without identifying its targets in court, without a warrant, even without any suspicion of wrongdoing. (The NSA’s definition of a terrorist suspect included “someone searching the Web for suspicious stuff.”) It later emerged that top Obama administration officials—including CIA director John Brennan, United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power, National Security Adviser Susan Rice and Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes—requested that the NSA reveal the identities of *hundreds* of people it had spied on who were part of the presidential campaign of Donald Trump.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper was asked point-blank,

under oath: “Does the NSA collect any type of data at all on millions, or hundreds of millions, of Americans?” Clapper said no. A few months later, numerous leaked NSA documents showed that the agency intentionally spied on millions of everyday Americans who were not suspected of any wrongdoing. Clapper later described his perjury as answering in “the most truthful or least untruthful manner.” The NSA was also caught spying on Americans’ elected representatives: members of Congress. (The Department of Justice provided legal arguments defending the NSA.)

The federal bureaucracy was already enormous, bloated and dangerous when President Obama came into office. But he weaponized it to advance his agenda: heavy environmental regulation, limits on businesses, new taxes, homosexual “marriage,” restrictions on religion, uncontrolled immigration, amplification of racial issues, outreach to Muslim nations, a “reset” with Russia, leaving Iraq, reviving Iran, rejecting Israel, forcing implementation of Obamacare, enormous increases in power for the federal government, and a presidency that rejected constitutional restraints.

To lock in his legacy, his ideology and his policies, and to prevent the nation from returning to its traditional form of government, President Obama supported as his successor a fellow Democrat who promised to continue his policies.

The Clinton E-mail Scandal

Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign had a problem. She was under investigation for the unprecedented way in which she communicated as secretary of state. In spite of guidance and warnings from government officials, she had insisted on exclusively using a private, non-secure e-mail server and private messaging software to conduct State Department business rather than official, secured department servers—even while she was in *foreign countries*. This likely exposed her communications to hacking, but it enabled her to avoid complying with the Federal Records Act, reducing her transparency and accountability. She

and her team were later found to have deleted 33,000 messages and destroyed devices to keep her communications secret, potentially forever.

In 2015, the FBI began investigating the fact that more than 100 of the e-mails Clinton sent contained classified information. But there was heavy pressure against prosecuting Clinton, much of it from the Obama administration. In January 2016, his spokesman said that the Department of Justice told Obama she was not a target. Soon after, when told that some Americans were worried that he was pressuring the DOJ not to bring charges, Obama boldly stated six times in a row that he “guaranteed” that there was no political influence in any DOJ or FBI investigation and that he never talked with the attorney general or the FBI director about pending investigations. Yet in almost the same breath, he boldly portrayed Hillary Clinton as merely “careless” with her e-mails, all but saying he thought she was innocent!

The FBI allowed Clinton to not testify under oath, began drafting an exoneration letter before she was interviewed, did not record her interview, and did not require top aide Cheryl Mills to testify because she claimed that since she was also Clinton’s personal lawyer, their conversations were protected by attorney-client privilege. The Clinton campaign took pains to refer to the investigation as “a security inquiry” rather than an “investigation.” Obama’s new attorney general, Loretta Lynch, appeared to coordinate with Clinton when she instructed FBI director James Comey not to use the term “investigation” but to call it “a matter.”

In late June 2016, Lynch met Clinton’s husband, former President Bill Clinton, in private aboard her plane at the Phoenix airport. About a week later, Comey announced that although Clinton and her aides were “extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information,” they should not be charged with crimes. The next day, Lynch confirmed that the Justice Department would not bring charges.

Using its influence and especially its cash, Clinton’s presidential campaign was able to take control of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), which

is supposed to ensure fair debates and fair processes. But the Democratic primary was marred by cheating, and interim DNC chairwoman Donna Brazile later admitted that her predecessors at the committee had secretly rigged the system in favor of Clinton.

Clinton won the nomination for the Democrats, and Donald Trump unexpectedly won the nomination for the Republicans. Clinton and the media portrayed Trump as a joke, and the newsmedia consistently reported that polls showed Clinton would win a convincing victory.

The Clinton-Steele Dossier

Like other campaigns, Clinton’s supporters conducted “opposition research” to find negative information about Trump to use against him prior to the election. But one of these research projects would go on to be used in ways few could have imagined—not by the campaign, but by the *government*.

Through a New York law firm, the Clinton campaign and the DNC paid a firm named Fusion GPS to find dirt on candidate Trump. Fusion GPS hired former British spy Christopher Steele to create 17 memos later known as the “Steele dossier.” The dossier contained a conspiracy theory that the Trump campaign worked with the Russian government to win the election. It also accused Trump of engaging in disgusting activities with Russian prostitutes in Moscow and indicated that the Russian government was therefore able to blackmail him. In almost two years since the first memo was written, none of these claims have been proved.

A troubling fact about the dossier is that one of its writers is Nellie Ohr, a former CIA researcher. Ohr’s husband was Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr, who worked at President Obama’s Department of Justice with

some of its highest-ranking members. Steele admitted to Bruce Ohr that he was “desperate that Donald Trump not get elected” and was “passionate about him not becoming president.”

Finding or fabricating dirt on one’s political enemies is nothing new. But what is shockingly unprecedented is the way in which the government—not the Clinton campaign, but the government itself—weaponized such a flimsy document. The Obama administration used its powers to take the dossier’s unverified allegations and try to destroy Trump with them.

Steele began sharing the accusations and conspiracies in his dossier with the FBI as early as July 2016. Although it relied almost exclusively on sources tied to the Russian government, FBI agents took it seriously. Some now believe they took it seriously because the government had advance knowledge of it and possibly helped in its production.

As the election approached, the shocking allegations of Trump



OBAMA’S NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, LORETTA LYNCH, APPEARED TO COORDINATE WITH CLINTON WHEN SHE INSTRUCTED FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY NOT TO USE THE TERM “INVESTIGATION” BUT TO CALL IT “A MATTER.”

engaging in perversions with Russian prostitutes began appearing in the news. Steele had leaked parts of his dossier to the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *New Yorker*, CNN and Yahoo News. But the full, original dossier was not yet public. It would soon become the “worst-kept secret in journalism” as journalists tried to verify its claims.

With the election just weeks away, the FBI applied to the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court for permission to spy on former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page. Its original request was denied, but then was



Come Meet Isaiah and King Hezekiah!

Archaeological evidence of these two biblical giants is coming to Armstrong Auditorium. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JUNE 10, THE ARMSTRONG INTERNATIONAL Cultural Foundation (the humanitarian arm of the organization that publishes the *Trumpet* magazine) will host a three-month archaeological exhibit in the lobby of Armstrong Auditorium. We have titled the exhibit “Seals of Isaiah and King Hezekiah Discovered,” after the stars of the show: two clay seal impressions (bullae) of King Hezekiah and Isaiah.

Renowned archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar discovered the bullae during 2009–2010 archaeological excavations on the Ophel in Jerusalem. This exhibit will be the world premiere of the bullae and will likely be the only time these artifacts are exhibited outside of Israel.

Beyond showcasing the bullae and more than 40 other artifacts, our exhibit will explore the dramatic story told by these treasures of antiquity. All the artifacts date to the eighth century B.C. They confirm the biblical account of Judah’s renaissance, its miraculous deliverance from the Assyrian Empire, and the extraordinary relationship between King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet. The exhibit will feature the Judean artifacts alongside Assyrian history and Jewish records, creating a triumvirate of truth proving the accuracy of the biblical record.

While the stars of the show are the seals of King Hezekiah and Isaiah, the supporting cast is also exciting. Among the artifacts on loan from the Israel Antiquity Authority are iron arrowheads used in the Assyrian siege of Lachish, silver bullion, and royal

For more information about the Isaiah seal, read
“Has Eilat Mazar Discovered Archaeological Evidence of Isaiah the Prophet?”
theTrumpet.com/16962

Judean clay vessels. Featured Assyrian history will include replicas of the wall reliefs of Lachish, the Azekah inscription, and the famous Annals of Sennacherib Prism (aka Taylor Prism).

The history of the artifacts will be chronicled via maps, illustrations, mini-documentaries, time lines, interactive aids and storyboards. Visitors will be able to take the exhibit home with them in the form of a free, 32-page, full-color brochure. Finally, visitors to Armstrong Auditorium will be able to walk through a 10-foot-long re-creation of a section of Hezekiah's Tunnel, the underground water passageway built by King Hezekiah and still flowing beneath the City of David.

The grand opening of the exhibit on Sunday, June 10, will be a special event. It will open with a special symposium hosted from the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and live-streamed to the theater in Armstrong Auditorium. The symposium will feature guest speakers including *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry and Dr. Eilat Mazar. The symposium, in addition to explaining the seals of Isaiah and Hezekiah, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our foundation's "iron bridge" partnership with Benjamin and Eilat Mazar and the State of Israel.

If you would like to attend opening day in Edmond, Oklahoma, you can learn more and secure your ticket by visiting ArmstrongAuditorium.org. If you cannot make opening day, "Seals of Isaiah and King Hezekiah Discovered" runs through Sunday, August 19. Entrance is free after opening day.

Finally, we have created an online version of "Seals of Isaiah and King Hezekiah Discovered." You can tour the exhibit at www.watchjerusalem.co.il.



JUNE 10
THROUGH AUGUST 19, 2018

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To learn about the Hezekiah bulla, read
"The Significance of the Hezekiah Bulla"
theTrumpet.com/16711

THE FINANCE OF THE FUTURE?

‘Fintech’: miracle, or meh?

BY RICHARD PALMER

THE WORLD IS ON THE CUSP OF A financial revolution—if you believe the fans of new financial technology (“fintech”).

“[W]e’re in the biggest experiment in human history when it comes to money, identity and freedom of expression,” said Ameer Rosic, CEO of Blockgeeks. These new technologies will “profoundly affect people in all walks of life,” Alex and Don Tapscott wrote in *Blockchain Revolution*.

To the uninitiated, terms like “bitcoin,” “block chain” and “cryptocurrency” remain obscure. But enthusiasts believe these technologies are destined to become as important as the once-obscure technologies of the “worldwide web,” the “Internet” and the “computer.”

“Blockchain is the key technology of the next 20 years,” said Philipp Sandner, head of the Blockchain Center at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management.

“Blockchain is the key technology of the next 20 years.”

—PHILIPP SANDNER
Frankfurt School of
Finance and Management

It’s not just financial professionals getting excited. Conservation biologist Guillaume Chapron believes that “blockchains can even save the planet” (*Wired*, May 22, 2017).

“Look, blockchains aren’t magic, it can’t do everything, it’s not like we’re out here solving world hunger,” said Brigid McDermott, IBM’s vice president of blockchain business development. “But then I thought, ‘Wait, solving world hunger is exactly what we’re doing’” (*ibid*). “Blockchains aren’t magic, but maybe they can perform miracles,” *Wired* concluded.

Not everyone is so enthusiastic.

Nouriel Roubini, an economist who shot to fame after correctly forecasting the 2008 financial crisis, wrote an article with fellow economist Preston Byrne arguing that blockchain “might just be the most overhyped technology of all time.”

What is the truth? Is fintech a miracle or ... meh?

Forecasting technology is notoriously tricky. In 1955, the president of the Lewyt Vacuum Cleaner Company said, “Nuclear-powered vacuum cleaners will probably be a reality within 10 years.” Web pioneer Robert Metcalfe said in 1995, “I predict the Internet will soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse.” Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer confidently asserted in 2007, “There’s no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share.”

We at the *Trumpet* are not financial professionals. We don’t have years of advanced education and experience in global banking and technology. But we do have some insight into the financial system of the future—because we have Bible prophecy.

A New Financial Empire

In 1984, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote that a massive *banking crisis in America* “could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.” (co-worker letter, July 22, 1984).

Mr. Armstrong came to this conclusion based on a lifetime of studying Europe. He even discussed it with European politician Otto von Habsburg, who agreed that Europe would only truly unite if threatened by a financial crisis.

But Mr. Armstrong’s forecast was also based on biblical prophecy. The Bible tells us the global financial system is on the brink of revolution.

Revelation 17 and 18 describe a “beast,” symbolic of a great empire. The beast has seven heads, a symbol of seven successive resurgences.

Revelation 17:10 makes this point clear: “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” In other words, this empire has seven phases. Each head symbolizes a different ruler or dynasty. These dynasties come one after the other. At the time this prophecy was revealed in this end time, five of these rulers were gone, one was on the scene, and one would come later. Between these periods of power, the beast appears dead. It “was, and is not,”

until it “shall ascend out of the bottomless pit” (verse 8).

The start of Revelation 17 tells us that this beast is ridden by “a woman,” which in biblical prophecy symbolizes a church.

Where in world history has there been a series of empires influenced by a major church? There is only one answer: Europe. Revelation 17 and 18 are describing a European power with a long history. It has undergone six resurrections already. The seventh is now rising: a united European empire.

The Bible tells us this new empire will be a financial superpower. When this European power eventually falls, “the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her” because they “were made rich by her” (Revelation 18:11, 15).

At the time the Bible was written, the greatest trading center was the city of Tyre. The Phoenicians of Tyre traveled around the world and were famous as merchants. This is why the Old Testament often uses the label “Tyre” to describe this soon-coming power.

Isaiah 23 describes this modern Tyre joining a “mart of nations” with powers in the East: China and Japan (referred to by their ancient names of origin, Chitim and Tarshish). Ezekiel 27 refers to this same power. Here God calls this modern Tyre “a merchant of the people for many isles” and describes it as doing business with merchants around the world.

Read “**Trade Wars Have Begun**” from the April 2017 issue: theTrumpet.com/14643

Revelation 13 provides additional prophetic details about this power. It says that no man will be able to “buy or sell” without this regime’s approval (verse 17). Not only is it a great trading empire, but the government also has authoritarian control of the economy.

These prophecies mean there are some huge changes coming to the global financial system. This system is currently dominated not by Europe, but by the U.S. Hence Mr. Armstrong’s forecasts of a global financial crisis beginning in America. A revolutionary change would be necessary to bring about a European-dominated global currency. This crisis could also spark Europe to suddenly consolidate as a united power. We have already

witnessed a rehearsal of this trend in the way that the euro crisis prodded Europe to take major steps in this direction.

But could fintech also play a role in this revolution? After all, its enthusiasts forecast that this technology will revolutionize global finance.

Intriguingly, the individual the *Trumpet* expects to play a key role in building this new European superpower is heavily involved in fintech.

A European Strongman

The Bible prophesies that the seventh resurrection of the European power will be led by a strongman. Daniel 8:23-24 describe the rise of “a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences.” Verse 25 says he will be defeated after he stands up “against the Prince of princes”; this reveals the time frame for this fierce king’s reign: He will come in the very end time, right before Jesus Christ’s Second Coming. For proof that this man’s empire is the same power described in Revelation 17, read “Why the *Trumpet* Watches the Rise of a German Strongman” (theTrumpet.com/16575).

America’s financial system collapses. This throws Europe and the globe into a financial crisis. This strongman then helps unite Europe. It is logical to surmise that he is able to do so partially

“An impressive man appeared in the front line of German politics when he was appointed as Germany’s minister of economics in February 2009. Then Angela Merkel rocketed his political stature overnight later that year by giving him the senior portfolio of defense minister in her coalition cabinet. ...

