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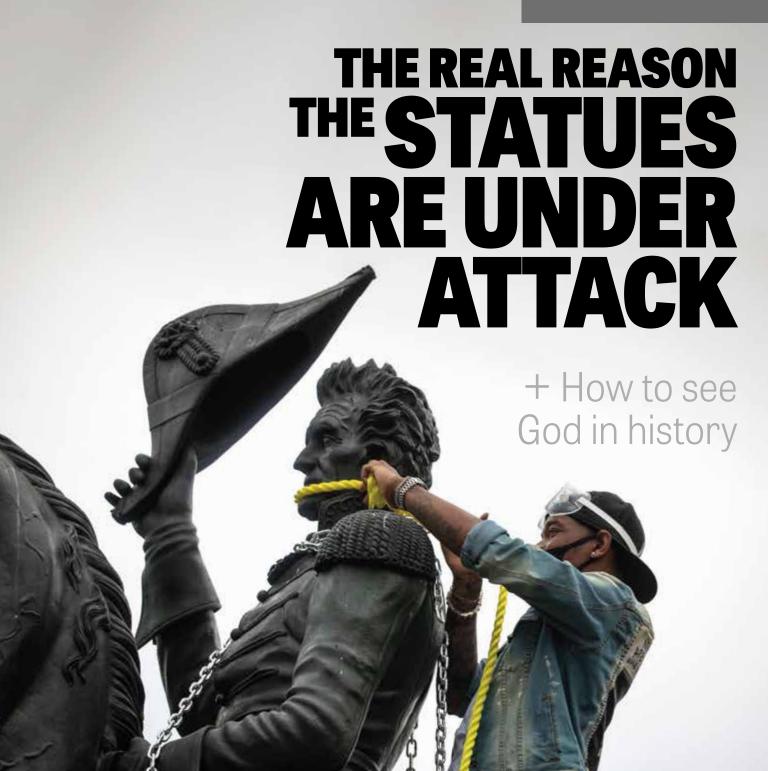
The Barack Obama mystery

Can America's military prevent a second civil war?

9/11 and beautiful humility

How accurate are scientific dating techniques?

A lifeline from the Philippines



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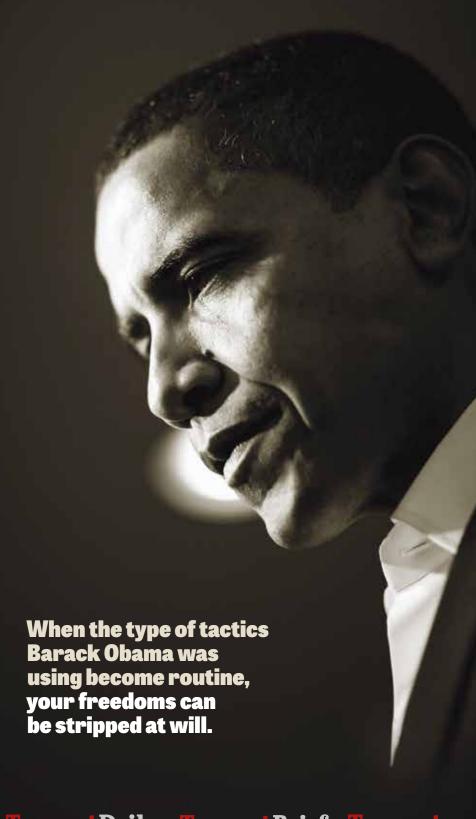
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The Barack Obama Mystery

Why would an American president conspire to smear the reputation of an American hero, overthrow the U.S. government, and realign the nation's interests with those of the number one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world?

HOMAS JEFFERSON ONCE SAID, "IF A NATION EXPECTS TO BE ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

A great deal of vital information is being unearthed about which every American must not be ignorant. It reveals unprecedented corruption by government officials that is undermin-

ing our freedoms and the political structure of our constitutional republic!

Americans' ignorance and lack of concern regarding these truths is making us extremely vulnerable to people who want to destroy this nation. The United States is already dangerously close to becoming a police state.

Handwritten notes from former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Peter Strzok have confirmed that Barack Obama personally directed an illegal investigation targeting retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn. Flynn is a decorated war hero who has saved countless American lives. But the Obama administration listened in on his phone calls and illegally leaked his conversations to the media.

If government agents can slander and spy on a well-connected American hero like General Flynn, what can they do to you if they disagree with your political views?

After the Department of Justice dropped its case against Flynn on May 7, President Donald Trump said that what President Obama did was "the biggest political crime in American history, by far!" He later added, "Obamagate makes Watergate look small time!" When the type of tactics Obama was using Become Routine, your freedoms can be stripped at will. The nation becomes a dictatorship.

Obamagate goes far beyond personal animus between Barack Obama and Michael Flynn. It was a plot to overthrow the U.S. government and realign American interests with those of the number one terror-sponsoring state. A number of political analysts have revealed how President Obama tried to accomplish this devious goal. But they are at a loss as to WHY he would do something so evil.

What motivates Barack Obama is a mystery to most analysts, but the Bible reveals this mystery. People need to understand what a dangerous threat this is to America's very foundation!

All this is prophesied in your Bible. But to understand it, you have to study it. If you do, then events in America will

begin to make sense, and you will see how, sadly, this nation's days are numbered!

Targeting General Flynn

Two days after winning the 2016 presidential election, Donald Trump met with President Obama in the Oval Office to discuss the transition to the new administration. Of the many issues Mr. Obama could have discussed with Mr. Trump during their 90-minute meeting, he mainly wanted to talk about two people. He told Mr. Trump that the two people he really had to worry about were North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un—and retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn.

Why was President Obama so concerned with General Flynn?

Many consider Flynn an American hero. As an intelligence officer in the Army, he tracked down Islamic terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was good at his job, and President Obama nominated him as director of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency. But in this new office, FLYNN EXPOSED HOW THE OBAMA

"Flynn incurred the wrath of the White House by insisting on telling the truth about Syria. He thought truth was the best thing, and they shoved him out."

—PATRICK LANG, former Defense Intelligence Agency official

ADMINISTRATION WAS FAILING TO EFFECTIVELY FIGHT THE ISLAMIC STATE AND OTHER ENEMIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. He told colleagues that he felt like a lone voice warning that the United States was less safe from radical Islam than before the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

He also criticized Obama for failing to support the enemies of Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, a strong ally of Iran. According to former Defense Intelligence Agency official Patrick Lang, "Flynn incurred the wrath of the White House by insisting on telling the truth about Syria. He thought truth was the best thing, and they shoved him out." He had been on the job for only two years when the Obama administration forced him into early retirement in August 2014.

But telling the truth about Syria was not the only thing that got Flynn in trouble. He was also a vocal opponent of President Obama's disastrous nuclear deal with Iran. General Flynn was well educated in intelligence-gathering techniques. That unnerved Obama officials. They were doing a lot of illegal spying on American citizens, and Flynn was well placed to expose their crimes. Clearly they were nervous about what Flynn might say: About a year after forcing him to retire, THEY STARTED TO SPY ON HIM.

A former senior Treasury Department official told the Star Newspaper Group that, starting in December 2015 and continuing well into 2017, Barack Obama's Treasury regularly surveilled Flynn's financial records and transactions. This was unlawful, but the Obama administration didn't care. They were obsessed with targeting Michael Flynn.

Obama administration officials told the public that Flynn had illegally colluded with Russia. This was a bald-faced lie.

So how did Flynn end up as the Obama administration's prime target? American journalist Lee Smith answered this question in an article for the *Tablet*, "How Russiagate Began With Obama's Iran Deal Domestic Spying Campaign."

"Why were officials from the [Obama] administration intercepting [Flynn's] phone calls with the Russian ambassador?" Smith wrote. "The answer is that Obama saw Flynn as a signal threat to his legacy, which was rooted in his July 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran—the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Flynn had said long before he signed on with the Trump campaign that it was a catastrophe to realign American interests with those of a terror state. And now that the candidate he'd advised was the new president-elect, Flynn was in a position to help undo the deal" (May 22).

In other words, the smear campaign against Flynn had nothing to do with Russia. It was all about stopping Flynn from helping President Trump undo the Obama administration's Iran nuclear deal!

Obama's Iran Deal

The Obama administration implemented its nuclear deal with Iran on Jan. 16, 2016. Under the terms of this agreement, the United States lifted oil and financial sanctions on Iran, while Iran agreed to stop enriching uranium beyond 3.67 percent.

General Flynn had left the Obama administration 17 months before, and he was a vocal critic of the deal. He wrote a 2016 book, *The Field of Fight*, describing correspondence between the Iranian government and al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Apparently al Qaeda was working on chemical and biological weapons in Iran, but the Obama administration refused to declassify the proof.

Flynn also warned that the Russians were cooperating with the Iranians and would probably not help the U.S. fight radical Islamic terrorism. Still, the Obama administration agreed to let Russia export more than 100 tons of natural uranium to Iran—enough to make 10 nuclear bombs!

Now, the whole message the Obama administration was peddling about the Iran deal was that it would prevent the mullahs from getting a nuclear bomb. Yet they colluded with Russia to give Iran a hundred tons of uranium! What was really going on?

General Flynn condemned Iran as the "world's leading state sponsor of terrorism" and advocated a strategy aimed at overthrowing the Iranian government. He criticized the Obama administration for trying to align America with the interests of a terrorist state. So when President-elect Trump appointed Flynn as a national security adviser, Obama went to work trying to get rid of Flynn.

As Lee Smith put it, "Russiagate was not a hoax, as some conservative journalists call it. Rather, it was a purposeful extension of the Obama administration's Iran Deal media campaign, and of the secret espionage operation targeting those opposed to Obama's efforts to realign American interests with those of a terror state that embodies the most corrosive forms of anti-Semitism" (ibid).

How could the American public be so ignorant as to allow such disastrous foreign-policy decisions?

Flynn warned that the Russians were cooperating with the Iranians. Still, the Obama administration agreed to let Russia export more than 100 tons of natural uranium to Iran—enough to make 10 nuclear bombs.



Crossfire Razor

To smear General Flynn as a Russian agent, Obama's fbi opened a counterintelligence investigation called Crossfire Razor. Having found no evidence of any wrongdoing by Flynn, investigators planned to close the case on Jan. 4, 2017. But then fbi agent Peter Strzok was directed by top officials at the fbi to ensure the investigation of Flynn stayed open.

Court filings in Flynn's criminal case show that Strzok texted an unnamed associate on Jan. 4, 2017, "Hey if you haven't closed RAZOR, don't do so yet." Strzok's order was delivered at the behest of FBI leadership, which he referred to as the "7th floor."

The next day, intelligence officials met in the Oval Office to brief President Obama about the findings of their report on Russian interference in the election. Present at the meeting were: Vice President Joe Biden, National Security Adviser Susan Rice, CIA Director John Brennan, FBI Director James Comey, Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, and National Security Agency Director Michael Rogers.

After the initial meeting, President Obama held a follow-on meeting with Susan Rice, Joe Biden and the two individuals that would retain their positions into the next administration: Comey and Yates. This meeting was documented over two weeks later in an e-mail Susan Rice sent to herself immediately after leaving the White House on Jan. 20, 2017.

The Justice Department has disclosed handwritten notes from Peter Strzok recounting what Comey had told him about this January 5 follow-on meeting. These notes show that Obama knew details about private conversations between Michael Flynn and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak that even Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates did not know. This meeting shows that Obama WAS PERSONALLY OVERSEEING THE EFFORT TO TAKE DOWN FLYNN.

Strzok's notes recount how Comey told Obama that Flynn's phone calls looked legitimate and that Obama told Comey to "make sure you look at things, and have the right people on it." They also recount how Vice President Biden brought up the Logan Act—an 18th-century law that forbids private citizens from discussing foreign policy with foreign governments. The



law is likely unconstitutional and definitely does not apply to national security advisers for incoming presidential administrations. But it ended up being key in taking down Flynn.

Obama and his top brass listened in on conversations between Michael Flynn and the Russian ambassador and then accused Flynn of violating an obscure 18th-century law. They then used the transcripts of those perfectly legal conversations to entrap Flynn.

Seven days after the January 5 Oval Office meeting, the Washington Post's David Ignatius published a story about Flynn's contacts with the Russian ambassador, and he raised the non-issue of the Logan Act. How did the Post find out about Flynn's phone calls? The Obama administration had illegally leaked that information in an attempt to set up Flynn.

The Post article triggered the mainstream media and Democrat politicians to focus their attention on Michael Flynn.

There was absolutely nothing wrong with Flynn's phone calls with the Russian ambassador. Consider what a Washington Post reporter, Adam Entous, said during a conference in October 2017. He explained that the newsroom was made aware of the fact that Flynn was having conversations with Ambassador Kislyak, but that it wasn't worth reporting because, "There's no reason why he shouldn't be having that conversation."

Entous said that Ignatius could write about it because he was a columnist and, "Unlike me as a news reporter, he was able to just throw this piece of red meat out there and just say, 'There was this conversation. What was it about?"

By getting the media to write about the Flynn phone calls, the Obama administration was giving the media bait it could use to trap the incoming administration. And it worked.

Flynn could be forgiven for not remembering every detail of each phone call he had with the Russian ambassador. The Obama administration, on the other hand, had transcripts of each of his phone calls and could use the transcripts to entrap him.

The Perjury Trap

Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe recently declassified the Flynn transcripts. In all those transcripts, the word "sanction" appears once, and it was brought up by Ambassador Kislyak. The Federalist's Sean Davis wrote: "The transcripts show that while Kislyak obliquely raised the issue of financial sanctions against certain Russian intelligence officials, Flynn himself never discussed the financial sanctions against Russian individuals and entities levied by the Obama administration. Instead, Flynn focused on preventing U.S. 'tit-for-tat' escalation following the Obama administration's expulsion of Russian diplomats."

The day after the January 12 Post article, members of President-elect Trump's staff were asked by the media about Flynn's call, particularly about the topic of sanctions. Flynn told his co-workers that he didn't remember discussing sanctions. Then on January 15, Vice President Mike Pence publicly stated that there had been no talk about economic sanctions between Flynn and the Russian ambassador. Pence said that Flynn told him that neither sanctions nor the decision to expel diplomats came up on the call. The transcripts of the call do reveal that Flynn spoke to Kislyak about the expulsion of diplomats, however. This miscommunication is what was ultimately exploited by the Obama holdovers to force Flynn's resignation.

Pence, however, did not have access to Michael Flynn's transcripts—and neither did Flynn himself. But the Obama administration did.

On Jan. 23, 2017, three days after the inauguration, the Washington Post ran an article titled "FBI Reviewed Flynn's Calls With Russian Ambassador but Found Nothing Illicit." This article was designed to put Flynn at ease. There was obviously nothing illicit in the phone calls and everyone knew it. But the Obama administration pushed ahead with its plan to catch Flynn in a lie.