“Guttenberg quickly passed Chancellor Merkel in favor as the most popular politician in Germany This aristocratic Guttenberg is particularly interesting because of his family and political connections. His early development in political life was guided by [Edmund] Stoiber Stoiber’s political mentor was the Bavarian prime minister whom he succeeded, Franz Josef Strauss, who was known in his time as ‘the strongman of Europe.’

“Guttenberg is also connected through part of his family line to the house of Habsburg. Strauss and Otto von Habsburg shared a common dream of a united Catholic Europe. Both personally shared details of that vision with Herbert W. Armstrong during visits they made to the campus of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. ...

“Take Guttenberg’s impeccable Frankish-Bavarian Roman Catholic connections into mind and add them to the thread of political thought that has pervaded Bavarian politics for decades

**“I AM CONVINCED THAT
BLOCKCHAIN WILL EVOLVE
AND BE VERY IMPORTANT.”**
—KARL-THEODOR ZU GUTTENBERG



because he has knowledge and connections relating to global finance.

Since 2009, the *Trumpet* has said that the strongman in this prophecy could be former German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains why in his free booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent:*

under Strauss and Stoiber—the dream of a united Catholic Europe under German leadership. Then add to it something that neither Strauss nor Stoiber ever possessed—a striking family title that cements all of these connections together—and we have a MAN TO WATCH in the shaky coalition of Chancellor Merkel’s government. ...



Blockchain 101 10110

ONE OF THE MOST DISCUSSED NEW financial technologies is blockchain. This technology is at the heart of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

Digital information is simply numbers: a string of zeroes and ones. The key challenge of a digital currency is how to stop someone from spending it twice. If the currency is a number, you could pass that number on to as many people as you like.

The solution is blockchain. How it works is complicated, but what it does is simple. It is an uneditable list. For bitcoin, the blockchain is a chronological list of all transactions that a coin has been involved in, and it is spread around the world. To change the record, you would have to hack not one central database, but a huge number of systems.

So any time you want to make an uneditable audit trail available to a lot of people, blockchain could be useful.

An uneditable list has potential far beyond finance. It has been touted as a solution to conflict diamonds, for example, by creating a verifiable audit trail so a concerned buyer can be sure their engagement ring didn't come from a war zone. This is just the tip of the iceberg: It has been hailed as the solution to problems as diverse as Internet privacy and world hunger.

The decentralized nature of blockchain offers another advantage. Because a list of past transactions is readily accessible, two people can do business without needing a third party. You can do that with cash, of course. But it wasn't always possible online; you would have to instruct your bank to get in touch with your client's bank to organize the

money transfer. Blockchain allows one individual to verify he owns some bitcoin and pass it on to someone else without reference to a central database. Blockchain eliminates the middlemen, reduces or eliminates transaction fees, speeds up international payments, and frees users from reliance on banks and governments.

This is why governments have been suspicious of blockchain. Many see it as merely a tool of tax evasion. Like cash transactions, cryptocurrency transactions using blockchain cannot be traced by the government. Unlike cash, even the creation of cryptocurrencies is independent of governments.

But if organized differently, blockchain-based transactions and records could become a tool for government surveillance. Some users are finding this out for themselves. From 2011 to 2013, shoppers could use bitcoin to anonymously buy almost anything illegal online at a website called Silk Road: cocaine, cyanide, hacking software, firearms and hit men. The site was shut down in 2013. But the records of those transactions are forever included in the blockchain. The details of their transactions are available for anyone to see. If users weren't careful to hide their details when buying the bitcoin, the government can find them.

The vice president of the Chinese central bank has outlined this possibility. Under his proposed state-run cryptocurrency, the government can see every transaction every citizen makes, in real time.

Thus blockchain—a tool designed to aid anonymous transactions—could become the ultimate tool for government surveillance and control.

RICHARD PALMER

“The current Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg’s official title was granted to his forebears during the 18th century. HIS CORRECT TITLE IS *REICHSFREIHERR*, THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION BEING, ‘BARON OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.’” (You can read more on why we watch Guttenberg by requesting a free copy of *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*.)

Guttenberg was forced to step down in 2011 due to a plagiarism scandal. But he proved hugely popular last autumn when he returned to politics to campaign for his Christian Social Union party, and he is becoming an increasingly vocal commentator on German, and even global, politics.

He has also become heavily involved in financial technology.

Guttenberg and Fintech

In August 2013, Guttenberg founded Spitzberg Partners, a consultancy firm in New York. “Our core mission is to help technology and financial services companies invest and expand their business in major European and emerging markets,” he said. “We have a unique background in high-level government positions and an excellent team with specialists in new technologies and financial markets.”

One of Spitzberg’s specialties is the field of cryptocurrency—digital currencies not controlled by national governments. The firm has a “significant portion” of fintech companies as its clients, Guttenberg said.

Spitzberg has worked for the state of Delaware, for example, to integrate new technologies into the financial system. The state is experimenting with ways to use blockchain in its interactions with businesses and has introduced a bill in the state Senate recognizing blockchain as a means of owning and trading stocks.

Guttenberg is also on the advisory board of ripple, a major cryptocurrency and serious rival to the more famous bitcoin. “Unlike bitcoin, ripple is a cryptocurrency that works with banks around the world,” wrote *Handelsblatt*. One German trading website called ripple the “bitcoin of banks.” Guttenberg himself wrote that ripple is “taking a wise middle course as they replace the centuries-old correspondent banking system, yet while integrating the

affected banks through open neutral protocols in finding solutions and linking them together.” Ripple has partnered with Santander, UniCredit, UBS and the Frankfurt ReiseBank.

“Guttenberg and his team have continued to work behind the scenes to help build out ripple’s network,” wrote CoinDesk, adding that ripple has “SWIFT square in its sights.” Ripple is aiming high: SWIFT is the main network that facilitates transactions between banks around the world.

Guttenberg is also on the board of directors for Mountain Partners, one of Switzerland’s largest tech-focused investment firms.

With all this background, Guttenberg is a frequent speaker at conferences on fintech. He told German newsmagazine *Stern* that blockchain is among his favorite subjects. At one conference he said, “I am convinced that blockchain will evolve and be very important.”

Guttenberg has been Germany’s economics minister and now has experience in dealing with financial

EU countries have launched a European Blockchain Partnership to look at ways to integrate these technologies in Europe’s financial system.

Some aspects of fintech could tie in with what Bible prophecy has forecast (sidebar: “Blockchain 101 10110”).

Blockchain and cryptocurrencies are a bit of a “Wild West.” There are already nearly 1,800 cryptocurrencies, and more are constantly being introduced. Bitcoin, the most prominent digital currency, has seen its values swing wildly. When it first appeared in 2009, one bitcoin was worth much less than one cent. In 2011, it was worth \$1. In 2013, it was worth about \$100. In December 2017, it peaked at \$17,500. Now it’s back down to about \$9,000.

If this technology is to become mainstream, Guttenberg’s approach of mixing old and new tech seems to be a promising approach, as it may help smooth out such extremes.

Forecasting exactly how this technology will be used is a mug’s game. But the Bible shows us that the man

a crisis for Europe, but it would also cut the Continent’s trans-Atlantic ties.

Already these ties are fraying. Guttenberg is no friend to the U.S. under Donald Trump. Another project he is involved in is the Renew Democracy Initiative, which he founded last year alongside Garry Kasparov, Anne Applebaum, Max Boot, Bret Stephens, Richard Hurowitz and others. “The starting point of this initiative was the election of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency,” he said. Guttenberg sees Mr. Trump as part of “the resurgence of authoritarian and extremist ideology in Western democracies.”

“Listening to Mr. Guttenberg and the way people are responding to him, I have to say that it looks like the relationship between the U.S. and Germany is already dead!” Mr. Flurry wrote after Germany’s federal election last year.

“Prophecy tells us in detail just what this strongman is going to do,” Mr. Flurry continued. “It also says that he can’t even *imagine* the damage he will wreak on America—but at a certain point, *his mind is going to change*. (Read about this in Chapter 2 of my booklet on the Prophet Habakkuk.) We are watching for that mind change. Perhaps, to some degree, it is already happening!

“These things might be the best indication that Baron Guttenberg could be the man we are watching for.”

So many of God’s prophecies discussed by Mr. Armstrong have already been fulfilled. Europe is well on its way to becoming the unified state he described. Impending catastrophes promise to dramatically accelerate this trend. In that 1984 letter, Mr. Armstrong wrote that this new European “world power” would bring great destruction on the world “suddenly.”

“And that,” he wrote, “will lead quickly into the Second Coming of Christ and end of this world as we know it.” Closely watch these trends. The details remain to be seen, but the word of Bible prophecy is sure—which is cause for tremendous hope! ■

“The drift toward world economic collapse is the most serious threat to the continued existence of the present civilization.” —HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

leaders from both the private and government sector from around the world. There are few people better placed to use modern technology to rescue and rebuild a broken financial system. Even if modern fintech is not used, Guttenberg’s experience in dealing with banks and leaders on issues surrounding currency and finance gives him an excellent background to help launch a new financial system.

Vote for Petro

The idea of government adopting some form of fintech is certainly not far-fetched. The Swiss UBS, Goldman Sachs, the German Stock Exchange, Nasdaq and the Bank of England are just some of the big names testing and experimenting with financial technology. Venezuela, which is in dire financial circumstances, has introduced a government-backed cryptocurrency, the petro. The Russian government has prepared legislation to produce a crypto-ruble. Twenty-two

we have been watching over the last decade could be well placed to use it in Europe’s future.

“In the world, the drift toward world economic collapse is the most serious threat to the continued existence of the present civilization,” wrote Mr. Armstrong. It is this collapse, he explained, that “could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as A NEW WORLD POWER larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.” (op cit).

This new world power would be dangerous. Since World War II, Europe has been welded to the United States. It has profited from the global economic system based on the dollar. The American Navy protects Europe’s overseas trade. A financial collapse in the U.S. would be

Why we watch Guttenberg

Strong leaders are on the rise, and Bible prophecy says Germany will have one soon. To learn more, request Gerald Flurry’s free special report **A Strong German Leader Is Imminent**.



granted when the FBI returned with the Steele dossier and a Yahoo News article. It presented the latter as independent corroboration of the dossier, when in fact both came from Steele and the FBI knew it. The fact that the wife of a top Justice Department official helped write the dossier was concealed from the court. The DOJ and the FBI, including Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates and director Comey himself, would sign several applications and renewals for spying on Page and thereby on other campaign members. Deputy director Andrew McCabe would later admit to the House Intelligence Committee that the FBI could not have sought to spy on Carter Page *without* the Steele dossier.

New Reason for the Investigation

Two years after Steele began filing his dossier, it has been exposed as a politically motivated fraud. The investigation of Carter Page has turned up nothing. But the deep state and its allies in the mainstream media have pivoted to ANOTHER reason for continuing to investigate Donald Trump's "collusion" with Russia. It has to do with a young, low-level member of Trump's foreign-policy campaign team named George Papadopoulos.

In May 2016, Papadopoulos got drunk at a London pub and blabbed to Australia's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Alexander Downer, that the Russians had obtained thousands of Hillary Clinton's e-mails. We are now told that THIS is what *really* triggered the investigation, not so much the Steele dossier.

According to the *New York Times*, the Australians allowed the FBI to interview Ambassador Downer in London right around the time the FBI officially opened its investigation into the Trump campaign: July 31, 2016.

Codenamed "Crossfire Hurricane," the investigation into the Trump team was shrouded in secrecy, quite unlike the FBI probe into Hillary Clinton and her private e-mail server. There, director Comey *publicly* chastised the former secretary of state for her carelessness but recommend that she *not* be prosecuted. With Donald Trump, the FBI doggedly searched for reasons to prosecute but carefully *concealed*

the details of the investigation from the American people.

Underpinning both cases, the *New York Times* wrote on May 16, "was one political calculation: that Mrs. Clinton would win and Mr. Trump would lose. Agents feared being seen as withholding information or going too easy on her. And they worried that any overt actions against Mr. Trump's campaign would only reinforce his claims that the election was being rigged against him."

The FBI and DOJ wanted to legitimize Clinton's certain presidential victory by showing America she had been thoroughly investigated for the private e-mail scandal *and completely exonerated*.

The assumption that Hillary would win also informed Comey's decision to reopen the investigation into Clinton 11 days before the presidential election. In early October 2016, the bureau stumbled upon tens of thousands of Clinton e-mails on the laptop of Clinton aide Huma Abedin's husband, Anthony Weiner. The FBI wrestled over what to do with the incriminating information, not wanting to hurt Hillary's chances of winning but also wanting to legitimize her presidency and keep critics from being able to say the bureau hid this explosive revelation. Comey opted to notify Congress on Oct. 28, 2016, that he had reopened investigation.

Then, on Nov. 8, 2016, the deep state that had been living in a world where Hillary Clinton would be the next president suddenly found itself in a world where DONALD TRUMP had been elected. The Clinton e-mail scandal? It disappeared almost as fast as the Trump-Russia collusion probe burst into the open!

Operating in a New World

The Obama administration, Democrats and the mainstream media had slapped down reports of Russian interference in the U.S. election before November 8. Following Trump's stunning victory, they immediately claimed that Russia rigged the election in Trump's favor—and that Trump's team had *colluded* with Russia.

As Donald Trump's inauguration approached, Obama's Justice Department and FBI expanded their investigation of Trump's transition team, and Obama himself worked hard behind the scenes to vastly expand the NSA's

ability to share information with the 16 other federal intelligence agencies. The *New York Times* reported, "In the Obama administration's last days, some White House officials scrambled to spread information about Russian efforts to undermine the presidential election—and about possible contacts between associates of President-elect Donald J. Trump and Russians—ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT" (March 1, 2017; emphasis added throughout).

An Obama official named Evelyn Farkas admitted on *Morning Joe* that if the Trump administration "found out how we knew what we knew about ... the Trump staff's dealing with Russians, that they would try to compromise those sources and methods, meaning we would no longer have access to that intelligence."

So on the way out, Obama's administration empowered the intelligence agencies by giving them more latitude to spread "information" across the intelligence community. They wanted the investigation, if not the surveillance, to continue even while Mr. Trump was president.

During that same transition period, the deep state was hard at work setting up President-elect Trump for a future indictment and/or impeachment. The director of national intelligence, James Clapper, directed James Comey to brief the president-elect on *some* of the allegations in the Steele dossier. Comey didn't tell Trump that Steele had been fired by the FBI. He didn't say the dossier was ultimately funded by the Clinton campaign. He didn't say he had relied on the dossier and personally signed an application to receive a secret court order to spy on Carter Page and the Trump campaign even while *knowing* it was unverified gossip. He just told the president-elect about some of the dossier's salacious content and said certain media outlets had the information and were looking for a "news hook" that would justify their publication of the political opposition "research."

Following this Comey-Trump meeting, Clapper—the one who directed Comey to brief Mr. Trump—promptly leaked information about the meeting to CNN, giving the network *the hook it needed* to "report" on the dossier.

Comey, meanwhile, penned a series of memos to himself about what he and Donald Trump discussed during the transition and in the early months of the new presidency. Comey later gave these memos to a friend, who then leaked them to the media. He asked his friend to do this, Comey testified in June 2017, because he thought it “might prompt the appointment of a special counsel.”