On January 24, FBI Director Comey sent Peter Strzok and Joe Pientka to Flynn's office at the White House. The agents were sent to lay a perjury trap against Flynn. Armed with the transcript of his phone calls, the agents invited themselves into Flynn's office, pretending they were there to casually talk to him about reports in the media.

Flynn's "sin" was forgetting that the word "sanction" came up once during a phone call four weeks earlier. Because Flynn denied having a conversation about sanctions, the Obama holdovers determined that he was lying and actively misleading members of the Trump administration. Some even publicly speculated that Flynn would be susceptible to Russian blackmail because of the call.

On January 26, Sally Yates told President Trump's counsel that Flynn made statements to them about sanctions that were untrue. Flynn continued to publicly state that he did not

DON EMMERT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

discuss sanctions. Then on February 9, the *Post* wrote about the content of Flynn's phone calls. Disclosing that information to the press was illegal. Citing "unnamed current and former officials," the *Post* reported that Flynn "privately discussed U.S. sanctions against Russia with that country's ambassador to the United States during the month before President Trump took office, contrary to public assertions by Trump officials."

The article embarrassed the Trump White House and led to Michael Flynn's forced resignation on February 13—not because of anything he said to the Russian ambassador, but because he made Vice President Pence look bad by not fully communicating with him about everything he discussed on the phone with Ambassador Kislyak. The Obama administration holdovers were actively trying to sow chaos for the incoming administration. In the end, they achieved their goal, causing the public to believe that Flynn was trying to cover up some sinister crime with Russian agents.

In fact, the whole situation was orchestrated by Barack Obama to protect the Iran nuclear deal.

Lies, Lies, Lies

On May 12, Joe Biden was interviewed on ABC's Good Morning America. George Stephanopoulos asked him what he knew about the Flynn investigation, and he dogmatically stated, "I know nothing about those moves to investigate Michael Flynn." Then when he was pressed about his role in the Jan. 5, 2017, meeting, he revised his answer, and said, "I thought

you asked me on whether or not I had anything to do with him being prosecuted. I'm sorry. I was aware that ... they had asked for an investigation, but that's all I know about it."

Peter Strzok's handwritten notes have since revealed both statements to be lies. It was Biden who brought up the Logan Act as a possible means of prosecuting General Flynn. Now the Democrats act like such lies are nothing to be concerned about. But the reality is, lying is the *modus operandi* of those Obama-era officials!

They called American hero Michael Flynn a clandestine agent of Russia. Such lies are hard to even fathom, yet millions of people believe them. These officials have been repeatedly exposed for this kind of deception. They believe it is *right* to lie when it is for an "important purpose"! They have no fixed principles. And very few will hold them to account!

America's Constitution was made to rule a *moral*, *self-governing people*, a well-informed people who will hold their leaders to a high moral standard. Ignorant people can never make our Constitution work. The ignorance of the American people regarding what is happening here is disastrous.

Something deadly dangerous has seized the country—far more than people realize. There is a *spiritual dimension* to what

is happening, and you cannot understand these events unless you recognize that. We must $know\ our\ enemy$ to understand what is happening in America.

Lee Smith wrote a book titled *The Plot Against the President: The True Story of How Congressman Devin Nunes Uncovered the Biggest Political Scandal in U.S. History.* Smith is an expert on how Obama and his colleagues tried to frame Donald Trump, Michael Flynn and others for crimes they did not commit.

Still, Smith does not understand why Barack Obama so vehemently supported Iran. "It's not hard to see why the previous president went after Flynn: The retired general's determination to undo the Iran Deal was grounded in his own experience in two Middle Eastern theaters of combat, where he saw how Iran murdered Americans and threatened American interests," he writes. "But why Obama would choose the Islamic Republic as a Partner and encourage tactics typically employed by Third



"It's not hard to see why [Obama] went after Flynn But why Obama would choose the Islamic Republic as a partner and encourage tactics typically employed by Third World police states remains a mystery."

—**LEE SMITH**, author

World Police States remains a mystery" (emphasis mine).

This is a mystery to a sharp analyst like Lee Smith. Almost all Americans are oblivious to it. But the Bible reveals this mystery, and those who do see it have an obligation to speak out!

The Mystery Explained

Our people don't understand their Bibles as they once did. They don't understand the many scriptures about Satan the devil. But these scriptures show that the devil has his agenda against America, and only God can protect us from the powerful evil spirit attacking the nation.

The Bible shows that anciently, God raised up the kingdom of Israel to represent Him. Satan attacked that nation in every way he could. History shows that at one point, an enemy almost completely *destroyed* it—but God raised up a flawed human king to temporarily save the nation. "For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel. And the Lord said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash" (2 Kings 14:26-27). The book of Kings is one of the *former prophets*. It is a book of prophecy for this end time especially.

A man tried to blot out the *name* of Israel—a very satanic goal. Satan hates everything God is about and wants to destroy it every way he can. But this passage shows that anciently, God stopped this from happening—and He did so through King Jeroboam II.

It is important to understand the prophetic principle of duality. *History is repeating itself today.* Just what is the prophetic name of Israel? First, it is spiritual Israel, or God's true Church in this end time. Second, it is physical Israel. In our day, the emphasis is on three physical nations of Israel: America, Britain and the Jewish nation in the Middle East. Herbert W. Armstrong explained this in his book The United States and Britain in Prophecy (request a free copy). For more proof of this, please read my article "Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily" (the Trumpet.com/17092).

Iran's mullahs publicly say they want to "wipe Israel off the map." That is another way of saying they want to "blot out the name of Israel from under heaven"!

Why in the world would an American president align with these murderers? Why permit Russia to give them 100 tons of uranium? And why implement a deal that virtually guarantees Iran becomes a nuclear power?

This prophetic passage in 2 Kings 14 explains. President Obama shares the goal to "blot out the name of Israel"!

The Iranians may not know that the Americans are literal descendants of ancient Israel, but they do label America the "Great Satan" and the Jewish state the "Little Satan." They really want to blot these nations out! And through his Iran nuclear deal, Barack Obama was helping them accomplish this goal! He was implying, You take care of the Jews and we'll take care of America. We'll "blot out the name of Israel from under heaven" by transforming America into a socialist state our founders wouldn't recognize. He wants to destroy everything good in America and to fundamentally change the nation into a Marxist dictatorship. Spiritually, he wants to wipe out the faith of Israel—just like the Iranian mullahs want to wipe Israel off the map!

This is what Lee Smith doesn't understand. Obama decided to "choose the Islamic Republic as a partner" and to use "tactics typically employed by Third World police states" because he wants to blot out both the Jewish state and America! He also expressed hatred for Britain. Like the ancient Seleucid King Antiochus (Daniel 8:24), he is empowered by the devil to destroy the people of Israel though flattery and deceits that lead to violence.

It takes faith to believe what God says in 2 Kings 14:26-27. If God did not intervene to save America "by the hand" of Donald Trump, then America's republic would have been blotted out and Iran's theocracy would probably have an atomic weapon!

Satan destroyed Israel in the past and is about to do it again unless our people repent!

The Devil's Fingerprints

We must be able to recognize the devil's fingerprints on what was taking place here. In John 8:44, the Apostle John records the words of Jesus Christ to the Jews who were trying to kill Him: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

There is no truth in the devil—none at all! And the radical LEFT LIE LIKE THE DEVIL. That is the spirit behind these people who will say and do *anything* to accomplish their goals. The way they worked to destroy the life of Michael Flynn, an upstanding American patriot, is chilling proof. They will stop at nothing to take over the government and align America with the government of Iran. Every time they are challenged on anything illegal they have done, they lie—over and over and over again.

Yet still, when people ask them a question, no matter how outrageous the answer, they somehow believe them! The spirit of deception is troublingly deep. That points directly to the influence of the devil. These people are swayed by the devil!

Satan was a murderer "from the beginning." Remember Cain and Abel: That first murder in human history was inspired by the devil. From the beginning, Satan was a murderer. This is how he influences people.

What is Satan's real goal? It is not merely to attack a certain man. He is trying to undermine everything of God.

We must recognize that the real enemy is not Barack Obama. He was abandoned by his parents as a young man and ended up being mentored by the Communist radical Frank Marshall Davis. The real culprit behind his efforts to "blot out Israel" is NOT A MAN! I am not blaming him—I am blaming Satan!

Saving America Temporarily

The Iran deal had been implemented on Jan. 16, 2016. General Flynn was effectively forced out of the Trump administration a year later. These prophetic dates are deeply significant.

God is active in these events. He is trying to get our minds focused on January 16.

When Herbert W. Armstrong died on Jan. 16, 1986, he left behind a church with 725 congregations in 57 countries around the globe and a powerful work going out to the world. It had a weekly worldwide audience of more than 130,000 people, and another 210,000 outside the Church donated money regularly. Serving these many members, prospective members and contributors were more than 1,200 ministers worldwide. But his successors systematically destroyed the Worldwide Church of

Iran's mullahs publicly say they want to "wipe Israel off the map." That is another way of saying they want to "blot out the name of Israel from under heaven."

God using many of the same tactics that Obama administration officials are using to destroy the United States. There was a behind-the-scenes conspiracy to fundamentally change church doctrine and force these changes on church membership.

I explain this history in my free book Malachi's Message; it gives deep insight into what is happening in America today.

We must see the spiritual dimension here. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

Rioters deface and attempt to pull down the statue of Andrew Jackson in front of the White House.



HY ARE STATUES COMing down across
Britain and America?
We're told it's because
of slavery. Slavery was
racist and abhorrent, so statues of anyone
that profited from it must come down.

But is that the real reason?

Slavery has certainly been one of the great evils of world history. But it has also been one of the most common.

The oldest known law tablet, from ancient Sumer, has laws on slavery. The ancient Greeks boasted about their love of freedom—while owning slaves. The Roman Empire was built on the backs of millions of them.

In the Dark Ages, slave trade was rife. At the turn of the millennium A.D.

1000, about half a million slaves were being traded between Europe and Asia each year.

Slavery started to die out in Europe, but then received a massive boost with the discovery of the Americas. Growing sugar in the tropical islands became big business. So was mining in South America. But it was hard work in a climate few could survive in for long. It soon became hard to find enough laborers.

And so, the Atlantic slave trade developed. Britain became a major participant, transporting around 3 million Africans.

But it wasn't the only nation involved in the slave trade. Portugal is estimated to have transported about 5.8 million slaves. The French transported around 2 million. The Dutch and Spanish each transported about half a million.

And those sailing the boats weren't the only ones involved.

The slaves were usually bought from African rulers. One, King Gezo, who reigned from 1818 to 1858, said, "The slave trade has been the ruling principle of my people. It is the source of their glory and wealth. Their songs celebrate their victories and the mother lulls the child to sleep with notes of triumph over

an enemy reduced to slavery."

And these slaves didn't travel only to America and British Caribbean colonies. Over the course of the slave trade, over 300,000 slaves were transported to the United States. Another 765,000 were taken to Cuba, 735,000 to Jamaica, and 2.7 million went elsewhere in the Caribbean. Brazil was by far the largest destination, with nearly 3.2 million slaves.

Something doesn't become less evil because everybody's doing it. But this history does raise the question: Why are only Britain's and America's statues under attack?

The truth is that Britain and America do have a unique relationship with slavery—and it has everything to do with the reason these statues are coming down.

A Change of Heart

The slave trade was incredibly profitable. A slave in the Americas would sell for about eight times the price he cost in Africa. And in 1805, Britain became the undisputed master of the world's oceans after winning the Battle of Trafalgar. The stage seemed set for Britain to profit more than ever from this evil trade.

The Real Reason Our Statues Are Under Attack

Is it because of our nations' history of slavery?

BY RICHARD PALMER



Instead, the opposite happened. In March 1807, *Britain outlawed the slave trade*. In his book *Empire*, Niall Ferguson called it "an astonishing volte-face." "[T]owards the end of the 18th century, something changed dramatically," he writes; "it was almost as if a switch was flicked in the British psyche."

"It is not easy to explain so profound a change in the ethics of a people," he continues. "It used to be argued that slavery was abolished simply because it had ceased to be profitable, but all the evidence points the other way: In fact, it was abolished despite the fact that it was still profitable." Instead, Britain had a "collective change of heart."

But Britain did more than simply stop participating in this trade. It used its diplomatic clout to ensure other nations ended slavery. The British Army was protecting Portugal from Napoleonic invasion at the time, so Portugal was convinced to sign a treaty limiting the slave trade in 1810. In 1813, Sweden signed. The 1814 Treaty of Paris that ended the Napoleonic Wars (until Napoleon Bonaparte's escape one year later) forced France to renounce it. The

Netherlands soon signed its own treaty, followed by Spain in 1817.

No other nation was going around the world cajoling other nations to end the slave trade. Only Denmark, hardly a major colonial power, was quicker in phasing it out. In 1794 revolutionary France agreed to abolish slavery, but Napoleon overturned that decision in 1802. Yet you don't see his statues and busts under attack.

America was moving in the same direction. President Thomas Jefferson signed America's Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves on March 2, 1807, at almost the same time Britain outlawed the trade. This was the culmination of nearly two decades of laws that put evertighter restrictions on the slave trade.

But abolishing the slave trade didn't free the slaves already at work. Thus, Britain's anti-slavery campaigners pushed on. In 1833, the United Kingdom passed the Slavery Abolition Act, outlawing the practice within British colonies. When this law came into effect, 800,000 slaves were freed.

To pass this law through Parliament, it had to be "compensated emancipation," meaning slave owners were paid for the slaves they had to free. Many on the left criticize this today. But the fact is, uncompensated emancipation would

have taken much longer. The reformers chose to be pragmatic and freed the slaves as soon as they could. Britain paid a huge price for this: £20 million—billions in today's money. Britain had to take out a loan so massive that it only finished paying it off in 2015.

But that wasn't the only cost. The economic effects of emancipation were "devastating." "Planters were ruined from Antigua to Mauritius. Middlemen of Ashanti, slave captains of Merseyside, overseers of Nassau, found themselves without an occupation. ... Most of the sugar colonies never really recovered" (Jan Morris, *Heaven's Command*). One Jamaican estate that had been making £11,000 a year in the 1820s was sold in the 1840s for just £1,650.

But Britain sought to do more than merely outlaw the slave trade. It wanted to ensure the practice actually stopped.

War on the Slave Trade

The UK, alone in all nations of the world, put forth a huge effort to shut this trade down. In 1808, during the Napoleonic War, with the nation still fighting for survival, Britain set up the West Africa Squadron. It patrolled the seas of Africa's west coast looking for slave ships.

Britain's naval dominance was now assured, and so "for the first 30 years of Victoria's reign, the Royal Navy's chief task was the interception of slavers," wrote Morris.

In theory, Britain was leading a multinational effort; but in practice, no one else made any significant contributions.

It was a tough job. Slave ships were often built for speed and could outrun the slower Navy warships. Even when they did overrun them, stopping and searching ships belonging to other nations was a legal and bureaucratic nightmare. Foreign powers, persuaded only reluctantly to outlaw the trade, tried to raise as many legal obstacles as possible to prevent the

Rioters roll the statue of Edward Colston to the River Avon on June 7. prosecution of their citizens. But Britain persevered, pouring heaps of money into the endeavor. The Navy captured 1,600 slave ships between 1808 and 1860, freeing 150,000 Africans.

But Britain felt there was still more work to do. It was clear that overhauling boats on the high seas would not end the trade. So Navy commanders looked for ways to go onshore and shut them down. This task required men who possessed what the left today calls "toxic masculinity." One such man was Cmdr. Joseph Denman.

Denman commanded the нмs Wanderer. He and his men had been trying to capture slave ships off the coast of

African slaves transported during the Atlantic slave trade (millions)



Destination of slaves during the Atlantic trade (millions)



the Gallinas. But the Gallinas were an independent territory, and Britain was not at war with it. He could blockade its estuary but couldn't land.

Then the leader of Gallinas kidnapped a British subject from Sierra Leone. Denman was ordered to sort it out. This was the excuse he needed.

After he freed the kidnapped subject, Denman took over the largest island in the Gallinas estuary, freed around a thousand slaves, and burned the slavers' warehouses. The chief of the Gallinas was forced to sign a treaty renouncing the slave trade and promising to expel

The commander of a single vessel forced an entire tribe to renounce the slave trade.

This pursuit of abolition led Britain to become more active around the world. "The first monuments of Queen Victoria's empire were monuments of liberty," wrote Morris. "The fight against slavery at its source would continue throughout the Victorian era, being a prime motive as we shall see of the great mid-century explorations" (ibid).

With America out of the slave trade officially, at least—Brazil was the world's top destination for African slaves. Brazil had signed a treaty with Britain agreeing to outlaw the slave trade in 1826. But it didn't enforce it. By 1850, Britain decided to enforce it for Brazil. The Royal Navy entered Brazil's inland waters and ports, cutting out slave ships from under the guns of forts. The show of resolve convinced Brazil to end the trade. "When a powerful nation like Great Britain is evidently in earnest, can Cuba and Brazil stand out?" Brazilian Foreign Minister Paulino Jose Soares de Sousa asked Brazil's chamber of deputies.

Meanwhile, the issue of slavery was heating up in the U.S. The American Civil War was about more than slavery, but slavery was at its heart. Thousands upon thousands of Americans fought and died because they believed that all men-including black-were created equal and "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." That war ended with about 4 million slaves freed.

That war also unified America against the slave trade and led it to help Britain in the international effort against slavery. The Atlantic slave trade was dead.

Yet still the crusade to end this practice was unfinished.

The renowned Victorian explorer Dr. David Livingstone shone a light on another holdover: the East African-Arab slave trade. His dramatic disappearance, discovery and then death gave enormous publicity to this problem.

The Royal Navy got to work. With the American Civil War effectively ending the Atlantic slave trade, the West Africa Squadron switched to the East. In 1890, Britain made a deal with Germany, swapping Heligoland in the North Sea for Zanzibar. What had been a major slave-trading station became the center of Britain's anti-slavery work in East Africa.

No other powers in the world have this kind of anti-slavery history.

Which makes Black Lives Matters and others' targeting these nations for their history of slavery so absurd.

Our False Sense of Superiority

One of the first casualties of the radicals' attack was the Elizabethan naval commander Sir John Hawkins. Plymouth had a square dedicated to Hawkins, which it has now decided to rename.

Encyclopedia Britannica calls Hawkins "the chief architect of the Elizabethan navy." He, along with men like Sir Francis Drake, were instrumental in establishing England as a naval power.

Adm. Horatio Nelson has also come under attack, with activists throwing paint at his statue. He led the Royal Navy to victory in the Napoleonic Wars.

Yes, Drake and Hawkins challenged the Spanish monopoly on the slave trade by making a few voyages in slave ships. But these men also helped defeat empires that engaged in slavery and tyranny on a far larger scale. Drake and Hawkins confronted the Spanish Armada: Nelson, the French and its allies. What if these men had been wiped from history? The Spanish or French empires would have dominated the world. There is no evidence either would have had any interest in eliminating slavery.

If not for these men and others, slavery would probably remain as a mainstream institution.

Of course, slavery still exists. Thanks to the British Empire, it is almost universally outlawed. But according to the International Labor Organization, around 45 million people are enslaved today.

To the Victorians, outlawing slavery wasn't enough. They followed it up, with military force where necessary, to ensure people were actually free. Out of sight wasn't out of mind; they traveled to the ends of the Earth to wipe out the practice.

Not so today. The 45 million slaves don't weigh heavily on the world's conscience. We denounce the Victorians as slave traders—yet they cared far more about ending slavery than we do today.

If slavery isn't the real reason for the attack on our history, what is? Why is the world so stirred up against these figures from the past?



Divided loyalties within the armed forces could put the answer in doubt. BY ANDREW MILLER

HAT WOULD AMERICA LOOK LIKE IF ITS military split into hostile factions? What would happen if thousands of American troops refused to carry out the orders of their commander in chief—or even took up arms against him? Nothing like this has happened in the United States since the Civil War. But today, more and more former defense officials are publicly accusing President Donald Trump of betraying his oath of office.

James Mattis, who is not only a prominent retired Marine Corps general but was also President Trump's secretary of defense, had largely kept with the historic military tradition of not publicizing personal political views. On June 3, he broke his silence and issued a public statement condemning the president.

"Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people—does not even pretend to try," Mattis said in a statement obtained by CNN. "Instead he tries to divide us. We are witnessing the consequences of three years of this deliberate effort. We are witnessing the consequences of three years without mature leadership. We can unite without him, drawing on the strengths inherent in our civil society. This will not be easy, as the past few days have shown, but we owe it to our fellow citizens; to past generations that bled to defend our promise; and to our children."

What prompted this outburst? Mattis was upset that the president had threatened to bring federal forces to confront the riots and lawlessness plaguing American cities. "Mayors and governors must establish an overwhelming law enforcement presence until the violence has been quelled," he had announced. "If a city or a state refuses to take

the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them."

For President Trump to use the military to disperse rioters would require him to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807. This was specifically what Gen. Mattis criticized. This power was last used in 1992, when President George H. W. Bush used U.S. Marines to stop race riots in Los Angeles, California; Mattis was a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps at the time. In his view there was apparently nothing controversial about invoking that act at the time. But today, Mattis claims Trump is the first president in his lifetime to divide people.

Whatever your views on President Trump, General Mattis, President Bush, the Insurrection Act or the United States itself, sharp divisions between the commander in chief and the military during a time of national turmoil represent a threat to the stability of the nation—and of the world.

Law and Order

Other top retired generals and admirals are also condemning the use of military force to restore law and order to American streets: Army Gen. Colin Powell, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers. Their condemnations have been joined by those of former defense secretaries Leon Panetta, Chuck Hagel, Ashton Carter and William Cohen. All totaled, 89 former national security leaders have accused the president of "betraying" his oath of office by mentioning the Insurrection Act.

31,443,321

U.S. population during the Civil War

328,200,000

Current U.S. population-more than 10 times the Civil War number

620.000

Civil War deaths, around 2 percent of the total population. This is more Americans than died in both world wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War combined.

6.500.000

What that number would be in a modern civil war that killed a comparable proportion of the population. Astonishingly, Bible prophecy shows that the coming civil war will kill a far larger percentage (Ezekiel 5:9, 12).

A 2019 survey of 1,630 active-duty troops conducted by Syracuse University found:

50 PERCENT had an "unfavorable" view of President Trump.

42 PERCENT had a favorable view.

With officers, only 33 PERCENT had a favorable view of the president.

Percent approval of President Trump's performance by branch:

Marine Corps 65+ PERCENT

Navy 49 PERCENT

Army 38 PERCENT

Air Force 36 PERCENT

The current rioting in America may not be bad enough to require sending in federal troops. Still, the Insurrection Act has been invoked 11 times in the past century. It is both legal and constitutional for the president to use federal troops to put down "an insurrection in any state against its government ... upon the request of its legislature or of its governor if the legislature cannot be convened."

Deploying troops into America's streets is a serious step. Overusing this measure would indeed threaten what is left of the U.S. Constitution. Understandably, citizens want to be sure that action is necessary. But the fact that so many former defense officials are openly accusing President Trump of sowing division in the nation illustrates that the U.S. military is divided.

The irony of Colin Powell's condemnation of President Trump is that Powell was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the 1992 Los Angeles riots. He reportedly told President Bush, "All you've got to do is say it." He oversaw the deployment of 4,500 marines and soldiers into the city. But today, he says President Trump has "drifted away" from the U.S. Constitution for suggesting he would do the same thing.

Many political analysts are warning that political division in the U.S. is worse now than at any point since the Civil War. Other analysts say a conflict as devastating as the Civil War could not happen to the U.S. again, because the military would quickly put down the rebellion.

"Anybody unwise enough to seriously take up arms against Uncle Sam on home turf would be crushed overnight by the full might of our armed forces, which have 1.3 million men and women on active duty," security expert John Schindler wrote in the *Observer*. "Unlike in 1861, our states lack their own freestanding militias—despite lip service to state authority, our National Guard is fully integrated into the U.S. military—so there's no force to even rebel against Washington. The notion that anybody could get even a brigade's worth of organized troops to rebel against the feds is an online hothouse fantasy, not political or military reality" (July 4, 2018).

This assessment assumes that the U.S. military and National Guard are united and under the authority of the president. But is that true? Would America's 1.3 million active-duty soldiers fight "anybody unwise enough to seriously take up arms against Uncle Sam on home turf"? Or would some of them like to see regime change?

Polarized Military

During his first five years in office, former President Barack Obama fired at least 197 military officers, leading to speculation by active and retired military personnel that he was purging the military

of ideological dissenters. Retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely told *Investors Business Daily* in 2013 that Obama was "intentionally weakening and gutting our military, Pentagon and reducing us as a superpower, and anyone in the ranks who disagrees or speaks out is being purged" (Oct. 13, 2013).

It is hard to quantify political division in the U.S. military because officers generally do not publicly criticize their commander in chief until after they have retired. But a 2019 survey of 1,630 active-duty troops conducted by Syracuse University found that 50 percent of respondents had an "unfavorable" opinion of President Trump, compared to only 42 percent who had a favorable impression. The same poll found President Trump more popular among the enlisted troops than among officers, with 43 percent of enlisted soldiers having a favorable opinion of the president, compared to only 33 percent of officers.

A 2018 survey of 829 active-duty troops conducted by the *Military Times* found President

As Democratic politicians are encouraging race riots and former generals are accusing the president of betraying the Constitution, this division represents a severe strategic vulnerability: disunity.

Trump's support was highest among marines. Over 65 percent of Marine Corps respondents approved of President Trump's job performance, compared to 49 percent of Navy respondents, 38 percent of Army respondents, and 36 percent of Air Force respondents. The overall military was slightly more conservative than the general public.

The fact that half the military disapproves of President Trump's job performance is probably rather standard for American politics. But at a time when Democratic politicians are encouraging race riots and former generals are accusing the president of betraying the Constitution for suggesting that the military could help put down those riots, this division represents a severe strategic vulnerability: disunity. This disunity is between the military and its elected commander in chief, and between the solders within the military itself.

Some of the groups behind the riots—like Antifa, Refuse Fascism, and the Revolutionary Communist Party USA—have openly stated their goal to overthrow the United States government. What if these

agitators stir up an insurrection so large that military troops are required to preserve America's constitutional form of government? These groups are trying to tear down America's constitutional system of government because they can't build another one until that happens. Therefore they are trying to dissolve the glue of society by dividing the police from the people, the military from the people, the military from the people, the military from the enlisted men, and the enlisted men from each other. The fact that 89 former national security leaders are publicly speaking against President Trump is a much more significant victory for these agitators than the establishment of the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone in Seattle, Washington.

Is it true that anyone "unwise enough to seriously take up arms against Uncle Sam on home turf would be crushed overnight by the full might of our armed forces," as John Schindler suggested? Or would certain troops sit this fight out or even take up arms on behalf of the protesters?

America is bitterly divided. Prominent observers are discussing the possibility of civil war, and one 2019 Georgetown University poll showed that two thirds of Americans believe the U.S. is "on the edge of civil war."

Think about that for a moment. The Civil War took 620,000 American lives, about 2 percent of the nation's population, and more deaths than all other American wars from the American Revolution to the Korean War combined. Could America be on the edge of another such catastrophe? Our technological capacity to kill is much higher now than it was in 1865. If the military split into hostile factions, the potential for mass violence is much higher today.

Civil War

The late Herbert W. Armstrong explained in his landmark book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that the Anglo-Saxon peoples who settled the United States and Britain are descended from ancient Israel. This means the Bible's end-time prophecies concerning Israel are primarily directed at America and Britain.

In Ezekiel 5, God reveals that one third of the population of end-time Israel will die from pestilence, famine and violence because of sin. "And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations. … A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee …" (verses 9, 12).

This sobering prophecy means that more than 100 million people will die in rioting and warfare in the United States. (For proof, request your free copy of *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet*, by *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry.)

You can see the fault lines of this seismic conflict forming.

Some people trust America's military to preserve peace; others join right-wing militias or radically left groups like Antifa and the Democratic Socialists of America, which want to replace, rewrite or ignore the Constitution. As these trends unfold, tensions are building and the rule of law is breaking down. For 100 million Americans to die in a civil war, the nation's military will have to be broken.

The Prophet Micah warned that God would break America's military power: "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots: And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds: And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands" (Micah 5:10-13).

This is a literal, direct prophecy about this generation. Today, Americans worship the work of their hands. Because of this, God says that as America reaches the zenith of its military power, He will cut off its weapons systems and throw down its bases, likely in part by allowing radical ideologies to divide the troops. In many ways, God has already broken the pride of America's power (Leviticus 26:18-19). But soon, He will break the very existence of America's power!

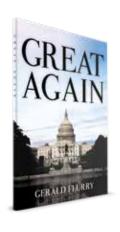
Civil War President Abraham Lincoln once stated, "All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the Earth (our own excepted) in their military chest, with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years. ... If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time or die by suicide."