That is exactly what happened. In May 2017, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed former FBI director Robert Mueller as special counsel with wide-ranging authority to investigate any links between members of the Trump campaign and Russia, any other matters that arise directly from that investigation, and other issues. The one-year anniversary of that probe has come and gone, and Mueller has been busy forcing Trump’s national security adviser to resign, expanding his investigation’s scope beyond its original parameters, indicting Russians, providing reasons for raiding the dwellings of Trump’s personal attorney, and coming up with justification to keep the investigation going. Meanwhile, Mueller has been deafeningly silent in providing any evidence of Trump colluding with Russia as described in the Steele dossier or other sources.

A dizzying series of battles waged in the government and the media have become public. We have learned that President-elect Trump’s seemingly outrageous claim that Trump Tower was being monitored by the Obama administration was true. We have learned that Fusion GPS directly paid journalists who reported about Russian interference in the election. We have learned that Fusion GPS cofounder Glenn Simpson paid Steele out of pocket after Clinton lost the election to keep the dossier going. We have learned that Simpson’s wife claimed the CIA “hopped to and immediately worked to verify” the Steele dossier. We have learned that there were shocking reasons for President Trump to fire Comey. We have learned that members of Mueller’s investigative team, Peter Strzok and Lisa Page, were virulently biased against Trump and that Strzok advocated

having an “insurance policy” in place to use against Trump if he got elected.

We have seen a government at war with itself.

The Government Civil War

GOVERNMENT EXISTS SOLELY TO MAINTAIN A NATION’S RULE OF LAW. But America is now a place where the government is almost dominated by a deep state of spies, agents, politicians and bureaucrats who are spying on voters and their representatives and who are colluding to advance their own ideologies and their own personal gain. The government is usurping power and using it to destroy the Constitution and the rule of law itself!

It is amazing that the radical left failed to install Hillary Clinton into power and complete its takeover. It is amazing that Donald Trump was elected. It is amazing that his presidency has endured so many direct assaults by politicians, journalists, commentators and especially

the bureaucrats inside the executive branch over which the Constitution makes him the head. It is amazing that such powerful people as Obama, Clinton, Holder, Lynch, Clapper, Comey, McCabe, Strzok, Page, Ohr, Steele and others have been unable to keep the truth

of their actions from becoming public. It is amazing that, in spite of incessant attacks, President Trump has actually been able to revive some of America’s physical greatness.

How did all this happen? My father wrote in his cover story last issue, “Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily,” that God actually intervened to save the United States, not because of Mr. Trump’s greatness, but because of God’s pity (2 Kings 14:26-27).

“Donald Trump is a man with serious problems. But the radical left is relentlessly waging war against the president and leading this country to its destruction!” he wrote. “We are witnessing a

government—and a nation—on the verge of collapse!”

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in 1956 about the radical ideology that was infiltrating the nation: “It’s a kind of warfare we don’t understand or know how to cope with. It uses every diabolical means to *weaken us from within*, sapping our strength, perverting our morals, sabotaging our educational system, wrecking our social structure, destroying our spiritual and religious life, weakening our industrial and economic power, demoralizing our armed forces, and finally, after such infiltration, overthrowing our government by force and violence!”

Look back at the last 60 years. Has this not happened? Are we not entering the very last stage of that progression?

My father writes in his booklet *Great Again* that Communists “aim to destroy the system, because they can’t build another one until that happens. The Communist



COMEY LATER GAVE THESE MEMOS TO A FRIEND, WHO THEN LEAKED THEM TO THE MEDIA. HE ASKED HIS FRIEND TO DO THIS, COMEY TESTIFIED IN JUNE 2017, BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT “MIGHT PROMPT THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COUNSEL.”

attack from within America is far more significant than you may realize. We are staring it in the face today.” Earlier he writes, “We must see reality: Something deadly dangerous has seized the country—far more than what people realize. There is a spiritual dimension to what is happening, and you cannot understand these events unless you recognize this.”

Miraculously, the actual physical violence of that takeover was averted. But only barely—and only temporarily.

If you believe that there is no God, you believe that everything is random: the past greatness of the United States, its current peril, its brief revival, its

imminent overthrow—even the suffering of human beings in general and the existence of human beings in the first place. But if you believe that there is a God, you know there must be real reasons why America is crumbling.

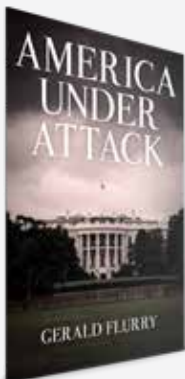
In *America Under Attack*, my father boldly states that the power behind this assault comes from Satan the devil!

Satan is very real, and he is the source of the spirit, the ideology and the hate that somehow unites Communists, statist, anarchists, extremists, sexual deviants and other elements of the radical left. He is the one uniting them against a shared enemy: the last remaining Bible-based principles of the past. He is also the source of the weakness, the blindness and the apathy of those who aren't as radical. And he is the source of a movement within the government itself to *destroy* the government itself.

My father brings out that we at the *Trumpet* have *seen this before*. The United States is part of the physical descendants of Israel. God's Church is spiritual Israel. After the human leader of God's Church (Herbert W. Armstrong) died in 1986, Satan attacked the Church. How did he do it? With a new ideology, with hatred for the past, with powerful leaders at the top, with apathy and confusion among the people. He did it slowly and subtly. He did it by leaders boldly proclaiming that they were loyal to the principles of the past while they knowingly destroyed those principles. He did it by portraying as backward, oppressive and, yes, racist, those who continued to believe and live the way they had always believed and lived. He did it by people ignoring, belittling and forcing out those who didn't adopt their liberal ideology.

Does this sound familiar? You will be shocked to see how

closely the ongoing attack on the United States government matches the attack on God's Church. If you have not yet read my father's booklets *America Under Attack* and *Great Again*, now is the time. ■



IS THE 'DEEP STATE' REAL?

How much power do unelected bureaucrats and intelligence agents wield inside the United States government?

BY ANDREW MILLER

SINCE DONALD TRUMP WAS ELECTED president of the United States, a large amount of classified information has leaked from the government to the press. The majority of this information from anonymous and barely anonymous sources has been designed to discredit, damage and possibly end his presidency.

Meanwhile, intelligence agencies have withheld intelligence reports from the president, and former spy chiefs have denounced the president as inexperienced, unstable and unethical. Federal agents have raided the office of the president's personal attorney. Bureaucrats have found ways to obstruct, slow down, openly challenge or simply ignore the president's instructions. When President Trump has publicly criticized and fired officials for such behavior, news commentators have accused him of dismantling a pillar of American government.

The vague complexities and "plausible deniabilities" inside the labyrinth of the federal government are confusing enough. But these scandals, investigations, accusations and lies within the government are absolutely bewildering to many. But it all comes down to one

definite, disturbing fact: The federal government is at war with itself.

Bureaucrats in Washington are waging a civil war against the Trump administration. He said he wanted to "drain the swamp," but the swamp is fighting back. Many commentators are saying that something called the "deep state" is trying to exert its control over the United States government to the point of forcing President Trump from office.

Republican strategist Roger Stone said that if globalists within the government succeed in ousting President Trump, a "spasm of violence" could erupt. Some describe the nation as hurtling toward rioting and urban warfare.

Such warnings sound extreme. But to know how seriously you should take the deep-state threat, you have to understand what it is and why it is fighting President Trump.

Deep State Rising

The term "deep state" originated in the 1970s in Turkey to describe a powerful, unelected government of bureaucrats, spies and military officers who colluded with drug cartels to put down a Kurdish insurgency.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines “deep state” as “a body of people, typically influential members of government agencies or the military, believed to be involved in the secret manipulation or control of government policy.”

In the United States, the term typically describes the permanent bureaucracy of unelected officials who govern the country with increasing autonomy and decreasing transparency.

Fears that such a group of unelected officials could secretly be directing government policy date back to 1947, when President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act. This act created the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Central Intelligence Agency. During the Cold War, officials like CIA director Allen Dulles and Federal Bureau of Investigation director J. Edgar Hoover recruited at least a thousand former Nazi agents to work as American spies and informants. This was done behind the backs of the American people, and President Truman came to deeply regret his role in establishing these agencies.

“I never had any thought that when I set up the CIA that it would be injected into peacetime cloak-and-dagger operations,” he wrote in the *Washington Post* on Dec. 22, 1963. “Some of the complications and embarrassment I think we have experienced are in part attributable to the fact that this quiet intelligence arm of the president has been so removed from its intended role that it is being interpreted as a symbol of sinister and mysterious foreign intrigue—and a subject for Cold War enemy propaganda.”

Instead of making the CIA more accountable to the American people, however, government officials allowed the intelligence community to continue operating with negligible oversight and considerable independence, to the point of assassinating foreign leaders and illegally monitoring the communications of U.S. citizens, up to and including the president of the United States. In 1971, a Navy stenographer admitted to rifling through burn bags, interoffice envelopes and briefcases for communications between President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and also passing on top-secret

documents to the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. (The espionage became known as the Moorer-Radford affair.) The Joint Chiefs of Staff was illegally spying on its commander in chief.

When Sen. Frank Church led an investigation into CIA, FBI and National Security Agency activities in the 1970s, he warned that technological advancements were giving these agencies unprecedented surveillance powers.

“If this government ever became a tyranny, if a dictator ever took charge in this country, the technological capacity that the intelligence community has given the government could enable it to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back because the most careful effort to combine together in resistance to the government, no matter how privately it was done, is within the reach of the government to know,” Senator Church said on NBC’s *Meet the Press* in 1975. “I don’t want to see this country ever go across the bridge. I know the capacity that is there to make tyranny total in America, and we must see to it that this agency and all agencies that possess this technology operate within the law and under proper supervision, so that we never cross over that abyss.”

But the technological capacities that Church warned about grew stronger during the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack Obama. President Bush signed an executive order in 2002 authorizing the NSA to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens and foreign nationals if the government suspected that they had ties to terrorists. Even though President Obama promised to curb data collection of U.S. citizens, he greatly expanded the power of America’s entrenched surveillance state. During his administration, intelligence agents illegally monitored journalists, members of Congress, the Trump presidential campaign and millions of American citizens.

Even though Barack Obama is no longer president, most of the 850,000 people who held top-secret clearances in his administration are still on the job.

The Fourth Branch of Government

Whether we call it the deep state or something else, it is undeniable that

Washington has a deeply embedded bureaucracy that has existed for decades. Many of these bureaucrats staunchly oppose President Trump and his inner circle. The problems this reality creates represent an enormous distortion of how America’s Founding Fathers established the government.

When the framers of the U.S. Constitution designed three coequal branches of government, they gave the legislative branch the power to write laws, the judicial branch the power to interpret laws, and the executive branch the power to enforce laws. The gigantic bureaucracy many Americans think of when they think of the federal government is not in the Constitution at all. It is supposed to exist only to serve the executive branch—which is the president—in carrying out its constitutional duties. Instead it has become an unelected fourth branch of government.

Early presidents were assisted by a limited number of officials whom they nominated and appointed. About 1,000 nonmilitary employees assisted George Washington. A century later, about 40,000 nonmilitary employees assisted Benjamin Harrison. Less than 50 years later, Franklin Roosevelt swelled the number of federal bureaucrats to an all-time high of 3.5 million nonmilitary employees. Today, there are 2,794,000 federal employees in 15 departments, 69 agencies and 383 nonmilitary sub-agencies. This sprawling administrative state consumed \$3.98 trillion in 2017, one fifth of America’s total economic output.

These unelected bureaucrats are technically supposed to report to the president, but there are far too many of them to manage. New presidents appoint less than 1 percent of federal positions. The other 99 percent are career bureaucrats. This is why most federal agencies have evolved into independent entities over which the president has limited control. The deep state doesn’t just consist of intelligence agents; it’s much bigger than that. This is seriously concerning to anyone who believes America’s strength, stability and survival depend on the principles of individual freedom in constitutional government.

“This exponential growth has led to increasing power and independence for agencies,” wrote Georgetown

law professor Jonathan Turley in a *Washington Post* editorial. “The shift of authority has been staggering. The fourth branch now has a larger practical impact on the lives of citizens than all the other branches combined” (May 24, 2013).

One study found that elected lawmakers in Congress enacted 138 public laws in 2007—whereas unelected federal bureaucrats established 2,926 regulations. A similar

administrative state” was a core objective of the Trump administration. Even after Bannon left, President Trump has since stepped up his war on federal regulations, vowing last December to shrink the Code of Federal Regulations by an astounding 87 percent.

“[T]he never-ending growth of red tape in America has come to a sudden, screeching and beautiful halt,” he said. “We’re going to cut a ribbon because we’re getting back below the 1960 level, and we’ll be there fairly quickly.”

To accomplish this goal, President Trump signed an executive order requiring federal agencies to cut two old regulations for every new regulation they pass. He has used budget cuts and a hiring freeze to reduce

the federal workforce by almost 17,000 employees so far. He has also laid out a plan to fill the courts with judges dedicated to challenging the growing power of federal agencies to make, interpret and enforce federal regulations.

All of this reduces the authority of government bureaucrats who derive their relevance, their lifestyles and their paychecks from taxpayer dollars paid to them in return for their micro-managing people’s lives.

Therefore, federal officials have strong motives to subvert the president’s agenda. Days after President Trump was inaugurated and established a travel ban on several Middle Eastern nations, the interim head of the Justice Department refused to implement it. Shortly thereafter, the *Washington Post* reported that bureaucrats were seeking advice from Obama-era appointees on how to push back against the Trump administration (which, constitutionally, they were supposed to be serving). Bureaucrats have carefully timed and carefully targeted leaks of information that they think will damage the president. They provide this information to

powerful, sympathetic media channels in an attempt to undermine the new administration.

Deep State Coup d’état

While federal bureaucrats are trying to subvert the president’s agenda, top brass at the FBI are trying to subvert the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. Recovered text messages exchanged by FBI agent Peter Strzok and FBI lawyer Lisa Page reveal that Strzok told FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe that the department needed an “insurance policy” in case Donald Trump was elected. At the heart of this “insurance policy” is a dossier produced by strategic intelligence firm Fusion GPS. It claims the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to steal the election.

This dossier was paid for by Hillary Clinton’s campaign, and none of its claims have been verified. Still, the FBI used the dossier to obtain a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to spy on former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page. By applying a “two-hop” rule, this warrant allowed the FBI to spy on Page, anyone connected to Page, and anyone connected to anyone connected to Page (potentially including Mr. Trump himself).

Despite knowing that the dossier was unverified, President Obama called a meeting of key officials from the U.S. intelligence community on Jan. 5, 2017, to discuss how the FBI’s investigation of the Trump campaign could continue after Mr. Trump was sworn in as president. This meeting included then CIA director John Brennan, then FBI director James Comey, NSA director Michael Rogers and then Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. They discussed how to continue an investigation on the next sitting president. If they could have kept Donald Trump out of office, they would have effectively staged a coup d’état by overturning the results of a democratic election.