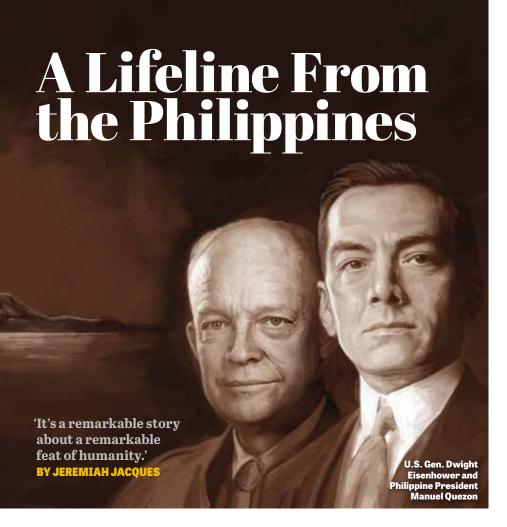
History shows that when a nation falls into division and infighting, it quickly becomes consumed by internal crises that leave it vulnerable to attack by foreign enemies. This is exactly what God prophesies will happen to America in the near future. Why? Because Americans have rebelled against His law. The dangerous level of ideological division in modern-day America is leading to the ultimate fulfillment of some sobering prophecies.

The grand lesson of all history is that the law of God is the only law that leads people to peace, unity and prosperity. As people seek unity with God, they also achieve agreement with each other. As political division and civil unrest grips America, as hostile foreign powers rise, it's time to look to the same Bible Abraham Lincoln did and seek the Eternal while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near! ■

CIVIL War II

Americans fear that we are now living in a new "prewar" period. They are placing their hope—their only hope—in luck, or a man, or democracy, or foodstuffs and firearms. Instead, they should place it where the great Civil War president placed his. Learn how by requesting a free copy of Great Again, by Gerald Flurry.





ARKNESS WAS ENGULFING Europe. By 1938 Adolf Hitler had been leading Germany for five years, and his Nazi government was casting a sinister shadow over the Continent-especially over Jewish people.

Hitler had kicked Jews out of German and Austrian schools, excluded them from many professions, and stripped their citizenship. The Nazis were invading Jewish homes, smashing their businesses, and burning their synagogues. Daily Jewish life had become a nightmare. Still, rumors were circulating that Hitler had a final plan for them that was still far more evil.

Many Jews realized that their best hope was to escape the country. They tried to relocate to other nations, but almost none of them, including even the United States, would ease their immigration restrictions and let them in.

The situation was looking darker and

Half a world away from Germany, news about the Nazis' diabolical plan came up during a game of poker.

A Royal Flush

At a table in the Malacañang Palace in Manila, Philippines, sat Manuel L. Quezon, the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth, U.S. military adviser Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul McNutt, and Alex and Herbert Frieder, Jewish-American brothers living in the Philippine capital where they ran a cigar factory. But the Frieders were more than just tobacco tycoons.

"[T]he Frieder brothers were also the head of the Jewish Refugee Committee in Manila," writer and film director Matthew Rosen told the *Trumpet*. "And they had a secret telegram sent to them from Austria from the Chinese ambassador there, saying that he had heard rumors that the Jews were going to be rounded up and put into death camps."

So during this poker game, the Frieders brought the troubling report up with President Quezon and the American officials. The brothers were unsure how the group would receive the news, but the response was precisely what

they had hoped for. Rosen, who recounts this history in his 2018 film Quezon's Game, said, "Together, they agreed that they had to, in some way, save as many of these Jews as they possibly could."

President Quezon in particular was all in.

'A Bigger Project Than Palestine'

Quezon determined to make his nation one of the first to publicly give safe haven to Jewish refugees. But it was clear from the start that it would be an extraordinarily difficult and risky undertaking. This was partly because many in Quezon's own cabinet opposed the idea due to anti-Semitism. Alex Frieder wrote that such men saw Jews as "Communists" and "schemers" out to "own the Philippines."

Defying these powerful men came with risks for Quezon's political career. But he stood up to each of them and made them feel, in Frieder's words, "ashamed of themselves for being a victim of propaganda intended to further victimize an already persecuted people."

More difficulties were presented by the need for each Jew to obtain both an exit permit from Berlin and an entry permit for Manila.

Hitler must have reasoned, at least at this point, that paper for visas was cheaper than poison gas, so the Nazi government granted the necessary exit documents for many Jews. But it was the entry permits that were a problem. The Philippines was a semi-independent commonwealth under control of the United States and its immigration laws. The U.S. Immigration Act of 1924 said the country "took no official cognizance of refugees and thus made no provision for offering asylum to the victims of religious or political persecution."

Despite the rise of Nazi Germany, this law had not been modified.

U.S. policy let the Philippines issue only a couple hundred entry permits each year—a mere fraction of the number Quezon wanted to help.

In a letter dated Dec. 8, 1938, Herbert Frieder said Quezon "heartily approved" of a plan to open the Philippine island of Mindanao up to basically as many Jews as wished to come. "He was willing to give them all the land that they wanted, build roads for them, and do everything in his power so that they could

reestablish themselves," Frieder wrote. "[H]e would be happy if we could settle a million refugees in Mindanao." This would be "a bigger project than Palestine."

Quezon understood that pushing so boldly against U.S. law could bring his career and even his nation's standing with America into question. And he understood that as war drums were pounding around the world, the Philippines faced major troubles of its own. But he believed the plight of the Jews was more pressing than any of that. And he came to see it as a moral obligation to help them at all costs.

"In that time of real darkness," Rosen said, "when everybody was saying, We've got our own problems, he showed that every life was important."

Help Wanted

Back in Europe, rage against Jews was intensifying. By the start of 1939, tens of thousands had already been forced into concentration camps, and those still free were finding it more and more difficult to work or even obtain food because other Germans refused to sell to them.

As Quezon learned of these horrors, his work to bring Jews into the Philippines took on greater urgency.

By the time his plan was formalized, he had set the number of Jews that he sought to help—at least in the first wave—down to a more realistic 10,000. At his behest, Eisenhower and McNutt went to work persuading U.S. Senators to grant the desired number of visas.

There was also a question of funding. One part of American immigration law stipulated that no person likely to become a "public charge" or a burden on the economy could immigrate to U.S. territory.

So the Frieders—Alex, Herbert and their other three brothers, Morris, Phillip and Henry—went into overdrive throughout much of 1939 raising funds, mainly among American Jews, to support the European refugees. They also placed a series of "help wanted" ads in German newspapers asking Jews with specific skill sets to relocate. One such notice listed: "20 Physicians, 10 Chemical Engineers, 25 Registered Nurses, 5 Dentists, 2 Ortho-Dentists, 4 Oculists, 10 Auto Mechanics, 5 Cigar and Tobacco Experts, 5 Women Dressmakers, 5 Barbers, 5 Accountants, 5 Film and Photograph

Experts, 1 Rabbi, 20 Farmers."

Applications began pouring in. By the end of the year, each steamer arriving from Europe brought a few Jewish families to the tropical island chain where they would restart their lives.

In March 1940, as the Jewish numbers grew, Quezon donated several acres of his own land in Manila to refugee families—just in time for them to observe the Jewish holiday of Purim there. In July, he issued a presidential decree stating that "every inhabitant of the Philippines" should "cooperate in extending whatever aid may be necessary for the safety and care of these refugees."

"It is my hope, and indeed my expectation," Quezon said, "that the people of the Philippines will have in the future every reason to be glad that when the time of need came, their country was willing to extend a hand of welcome."

Meanwhile, he and the Frieders kept working toward a deal to open Mindanao to a larger number of refugees. They conducted exhaustive land surveys, and lobbied dozens of politicians, and on Nov. 21, 1941, they scored a major victory: signing the final contract for the purchase of a massive tract of land on the island.

It looked like the way was opened for thousands and thousands of European Jews to get free of the Nazis and start over in the Philippines.

But 10 days later, the situation dramatically changed.

Japanese Occupation

On the morning of Dec, 7, 1941, Imperial Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. Ten hours later, the Japanese began a sneak attack on the Philippines and occupied the nation.

Japan's conquest forced America's Asiatic Fleet in the Philippines to withdraw to Indonesia, devastated the Philippine economy, and unleashed waves of hunger and disease which along with Japanese bullets and bayonets killed half a million Filipinos. It also destroyed Quezon's attempt to save 10,000 Jewish lives.

But before the Japanese arrived, he and the others helping the cause had been able to throw a lifeline to some 1,300 Jews.

These were individuals who otherwise almost certainly would have been rounded up by Nazis, forced into deplorable concentration camps, and murdered—either slowly by backbreaking toil and starvation, or quickly in gas chambers.

Some 1,300 people were plucked out of that fire by President Manuel Quezon.

Despite the fall of the Philippines, during and after the war these Jews formed what became a thriving community in Manila. In 2017, the Israeli embassy in the Philippines estimated that there are now about 8,000 descendants of the refugees Quezon saved.

"It's a remarkable story," Rosen said, "about a remarkable feat of humanity."

Would You Be a Quezon?

Manuel Quezon was a devout Catholic. He faced the same pressure that Catholics around the world faced in the lead up to and during the Holocaust to turn a blind eye to the horrors Nazi Germany was committing against Jews, and to perhaps even take some satisfaction in it.

The head of the Catholic Church throughout World War II, Pope Pius XII, chose not to condemn the Nazi slaughter of Jews. Instead he quietly helped the genocide. "[Pius] betrayed an undeniable antipathy toward the Jews" and drew "the Catholic Church into complicity with the darkest forces of the era" Roman Catholic historian John Cornwell wrote in his 1999 book Hitler's Pope. Even after the war, when the full evil of the Nazi genocide was known, the Roman Catholic Church helped the worst Nazi perpetrators escape to sunny refuges of their own in South America.

Pius was head of the Church that Quezon devoutly followed. Yet instead of buying into the anti-Semitism that consumed so many minds during that dark time, Quezon confronted those harboring that toxic view, and risked a great deal to help those in need—at a time when so few would.

Quezon refused to remain silent in the face of what he knew was wrong. He refused to sit idly by as evil was being wrought. He obeyed his principles and his God. And in so doing, Manuel Quezon gave an example to those who worship the true God: Even when the world is insisting that we go along with its evil, as the Apostle Peter said in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men."





HY DOES AMERICA dominate the world

today? Why did Britain create the largest empire in world

history? Why is Western science, culture, art and literature so globally dominant?

Historians have devoted their entire careers to examining these questions. They lie at the heart of understanding

the world today.

profound, and quite moving when you think on it.

Consider how Britain—a speck of land sitting more than 3,500 miles from the equator, tucked away on Earth's northern frontier—a country that for millennia was only sparsely populated, that has existed precariously less than a marathon's distance from some of history's most dangerous regimes—a nation smaller than New Zealand or Ecuador, with a climate so cold, dark and damp that many consider it downright inhospitable—suddenly, unexpectedly sprang forth into the greatest empire ever.

Germany is 1.5 times larger than Britain. China is over 40 times larger, and Russia is 74 times Britain's size. Each of these countries has at some point possessed the ingredients necessary for empire: strong leadership and politics, strategic territorial assets, access to agricultural and mineral resources, technology. Yet despite these advantages, not one has ever come close to controlling as much of Earth's surface, possessing the wealth, or commanding the number of subjects as Britain's Queen Victoria in the 19th century.

Google it. Check the history books. Corner your professor. Study the chronicles of Greece and Rome, or China, the Ottomans and other Arab dynasties, the Aztecs. You'll soon see that in all of human history nothing parallels the stupendous prosperity, expanse and grandeur of the British Empire at its peak. Great Britain is a truly historical anomaly.

Meanwhile across the Atlantic, a nation went from brand-new to world-dominating in about a century.

What are we to make of this? A freak occurrence of international relations? Was it the result of a brilliant scheme concocted by some mystery statesman? Was it blind luck?

Historians struggle to explain it. But the Bible has the answer.

Understanding how and why this happened means understanding one of the most important prophecies in your Bible. This prophecy reveals God's hand behind the broad stroke of history. Understand it, and you can see God's hand in just about any historical event.

Thank Abraham

Genesis 12 contains one of the most important passages of Scripture for understanding world history. In it God makes an all-important, two-part promise to Abraham.

Read verse 2. First, God says, "I will make of thee a great nation." Here, God promises tremendous national, material prosperity and power to Abraham's

the point where professing 'Christians' and their teachers jump the track of truth. This is the point where they switch off the track that would lead them to the missing master key to the prophecies. They miss the fact that God gave Abraham promises of physical race as well as spiritual grace" (The United States and Britain in Prophecy; emphasis added throughout).

World history—not just the history of Abraham's descendants, but the entire history of mankind since the time of Abraham—has been shaped and defined by God's promise to Abraham.

descendants. In The United States and Britain in Prophecy—a book in which the Abrahamic promise is the key theme— Herbert W. Armstrong termed the first part of God's promise a promise of "race."

Second, God promises Abraham that "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (verse 3). Think about that. Doesn't this prove God is not racist, nor a respecter of persons or races? He clearly says that every human on Earth would benefit from His special relationship with Abraham! Mr. Armstrong termed this part of the promise the "promise of grace." This is the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham.

In this article we will concentrate on the first part of God's promise to Abraham, the "promise of race." This promise is the key to unlocking world history and Bible prophecy. Yet it is a mystery to historians today. World history—not just the history of Abraham's descendants, but the entire history of mankind since the time of Abraham—has been shaped and defined by God's promise to Abraham!

Here is how Mr. Armstrong put it: "Right here is where those who profess to be 'Christians'—and their teachers have fallen into error and scriptural blindness. They have failed to notice the twofold promise God made to Abraham. They recognize the messianic promise of spiritual salvation through the 'one seed'—Christ [Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 16]. ... This is a pivotal point. This is

God's promise of race is the key that unlocks Bible prophecy-and we need to understand that key!

The Birthright Promise Conferred

In Genesis 17:7, God reaffirms His promise to Abraham. Here God not only gives more details, He says that His covenant with Abraham is an "everlasting covenant." Abraham would die, as humans do, but God's promise to him would not.

Genesis 26:3-5 clearly show God's promise of "physical race" (material blessings) as well as "spiritual grace" being conferred on Abraham's son Isaac.

In both Genesis 27:26-29 and Genesis 35:10-12 we read of the Abrahamic promise being passed on to Jacob, Isaac's son and Abraham's grandson. Read it for yourself: "And God said unto him [Jacob], I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins" (Genesis 35:11).

Notice how *specific* this promise is: When the time came to fulfill His promise of race, God would do it by facilitating the advent of a single great nation and a great "company of nations."

1 Chronicles 5:1-2 show the Abrahamic promise being conferred on Joseph, one of Jacob's 12 sons. Discussing the Abrahamic, or birthright, promise, verse 2 plainly says, "but the birthright was Joseph's." Again, it is amazing how specific the Bible is here.

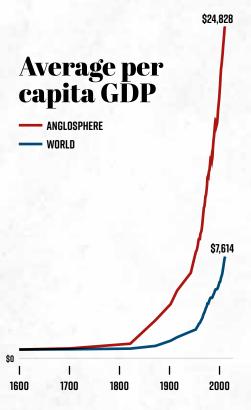
In Genesis 48 we read of the birthright promise being passed on to Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Once again the promise is specific. Verse 19 says, "[Manasseh] also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations." This is further plain proof that the promise of race—of material and national wealth and power—would be manifested in the emergence of a single great people (Manasseh) and a great company, or commonwealth, of nations (Ephraim).

Blessings Not Given to Ancient Israel Has God kept His promise to Abraham?

Has God kept His promise to Abraham? If so, when exactly did God fulfill it?

Secular history reveals the answer. Consider the spectrum of world history, and identify those times when two peoples—two distinct yet related peoples, one a great single nation, the other a great company of nations—emerged as wealthy, powerful and dominant.

And what about the Bible? Does God indicate *when* He would fulfill His promise to Abraham? To answer, let's turn briefly to Old Testament history.



God delivered the Israelites from Egypt in the mid-15th century B.C. By this time Israel was a full-fledged nation of 2 to 3 million people. It included people from the 12 tribes of Jacob. Sometime around 1400 B.C., God led Israel into Canaan. It was here, in the Promised Land, that God intended to fulfill His promise to Abraham. It was here, in the Levant, with Jerusalem as the capital, that He wanted to make Israel, specifically Ephraim and Manasseh, into a great nation and a "company of nations."

However, although God *desired* to fulfill His promise to Abraham at this time, immediate inheritance of the Abrahamic promise was *conditional*. Ancient Israel would receive the promise in its time only if it met certain obligations.

What were those obligations? The key Bible passage that answers is Leviticus 26. This chapter is critical. Mr. Armstrong described it as the "very pivot of Old Testament prophecies."

Notice how he explained it: "Leviticus 26 is the basic prophecy of the Old Testament. ... In this central prophecy, God reaffirmed the birthright promise—but with conditions—for those of Moses's day! The birthright tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were then with the other tribes—as one nation. Obedience to God's laws would bring the vast national wealth and blessings of the birthright, not only to Ephraim and Manasseh, but the whole NATION would automatically have shared them at that time" (ibid).

He continued, "There was a *condition*—a great big 'if'—to their receiving actual fulfillment of this stupendous birthright promise *in their time!* God said: 'If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase ...' (verses 3-4)."

Notice. God wanted to lavish ancient Israel with unparalleled wealth and power. He wanted to transform Ephraim and Manasseh, and all of Israel, into the largest, most powerful empire ever. But He would only do so if they obeyed Him.

If Abraham's descendants rejected God and disobeyed, God said He would curse Israel by *postponing* the fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise!

Seven Prophetic 'Times'

For how long would He postpone it? God actually tells: "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins" (Leviticus 26:18).

The meaning of this statement is dual. The expression "seven times" comes from the Hebrew *shibah*, which can also mean *sevenfold*. As Mr. Armstrong explained, "The 'seven *times*' implies *duration* or *continuation* of punishment. But the word also conveys the meaning of 'sevenfold,' or seven times greater *intensity* of punishment—as a punishment that is sevenfold more intense" (ibid).

This "pivotal prophecy of the Old Testament" reveals that the punishment will be seven "times" more *intense*—and also seven "times" in duration.

In the language of biblical prophecy, a "time" is a specific period—a prophetic 360-day year. (For proof on why a prophetic year in the Bible is 360 days and not 365, request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.) And as is the case so often in prophecy, each of those prophetic "days" represented a *year* in the fulfillment of Israel's punishment.

You can see this day-for-a-year principle in effect when Israel was to inherit the Promised Land anciently (Numbers 13-14). After Israel's spies scouted Canaan and returned a faithless report, the fearful Israelites refused to enter the land. God then postponed their promised inheritance and sentenced them to roam the wilderness for 40 years. Why 40 years? Numbers 14:34 explains: "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise." Following this day-for-a-year principle, the promised blessings of Abraham were withheld for 40 years, each year representing one day that the spies had scouted the land.

Remember, God said in Leviticus 26:18 that Israel would be denied the birthright promise for seven prophetic "times"—that is, seven 360-day years, a total of 2,520 days. When you apply the day-for-a-year principle, that becomes a punishment of 2,520 years.

In this case—just like in Numbers 14—it involves the withholding of God's promised blessing.

Yes, God specifically prophesied that He would postpone blessing Abraham's descendants for 2,520 years.

Now, does the Bible tell us when God enforced this postponement?

2,520-Year Delay

Follow Israel's history. After Moses's successor Joshua led the nation into the Promised Land, it endured about 350 terrible years under the judges. God then established the monarchy, but the Israelites continued to suffer under their first king, Saul. After Saul's reign, "[t]hey began prospering under King David, and in Solomon's reign they reached a considerable state of prosperity. However, they had not yet flowered into the full predominant-world-power status promised under the birthright," Mr. Armstrong wrote (ibid).

When Solomon died, anarchy and instability set in. Within a short time, civil war had split Israel in two. The kingdom of Judah—comprised of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, with Jerusalem as its capital—inhabited the south. The other 10 tribes, with Ephraim as the lead nation, split away and inhabited the north. They were known as Israel.

Over the ensuing decades and centuries, the 10-tribed kingdom of Israel continued to embrace the evil ways of its first king, Jeroboam, who was an Ephraimite. Israel became filthy and rebellious in God's eyes, and the people were unrepentant. God sent prophet after prophet to warn them, but they rejected God's every warning. Never did they receive blessings on the scale promised to Abraham.

By the late eighth century B.C., God was left with no other option. Israel simply would not repent, and the time had come for the nation to be punished—and, according to the prophecy of Leviticus 26:18, for the birthright promise to be postponed. You can read the history in 2 Kings 17. It describes how God used the Assyrian Empire to destroy Israel and take it captive. Israel's downfall was conclusive. Virtually the entire kingdom was dragged out of the Promised Land!

Assyria's invasion and destruction of Israel occurred between 721 and 718 B.C. History books document this; it is easy to substantiate. As Mr. Armstrong explained—and as logic implies—Israel's banishment from the Promised Land marked the beginning of the postponement of the birthright promise!

"From that time," wrote Herbert Armstrong, "God sent no prophets to them. He gave them no more chance to

The Great Promise Finally Fulfilled!

Beginning in the year 1800, God began to fulfill the promise to Abraham that had been specifically conferred on the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh. In the 19th century, He orchestrated the rise of a single great nation and a great "company of nations."

You can clearly see it happen in the history of America and Britain.

A person could write a book on the rise of America and the British Empire in the 19th century. Actually there are multiple history books on this subject.

Imagine how different world history would have been if Israel had obeyed God and inherited the Abrahamic promise at the time of Solomon.

receive the greatest national blessing of all history—until the end of the 2,520 years! He hid, as it were, His face from them! He removed them out of His sight. He pleaded no longer with them. They had not qualified for nor deserved His blessings!" (ibid).

Having established that, the math is simple: Take 721-718 B.C. and add 2,520 years. You arrive at A.D. 1800-1803.

It was certain: History would have to follow a new pattern. God would not pour out the blessings promised to Israel until A.D. 1800.

Once Israel's behavior had made this new pattern of history necessary, God gave the Prophet Daniel visions showing how it would unfold. With Ephraim and Manasseh not dominating the world for 2,000 years, other powers would rise up. God revealed to Daniel the series of empires that would fill in the gap. The history of all of these empires—Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and the subsequent attempts to revive the Roman Empire revolve around Israel. History unfolded in the vacuum created by Israel's downfall.

Imagine how different world history would have been if Israel had obeyed God and inherited the Abrahamic promise at the time of Solomon. There would be no Greek or Roman history—at least not the way it is written today.

More than a few historians have documented all the conditions that "mysteriously" converged, even starting in the 17th and 18th centuries, to facilitate the sudden emergence of the British Empire and the United States.

Consider all the significant developments in Britain between 1500 and 1800, the three centuries leading up to the apex of the British Empire. The Protestant Reformation. England's divorce from Catholicism under Henry VIII. The unification of England, Scotland and even Ireland, for a moment. The rise of England's navy and its dominance over the water highways. The Industrial Revolution and Britain's emergence as the world's economic, cultural, philosophical and technological hub. There is also the demise of Britain's competitors during this time, such as the miraculous defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 that removed Catholic Spain as a threat, and the defeat of Napoleon in 1805.

Many historians recognize Britain's unique, seemingly inexplicable arrival as a world power. "Some of the elements required for an economic transformation were present in other parts of the world," writes Paul Johnson. "But only England possessed them all in combination. The 'miracle' had been

GOD IN HISTORY PAGE 27 ▶

90%

"The Hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more wicked that has not gratitude to acknowledge his obligations"

-GEORGE WASHINGTON

Some 3,500 years ago, God promised ancient Israel vast wealth and power. These blessings are recorded in Leviticus 26. They include agricultural abundance, economic prosperity and military superiority. Yet this chapter also warns that if the Israelites rebelled against God. He would punish them "seven times" for their sins.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong explained in his book The United States and Britain in Prophecy that a "time"

1803

1800

70%

50%

30%

20%

10%

0%

1600

20

VERSE 14

fruitful land

And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon.

VERSE 16

material wealth

And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

ĠΩ

RΠ

1700

VERSE 15

In Deuteronomy 33, God promised to bless the

recipients of Abraham's birthright blessing with ...

precious metals

And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills.

VERSE 17

a large population

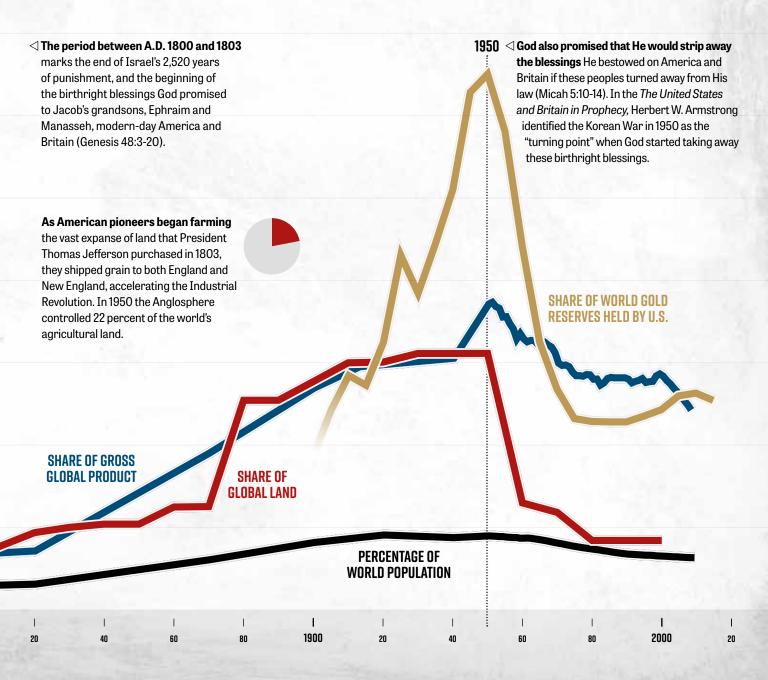
His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

is a prophetic 360-day year. In biblical times, a year was figured as twelve 30-day months, or 360 days. Both the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle John reference 360-day prophetic "times" when they use phrases like "a time, and times, and half a time" to refer to 1,260-day periods (Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 12:1-14). So, when God said He would punish Israel "seven times," He meant seven periods of 360 days—a total of 2,520 prophetic days.

Other scriptures show that in times of punishment, God often applies a "dayfor-a-year" principle (Numbers 14:34). When this principle is applied to Israel's 2,520 days of punishment, "the punishment becomes the withdrawing of and withholding the promised blessings for 2,520 years!" Mr. Armstrong wrote. That is precisely what happened!

The northern 10 tribes of Israel rebelled against God and were carried away captive to Assyria between 721 and

718 B.C. Count forward 2,520 years from 721 B.C. and you arrive at A.D. 1800, the year Britain and Ireland formally united. Count forward 2,520 years from 718 B.C. and you arrive at A.D. 1803, the year the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory. Perhaps the greatest proofs that the peoples of the U.S. and UK are descended from ancient Israel is the fact that they received the blessings God promised Israel exactly 2,520 years after Assyria carried Israel away captive.



HAT MORNING, BEFORE ANY OF us knew what was happening, terrified Americans were calling family from aboard passenger planes, saying that they had been hijacked. The business and the plans of the morning, the intentions for the rest of the day—and the rest of their lives—had all dissolved.

In those last moments on those planes, many if not all experienced clarity. There was a yearning to survive—and a recognition that their lives were unlikely to outlast the day. They also experienced a clarity of what matters in life. In the terror, preferences, irritations, arguments and vanities dissolved. On those phone calls, they told their loved ones, "I love you." In calamity, they saw what mattered most and what didn't.

Then, at 8:46 a.m., the hammer blows began shaking the nation. American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of New York City's World Trade Center, killing all 92 people on board and an untold number inside the building. Within minutes, television screens across the country and the world filled with footage of smoke billowing out of the tower. Every camera in Manhattan was fixed on the tragedy, and millions of viewers were riveted, trying to make sense of what they were witnessing. The sickening answer became clearer just minutes later when, at 9:03, United Airlines Flight 175 entered the frame. The conflagration on impact killed all 65 passengers and many more inside the South Tower.

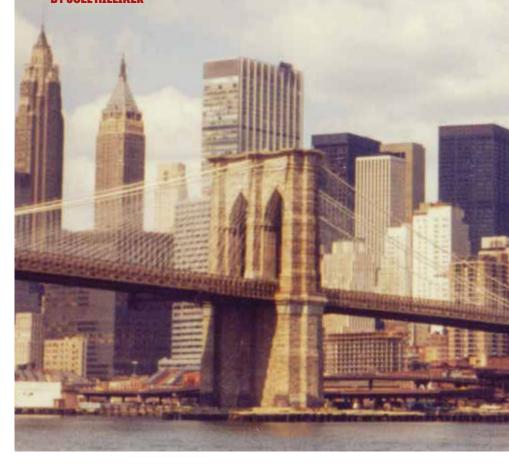
America was under attack.

As the agonizing minutes passed, more shocks came. At 9:37, five terrorists flew yet another hijacked plane, American Airlines Flight 77, into the western side of the Pentagon, killing all 64 people on board and 125 workers in the building. At 9:59, the South Tower's structural steel, softened by the intense fires, caused the perimeter columns to fail. The top 30 floors of the building began to fall with crushing weight and growing force, pulverizing floor after floor of the superstructure in a collapse that snuffed out the lives of 630 people who were still inside. At 10:03, a fourth jet crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, killing all 44 aboard; we would later learn that the passengers had resisted



Amid terror and tragedy, something profoundly wonderful can arise.