Former FBI director Robert Mueller is currently leading a Special Counsel investigation into allegations of Russian interference into the 2016 presidential election. Even though he has not turned up any evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia,



MCCABE

PETER STRZOK AND FBI LAWYER LISA PAGE REVEAL THAT STRZOK TOLD FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR ANDREW MCCABE THAT THE DEPARTMENT NEEDED AN “INSURANCE POLICY” IN CASE DONALD TRUMP WAS ELECTED.

study found that federal judges conduct roughly 95,000 proceedings each year, compared to 939,000 cases tried by administrative “courts” tied to individual federal agencies in the executive branch. Subverting the separation of powers established in the Constitution, many federal bureaucracies possess all three powers of the legislature (regulations), the judiciary (administrative “courts”) and the executive (enforcement by armed agents).

If Americans are no longer governed by laws passed by their elected representatives, they no longer live in a democratic republic. They live in an authoritarian technocracy run by powerful, unelected bureaucrats, civil servants, military leaders and intelligence agents.

Revenge of the Bureaucrats

Donald Trump is a political outsider who has promised to shrink the government (“drain the swamp”), which returns power over an individual’s life to his state government, local government or himself. The president’s former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, said the “deconstruction of the

Democrats like Rep. Al Green and billionaire Tom Steyer are still using the rumors generated by Clinton's Steele dossier as weapons in an ongoing campaign to impeach President Trump.

This is the "insurance policy" Strzok and McCabe discussed. If deep-state agents can use unverified rumors to keep a political candidate they don't like out of office, what can't they do? What happens when the intelligence community goes rogue and starts fighting its own boss? In the past, in nations like Turkey and Egypt, people have risen up against the deep state when it tried to overturn the results of a democratic election. The rift between President Trump and the American deep state is more serious than most people realize. The president is at war with the most technologically advanced surveillance state to ever exist, and things stand to get violent.

Revolution and War

Americans today are not living in the nation of their Founding Fathers, or even of their own fathers. The nation's government is evolving away from the constitutional republic it once was into an authoritarian technocracy. President Trump is leading a populist revolt against the American deep state.

The Bible reveals that this revolt will end in unprecedented bloodshed unless the nation as a whole turns to God in repentance!

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong explained how modern Britain and America descended from ancient Israel. The Bible records that in the time just before Jesus Christ's return, sinful behavior among the Israelites would lead to government corruption and violent revolution.

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have

not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers" (Isaiah 1:4-7).

This passage describes cause and effect. The government is sick. The nation is faint. But why? Because the people are "laden with iniquity." Because the government is sick and faint, the people "revolt more and more."

It is not a coincidence that the deep state has risen as the morality of the nation has fallen. Blasphemy, corruption, covetousness, family breakdown, hatred, idolatry, murder, sexual sins and thievery have consumed America. People have abandoned personal responsibility and biblical morality. They have embraced selfish individualism, social welfare and materialism. As a result, they look to the government to provide, instead of relying on God. By delegating more and more power to the central authority of a human-run government, American citizens have created an administrative state with the power to confiscate the freedoms of those who oppose it.

While millions of Americans may now be waking up to the threat this sprawling network of deep-state departments presents to the nation, their populist revolution does not address the root causes behind this crisis. Corruption and bitter division in America today is leading to a conflict so devastating that the whole country will be laid desolate, and its cities will

burn with fire. These serious problems are not caused by one man or a group of government officials. Ultimately, they are caused by the sins of the American people as a whole. Only the repentance of the people can prevent the sickness in America's government from escalating into full-scale revolution and war.

"Many Americans are troubled by the divisions and hatreds being expressed right now," wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry. "But they need to be a lot more concerned than they are! The problems are going to get worse and worse until people get the message, and they learn why these disasters are happening! Donald Trump's win is a prophetic sign of impending civil war and anarchy, followed by America's worst military defeat ever! But don't blame the politicians or the race-baiters or the professional rioters. This situation exists in America only because of the sins of the nation—of all Americans! We can no longer ignore what we have reaped by giving ourselves over to sin. This is a reckoning!" (January 2017).

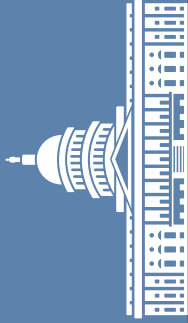
All Americans must come to realize that only Jesus Christ can solve the serious problems in their government. Only then will God establish His government and replace the government in the United States and the governments in all nations. This government will not be a democratic republic or an authoritarian technocracy. It will be a constitutional theocracy, with the law of God as the constitution and Christ the reigning King of kings. ■



CAN DONALD TRUMP KEEP AMERICA GREAT?

Despite a hostile bureaucracy, the U.S. president has accomplished much. Will his deeds last? To find out the answer from Bible prophecy, order Gerald Flurry's free booklet **Great Again**.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



33,154 | \$5,153,000,000



EXECUTIVE BRANCH



1,800 =
\$10,742,000,000
\$112,988



PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

Of the over 2 million bureaucrats working for the executive branch, the president appoints only about 4,000. This is why most federal agencies have evolved into independent entities over which the president has limited control.

JUDICIAL BRANCH



33,197 | \$8,099,000,000



THE CONSTITUTION

The U.S. Constitution gives the legislative branch the power to write laws, the judicial branch the power to interpret laws, and the executive branch the power to enforce laws. None of the federal agencies below are mentioned in the Constitution, and their purpose is to help the president enforce the laws the legislature passes. Despite this fact, many of these agencies have evolved into an unelected fourth branch of government.

KEY

TOTAL EMPLOYEES

REPRESENTS 1,800 EMPLOYEES
(equivalent to the number of staff working in executive office of the president of the United States)

2017 BUDGET
 ANNUAL WEAPONS PURCHASES



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
15,016
\$45,084,000,000



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
15,058
\$8,597,000,000
\$345,556



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
14,762
\$26,986,000,000
\$17,361,239



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
12,301
\$30,101,000,000



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
11,498
\$20,900,000,000
\$7,413,794



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
7,827
\$56,816,000,000
\$3,091



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
47,704
\$10,742,000,000
\$112,988



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
54,748
\$79,397,000,000
\$2,353



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
68,275
\$13,471,000,000
\$5,510,759



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
115,976
\$38,244,000,000
\$37,960,000



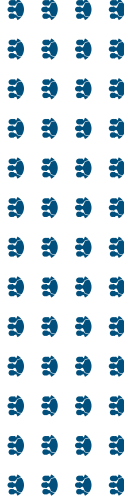
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
84,822
\$1,130,733,000,000
\$13,619,864



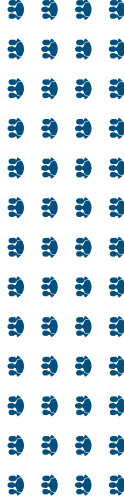
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
87,676
\$567,015,000,000
\$1,806,132



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 4,059
 \$111,781,000,000
 \$45,836



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 93,401
 \$132,967,000,000
 \$1,177,195

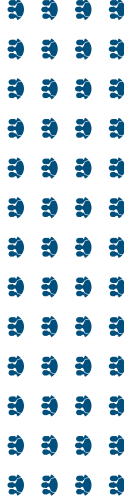


AMERICA'S DEEP STATE

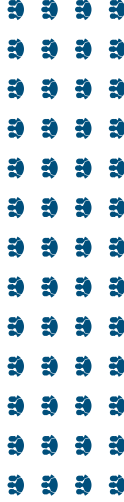
The federal government's carefully constructed system of checks and balances is being undermined by the rise of a fourth branch of government. Often referred to as the "deep state," this is a sprawling network of administrative agencies and federal bureaucracies. None of these career bureaucrats, civil servants and intelligence agents are elected, and only 1 percent of them are directly appointed by elected officials. Yet many of these federal bureaucracies possess the power to pass laws using administrative regulations, judge citizens using administrative courts, and execute their decisions using armed agents. This is exactly the situation American founding father James Madison warned about when he wrote:

"The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 4,059
 \$111,781,000,000
 \$45,836



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 93,401
 \$132,967,000,000
 \$1,177,195



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 198,399
 \$51,394,000,000
 \$64,977,778



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 198,399
 \$51,394,000,000
 \$64,977,778



DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
 381,457
 \$174,354,000,000
 \$1,295,556



DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
 381,457
 \$174,354,000,000
 \$1,295,556

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 37,796
 \$8,700,000,000
 \$11,322,222



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 731,100
 \$573,009,000,000



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 731,100
 \$573,009,000,000

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
 30,000
 \$10,800,000,000



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 21,575
 \$14,700,000,000



INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY



INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY



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INTELL

“**T**he eye is lost,” John Muir wrote to his mother as he lay in bed in Indianapolis, Indiana. *“I have written at random and in the dark but hope you will be able to read my meaning.”*

Three days earlier, the 28-year-old had been working in a carriage wheel factory. As he was using a metal file to tighten stitches on a spinning machine belt, the belt caught the tool, tore it out of Muir’s hand and flung it into his right eye.

His cornea was punctured and aqueous fluid began seeping out. “My right eye is gone, closed forever on all God’s beauty!” a co-worker heard him shout.

Muir managed to walk home and put himself to bed. But within a few hours, his left eye also began failing. Soon he was entirely blind.

This man’s response to his injury not only changed the course of his life, but also began a process that would change the course of the United States—in a way that has enriched life for millions of people.

‘The Inventions of God’

Muir believed he was permanently blind. It rattled him to his core. But an expert eventually examined him and said his left eye had only gone into a temporary sympathetic blindness and would fully recover. Muir was told that if he stayed confined to a darkened room for several weeks, that his right eye could also partially recover.

To John Muir, this was a new lease on life.

His employer offered him a promotion. Muir was a gifted inventor and a highly skilled mechanic, so his manager wanted to keep him on. But Muir refused the advancement and resigned. Due to his injury, he “saw the world—and his purpose—in a new light,” he said.

Before his injury, the Scottish-born Muir had loved studying God’s creation, especially trees and plants. But after those dark days when he thought he would never see it again, Muir realized that seeing the creation, gaining insight

into the Creator’s mind, was even more precious than he had thought.

He later wrote, “I bade adieu to all my mechanical inventions, determined to devote the rest of my life to the study of the inventions of God.”

“This affliction has driven me to the sweet fields,” Muir said. “God has to nearly kill us sometimes to teach us lessons.”

Bible-Based Affinity

Within a few months, Muir’s left eye was fully restored, and his right eye had recovered considerably. On Sept. 1, 1867, he made good on his pledge to devote himself to “the inventions of God” and began walking—from Indiana to the Gulf of Mexico.

“My plan was simply to push on in a general southward direction by the wildest, leafiest and least trodden way I could find, promising the greatest extent of virgin forest,” Muir wrote.

He kept a journal during this trip,

An Injury, a Camping Trip and a Better United States

These lands are your lands. And they can help you learn precious truths. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

later published under the title *A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf*. In his entry for September 10, he recounts his stay in the mountains of Tennessee with a blacksmith and his wife. During dinner, the blacksmith told Muir that he found it inappropriate for a man to spend his days studying plants. “[S]urely you are able to do something better than wander over the country and look at weeds and blossoms,” he said.

Muir asked the blacksmith if he believed in the Bible. The man said he did, and Muir responded with a reference to 1 Kings 4:32-34: “Well, you know Solomon was a strong-minded man and is generally believed to have been the very wisest man the world ever saw, and yet he considered it was worthwhile to study plants; not only to go and pick them up as I am doing, but to study them; and you know we are told that he wrote a book about plants, not only of the great cedars of Lebanon, but of little bits of things growing in the cracks of the walls.”

“Therefore, you see that Solomon differed very much more from you than from me in this matter,” Muir said. “I’ll warrant you he had many a long ramble in the mountains of Judea, and had he been a Yankee, he would likely have visited every weed in the land.”

Muir continued: “And again, do you not remember that Christ told His disciples to ‘consider the lilies how they grow’ and compared their beauty with Solomon in all his glory? Now, whose advice am I to take, yours or Christ’s? Christ says, ‘Consider the lilies.’ You say, ‘Don’t consider them.’”

Rather than taking offense at Muir’s biblical reasoning, the blacksmith admitted that he was right: The Bible tells believers in God to learn about Him by observing His creation.

A Deep Reverence

Two days later, Muir came to the first mountain stream he had ever seen. It left a deep impression on him.



BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK | UTAH



MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK | WASHINGTON



SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK | TENNESSEE



BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK | TEXAS



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK | ARIZONA



GRAND TETONS NATIONAL PARK | WYOMING



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK | MONTANA

10

SCIENCE-BACKED
REASONS TO SPEND
MORE TIME OUTSIDE

In the modern world, many of us spend our days at work bathed in fluorescent lighting and staring at computer monitors. Then we go home to gawk at television screens and laptops. But Florence Williams shows in her 2017 book, *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative*, that our connection to nature is far more important to our cognition and other aspects of health than we generally think. “[T]ime in nature is not a luxury,” she writes, “but is in fact essential to our humanity.”

“Walk into a forest, and within five minutes, your body and brain start to change,” a video promo for her book declares. “Your heart rate slows. Your facial muscles start to relax. Your hardworking frontal lobes begin to quiet down.”

“Awe, which many people experience in nature, is, according to one study, associated with increased generosity toward other people,” a *New York Times* book review stated. Here are 10 other science-backed reasons her book examines for spending more time outside:

BOOSTS SHORT-TERM MEMORY

LOWERS STRESS LEVELS

DECREASES BLOOD PRESSURE

ENHANCES FOCUS

IMPROVES PERFORMANCE ON
CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

REDUCES INFLAMMATION

DIMINISHES FATIGUE

REDUCES ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

IMPROVES IMMUNE FUNCTION

DECREASES RISK OF CHILDREN
DEVELOPING NEARSIGHTEDNESS

“Go outside, often ...
Bring friends or not.
Breathe.”

FLORENCE WILLIAMS

“There is nothing more eloquent in nature than a mountain stream,” he wrote. “Every tree, every flower, every ripple and eddy of this lovely stream seemed solemnly to feel the presence of the great Creator. Lingered in this sanctuary a long time thanking the Lord with all my heart for His goodness in allowing me to enter and enjoy it.”

Later, Muir summited a mountain in Tennessee from which he saw a great distance into North Carolina and Georgia. “Oh, these forest gardens of our Father!” he wrote. “What perfection, what divinity, in their architecture! What simplicity and mysterious complexity of detail! Who shall read the teaching of these sylvan pages, the glad brotherhood of rills that sing in the valleys, and all the happy creatures that dwell in them under the tender keeping of a Father’s care?”

Traveling about 25 miles a day on foot, Muir traversed Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. He most often slept under the trees and stars. He often went hungry for several days. He survived several encounters with what he called “guerrilla bands who, long accustomed to plunder [during the Civil War that had ended just two years prior], deplored the coming of peace.” Yet throughout the hardships, his wonderment, his gratitude and his reverence at God’s creation continued and increased with every summit and every bend.

Muir completed his walk from the prairies of Indiana to a white sandy beach on the Gulf of Mexico. But this was only the first of his epic journeys experiencing, studying and venerating “the inventions of God.”

He later walked from San Francisco to what is now Yosemite National Park. He solo climbed Mt. Whitney and Mt. Shasta. His numerous travels in Alaska led him to discover Glacier Bay and Muir Glacier. He took dozens of trips exploring the wild lands of the United States.

But Muir was not content to just experience America’s wildernesses for himself.

Preserved for the Public

In the mid-1800s, American life was changing rapidly as the country industrialized. To many Americans,

the country’s vast wildernesses were difficult, dangerous regions. Timber, ore and other resources could be harvested from them, but Americans would eventually conquer these alien places out of existence, replacing them with farmland, towns and cities.

Factories and metropolises rapidly rose, forests rapidly fell, and wetlands were devastated.

As the new century approached, the country had only a handful of partially protected wildernesses. No centralized method was in place for establishing, protecting and managing wilderness areas in perpetuity.

The situation might have remained that way—were it not for John Muir.

In the 1870s, he began writing newspaper and magazine articles promoting wilderness conservation. In 1892, he established the Sierra Club. By the mid-1890s, he had helped convince President Grover Cleveland to reserve 21 million acres as public wilderness.

It was a great victory for Muir. But the administration of William McKinley, who succeeded Cleveland, withheld the plan from the public. Under pressure by timber and mining barons, Congress and McKinley introduced a bill lifting protective restraints from reserves and encouraging them to be commercially developed.

Muir wrote two articles, one for the *Atlantic Monthly* and the other for *Harper’s Weekly*, alerting readers to the dangers of turning America into an industrial park. Public opposition to McKinley’s bill grew. And after being passed in the Senate, the bill, largely because of Muir’s articles, died in the House.

Camping Trip That Changed History

When Theodore Roosevelt became president, he brought into the White House a keen interest in Muir’s message. Roosevelt wrote Muir a personal letter asking him to take him through Yosemite. On May 15, 1903, the two met near the Mariposa Grove.

After Roosevelt’s men laid down 40 thick woolen blankets for him to sleep on, he sent them back to town. He wanted to enjoy his time in the wilderness with just Muir.

JOHN MUIR PAGE 32 ▶

EXILED JOURNALIST: BEWARE TURKEY'S AUTHORITARIAN SHIFT

Two years ago, he was editor in chief of Turkey's largest newspaper. Today he considers himself lucky that he's driving for Uber and not sitting in a Turkish jail like dozens of his colleagues.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

IMAGINE THAT TOMORROW THE UNITED States government starts shutting down newspapers. It begins manipulating, hassling and even raiding media outlets that it considers insufficiently supportive. Imagine government agents jailing dozens and dozens of journalists and editors for dissent. Imagine the editor in chief of the *New York Times* fleeing the country to escape prison.

This very scenario took place, just two years ago, in one of the world's most populous and powerful nations: Turkey.

Abdülhamit Bilici was editor in chief of the nation's largest daily newspaper, *Zaman*, and chief executive officer of its English-language version, *Today's Zaman*. But on Friday, March 4, 2016, police raided the paper's offices in Istanbul. A court ruling put it under state control. Bilici was fired.

The next day, some 500 *Zaman* supporters gathered in front of the paper's offices. Police repelled them with water cannons and tear gas.

Zaman's website was replaced by a message that the site was being updated to provide “unbiased coverage.” Two days later, *Zaman* was back online—with all its previous articles rendered inaccessible. On newsstands, a new edition of *Zaman* appeared. The cover featured a smiling Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The pages were full of articles supporting the Turkish president and his government. But they didn't even mention the fact that the government had just forcibly taken over the paper.

“In 24 hours, they changed the newspaper from a critical voice to a mouthpiece—a propaganda machine,” recalls Bilici.

Government pressure against Bilici had been increasing for about three years prior to the takeover. After the takeover, his life quickly became unbearable. The government monitored his calls; he was followed; he received threatening phone calls and e-mails. The government had started to revoke the passports of people like him who criticized the regime, so he wasn't even sure he could leave the country.

After three weeks of being spied on and threatened, Bilici went to the airport at 3 a.m. and bought a one-way ticket to Europe. “Luckily, there was no restriction—or the police were sleeping,” he says.

Since that day, he has lived in exile from his own country.

Bilici was able to use “similar cautious steps” to extract his family from their home, but two years later, at least 50 of his colleagues at *Zaman* remain in prison in Turkey, and President Erdoğan is seeking lifetime sentences for these journalists and prominent intellectuals. His regime now has more journalists in prison than any other country in the world. It has shut down nearly 200 newspapers, television stations and news websites. Out of 180 nations on the Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index, Turkey ranks 157th.

Bilici warns that his country, which until very recently he considered a model of an open, free Islamic democracy, a bridge between the West and the Muslim world, has now become “a model of how you can lose your democracy in just five years.”

A Strongman's World

This transformation in Turkey is not a rare fluke. It is part of a trend that is affecting other major nations. For nearly two centuries, democratic, free societies—led by the British Empire and the United States—have flourished. But modern, sophisticated, wealthy and well-armed nations are now reverting to authoritarianism.

In Asia, Vladimir Putin is dominating Russia, Xi Jinping is controlling China, Shinzō Abe is reviving militarism and nationalism in Japan, and Rodrigo Duterte is bluntly, unapologetically and vulgarly scorning the rule of law in the Philippines. In Europe, record numbers of voters are electing nationalists: Viktor Orbán in Hungary, Sebastian Kurz in Austria, Andrej Babiš in the Czech Republic. In the Middle East, the flash of optimism during the Arab Spring is over, and the region has emerged even less democratic and free—ruled by autocrats and riven by tribalism and violent turf wars.

By several measures, looked at globally, the power of governments and individual leaders is growing, and the freedoms of citizens are eroding. People are recognizing that the world is getting more aggressive and more dangerous. They are looking for security and protection. And strongmen are promising to provide it.

In Turkey, that man is Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The former mayor of Istanbul, briefly jailed for inciting violence, became prime minister in 2003, and then president in 2014. During the decade and a half he has been in national power, he has significantly boosted Turkey's economy, strengthened its military, and increased its international power. In the early years of his reign, he mostly upheld the tenets of democratic representation and free and open society, in notable contrast to many other Muslim leaders. Observers considered Turkey's success under Erdoğan a model of successful Muslim democracy.

More recently, however, Erdoğan's tone has changed. He is aggressively transforming Turkish society from its once-revered secular state into a nation dominated by Islam. This has meant that the independent media and

“IN 24 HOURS, THEY CHANGED THE NEWSPAPER FROM A CRITICAL VOICE TO A MOUTHPIECE—A PROPAGANDA MACHINE.”

men who thrived in it, like Abdülhamit Bilici, had to go.

What happened in Turkey is a textbook example of how authoritarianism chokes out freedom.

Zaman was founded in 1986 based on journalistic principles of unbiased truth telling, inspired by the ideas of Fethullah Gülen, a Turkish cleric and writer. The newspaper served as an important bridge between disparate sectors of a complex society that began adopting Western democracy only recently. Among the 99 percent Muslim population, *Zaman* promoted a progressive, egalitarian version of Islam, open to interfaith dialogue and at ease with science and democracy. Many Turks valued this kind of journalism: With a circulation of 650,000 and a pioneering website, *Zaman* was the most popular, most successful newspaper in the country.

But those same principles threatened the Erdoğan government.

Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party, known as AKP, gradually restricted freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right to free assembly. It got even more aggressive after winning a convincing election victory in 2011. Then the trend accelerated further in 2013 with two pivotal events.

In May that year, a group of protesters staged a peaceful sit-in opposing a government plan to replace a park in Istanbul with a shopping mall. The police responded brutally. Many Turks were shocked. A wave of demonstrations rolled across Turkey, an estimated 3.5 million people in a country of 80 million. Erdoğan forcibly put down the protests

with tear gas and water cannons. In the process, 8,000 people were injured, 3,000 were arrested, and 11 were killed. Erdoğan went further, ordering the media not to report on the protests. Journalists who covered them anyway were fired on orders from the government and even from Erdoğan himself.

Then in December of that same year, 2013, a police investigation exposed a corrupt scheme being carried out by dozens of members of Erdoğan's party and their families. The scheme involved bribery, fraud, money laundering and gold smuggling. The scandal severely tarnished Erdoğan's image as a clean politician. He responded to these revelations not by reforming his government but by tightening his grip on power. He purged the police force, strengthened his influence over the



TIME TO LEAVE
Turkish police remove Bilici from *Zaman*'s headquarters on March 5, 2016.

judiciary, and further subjugated the media to his control. He began referring to his critics as “terrorists.”

Life for Bilici and his media colleagues became much tougher after that. When *Zaman* reported on government corruption and authoritarianism, “We started to get threats, and we felt the heat,” he says. Authorities began canceling their press credentials so they could no longer cover press conferences and other government events. Inspectors began visiting their offices and hunting for obscure violations. Businesses were ordered to stop buying advertisements in the paper. The judiciary, now controlled by Erdoğan, allowed thousands of lawsuits against the paper's editors and reporters.

Despite the pressure, *Zaman* continued to report what was happening—until Erdoğan deployed what Bilici calls “the nuclear option.” Decree number

668 was issued: The paper was seized by government agents, and its employees lost access to internal servers and previously published articles. Its last independent issue would be an all-black cover with a quote from the Constitution of Turkey and the headline “The Constitution Is Suspended.”

‘A Gift From God’

The next summer was when the blood started flowing. On July 15, 2016, a faction within the Turkish armed forces attempted to seize several key sites in the capital and elsewhere. Turks highly respect their military, and since 1960, military leaders have overthrown four duly elected governments for being too religious, in order to protect Turkey's status as a secular country.

For a moment, it looked like time might finally be up for Erdoğan's regime. But within hours, the effort collapsed. Forces loyal to the president violently repelled the anti-regime soldiers. In the conflict, more than 2,100 people were injured and more than 300 were killed.

The attempt became what Bilici calls “a caricature of a coup.”

President Erdoğan's first public statement about the coup was telling: He called it “a gift from God.” And that is how he treated it: Seizing the opportunity to eliminate the last remaining opposition to his rule, he had people arrested and fired by the tens of thousands. Critics have compared it to the Reichstag fire that Adolf Hitler used as a pretense to purge his enemies and crush civil liberties within Germany. The results in Turkey were so beneficial for Erdoğan that many believe he may have allowed or even staged the coup himself.

Whether or not that is true, Erdoğan certainly emerged as a far stronger strongman. Life in Turkey has changed dramatically since the summer of 2016. A group of journalists have compiled stories and statistics about Turkish human rights abuses on a website called TurkeyPurge.com. They say that since July 15, 2016, the Turkish government has shut down 189 media outlets; arrested

319 journalists; closed more than 3,000 schools, dormitories and universities; dismissed 4,463 judges and prosecutors; fired 5,822 academics and some 146,000 state officials and other workers; arrested 77,524 people; and detained 136,995 people accused of having connections to Gülen, Erdoğan's enemy who now lives in exile in Pennsylvania and on whom Erdoğan blames everything wrong in Turkey—even earthquakes.

Thus Erdoğan has gained absolute control over the judiciary and the military, and virtual control over academia and the press. The state of emergency he declared after the coup remains in effect to this day.

With all his opposition out of the way, Erdoğan felt strong enough to start changing the Turkish Constitution. An apparently growing majority of Turks want their nation to become more openly Islamic, and in Erdoğan they have found a champion for their cause. In a nationwide referendum on April 16, 2017 (which was tainted by fraud), Turks narrowly voted to pass 18 constitutional amendments that have transformed the nation from a parliamentary democracy into a presidential republic—effectively, an executive presidency. Erdoğan can now remain in power for at least another decade in a nation that is increasingly beholden to him. Some observers called it “the death of Turkish democracy.”

In April, Erdoğan decided to move elections that were scheduled for November 2019 up to June. A victory will cement the sweeping executive powers approved in last year's referendum.

Meanwhile, President Erdoğan had a lavish, 1,000-room, 2 million-square-foot, \$615 million palace constructed for himself and aimed at evoking the glory of the Ottoman Empire.

These moves bring to mind the words of an ancient prophecy in the biblical book of Obadiah that applies to the modern Turks: “The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?”

Why He Is Getting Away With It

As dramatic as Turkey's descent into authoritarianism has been, the nation has faced little pushback from the West. America and European nations have a complicated relationship with Turkey. It is a complex geopolitical puzzle.

Turkey sits at the crossroads of a developing clash of civilizations. Geographically, culturally and economically it is connected both to the Middle East and to Europe. It is a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, yet also a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. For decades, it has sought full membership in the European Union.

Turkey is crucial in global affairs. Its economy is one of the top 20 in the world, the largest economy in the region and the largest Muslim economy. It has an



REMOVAL OF THE PRESS
Turkish riot police disperse protesting Zaman employees on March 5, 2016.

enormous military: the most powerful in the Middle East and ranked by Global Firepower as the ninth-most powerful in the world. After the United States, it is the largest armed force in NATO, with 890,000 uniformed personnel.

Turkey is a vital energy hub that links Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. It is one of the most geographically strategic countries in the world—a land bridge connecting important and volatile continents. To the west, Turkey borders EU members Greece and Bulgaria. To the south, it borders Middle Eastern Muslim nations Syria, Iraq and Iran. To the east, it borders the former Soviet nations of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. It flanks the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Aegean Sea, and controls the vital Bosphorus and Dardanelles waterways linking Central Asia to the Mediterranean. In a world increasingly

driven by energy politics, Turkey is a major crossroads for energy transit.

It has also made itself a valuable holding pen for Middle Eastern migrants making their way toward Europe. Turkey hosts the most Syrian refugees by far: some 3.8 million. Germany has made numerous concessions to Turkey in exchange for promises to keep these refugees from flooding into the Continent.

Western nations rely on Turkey's cooperation in defense, transportation, energy, immigration and in other areas. To preserve the advantages Turkey offers, they have shown themselves willing to ignore the country's descent into tyranny.

Occasionally European leaders express frustration over Erdoğan's behavior, but actions have been soft. In October last year, German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the human rights situation in Turkey “absolutely unsatisfactory,” but said she wants to “avoid a showdown” and not “break bridges” with the Turks.

A year ago, President Erdoğan visited President Donald Trump in Washington. While he was at the Turkish ambassador's residence, a small group of protesters appeared outside carrying flags of a Kurdish opposition party. Shockingly, Erdoğan's bodyguards went out and assaulted them—people who were exercising their free speech rights on American soil. This is how dissidents are handled in Turkey, and apparently these men forgot they were guests in America. The perpetrators of the assault, captured on multiple cameras and broadcast on the news, faced no consequences.