BY JOEL HILLIKER



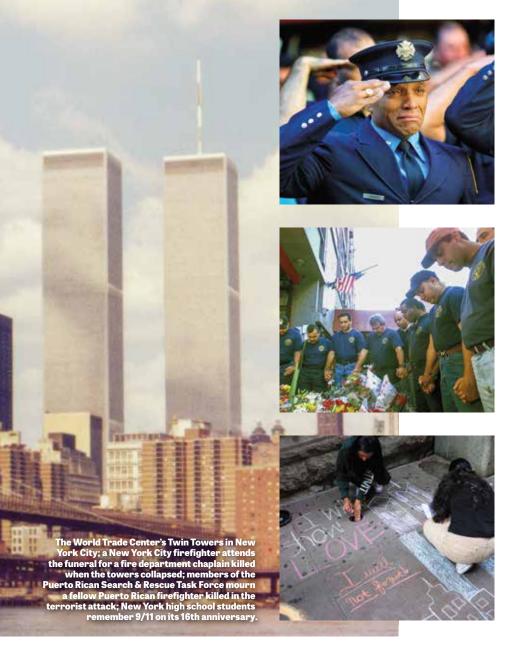
the hijackers, ensuring the crash. At 10:28, the North Tower collapsed, and 1,355 people perished.

A total of 2,977 people were mass murdered that day. And the world was changed.

September 11, 2001, was a clarifying moment that sobered and humbled America. People put their lives on hold. We watched, cried, contemplated, connected with family, clung to our loved ones—and tried to understand. That afternoon, at the nation's capitol, U.S. representatives from both parties gathered and stood, united, behind the Speaker of the House, who told the nation, "[W]e will stand together." After a moment of silence, they spontaneously sang "God Bless America."

In the weeks that followed, we shared a common loss. We saw life's fragility. We realized how easily we get distracted and consumed by trivialities. We quieted down-we listened-we reached out to each other. This monstrous atrocity caused immense grief, but also an impulse to set aside petty vanities and to become more mindful, more caring and more thankful. The nation-and to some degree even the world—recognized the reality that there is evil out there—and if we are divided, we are vulnerable. To one degree or another, people united. Acts of charity increased. American flags flew.

The catastrophe of 9/11 even turned Americans' thoughts toward God. Religious-themed signs appeared



everywhere. Church attendance rose dramatically. People talked a lot about prayer, healing, forgiveness and faith.

It is tragic that it takes such shocking tribulation to turn our minds in that direction. But the fact is, suffering brings us clarity.

The Last Hour

That cruel day changed America, but, sadly, only briefly. After some weeks passed, Americans moved on. Church attendance dropped back to where it had been; distractions, materialism, dissipation, revelry and division came roaring back.

How hard is human nature.

Americans barely and briefly turned to the churches, but finding no answers, they turned back again. But there is one Church that can answer exactly why 9/11 occurred, right down to the timing.

In May 2001, *Trumpet* editor in chief and Philadelphia Church of God Pastor General Gerald Flurry delivered a sermon in which he said that the world had entered "the last hour" prophesied in 1 John 2:18. He had said the world was entering a time more serious and dangerous than any it had experienced before. "When that last hour strikes, well, then we're into it and the other side of that last hour is going to be when Jesus Christ returns to this Earth," he said. "So we're obviously getting very close to the return of Jesus Christ. ... It's about 'no more delay'; it's about getting us through this dreadful, horrendous time that is

coming upon this Earth. ... And you need to keep track of time. God is giving us, I think, a timepiece so we can keep track of time and motivate ourselves and never forget ... we are in that last hour."

Four months later, the Church saw that prophecy confirmed in a dramatic way. The whole world knew that humanity had entered a more serious and dangerous time.

Even as America reacted to 9/11 and its aftermath, Mr. Flurry forecast that the unity would not last and that the nation would grow weaker because it was not addressing the fundamental cause of the disaster. Four days after the attacks and the singing of "God Bless America" by congressmen, he said in a sermon to PCG members: "Is God really blessing America now? Well, He certainly wasn't Tuesday morning, was He? ... We are, brethren, living in the last hour, and we're in the death throes of this nation of Israel."

Why did God allow 9/11 to happen? "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but THAT THE WICKED TURN FROM HIS WAY AND LIVE: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

God is addressing the fundamental cause of our suffering—not just in 9/11, but all suffering. He is trying to turn us from our evil! "For whom the Lord loveth he chastenth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Hebrews 12:6).

God could just forget about us and leave us to the suffering that evil brings to ourselves and everyone else. He could let us live out our lives of wallowing in our own vices and gratifying our own selfishness until we become individuals and a society that is beyond all hope.

Or He could correct us, force us into a stark clarity, and bring us to repentance of our evil.

If 9/11 won't do it, God will proceed to harder punishments. And the Bible prophesies that this is what will happen.

Great Tribulation

Jeremiah 25:31 states: "A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh" How will He plead? Right now, He is doing so with words, with the work behind the Trumpet, led by Gerald

Flurry. It is *peaceful* pleading, like the words you are reading right now.

But it will not always be so. Jeremiah continues: "[H]e will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord. ... Behold, EVIL shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth" (verses 31-32).

This world is about to experience a time of unprecedented chaos. Hundreds, even thousands of 9/11s piled high.

The Prophet Daniel described it: "[T]here shall be a time of TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation

Accepting Correction

Realize: God does not correct any more than He has to. The only reason all the horrors of the Tribulation are necessary is that mankind is so hard and uncorrectable! But many Bible prophecies show that as these traumas increase, more and more people will surrender to God and forsake their evil. The moment they do, God will protect them from further punishment!

God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked! He is a loving Father, and He simply will not let His children be turned so completely to evil that they can never

ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock" (Jeremiah 31:8-10).

Those horrors will have softened their hearts, and they will *finally* be ready to listen to God. That is all God ever wanted—for their hearts to be turned to Him. It is nearly impossible to grasp the severity of the chastening required—but in the end, God will reach them!

Even those who have been killed (both in 9/11 and in the 9/11s to come) will be resurrected. Even after they have succumbed to physical death, their loving Father will eventually resurrect them and offer them repentance. And the great majority of them, too, will be willing!

Imagine seeing the injured, the traumatized, the broken and the emaciated coming out of the Tribulation or perhaps the resurrection. They have seen terror. They have felt horror. Yet finally they will be willing to submit to their Creator! And their unhealable physical and mental trauma, He will heal.

Imagine seeing God filled with joy over their repentance. Imagine seeing the look in just one man's eyes when he realizes that his Creator is giving him hope for the future. Then multiply that by millions and billions.

"Can you recognize when God is trying to reach you?" Gerald Flurry wrote. "Do you know enough about God to know where He is speaking? The Bible is Jesus Christ in print, and there is only one place on Earth where you can hear the full message He is speaking. You cannot escape the coming Tribulation unless you know where God is speaking and then heed the message being delivered by His people" (Trumpet, May 2019).

God allowed that shocking calamity, and He did so for a reason. You need to remember that day. Ask honestly, Did I learn the lesson, taught at such great cost? God allowed 9/11, not from cruelty, but from love. He is warning us of the seriousness of this time, this last hour.

And He is teaching us to repent.



For a biblical perspective on the subject of repentance, request our free booklet Repentance Toward God.

This world is about to experience a time of unprecedented chaos. Hundreds, even thousands of 9/11s piled high.

even to that same time ..." (Daniel 12:1). The Prophet Jeremiah did as well: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble ..." (Jeremiah 30:5-7). He calls it "Jacob's trouble" because it will fall most heavily on the modern descendants of Jacobrenamed Israel—most prominently the United States and Britain.

Jesus Christ Himself also prophesied about this time of unparalleled punishment. Within His prophecy about the end of this present evil age and the signs of His return, He said, "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21).

Remember the shock, minute after minute, of 9/11. One blow after another after another. Remember the feeling of knowing there were so many other planes still in the air and not knowing how many more cities would be struck, how far the terror would spread, when or how it would end.

Now imagine not just a handful of terrorists—but world powers unleashing warplanes, warships and ballistic missiles with chemical, biological and nuclear warheads! Imagine nuclear blasts hitting city after city! Imagine the death toll rapidly climbing into the hundreds of thousands, even millions!

The trauma of that destruction would be unfathomable—indescribable.

be turned back. It is worth the punishment so He can turn people to Him-and ultimately give them eternal life.

As traumatic as the events of the Tribulation will be, it will also serve a tremendous purpose—one that would not be accomplished with anything less.

9/11 briefly changed the way Americans think and view their daily lives. The coming Tribulation will have such an effect worldwide, and magnified in severity by hundreds or thousands of times!

That taste of sobriety and humility that Americans displayed after 9/11 will be far outdone by their attitudes after the Great Tribulation. That suffering will create within the whole world—all who survive—a beautiful teachability for what will follow.

The modern descendants of Israel, including Americans, will emerge from the destruction and captivity of the Tribulation. God will deliver them with a mighty hand! "Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O



How Accurate Are Scientific Dating Techniques?

A truly rational person must be willing to admit what he or she does not know. BY ANDREW MIILLER

does real science actually conflict with the Holy Bible?

You need to understand the answers to these questions. Only 24 percent of Americans believe the Bible is the literal Word of God, and a major reason for their disbelief is the idea that the Bible is, at best, an unscientific book of parables and moral recommendations. To prove whether the Bible is infallible truth from God, you have to prove what it says about the age of the universe.

Age of the Universe

Many scientists used to believe that the physical universe has always existed, but it is now generally recognized that this is not the case. One of the main proofs of this truth was highlighted by the late theologian Herbert W. Armstrong in Does God Exist? (see sidebar). Uranium is a radioactive element that decays into lead at a consistent rate. Uranium and other radioactives have not existed long enough to have decayed into lead. So, at some point in the past, they were created. One theory is that these elements were manufactured in stars, but even stars burnout and die after a certain period of time. Therefore the physical universe had a beginning.

When, then, did matter come into existence?

Many scientists say the universe is 13.8 billion years old because they believe in the big-bang theory. Because cosmic radiation from stars shifts toward longer wavelengths as they move away from Earth, astronomers have postulated that the universe is expanding in all directions. If the universe is expanding, it must have been smaller in the past. Current models say all matter was once packed into a "singularity." Based on their best attempts to measure the rate of expansion, astronomers estimate that this singularity exploded 13.8 billion years ago.

These specific ideas do not necessarily conflict with the Bible. In fact, when some scientists first suggested the bigbang theory in the 1920s, many of their peers rejected it as too religious.

Genesis 1:1 states, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," revealing that matter has not always existed. It was created. Genesis 1:2 then states that after this initial creation, the Earth became "without form, and void." So God had to renew the face of the Earth.

The God of the Bible could have created matter 13.8 billion years ago from a central point. But since God is all-powerful, He could have created it numerous other ways. (The Bible does not say.) The currently accepted age of 13.8 billion years is conjecture based on the fact that galaxies visible from Earth appear to be drifting away from the Milky Way. That does not necessarily mean that the entire universe is expanding, or that all matter was once compressed into a singularity. In fact, scientists can find no center from which the universe is expanding.

So, how old is the universe? Scientists just don't know. In Job 38:4, God reminds them of what He told the patriarch Job: They were not there when He "laid the foundations of the earth."

It is only logical to believe that, at some point, a spiritual God created the physical universe!

Age of the Earth

Scientists use radioactive decay equations to assert that Earth is 4.5 billion years old. In Australia, zirconium silicate crystals have been discovered with

HE UNIVERSE IS APPROXImately 13.8 billion years old." "Tyrannosaurus rex went extinct about 65 million years ago." "The earliest fossils of modern humans are about 200,000 years old." Assertions like these are in almost every science documentary and textbook, delivered in a matter-of-fact way that makes them seem uncontroversial. Often, authors and presenters do not even try to explain how they derived their numbers. Other times, they cite sophisticated-sounding data about red shift wavelengths, radioactive decay or dendrochronology.

Whether or not they show their work, scientists almost universally insist that Bible believers should replace their faith-based beliefs about the physical realm with explanations for the universe, the Earth, dinosaurs and ancient civilizations that are "scientific."

But is this anti-faith approach actually logical? Is it actually scientific? How much do scientists really know, and

pockets of uranium and lead trapped inside them. They are thought to be the oldest known minerals on Earth. Geologists assume that the lead trapped in these crystals used to be uranium that decayed into lead over millions of years. Since the rate at which uranium decays into lead is known, geologists have calculated that it took 4.3 billion years for the lead trapped in these crystals to form. If this is true, then the Earth must be at least 4.3 billion years old.

Again, this age is not necessarily unbiblical, but Genesis 1:1 records that God "created the heaven and the earth," indicating that the universe and Earth came into existence together. In his seminal work *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong noted that this verse implies "that the whole material universe was created simultaneously with the Earth." Therefore, if Earth really is around 4.5 billion years old, the entire physical universe must be around the same age.

Genesis 1:2 is referring to a renewing of the Earth that took place about 6,000 years ago.

It is also important to realize that these radioactive decay calculations are based on a significant assumption. Since lead is usually excluded when zirconia crystals form in Earth's magma, geologists assume that all the lead in these crystals is a product of radioactive decay. But this is an unprovable assumption. The universe is too young for all the uranium to have decayed into lead. But that does not mean that God did not create any lead in the original creation. If these crystals contained lead when God originally formed them, they are younger than supposed.

So, how old is Earth? Scientists simply don't know! God told Job that He was the one who laid the stones in the foundations of the Earth. Only He knows what atoms were in these stones in the day that they were created (Job 38:6).

Age of the Dinosaurs

Scientists say that various species of dinosaurs lived during the Mesozoic Era, and that this era supposedly occurred from 250 million years ago to 65 million years ago. But dinosaur fossils contain no radioactive elements for paleontologists to date. They estimate the age of a fossil by trying to discern the age of the rock layer in which it was found.

Fossils form when sediments cover a plant or animal and harden into rock. But scientists have to admit that there is no good way to determine the age of sedimentary rock. The best that geologists can do is estimate the age of any neighboring igneous rocks by measuring radioactive elements, then use that age to approximate the age of the sedimentary rock.

This process is error-prone for two main reasons. First: You cannot con-

Rejecting the Creator is rejecting rationality itself.

clusively determine the age of igneous rocks without knowing the exact chemical makeup of these rocks when they originally formed. Second: Rock layers are not always chronological, and scientists know it.

Mr. Armstrong noted that the errorprone ways geologists date rock strata are actually the foundation of the evolutionary hypothesis (see sidebar). In his autobiography, he recounted how he studied research from Prof. Thomas Chamberlin showing that sometimes the most recent rock strata were actually below the most ancient strata.

So, you cannot necessarily determine a rock's age by its location.

How then do geologists determine the age of rock strata? Well, since they assume the theory of evolution is true, they estimate how many millions of years ago a particular fossil specimen lived and then use the age of the fossil to determine the age of the rock strata. In other words, geologists determine the age of sedimentary rock by citing the age of the fossils inside the rock. And paleontologists determine the age of fossils by citing the age of the sedimentary rock layer.

This is irrational, circular reasoning!

So, how old are the dinosaurs? Again, scientists don't know. No evidence of dinosaurs and humans coexisting has ever been found, so it seems evident that dinosaurs became extinct before God placed mankind in the Garden of Eden around 6,000 years ago (Genesis 2:8). The Bible reveals little on the topic. Again, scientists don't know how long ago dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

Age of Mankind

The oldest human remains are dated the same way that dinosaur fossils are dated: by attempting to date rock layers. But more recent human remains can be dated using a particular type of measuring radioactivity: carbon dating.

Scientists say the oldest human remains that have been radiocarbon dated are about 40,000 years old. Yet, when you understand the science behind radiocarbon dating, you find the technique is not verifiable prior to perhaps 3,500 years ago.

Radioactive carbon atoms decay into ordinary carbon atoms like uranium decays into lead. Most carbon atoms have a nucleus containing six protons and six neutrons. Scientists call these atoms carbon-12. But solar radiation causes some carbon atoms to pick up two extra neutrons.

Scientists call these atoms carbon-14. About one out of every trillion carbon atoms is a carbon-14 atom. Plants, animals and people incorporate carbon dioxide, including carbon-14, from the atmosphere into their bodies. As long as an organism is alive, the carbon-14 ratio in it equates roughly to the carbon-14 ratio in the atmosphere. Once it dies, the carbon-14 ratio decays back into carbon-12.

Since this radioactive decay process happens at a set rate, scientists can calculate how long an organism has been dead if they can determine two things:
1) how much carbon-14 is in the dead organism, and 2) how much carbon-14 was in the organism when it was alive. The first can be measured with a mass spectrometer. The second is a best guess.

Carbon-14 levels in the atmosphere change over time. Scientists were not present to measure the organisms when they died. So they cannot be



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confident how much carbon-14 was in the organism at that point. The best they can do is try and determine the age of a dead organism by other means, such as historical records or pottery styles. They can then measure the carbon-14 in the organism and calculate how much carbon-14 must have been in it when it died.

Using many such samples, scientists have established rough calibration curves for the amounts of carbon-14 in the atmosphere during a given year.

The catch is that there are few specimens of known age before the eruption of the Santorini volcano around 1600 B.C. Dating older organisms using carbon-14 is a shot in the dark, because there is nothing to reliably establish how much carbon-14 was in the atmosphere.

The discoverer of radiocarbon dating, Willard Libby, admitted this in his 1960 Nobel Prize acceptance speech. "You read statements in books that such and such a society or archaeological site is 20,000 years old," he said. "We learned rather abruptly that these numbers, these ancient ages, are not known accurately; in fact, it is at about the time of the First Dynasty in Egypt that the first

historical date of any real certainty has been established."

People debate precisely how far back you have to go before carbon dating techniques become useless, but practically all scientists agree to the fundamental premise that: the further you go back in time, the less reliable carbon dating techniques become.

So, how old is humanity? Again, scientists who are honest like Libby will admit that they just don't know.

Age of Trees

Since there are few historical specimens much older than the kingdom of ancient Egypt, scientists have attempted to radiocarbon date tree rings. The oldest known tree is a bristlecone pine in California's White Mountains named Methuselah (after the oldest man in the Bible). This tree has about 4,850 tree rings. Trees usually grow one ring every growing season, so many say this tree is 4,850 years old. But trees sometimes grow two rings in one year due to drought or other stresses, so it could be

younger. But the Methuselah tree probably did begin growing not long after the death of biblical Methuselah.

But dendrochronologists want to extend the age of trees and other things on the Earth's surface far beyond the germination of the Methuselah tree. To do so, they have lined up the tree rings of living bristlecone pines with tree rings of dead bristlecone pines to construct a tree ring chronology going back 12,500 years or more. Yet, cross-matching tree rings is a lot more complicated than it sounds. Dendrochronologists visually compare the appearance of growth rings to one another, trying to match living and dead trees with another. But every tree grows a little differently, so visually cross-matching tree rings is actually quite subjective guesswork.

If dendrochronologists cannot determine how the trees match up, they radiocarbon date the growth rings to determine their approximate age. But what are radiocarbon dating results verified against? Growth rings! This is the same circular reasoning that Mr. Armstrong pointed out among geologists. Geologists verify fossils against rock strata, which is verified against fossils, and dendrochronologists verify tree rings against radiocarbon dating, which is verified against tree ring



F NECESSITY, THE VERY PRESENCE OF HUMAN INTELLECT necessitates a superior and greater intellect to have designed, devised and produced the human mind! It could not have been produced by natural causes and resident forces, as evolution presupposes. Unintelligence could not produce intelligence superior to itself! Rational common sense demanded a Creator of SUPERIOR MIND!

I came to see that there was only one possible proof of evolution as a fact. That was the assumption that, in the study of paleontology, the most simple fossils were always in the oldest strata, laid down first; while, as we progress into strata of later deposition, the fossils found in them become gradually more complex, tending toward advancing intelligence.

That one claim, I finally determined, was the TRUNK of the tree of evolution. If the trunk stood, the theory appeared proved. If I could chop down the trunk, the entire tree would fall with it.

I began a search to learn How these scientists determined the age of strata. I was months finding it. None of the texts I searched seemed to explain anything about it. This TRUNK of the tree was carelessly assumed—without proof.

Were the oldest strata always on the bottom—the next oldest next to the bottom, the most recent on the top? Finally I found it in a recognized text on geology authored by Professor Chamberlin. No, sometimes the most recent were actually below the most ancient strata. The age of strata was not determined by stages of depth. The depth of strata varied in different parts of the world.

How, then, was the age of strata determined? Why, I finally discovered in this very reputable authority, their age was determined by the fossils found in them. Since the geologists "knew" their evolutionary theory was true, and since they had estimated how many millions of years ago a certain fossil specimen might have lived, that age determined the age of the strata!

In other words, they assumed the age of the strata by the supposition that their theory of evolution was true. And they "PROVED" their theory was true by the supposition of the progressive ages of the strata in which fossil remains had been found! This was arguing in a circle!

The TRUNK of the evolutionary tree was chopped down. There was no proof!

-Excerpt from Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

chronologies, which is used to calibrate radiocarbon dating techniques further.

Neither tree-ring counting nor radiocarbon dating is a conclusive way of establishing world history.

So, how old are trees? When Adam and Eve rejected God and ate from one of the very first trees (Genesis 3), God gave them their choice and let them and their descendants continue their study of trees on their own. After rejecting divine revelation from their Creator, there is a lot about them that scientists just cannot figure out.

Age of Reason

Truly rational science is based on the undeniable fact that a Creator designed the universe.

Amazing

Knowledge

of Science

When human beings reject this irrefutable fact, they limit themselves to searching for information using only their five senses and the human mind. This limits them to a fraction of the total available data, and much of that information is conflicting and corrupted.

Rejecting the Creator is rejecting rationality itself.

The natural world provides no evidence to refute the Bible's account, and those who claim it does suppress the truth and embrace foolish ideas.

The Apostle Paul explains how rejecting the Creator of the universe leads to

debased thinking. "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes,

namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:19-22; English Standard Version).

A truly rational person must be able to admit what he or she does not know. When scientists use extremely limited techniques to make enormous claims about the age of things and the credibility of the Bible, they are actually irrational and illogical. In most cases, the logic is valid, but the premise is false. If you don't have anything close to a full data set, yet consistently, commandingly act as though you do, you are not practicing pure science.

The only way to avoid endless speculation, guesswork and hopelessly incomplete information is to reason with God (Isaiah 1:18). Base your reasoning on revelation from the Holy Bible, a book inspired by the original Scientist who "laid the foundations of the earth."

OW SUPPOSE WE CONFINE OURSELVES TO FACTS!
What, then, has science actually determined?
Discovery and study of radioactivity has proved that there has been no past eternity of matter! Radioactivity is described as a process of disintegration. The atomic age is opening up new fields to explore. Soon after Madame Curie discovered the element radium, in 1898, it was discovered that radium, and the other radioactive elements as we know now, are continually giving off radiations.

So notice carefully what this fact of science means:

Uranium is a radioactive element heavier than radium. It has an atomic weight of 238.5. In decomposing, it gives off a helium atom, weight 4, repeated three times, and then the substance left is radium, atomic weight about 226.4. Radium, then, is simply the end product of uranium after it has lost three helium atoms. Then the disintegration continues in radium. And the final product of this process of radioactive disintegration is the element lead! Now of course this process requires great periods of time. The calculated half-life of radium is 1,590 years—uranium much longer.

I have seen it myself, in the darkroom of an X-ray laboratory. A tiny portion of radium was placed on a mirror at the far end of a hollow tube, and I looked into this tube through a magnifying glass at the other end. Under this magnification what I saw appeared as a large, vast, dark sky, with thousands of shooting stars falling toward me from all directions. Actually what I saw were the emanations of tiny particles being emitted by the radium, greatly magnified.

We know, therefore, that there has been no past eternity of matter!

The radioactive elements in existence today have not yet been in existence long enough to have run their course, and disintegrated into lead. To have ALWAYS existed, without any definite time of *starting* in the past, this "life" period of radioactive elements long ago would have run its course. All radioactive elements would have long ago disintegrated into lead. Since these elements exist only for a definite span of years, and all the uranium, radium, thorium and other radioactive elements in the world today have not yet existed that many years, there was a time, prior to the duration of this span in the past, when these elements DID NOT EXIST!

Here we have definite scientific proof that MATTER HAS NOT ALWAYS EXISTED. Here we have definite specific elements that once, in the long ago, did not yet exist. Then there came a time, later, when these elements CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

Evolution usually postulates that things come about GRADU-ALLY, through the slow-moving natural processes of the present. Try to imagine, if you can, *something* coming into existence out of *nothing*, GRADUALLY! Can your mind entertain the idea?

I think not. No, I think if you are rational, you will have to accept the fact of a special and necessarily instantaneous CREATION. And SOME POWER OR SOME ONE had of necessity to do the creating. There is a cause for every effect. And in accepting that inevitable FACT, proved by the findings of science, of the existence of that GREAT FIRST CAUSE, you have accepted the FACT of the existence and preexistence of the Creator—GoD!

-Excerpt from Does God Exist? by Herbert W. Armstrong

► GOD IN HISTORY FROM PAGE 17

brewing for 150 years; or, to vary the metaphor, a number of conventional factors of economic growth had been drawing together, and in the late 18th century the resultant mass became 'critical,' and the explosion took place" (The Offshore Islanders).

Each of these events was critical in laving the foundation for the British Empire. With each event—and there are more beyond those listed above-God was preparing England to receive the blessings of Abraham!

You can conduct the same exercise with America. Think about the Continental Congress and Declaration of Independence; the development of the Constitution, which gave the fledgling nation a foundation for political stability; the Louisiana Purchase; the expedition of Lewis and Clark: the California Gold Rush. America also witnessed the demise of regional competitors—especially Catholic European powers, namely France and Spain-along its southern border. Each of these events was critical to America's ascendance. Again, with each event, God was preparing the United States to receive the blessings of Abraham!

A History-Changing Event

I haven't come close to documenting all the details that fell into place around 1800 to facilitate Britain's and America's emergence as world powers. Even the weather in Britain during this time, as Paul Johnson has noted, was historically good. That is, it was conducive to agricultural success, which means full bellies and healthy humans, which means rapid population growth. You can go through the blessings in Leviticus 26 and compare the very specific prophecies of material prosperity with history books of the time period—and see these prophecies fulfilled exactly.

"The most remarkable fulfillment of biblical prophecy in modern times was the sudden sprouting forth of the two mightiest world powers—one, a commonwealth of nations forming the greatest world empire of all time; the other, the wealthiest, most powerful nation on Earth today," Mr. Armstrong



These birthright peoples came, with incredible suddenness, into possession of more than two thirds—nearly three fourths—of the cultivated wealth and resources of the whole world.

wrote. "These birthright peoples came, with incredible suddenness, into possession of more than two thirds—nearly three fourths—of the cultivated wealth and resources of the whole world! This sensational spurt from virtual obscurity in so short a time gives incontrovertible proof of divine inspiration. Never, in all history, did anything like it occur" (op cit).

Stop and think about the implications of this prophecy—not just for America and Britain, but also on world history. Broadly speaking, it is safe to say that world history as we know it is largely the product of the Abrahamic promise—especially the *delay* of that promise because of the Israelites' rebellion! Other powers were able to rise because the Israelites disappeared as a power for 2,520 years!

Now think about the last 200 years. For more than two centuries the world has been dominated by two powers: one a single great nation, the other a great company of nations. Together, America and Britain are the primary architects of the world we live in, especially the Western world. The world has been transformed in virtually every wav—for better and worse—as a result of the material wealth and intellectual, political, cultural and moral advancement and dominance of these two nations.

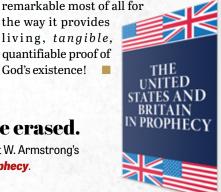
Finally, think too about the history of Britain, the British Empire and Britain's phenomenal transformation in the 19th century from a fledgling island into the richest, most expansive and impressive empire in human history.

Britain and America's story truly is remarkable—its wealth, the grandeur, the vastness of its territory, its accomplishments, its power. But it is

the way it provides living, tangible, quantifiable proof of God's existence!

We won't let this history be erased.

Order it, read it, and treasure it. Request Herbert W. Armstrong's free book The United States and Britain in Prophecy.





ussia Secretly Offered Afghan Militants Bounties to Kill U.S. Troops, Intelligence Says." That was the headline of a New York Times story published in June, Authors Charlie Savage, Eric Schmitt and Michael Schwirtz claimed that not only did the Russian government pay cash for killing Americans but that President Donald Trump knew about it and refused to confront Russia.

It was an attempt to revive the accusation that President Trump colluded with Russia, an accusation these same authors stridently made before it was discredited.

A few days later, the New York Times published "Why Does Trump Put Russia First?" by Susan Rice, former President Barack Obama's national security adviser. Her accusation was that the president has a "strange propensity to serve Russian interests above America's."