Erdoğan's critics are frustrated that other nations fail to hold him

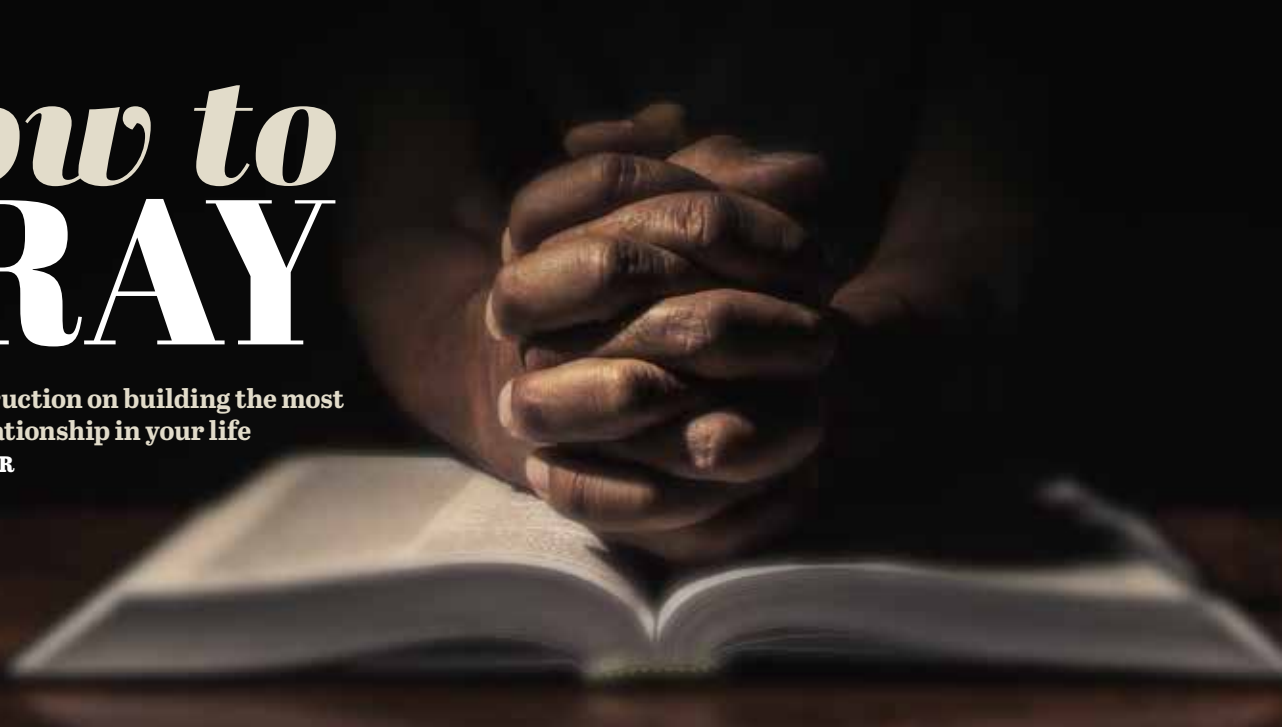
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“NEVER THINK WHAT OCCURS IN REMOTE CORNERS OF THE WORLD DOESN'T RELATE TO YOU.”

How to PRAY

Practical instruction on building the most important relationship in your life

BY JOEL HILLIKER



PRAYER IS MEANT TO GIVE YOU A *personal, direct line of communication to the Creator of the universe*. You can make requests of the Almighty God and have Him direct some of His unlimited power to fulfill them, be they for peace, prosperity, protection, wisdom, healing or myriad other blessings for you, your family, friends, enemies, nation or the world.

Many people, however, find that their experience fails to live up to that promise, certainly with consistency. Many

Many wish they received more answers to their prayers. Many people who believe in the power of prayer still want to be more effective at praying. Are your prayers being answered? If not, why not?

wish they received more *answers* to their prayers. Many people who believe in the power of prayer still want to be more effective at praying.

Are *your* prayers being answered? If not, *why* not?

Often we hear public expressions of and calls for prayer, particularly after crises hit, from heads of state, leaders in politics, business and religion, relatives and others: “Our thoughts and prayers are with them.” “Our prayers go out to the victims of this tragedy.” People hold prayer vigils. Many individuals seek to commune with God when terror strikes

our nations or illness afflicts a loved one.

Do these prayers make any difference? IS GOD LISTENING? A growing number of people today believe the answer is *no*. In a secular world, more people even *mock* the idea of prayer.

This question needs to be answered. If these prayers are *not* being heard, why even pray? Yet if they ARE being heard, then why do we still see so much suffering, trouble and strife around us? Look at the state of the world: Billions of people languish in poverty and illiteracy, climatic disasters are breaking records,

wars rage on most continents, and the doomsday clock ticks close to midnight. Why? Is it because God cannot hear us? Or does He hear—and *refuse* to answer? Or is there another explanation?

What Is Prayer?

Prayer is not mental magic or mumbo jumbo. It is not a psychological pep talk that makes you feel better.

The Hebrew word for *prayer* used most often in the Old Testament means intercession, or supplication. The *literal* meaning is to prostrate oneself, or bow down. In the New Testament, the

Greek term translated *prayer* means to supplicate, worship or make prayer.

Supplication is an earnest request or humble entreaty. To *supplicate* means to ask for earnestly and humbly. To *entreat* means to make a request in an earnest or urgent manner. Prayer can also refer to intercession or a plea. These definitions are all contained in the one word *prayer*.

Prayer, then, is intercession or earnest, intense supplication TO GOD.

Prayer is *our* part of a *two-way conversation with God*. God talks to us through His written Word, the Holy Bible, and we can talk to Him through prayer. This allows us to get to know God as He comes to know us.

“When you study the Bible, GOD IS TALKING TO YOU. When you PRAY, you are TALKING TO HIM,” educator Herbert W. Armstrong wrote. “You get to really KNOW God in this manner, just as you become better acquainted with people by conversation” (*The Incredible Human Potential*).

Real prayer is COMMUNICATION with Almighty God through our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is us talking to our heavenly Father in an attitude of *humility, contrition, awe, reverence* and *deep respect*.

Not All Prayers Are the Same

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man ACCOMPLISHES MUCH (James 5:16). Do *your* prayers accomplish much?

We live in a material world and are all affected by the age of materialism. Our world has lost the knowledge of God and the power of prayer.

Society discourages us from relying on God. Is it any wonder Jesus Christ would ask: “[W]hen the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

Too often, prayer is seen as a religious duty or ritualistic exercise. People either pray solely because they feel it is expected of them, or because they are troubled and seek relief. Either way, the focus is *selfish*. Such people are left without answers to their prayers (James 4:3).

Through the Prophet Isaiah, God says that He is so displeased with some people that “when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, *I will not hear*” (Isaiah 1:15).

The Bible is clear that any petition we make of God must be made with full assurance that we are asking according to God’s will and that He will respond. The Apostle James makes this plain: “But let him [the person petitioning God in prayer] ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. FOR LET NOT THAT MAN THINK THAT HE SHALL RECEIVE ANY THING OF THE LORD” (James 1:6-7).

God certainly has the power to fulfill any prayer request He chooses. But in deciding whether to do so, He takes note of the *motivation*, the *attitude* and the *level of faith* of the one praying, among other factors.

The Need for Prayer

You need to recognize just how desperate is your *need* for that regular, intimate contact with your heavenly Father.

Talk to God every day—*especially* when you are struggling. You were *created* to NEED Him! Like your electronic devices that won’t work unless you charge the battery, YOU won’t work properly unless you are recharged by contact with the great God every day. You need God more than you need oxygen!

Jesus understood this need. Hebrews 5:7 says this about His prayer life: “Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears UNTO HIM

THAT WAS ABLE TO SAVE HIM FROM DEATH, and was heard in that he feared.” It was critical that Christ live His entire physical life perfectly free from sin so He could offer Himself as an *unblemished* sacrificial lamb for our sins. He knew He could not accomplish this majestic spiritual feat on His own (John 5:30)—it was only possible with *constant* help from His Father. Only the Father could save Him from sin and its wages, death (Romans 6:23). Thus, He *continually* stayed in close contact with His Father. He prayed regularly and fervently.

You need the same understanding of just how much you *need* daily help from God.

The only possible way to overcome the power of Satan and the pulls of the flesh is to rely on God! (Romans 7:25). You need the power of God, which He supplies to true Christians with His

The disciples asked Jesus Christ to teach them to pray—they didn’t know how. We too must first seek wisdom from Christ on how to pray.

Holy Spirit. The Spirit enables Christ to *live* in us (Galatians 2:20) and gives us the strength to overcome. We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

Without that Spirit, YOU ARE NOT A SON OF GOD AND WILL DIE IN YOUR SINS! (Romans 8:13-14).

We cannot attain eternal life without the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. However, we must *ask* the Father, in prayer, for that spiritual power and help (Luke 11:13). And it must be replenished *daily* (2 Corinthians 4:16). This requires *prayer* (e.g. Philippians 1:19).

Daily prayer is essential for salvation! Without God’s help, none of us can overcome the sinful pulls of our human nature. And only if we *overcome* sin and allow God to build His holy, righteous *character* through the power of the Holy Spirit can we be born as sons of God (Revelation 21:7). Without active and effective prayer, therefore, we can never be born into God’s Family.

This is why God *commands* us to pray! Prayer is not an optional religious exercise. It is a core need that affects your eternal destiny!

How to Pray

In Luke 11, the disciples asked Christ to teach them to pray—they didn’t know how. We too must first seek wisdom from Christ on *how* to pray. Through the Holy Spirit, He will help us. He Himself was a man of prayer.

God is love. His law is love. Christ listed two great commandments: love toward God and love toward neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40). We practice and grow in that love through Christ-led prayer.

But how? Our new book on prayer will show you. Chapter 1 shows you *why* you should pray. Chapter 2 spells out seven *conditions* we must meet in order to receive answers from God. Chapter 3 covers the common problems we face in prayer and how to break through those barriers. Chapter 4 delves into the prayer

outline Christ gave the disciples and what God expects us to pray about. In Chapter 5, we learn the blessings that come from intercessory prayer—not only for the ones being prayed for, but even those offering up those prayers. Chapter 6 shows how Christ prayed *perfect* prayers as an expression of His perfect love. And the last chapter shows how God’s people must be “a house of prayer.”

Realize how crucial—how central to the life of a Christian—your prayer life is. Improving the way you talk to God in prayer should be your top priority in life!

If you have not begun to do so, start now to establish direct contact with your Creator. God hears and delights in the prayers of those who seek to please Him and do His will (Psalm 34:17; Proverbs 15:8; 1 Peter 3:12). Pray to

God every day. You will begin to experience blessings beyond measure! ■



Request a free copy of our new book ***How to Pray.***

Iran confronting Israel directly

EVIDENCE Netanyahu holds up part of an Iranian drone shot down over Israel.

For years, Iran has indirectly targeted Israel through terrorist proxies including Hamas and Hezbollah. The first direct confrontation between the two nations occurred on February 10. That's when an Iranian drone penetrated Israeli airspace from Syria and was shot down by an Israel Defense Forces attack helicopter. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesman Brig. Gen. Ronen Manelis said on April 13 that "the aircraft was carrying explosives" to conduct "an act of sabotage in Israeli territory."

"This is the first time we saw Iran do something against Israel—not by proxy," a senior Israeli military official told *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman. "This opened a new period" (April 15). David Horowitz wrote in the *Times of Israel* that the event shows that the Iranian regime is "now sufficiently emboldened as to directly attack Israel" (April 14).

Four days before Manelis's announcement, the IDF bombed the T4 military base, striking the drone operations center that had launched the February 10 drone and killing seven Iranians. According to Israeli military sources, Iran had been building it into a fully functional air base with the ability to launch surface-to-air missiles at Israeli targets.

28 THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

"We are facing a new reality," said Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman. "[T]he Lebanese Army, in cooperation with Hezbollah, the Syrian Army, the Shiite militias in Syria and above them Iran—are all becoming a single front against the State of Israel."

The Bible indicates that Iran, the end-time "king of the south" of Daniel 11:40, will soon trigger a severe crisis in Israel—indirectly via the Palestinians and possibly directly. Read about it in *Jerusalem in Prophecy*. ■

Israel exposes Iran's 'atomic archive'

During a televised address from Israel Defense Forces headquarters on April 30, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed a captured Iranian "atomic archive" of nuclear weapons information showing just how close Iran is to creating weapons of mass destruction.

According to Netanyahu, Israeli intelligence captured the stash of 100,000 files from a hidden warehouse in Tehran. He said the archive proved the following: "First, Iran lied about never having a nuclear weapons program. ... Second, even after the deal, Iran continued to preserve and expand its nuclear weapons know-how for future

March of Return

For six weeks, thousands of Palestinians protested on the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel during what Hamas called the "Great March of Return."

The protests began March 30 and ended on May 15, which is known by Arabs as Nakba Day ("Catastrophe Day"). It is the anniversary of the day following the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. During their demonstrations, Palestinian rioters flung stones, rolled burning tires and flew kites with incendiary attachments and tried to cross the border into Israeli territory.

Israeli security forces killed more than 100 protesters and injured 7,000 others. Most of these protesters were not defenseless or innocent; they were terrorists or Hamas operatives and Palestinians who agreed with the goals of Hamas or were coerced by Hamas to the front lines of the riots.

use. Why would a terrorist regime hide and meticulously catalogue its secret nuclear files, if not to use them at a later date? Third, Iran lied again in 2015 when it didn't come clean to the [International Atomic Energy Agency], as required by the nuclear deal. And finally, the JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] nuclear deal, is based on lies ... Iranian lies and Iranian deception."

Netanyahu also warned about Iran's ballistic missiles and secret nuclear weapons programs, which the JCPOA did not address.

Netanyahu's exposé was not entirely surprising: Negotiators of the deal obliquely acknowledged that Iran constantly lies about its nuclear ambitions when they conceded that the JCPOA

May 14 was the day that the United States moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"World events from today to the end of this age are going to revolve around Jerusalem," wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in his August 2012 article "Watch Jerusalem!" "This city is going to be the very epicenter of all major events in the future." The Bible prophecies that half of Jerusalem will fall to the Arabs. When that happens, Mr. Flurry wrote, "it will be like dominoes falling one after the other: one biblically prophesied event after another. This is all going to happen very fast and very violently, so you need to watch Jerusalem." ■



UPRISING Palestinians gather to protest at the Gaza border on May 15.

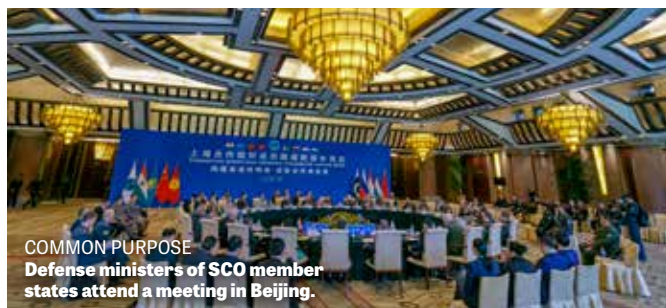
was "not based on trust." What most of them fail to acknowledge is how devoted Iran's top leaders are to a clash of civilizations.

In his September 2015 article "Negotiating Human Survival," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: "Though many don't realize it yet, the Western world—and especially America—has been humiliated through this deal. ... Instead of trusting people based on what they say, the Bible says we should 'know them by their fruits' (Matthew 7:16). Iran's fruits show it will violate this next agreement. But this time, the stakes are much higher. ... No words will stop this king of terror [Iran] because he believes he has a religious duty to bring upon the world a nuclear cataclysm so his messiah can return." ■

Asia strengthens military unity

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security alliance of Asian nations, held its 15th annual Defense Ministers' Meeting in Beijing on April 24. Member nations Russia, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan pledged to enhance cooperation among their defense departments and armed forces.

The eight nations also agreed to hold major joint military exercises in Russia this September. The combined population of these nations comes to 3.2 billion people, which is close to half of the total global population. These



upcoming war exercises by militaries representing such vast numbers will mark a historic event.

The meeting also marked the first time India and Pakistan participated as full members of the organization. Both became full members last year, adding their large populations and nuclear-armed militaries to the security bloc. But the balance of power remains with China and Russia.

Bible prophecy says a group of Asian nations called “the kings of the east” will work together in the end time and partici in a nuclear World War III. Scripture makes clear that this group will be led by Russia and China, which may use the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to help achieve that goal. To understand the significance of a unified Asian bloc, read our free booklet [Russia and China in Prophecy](#). ■

Japan creates first post-WWII marine unit

For the first time since World War II, Japan has commissioned a special marine unit capable of projecting military force in the East China Sea and possibly beyond. During a ceremony marking the establishment of the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade on April 7, a senior official from the Japanese Defense Ministry said the marine unit “will show to the

international society our firm resolve to defend our islands.”

This is a dramatic move, considering that Japan's post-World War II pacifist Constitution allowed only defensive military capacity and explicitly forbade forming offensive units. But Japan has gradually removed its military restraints in recent years.

While Japan was still staunchly pacifist, educator

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “Japan today has no military establishment. But we should not lose sight of the fact that Japan has become so powerful economically that it could build a military force of very great power very rapidly” (*Plain Truth*, March 1971).

For decades, Mr. Armstrong's forecast could have seemed alarmist to many students of geopolitics. But now that forecast no longer appears far-fetched. ■

Drug cartels assassinate politicians

Mexico is suffering its bloodiest election campaign in history. More than 80 political candidates have been assassinated in the lead-up to Mexico's federal and local elections on July 1.

Drug cartels are undoubtedly behind the wave of violence. If drug traffickers can intimidate or control police and politicians, they can continue to expand their deadly business uninhibited.

Drug cartel violence is turning Mexico into a failed state, and it is not limited to nations south of the Rio Grande. Law enforcement officials estimate that Mexican cartels have infiltrated more than 3,000 cities in the United States.

An estimated 55 percent of all Mexican homicides—and 7 percent of all U.S. homicides—are related to drug trafficking. Conservatives say this problem

can be fixed with a border wall, while progressives say that legalizing marijuana and even heroin and methamphetamines will help turn criminal cartels into law-abiding enterprises. But the truth is that politicians are being shot and border control agents are being bribed because a spiritual sickness has taken root throughout North America. Rampant drug use is funding these violent gangs, and the violence will continue until deeper causes are addressed. ■

China coaxing India away from U.S.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan, China, on April 27-28 for a landmark summit designed to reset relations between the world's two most populous nations. Xi and Modi, who together lead almost 40 percent of the global population, share the view that the 21st century belongs to Asia. Both



understand that for this vision to be realized, Beijing and New Delhi need to normalize relations and collaborate on numerous matters.

“[T]he Wuhan meeting will be primarily remembered as a moment when Chinese and Indian leaders jump-started a fresh, virtuous cycle in Sino-Indian relations,” said Sourabh Gupta, senior fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies.

Both sides understand that for relations to improve in a meaningful way, India must distance itself from the United States. Asia analyst Keegan Elmore said, “China will be keen to woo India away from a U.S. alliance against Beijing.”

India has long been a close friend of Vladimir Putin's Russia. Now its relations with China appear to be improving dramatically. It is not difficult to envision India contributing its vast population and its military power to a biblically prophesied Asian bloc led by Russia and China. ■



Europe reviving religious identity

NO LONGER SEPARATE
Markus Söder hangs a cross at the entrance of the Bavarian State Chancellery.

Beginning in June, every government building in Bavaria must hang a cross at its entrance. The new law was approved by the Bavarian cabinet on April 24. Bavarian Prime Minister Markus Söder said the cross emphasizes the “commitment to identity” and the “cultural character” of Bavaria (*Trumpet* translation throughout).

Söder emphasized that the cross symbolizes “our Bavarian identity and way of life,” and added that the cross should not be seen as “a sign of religion.” If symbols of the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified and killed are, in fact, viewed as a sign of religion, this would violate Germany’s neutrality law

that demands strict separation of church and state.

The reappearance of religious symbols on government buildings marks an important change in direction for Germany. Since World War II, Germans have trended less and less religious. This is part of a trend in the opposite direction.

This was not the only religious news to make waves in Germany. Days after Germany’s government was sworn in, the new interior, construction and homeland minister sparked a new dispute. Horst Seehofer told *Bild* in an interview published on March 16 that “Islam does not belong to Germany.” Other members of the new government

criticized Seehofer’s remark, but a survey conducted by the firm Civey found that 76 percent of Germans agree with him.

Religion is also resurging in French politics. In a speech to the Bishop’s Conference of France on April 9, French President Emmanuel Macron told the bishops that “the link between church

and state has been damaged, that the time has come for us, both you and me, to mend it.”

Christianity is not motivating people to attend religious services or to obey religious rules, but it is being used to drive people to vote for religious-sounding leaders.

The trend is even more visible in Eastern Europe.

Herbert W. Armstrong forecast for decades that Europe would form a superpower, led by Germany. “In only one way can this resurrected Holy Roman Empire be brought to fruition—by the ‘good offices’ of the Vatican, uniting church and state once again, with the Vatican astride and ruling...” (*Plain Truth*, January 1979). ■



Germany to lead NATO forces in the Baltic

In 2019, Germany will become home to NATO’s new naval headquarters. The base in Rostock will command NATO’s naval operations in the Baltic Sea.

Poland, with its long coastline, is most concerned about recent Russian aggression, so the nation is working more closely with Germany on defense. Rostock will soon host a joint naval headquarters of German and Polish fleets.

In mid-February, NATO defense ministers charged Germany with the mission of building a new NATO headquarters focused on rapid-troop movement across Europe. Like the naval headquarters, it is designed to prepare Europe to withstand increased Russian aggression. ■

Eastern Europe won’t stop militarizing

Polish leaders made history on March 28 by signing the largest arms deal their country has ever made. Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak and other members of the government signed a \$4.7 billion contract to purchase Patriot missile defense systems from United States-based firm Raytheon.

The purchase is an effort to modernize Poland’s aging military. “It is an extraordinary, historic moment; it is Poland’s

introduction into a whole new world of state-of-the-art technology, modern weaponry and defensive means,” said Polish President Andrzej Duda.

A few days later, Russia held a three-day naval exercise in the Baltic Sea, only miles away from the coasts of Poland and Latvia. Although it did not violate international law, the drill was conducted closer to Latvia’s coast than ever before.

In his 2004 article “Russia Frightens Europe—and Fulfills Bible Prophecy,” *Trumpet*

editor in chief Gerald Flurry discussed the biblical significance of Russia’s rise and its effects on Europe. At the time, he focused on the Russian elections and the consolidation of Putin’s grip on power.

Many scriptures refer to a future clash between Europe and Russia. Referring to a united and armed Europe, Daniel 11:44 states: “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him [the king



LET’S MAKE A DEAL
Poland’s defense minister (left) and the U.S. ambassador conclude a deal for a Patriot missile system.

of the north].” This passage declares that in the end time, the very time we are in today, news from the northeast will cause Europe great alarm and anxiety. What major power is northeast of Europe? Russia. ■

Canada tells officials to stop saying 'mother' and 'father'

Canada's government says front-line employees may no longer use the terms "mother" and "father" in

official correspondence without asking first. They must use gender-neutral terms like "parent" when speaking to the public. This directive was

Family distress and the overdose epidemic

Counties with high divorce rates and a large proportion of single-parent homes are plagued with drug overdose deaths, according to a study published on April 2 in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. The study mapped the 515,000 drug-related deaths that occurred across the United States from 2006 to 2015. It found that geography is less important in explaining overdose deaths than family breakdown.

"Average mortality rates were significantly higher in counties with greater economic and family distress and in counties economically dependent on mining," wrote researcher

Shannon Monnat. "Counties at the highest level of family distress (divorce/separation and single-parent families) had an average of more than eight more drug-related deaths per 100,000 population than counties at the lowest level."

One of the primary reasons that drug overdose deaths are

so common among those who come from a broken home is that depressed and lonely people often turn to drug-induced moments of fleeting euphoria. Heroin, opioids and other drugs can give a person a temporary high, masking the loneliness and pain their family problems cause. America's drug addiction epidemic will only worsen until the nation embraces biblical family values.



published on March 21 by Radio Canada, the French-language agency of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Other forbidden terms include "sir," "madam," "Mr.," "Mrs." and "Miss." Instead, Service Canada's front-line staff must call people by their full names until they have asked them how they wish to be addressed.

This is the latest move by the Canadian government to elevate "gender identity" above biological sex. Last February, the Canadian Senate voted to make the country's national anthem gender-neutral by replacing the word "sons" with the word "us." Last August, the government began allowing Canadians to mark their gender as "X" on passports so they would not be limited to "male" and "female" options.

Most millennials don't know what Auschwitz was

The Holocaust is something many Americans know nothing about. A survey published on April 12 by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany discovered that 41 percent of Americans and 66 percent of American millennials (those ages 18 to 34) do not know what Auschwitz was.

Auschwitz was the most infamous Nazi extermination camp in World War II. But young Americans are not learning the history about the Holocaust—or much of any other history.



The Alfie tragedy

Doctors in a Liverpool hospital turned off the life-support machine for 23-month-old Alfie Evans on April 23. Alfie had suffered from an undiagnosed brain condition that left him in a semi-vegetative state. He had survived on life support for more than a year. Alfie's parents wanted to try experimental treatments available in Italy. But the decision was not left with Alfie's parents but with a panel of doctors, backed by English courts and enforced by the government.

Alfie's parents said that doctors decided there was no hope for him and that the life support should be removed and that when they disagreed, the hospital applied to the High Court to remove parental rights. The High Court judge stated that he would make a decision on what was best for the child and later ruled in

favor of the hospital's plan to allow the boy to die. The Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and European Court of Human Rights all rejected the petitions of the parents. The government refused to let Alfie's parents even take him home.

With Alfie confined to the hospital, doctors removed life support. Yet he did not die as expected. Alfie breathed on his own, but doctors refused to give him any water or food for six hours. He had a chest infection; they refused to give him any antibiotics. For five days, Alfie continued to live well past the doctors' prognosis. In the early hours of April 28, still inside the hospital, Alfie died.

The British government blocked Alfie's parents from taking him to Italy. This is the moral and cultural state of Britain today: authority over the lives and deaths of British children lies not with their parents, but with the government.

The two spent the next three days camping and riding mules to the stunning sites of Yosemite: Grizzly Giant, Sentinel Dome and Bridalveil Meadow. In their conversations, Muir made a convincing plea for some of America's wilderness areas to be set aside and preserved for the American public to enjoy.

This trip had a profound impact on Roosevelt's outlook and his political trajectory. Soon after it, he established Yosemite as a national park to preserve its "majestic beauty all unmarred." Americans should ensure that it be "preserved for their children and their children's children forever," he said.

Roosevelt went on to sign five more national parks into existence, as well as 150 national forests, 55 national bird sanctuaries and 18 national monuments. He also signed the Antiquities Act into law, a forerunner to the park service. It authorized the preservation of "scientifically, culturally and historically valuable sites."

In so doing, Roosevelt told the people: "We are not building this country for a day. It is to last through the ages."

Altogether, Roosevelt set aside some 230 million acres of public land—including the Grand Canyon, Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon and Mount Rainier—for all Americans and visitors to the U.S. to enjoy whenever they choose.

Subsequent presidents have added to these designations, bringing the total protected area to almost 320 million acres (or 500,000 square miles), 14 percent of America's total land area. This is thanks in large part to the influence and lifework of John Muir.

"To instill the value of wilderness in a public only barely separated from the idea of wilderness as a foe and an impediment to progress required something or someone truly extraordinary," wrote historian Shane Mahoney. "[A]nd Muir was that someone."

The influence of America's conservation movement also spilled across its borders, inspiring scores of countries around the world to protect, or better protect, parts of their territory. Today, there are some 6,000 national parks in more than 100 nations.

Appreciating the Creator

In his magnum opus *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W. Armstrong lamented the way mankind often fails to build a balanced relationship with God's physical creation. "[W]hat has man done on the Earth where God placed him?" he asked. "Man has made ugly, polluted, defiled, profaned everything his hands have touched. He has polluted the air, befouled the water in the rivers, lakes and seas. He has deteriorated the land, denuded the forests, thus altering rainfall and causing the expansion of deserts."

Mankind's normal behaviors defile, profane and pollute the creation—with little regard for future generations. But thanks in large part to the work of John Muir, swaths of it have been safeguarded from those normal behaviors.

This safeguarding is valuable mainly because the physical creation is the product of a perfect spirit mind, and the Bible shows that one major way we can better understand that perfect mind is by studying His physical creation: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead ..." (Romans 1:20).

The physical creation proclaims God's eternal power! It lets us see His brilliance, excellence, love and glory.

When we enter into it in the right attitude, we gain insight into the mind of the Creator. We learn that—from the microscopic to macrocosmic—He weaves excellence and splendor through every layer of His handiwork. We learn that He is the author of indescribable beauty. He is supremely intelligent, organized and perfectionistic. We learn that His power has no bounds.

We can also learn, by comparing our

own abilities to those of God, a valuable sense of proportion.

This latter lesson is addressed in Job 38, in which God gives an admonition to Job that is pertinent to all people: As you experience this physical world, you should perceive God's power that brought it into being; understanding the vastness of that power, you should become more humble and more reverential toward the Creator.

Muir often mentioned the reverence and gratitude that King Solomon had for God's creation, who likely learned it from his father, King David. "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms," David wrote in Psalm 95. "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land" (verses 2-5).

David was deeply humbled to experience the physical world made by God's hand. And when we experience the creation—as we do with intensity when visiting national parks—we can likewise be humbled and filled with gratitude and reverence. Muir said, "God has to nearly kill us sometimes, to teach us lessons." But if a Psalm 95 kind of humility permeates us, we can often learn important lessons by more gentle methods.

Of course, we don't have to be perched atop a glacier in a pristine national park to appreciate God's mind and power. A single blade of grass whispers the same story that Utah's Arches shout. But if nature's most awe-inspiring sites were indiscriminately plundered to maximize short-term profits, it would obscure an invaluable window that the Creator has given us into His spectacular mind. ■

Creation points to a Creator

TO LEARN ABOUT THE CREATOR AND WHAT HIS PLAN FOR HIS CREATION IS, REQUEST HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG'S FREE BOOK **MYSTERY OF THE AGES**.

Young and Old, Together

Follow this biblical principle and enjoy one of the most satisfying blessings life has to offer.

IN A CLASSIC STORY TOLD BY DANIEL LAPIN, AN OLD TEACHER was flying on an airplane and found himself seated next to a prominent liberal politician. Soon after the plane took off, one of the teacher's students, who was sitting a few rows back, began waiting on his master hand and foot. *Sir, let me take your shoes—here is a pair of slippers; I know how your feet tend to swell. Here is a sandwich; I know how you hate airline food.*



JOEL HILLIKER

Finally the politician spoke up: “That’s amazing. I’m so impressed with your son. I have four grown sons, and they never do anything for me. How do you get him to serve you so diligently?”

The teacher responded, “Actually he’s my student. If he were my son, you would have *really* seen service.

But you must not blame yourself. Your sons are faithful to your teachings, and my sons are faithful to my teachings. It is simple, you see. You made the decision to teach your sons that you are descended from apes. That means you are one generation closer to the ape than they. And that means that it is only proper and appropriate that you acknowledge their status and that you serve them. But, you see, I chose to teach my sons that we were created by the Almighty God Himself. And that puts me one generation closer to Him—which means that it’s appropriate that they treat me accordingly.”

God is a strong advocate of passing down instruction from generation to generation. He wants godly knowledge to grow within families. He wants children to be instructed not only by their parents, but also their *grandparents* (Deuteronomy 4:9).

That means the older must have a mind to teach those younger, and the younger must have a mind to learn from those older. God wants children growing up with a deep sense of honor toward their elders, and adults developing as teachers as we age. Everybody benefits!

God loves to see a family business lasting generations—a father teaching his trade to his sons, sons tracing the footsteps of their father. Jesus Christ exemplified this principle (e.g. Luke 2:49).

Without family education, each generation starts from scratch, stumbling through life making the same mistakes as the one before.

An old *Plain Truth* made this point: “Imagine, if you will, a person going through kindergarten, grammar school, junior

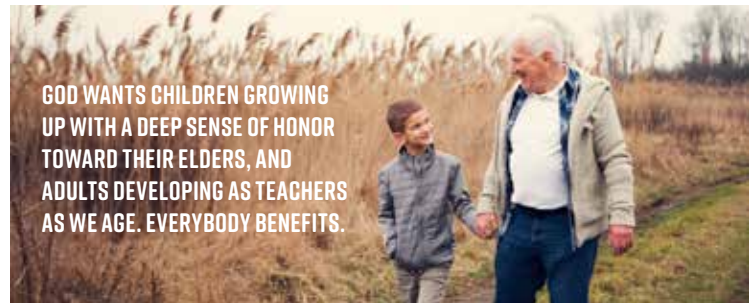
high school, high school, junior college, college, doing post-graduate work, sacrificing, working hard, finally obtaining a doctorate in some field, and then being told he must quit and be unproductive the rest of his days.

“Sound unreasonable? It would be.

“Most older people have gone through the ‘school of hard knocks’; by experience they have learned valuable lessons about handling life’s difficult moments as well as its rewarding moments. And what happens when they are at the stage in life where they could share that information with younger generations? The younger generations, for the most part, turn a deaf ear.

“Modern, youth-oriented society as it is set up simply does not warmly welcome the participation of the elderly. It does not as a whole show a genuine interest in the well-being of its senior members” (September 1984).

In society at large, God has removed the benefit of the wise leadership of “the ancient” (Isaiah 3:1-2). Children and babes rule in their place and behave proudly against their elders (verses 4-5).



We need to recognize this crisis and take whatever steps we can to correct it in our own lives. Both parties in the interaction—old and young—are responsible for making it work.

Older people can often see younger people making mistakes and stumbling through life ignorant of the consequences of their choices. As much as we may want to look away and leave them to their own devices, God repeatedly seeks to instill in those with wisdom and experience a sense of duty toward those without it. Read passages such as Deuteronomy 6:5-9, Exodus 13:8-16, Joshua 4:4-9 and Psalm 78—these are just a few of the dozens of scriptures that focus on this important principle.

Of course, such instruction can fall on deaf ears. Thus it is crucial for young people to be trained and taught to be receptive. How would God have the “ancient” treated? “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head [the gray hairs of the aged], and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:32). The New International Version renders this verse, “Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.”

You can see how God links the concept of respect for the elderly with reverence for Him. They are connected. After all, God is the “Ancient of days” (Daniel 7:13).

Rich intergenerational relationships—rich with *teaching* by those elder and *respect* by those younger—are a tremendous resource we cannot afford *not* to cultivate. They are truly one of the most satisfying blessings a God-centered family life has to offer!

You are right in the article “Saving America from the Radical Left—Temporarily.” America wants communism. Get used to “grass soup,” as Venezuela is doing now. America is full of resources but has squandered its opportunity for advancement with the nation’s reckless spending spree—on someone else’s dime! I expect America to collapse, and that will do unknown damage to other countries.

Stuart Sjalund ONTARIO

I enjoy reading the *Trumpet* magazine always and eagerly look forward to the next issue. I’ve always find the magazine very informative both in religious and political matters. Your writers do not mince words; they say things as they ought to be said, backed by Scripture, and without fear.

John Muttiah ONTARIO

It is very hard for me to express my feelings regarding the *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine. It is the best possible thing to receive if you’re studying about Christianity and learning the teachings from the Holy Bible. It gives a deep knowledge about world politics, and the way you relate every prophecy to world

events is such a great thing that only blessed people can do.

Faizan Ahmad INDIA

Thank you for your endeavor to produce and provide such a remarkable publication that is truly inspiring.

Robert Moore FLORIDA

I would like to thank you for sending me the *Trumpet* magazine. It is very educational. The news on TV today is designed to mislead people with information. I am in search of the truth, and that is why I read my Bible, because the truth is God.

Edward Kleintop PENNSYLVANIA









Please keep sending me the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. I enclosed the “Gold Ticket” renewal slip so I don’t lose the exciting news—the Word of God. I wouldn’t want to miss a single issue, so keep them coming!

Ricardo Valdovinos CALIFORNIA

This is an excellent magazine. Unfortunately, it is only monthly. This magazine’s coverage is so vivid and full, with detailed information that is very praiseworthy. I have never seen such coverage in another country’s magazine.

Ajoy Kumar Guha Thakurta ONTARIO

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What More Can You Do?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

ARE YOU WILLING TO GO ALL THE WAY FOR GOD? Are you truly supporting God's work, or do you just think you are? Are you **DOING** something with the knowledge God is giving you through the *Trumpet*, or are you content to read and listen while doing nothing about it? Are you *waiting it out*, hanging on and doing your own thing until Jesus Christ returns?

In 1954, Herbert W. Armstrong received a letter from a conflicted 21-year-old girl. She had been exposed to the truth of God from her youth. When she became a young adult, however, she began to fear what people would think if she really committed to the teachings of the true Church. She was afraid that they would see her as a religious fanatic. So she dragged her feet. She didn't fully commit to God's work. She didn't want to **DO** anything—she just wanted to *wait it out*. Mr. Armstrong wrote her a lengthy letter encouraging her to act. He reprinted it in the *Good News* as a motivation for others.

Are you in the same position as that 21-year-old? Are you unwilling to go all the way for God? Are you afraid of what people might think? Maybe you think, *Well, I'll just wait it out and see what happens*. Or, *We probably have a few years left, so I don't have to act just yet*.

We talk a lot in God's Church about the work God has given us to do. Jesus Christ said in John 5:17, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." When God calls someone into His Church, the reason is that there is **WORK** to be done.

Mr. Armstrong often explained that the apostle can only do his job successfully when he has supporters. In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul compares the Church to a human body—made up of many different parts, each important to the function of the whole. In the Body of Christ, every member has an important role to play.

Mr. Armstrong also explained that being a true Christian means *doing*. It means changing the way you live. We must develop character, and one major way we do that is by supporting the work of God. It's too easy to sit back and think that someone else will do it, or that you have nothing to contribute. That is shallow, selfish thinking.

Noah labored for a hundred years building the ark. What if he had thought, "Well, I'm just one man. All these people are mocking me. What use is my work, when there's not even a sign that the Flood is coming?" But because of that one man, his faith and his willingness to work for God, human civilization still exists today.

John 6:44 says that no man can come to Christ except the Father draws Him. The *Father* is the one who calls and draws. The Bible also tells us that many are called, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14). Very few people respond to God's call, and even fewer stick with it and support God's work.

Ephesians 4:4-6 says there is "*one* body, and *one* Spirit, even as ye are called in *one* hope of your calling; *One* Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism, *One* God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Matthew 16:18 shows that there is only *one* true Church. There is only *one* Body of Christ. If you are not part of that **ONE** family, then you are not part of the Body of Christ!

The work behind the magazine you are reading represents the **ONE TRUE WAY**. The fruits are plain if you open your eyes and see what God is doing.

Ask yourself: How much more can I do to help support God's work? How much more can I put my heart into it? What more can I do?

Do you want to be part of the solution? Do you want to contribute to preparing for a new world based on God's perfect and righteous laws? Thousands have joined this cause over

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION?
THOUSANDS HAVE JOINED THIS CAUSE OVER THE YEARS.
YOU TOO CAN SHARE IN THIS WORLDWIDE WORK.



HEADQUARTERS
The Hall of Administration in
Edmond, Oklahoma, houses
the *Trumpet* staff.

the years. And you too—whoever you are, wherever you are, no matter how old or young, no matter how serious your problems or what you're struggling with—can share in this cause. You can join this worldwide work, if you are willing to forsake the ways of this world.

God is not looking for perfect people. He knows we are flawed. God calls the *lowly* (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). But He calls the lowly to come **OUT** of this world, and to come **into** the Family of God. Christ isn't going to marry 150 competing religious groups when He returns. The Bible says He will marry one **BRIDE**, that is the **CHURCH OF GOD**. But we must be *with Him*, **IN HIS CHURCH**, committed to His cause, in order to be part of that future.

You can be part of that. God will help you. God's Church will help you. God's ministers will help you. With God's help, you can repent and change and come out of this world. Thousands of others have done it, cleaning up their lives with God's help and getting behind this work.

You should do it too. God needs you.

accountable. But this is the nature of international politics, and Erdoğan knows how to play the game. He is using all his bargaining chips successfully, exercising his leverage and taking advantage of other nations' opportunism, weakness and lack of principle.

Meanwhile, this powerful nation at the crossroads of East and West is being poisoned and increasingly consumed by anti-America, anti-Israel, Islamic fundamentalism.

This trend underscores two specific prophecies about Turkey that show it to be a strongly anti-American, anti-Israeli power in this end time: one in Psalm 83, where it is part of an alliance that seeks to cut off the very name of Israel; the other in Obadiah, where the Turks commit a shocking act of betrayal against Americans and Israelis, in a concession to their allies in Europe. These prophecies also show that Turkey's relationship with Europe, particularly with Germany, will continue to trump other foreign-policy considerations.

The repression swallowing Turkey today is also a stark picture of the world's descent into a dark age described in biblical prophecy as the "times of the gentiles."

A Journalist in Exile

Abdülhamit Bilici considers himself fortunate to have escaped from what he calls the "open prison" of his home country. "Never think what occurs in remote corners of the world doesn't relate to you," he says.

"It's so dramatic, you know. You are editor in chief of the largest newspaper, and then becoming a poor guy, having nothing. You are losing your house, your assets, your career. Everything is destroyed. It's like a death," he says. "And then you [have] to start everything from zero. This is a struggle.

"But meanwhile, I try to see myself in comparative terms with my friends, who are not as lucky or not as fortunate as me—in the sense that they are still in jail, and they are not even able to find lawyers, and they are facing lifetime sentences. So compared to that, I feel myself very lucky. And of course from the other dimension, I try to understand that this is not the first time on Earth a person is facing persecution because of his ideals or principles or honor."

Now living in America, when Bilici isn't speaking and trying to raise awareness of what is happening in Turkey, or searching for a job in media or academia, the former editor in chief of *Zaman* works as an Uber driver.

"I am very sad to tell all those things about my beautiful country," he says. "I am taking a huge risk by speaking out. But I must do that."



To learn more about Turkey's role in biblical prophecy, watch "**Turkey Is Going to Betray America**" (theTrumpet.com/11069).

THE KEY OF DAVID



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

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

UNITED STATES

- Nationwide Satellite**
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17:11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
- Direct TV**
CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
10N, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri
- Dish Network**
10N, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri
- Nationwide Cable**
ABC Freeform, 6:30 ET/PT, Fri
CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
10N, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri
- Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00, Fri;
WVUA 8:30, Sun
- Dothan** WDFX 8:30, Sun
WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun
- Montgomery-Salem** WBMM-DT/WNCF-DT
8:30, Sun
- Opelika** WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Alaska, Anchorage** KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun
- Fairbanks** KATN-DT 8:30, Sun
- Juneau** KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun
- Arizona, Phoenix** KPPX 5:00, Fri;
KASW 8:00, Sun
- Yuma** KECY-DT 8:30, Sun
- Arkansas, El Dorado** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
- Fayetteville** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Fort Smith** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun
- Rogers** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Springdale** KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
- Chico** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
- El Centro** KECY-DT 8:30, Sun
- Eureka** KECA-LD/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Los Angeles** KCAL 6:30, Sun; KPXN 6:00, Fri
- Monterey** KION 9:30, Sun
- Palm Springs** KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Redding** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;
KRCR 9:00, Sun
- Sacramento** KSPX 6:00, Fri;
- Salinas** KION 9:30, Sun
- San Francisco** KKPX 6:00, Fri; KBCW
8:00, Sun
- Santa Barbara-Santa Maria** KSBY-DT
9:30, Sun
- Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00, Fri
- Grand Junction** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Montrose** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00, Fri
- Florida, Gainesville** WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun
- Jacksonville** WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri
- Miami** WPXM 6:00, Fri
- Orlando** WOPX 6:00, Fri
- Panama City** WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Tallahassee** WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/
WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
- Tampa** WXPX 6:00, Fri
- West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00, Fri
- Georgia, Albany** WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun
- Atlanta** WPXA 6:00, Fri
- Augusta-Aiken** WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun
- Brunswick** WPXC 6:00, Fri
- Columbus** WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Macon** WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Savannah** WSAV-DT 9:30, Sun
- Thomasville** WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
- Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;
8:30, Wed
- Honolulu** KPXO 5:00, Fri
- Kauai Ho'Ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue
- Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku**
Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon
- Oahu Focus** Chan. 49 7:00, Sat
- Idaho, Boise** KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Idaho Falls** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Pocatello** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Twin Falls** KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Illinois, Bloomington** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
- Chicago** WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30,
Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
- Peoria** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
- Rockford** WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
- Quincy** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
- Indiana, Fort Wayne** WISE-DT 9:30, Sun
- Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri
- Lafayette** WLFI-DT 9:30, Sun
- Terre Haute** WTHI-DT 9:30, Sun
- Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri
- Des Moines** KFPX 5:00, Fri
- Keokuk** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun
Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun
Kansas, Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun;
 KTKA 9:00, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun
Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KALB-DT 8:30, Sun
Lafayette KADN 6:30, Sun; KATC-DT
 8:30, Sun; KLAJ 6:30, Sun
Lake Charles KPLC-DT 8:30, Sun
Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland WIPL 6:00, Fri
Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Baltimore WBFF/WUTB 7:30, Sun
Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke
 WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAA 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WFOX-DT 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPX 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WFOX-DT 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester KTTC-DC 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
Jackson WDBD 8:00, Sun
Laurel WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WDEM-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
Springfield KRBK 7:30, Sun
St. Joseph KNPG-LD 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
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, Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
Lincoln KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT 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
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
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGXP 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT
 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri
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, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Youngstown WYTV 11:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada K TEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri; KQCW 9:30, Sun
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene 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 WACP 9:00, Sun
 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 WCBT-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
 KLCO-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
Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun
Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KJTV 8:00, Sun
 KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KTXE 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman K TEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:30, Sun;
 WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Richmond WUPV 8:00, Sun
Roanoke WPRR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT

9:30, Sun
Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma 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/WQOW-
 DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPIX 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 8:30, Sun
Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

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 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 CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
New Brunswick, Moncton CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Saint John CKLT-DT 11, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax CJCH-DT 11, Sun
Sydney 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 CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVVY 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun;

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Bahamas FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun
Puerto Rico WSJX 8:00, Sun

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

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Nationwide 9GEM 8:00, Sun
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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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