In response, sources proved on the record that neither President Trump nor Vice President Mike Pence were briefed on the intelligence (although many Democratic leaders were among those who were). The White House stated that the president was not briefed because some intelligence agents, particularly from the National Security Agency. emphasized that the claims about Russia were unverified.

The media quickly shifted to a new accusation: President Trump was so pro-Russia that his advisers were intimidated. Rice broadened her accusation with: "If Mr. Trump was told about Russian actions, why did he not respond? If he was not told, why not? Are his top advisers utterly incompetent? Are they too scared to deliver bad news to Mr. Trump, particularly about Russia?"

This latest political attack comes as President Trump seeks to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan prior to the presidential election in November. One of its goals might be to characterize any withdrawal as a capitulation to Russia.

In May 2018, Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "Something diabolical was going on until Mr. Trump was electedand it is still going on behind the scenes during his presidency. ... The more stories that come out, the clearer this ugly reality becomes." The fundamental motivation behind it, however. remains largely hidden. To learn what powers this movement. request Gerald Flurry's free booklet Great Again.



MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS IN TEHRAN

eginning in late June, mysterious explosions occurred near the Iranian capital of Tehran, leading many to believe that Israel conducted covert strikes.

In the early morning of June 26 an explosion and fire occurred in Khojir, about 12 miles east of Tehran. Satellite data of the area indicates the site damaged is a facility linked to the production of solid-propellant rockets.

On July 2, a fire broke out at the Natanz nuclear complex at a building for developing advanced centrifuges. Under the January 2016 nuclear agreement, Iran was required to stop working on these centrifuges at Natanz, but work there has continued over the past two years.

Nuclear experts say the Natanz fire could delay Iran's construction of a nuclear weapon by months or longer, which benefits perhaps the main target of those weapons: Israel.

If Israel struck these targets, it indicates that Iran was and is dangerously close to producing nuclear weapons, and that the Israelis are serious and perhaps desperate about stopping or at least delaying the Iranians. It also could embolden Iran, the world's most powerful terrorist force, to lash back using terror and other asymmetrical warfare and, ultimately, weapons of mass destruction.

SYRIAN REGIME COULD FALL TO U.S. SANCTIONS

n June, the United States enacted the most powerful financial sanctions yet against the Syrian regime of Bashar Assad. The Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act defines the regime as criminal and empowers the U.S. to sanction any nation or individual doing business with sectors critical to the survival of the Assad regime. Anyone doing business with Syria outside of humanitarian support could face secondary sanctions. These measures are similar to those enacted against Syria's sponsor.

The sanctions come while Assad's economy is already facing its worst downturn in history. In May, the Syrian currency lost half its value, doubling the price of staples for Syrians, at least 85 percent of whom already live in poverty.

The World Food Program reported in May that Syria is at risk of falling into mass famine.

When President Trump withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018, the Trumpet emphasized that Bible prophecy indicated Iran would likely lose power inside Syria. The Caesar Act striking Assad



at his most vulnerable moment could bring down his regime and oust Iranian influence from Syria. This would fulfill a landmark forecast made by Gerald Flurry just after the Syrian civil war began nine years ago.

Please read "How the Syrian Crisis Will End," by Gerald Flurry (theTrumpet.com/9737).



CORONAVIRUS BAILOUT FOR GERMAN MILITARY

erman defense companies will receive \$11 billion in stimulus

U.S. TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM GERMANY

s relations between Germany and the United States continue to deteriorate, President Donald Trump approved plans to redeploy 9,500 of the 34,500 U.S. troops currently stationed in Germany, the Pentagon reported July 1.

The former U.S. ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, said last year that a withdrawal was likely if Germany did not increase its defense spending to the NATO mandate (2 percent

payments to make up for any shortfall caused by the coronavirus, Defense News reported on June 10.

"Now that we want to revive the economy, it makes no sense to cut the defense budget as a source of public spending," Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer told Defense News.

Germany spent \$49.3 billion on its military in 2019, the seventh-highest amount in the world. If it chooses to spend the full NATO-mandated 2 percent on defense, it will jump to third,

spending more than Russia. Counting the stimulus money, Germany will spend \$66 billion on its military in 2020, exceeding Russia's 2019 expenditure by roughly \$1 billion.

Defense News wrote, "The fact that a defense earmark is included in the package as an explicit instrument for helping industry sets something of a new tone in a country where defense sector dealings are traditionally treated as a necessary evil in the business of geopolitics."

Is Germany's attitude toward its military shifting?

withdrawal of U.S. troops would mark "a turning point" and could serve as a catalyst to shift German security policy away from NATO and toward Europe.

For decades, the Trumpet has predicted that tension between Germany and the U.S. would intensify and that Europe would establish a unified army. The late Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed in May 1953 that "10 powerful European nations will combine their forces." This forecast, based on Bible prophecies like Daniel 2 and Revelation 17. should alarm the world.



of gross domestic product). But German leaders are saying that their government was not informed of the plans in advance, and some characterize them as a provocation.

Rolf Mützenich, the parliamentary group leader of Germany's Social Democratic Party, told Funke media group that a large



GERMANY HOLDS EU PRESIDENCIES

n July 1, Germany began its six-month presidency of the European Council for the first time in 13 years. Chancellor Angela Merkel now leads the council at the same time that another German. former Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen, leads the European Commission. Germany, which has the largest economy, the largest population and the most representatives in the European Union, has an unprecedented opportunity to shape the EU for years to come.

Moreover, these twin German EU presidencies occur as issues of unprecedented magnitude are in play: especially immigration, environmentalism, negotiations with Britain, realignment regarding the United States, setting policy toward China, economic recovery from coronavirus restrictions, and setting the EU budget through 2027.

"The United States is determined, now, to let nothing stand in the way of building up a rearmed, independent Germany," Plain Truth editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in June 1952. "This will be the heart and core of the united Europe that will revive the Roman Empire." Germany, crushed after World War II. now leads Europe economically. politically and constitutionally: Closely watch how it uses that power in 2020.

THREE U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS DEPLOY TO SOUTH CHINA SEA

he United States Navy reported on June 12 that it had moved three aircraft carriers into the contested South China Sea for the first time in three years. The vessels include the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the USS Nimitz in the Western Pacific and the USS Ronald Reagan in the Philippine Sea, each supported by a number of other warships, support ships, submarines and at least 60 aircraft. This marks the most forceful deployment of U.S. carrier strike groups in the Pacific theater since tensions with North Korea

peaked in 2017.

The deployment is a signal to China that the U.S. recognizes its aggressive takeover in the

South China Sea and intends to at least partially block it. This is at least a temporary reversal of the ongoing trend of reduced U.S. involvement and influence in the area.

Over the past century, the U.S. has dominated the South China Sea and other maritime choke points around the world.



But more and more, these strategic assets are being lost by America—to be used against it. This situation was prophesied by God (Deuteronomy 28:52) and is explained in The United States and Britain in Prophecy. by Herbert W. Armstrong.

Get your free copy at theTrumpet.com/go/usbp.



PUTIN CLINCHES 16 MORE YEARS

ladimir Putin now has constitutional authority to remain in power until 2036. This latest power grab is perhaps his most manipulated

and least legal since he first became president in 2000.

Reports from July 1 said 78 percent of Russian voters approved a constitutional amendment that lets him essentially remain president for life. But in reality, Putin's popularity is plummeting, and Russians understand that he is now dropping the pretense that he is retaining his power through lawful means. The process of passing this constitutional amendment had such egregious irregularities that it is obvious Putin used his power to misrepresent and overrule his people and their representatives.

"Even by Russia's own very lax standards, the vote didn't remotely resemble a procedure that reflected the will of the people," journalist Leonid Ragozin wrote on July 7. "It's far from clear today whether a majority of Russians truly supported Putin's amendments. And more importantly, most Russians genuinely don't know where the majority stands."

The legal legitimacy of Putin's presidency is weak, but his actual power is not. In fact, if many Russians desire something and someone more lawful than Putin, this may cause him to wield his increasing power with

more dictatorial authority.

Whether the Russian people like it or not, Putin will continue in power. Editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains why in his booklet The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia': "His track record, his nationality and his ideology show that he is fulfilling a linchpin Bible prophecy. The time frame of his rule also shows that nobody else could be fulfilling the Ezekiel 38 and 39 prophecy. ... I believe he is almost certain to be the 'prince of Rosh' whom God inspired Ezekiel to write about 2,500 years ago!"

Request The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia' (theTrumpet .com/go/putin).

A FEARFUL QUIET IN HONG KONG

Imost overnight, Hong Kong became a different city. Seas of protesters teeming through its streets, multitudes of Union Jacks. Star-Spangled Banners, and colonial-era Hong Kong flags, clashes with police—these are now gone. Business owners have torn down their pro-democracy posters. Pro-democracy leaders have resigned or disbanded their groups; many have fled the country. Thousands of pro-democracy accounts and posts online have been deleted.

This fearful change occurred after the Chinese Communist



Party imposed sweeping new security laws on Hong Kong on June 30. The 66 articles criminalize subversion, secession. terrorism and collusion with foreign entities to endanger Chinese security. The Chinese regime can classify almost any

criticism of the Communist Party as one of these crimes, and punish accordingly. The laws also establish a force of Chinese security agents similar to the Communist Party's paramilitary force on the

mainland. They are immune to many laws and are tasked with imposing the party's power over the people of Hong Kong.

Perhaps most worrying is the "extraterritoriality" provision of the new laws. The law claims that it applies not only to anyone in

Hong Kong, regardless of nationality or residency, but also actions committed "outside the region by a person who is not a permanent resident of the region."

Hong Kong began as an essentially unpopulated island and became a paragon of freedom and prosperity. How? Through the influence, the principles and the freedoms established there by the British Empire. British power—and British principles-have now left Hong Kong. The territory provides a perfect look at Bible prophecy concerning Britain and America being fulfilled in real time.

Read "The Climax of Man's Rule Over Man," by Gerald Flurry (theTrumpet.com/21698).

JAPAN REJECTS MADE-IN-U.S.A MISSILE DEFENSE

apan announced on June 25 that it has canceled plans to buy American-made Aegis Ashore missile defense systems. Instead the Japanese government will likely develop and field longrange cruise missiles for use in preemptive strikes.

Japan's most recent preemptive military strikes occurred during World War II, most famously at U.S. targets in Pearl Harbor. During that war. Japanese soldiers committed some of history's worst brutality. This violent fanaticism

caused victorious U.S. forces to occupy the country and write a clause into its new constitution outlawing war. The subsequent



Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security codified Japan's dependence on the U.S. for defense, stipulating that the U.S. would defend Japan by stationing American soldiers near potential conflict zones in the region.

For decades, Japan has been edging away from pacifism and reliance on U.S. protection, mostly in a discreet manner. If the Japanese government continues to decline U.S. involvement and begins pursuing the weaponry and legal authority to launch preemptive strikes, it will be bringing into the open its strategy to resolve disputes with other nations through war.



nited States President
Donald Trump is relying
on Christians to elect
him to a second term in office.
According to a Pew Research
Center survey of 4,708 U.S. adults
conducted from June 16 to 22,
about 55 percent of Christians
intend to vote for President Trump
in the upcoming election. About 72
percent of the religiously unaffiliated intend to vote for Democratic
Party candidate Joe Biden.

This support from Christians would have guaranteed an electoral victory in days gone by. But today, the 2020 U.S. presidential

election may be close due to the fact that America's youth are losing faith in God and the Bible.

A Pew Research Religious
Landscape survey of more than
35,000 Americans found that
69 percent of those born between
1951 and 1965 (baby boomers)
definitely believe in God. Only
51 percent of those born between
1986 and 1997 (millennials) are
certain God exists. America is
about one generation away from
becoming an agnostic nation.

The same survey found that many who believe in God do not believe the Bible. About

64 percent of baby boomers believe God inspired the Bible, but only 35 percent believe it is the literal Word of God. Among their grandchildren's generation, only 51 percent think the Bible was inspired, and only 20 percent think it is the literal Word of God.

Those who lack faith in God and the Bible are more likely to put their faith in progressive politicians. Among baby boomers, 44 percent lean conservative, compared to only 33 percent of millennials. There is a strong correlation between those who believe in the Bible and those who support conservative policies.

If trends continue, those born after 1997 may become America's first post-Christian generation.

Americans do not believe and obey God as they once strove to do, and they have failed to teach their children about God. This is not just a religious curiosity: This is the root cause behind the nation-threatening crises America now faces.

Request Great Again, by Gerald Flurry (theTrumpet.com/go/ga).



POLICE DEFUNDED, CRIMINALS EMPOWERED

ince June, when radicals demanded that cities defund their police departments, shootings and homicides have increased dramatically. In America's worst affected city, New York City, shootings have increased 46 percent and homicides 21 percent compared to the same time last year.

L.A. faces America's secondhighest crime surge. In the first week of June, with the beginning of riots, Los Angeles experienced a 250 percent surge in homicides compared to 2019. Shootings increased by 56 percent, while the city cut funding to its police department by \$150 million.

Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and other cities have also seen drastic increases in violent crime.

ONE IN THREE AMERICANS: CIVIL WAR IS COMING

bout 34 percent of Americans believe that the nation is likely to experience another civil war within the next five years. according to a Rasmussen Reports poll of 1,000 likely voters. Breaking these numbers down by political affiliation, Rasmussen found that 40 percent of Republicans thought civil war was "on the horizon," along with 28 percent of Democrats. When asked about the protests over Confederate monuments, 39 percent of respondents thought the removal of Confederate symbols, names and monuments would help race relations in America, while 27 percent thought these actions would hurt race relations.

The *Trumpet* has warned for years that lawlessness and racial tension in American cities will escalate into civil war, based on scriptures like Isaiah 1:7: "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." This scripture refers to race riots and urban warfare consuming American cities.

Read "Race Riots Were Prophesied!" in our August 2020 issue.

PRINCE HARRY ATTACKS BRITAIN'S 'RACIST' INSTITUTIONS

rince Harry has signed up to the radical Black Lives Matter agenda, supporting the movement in a series of video messages.

In a July 1 video, on what would have been the 59th birthday of his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, he indicated that he believed Britain was a racist society.

Then on July 7 he joined people like Alicia Wallace—a "queer black feminist woman" and "anti-capitalism advocate," as she describes herself—to lament the racism inherent in the Commonwealth.

This is not the British Empire he's talking about; this is



the Commonwealth—a free association of democratic nations that anyone can leave at any time. The secretary general is a black woman.

The monarchy was once a force for unity in Britain, an institution that people could rally behind despite their political differences. Now the royal family has become a force for division.

► **STATUES** FROM PAGE 8

Why Empire?

The sudden rise of the British and American people was the result of a miracle from God. Our article "How to See God in History" (page 14) shows how God forecast even the exact timing of the rise of these two powers.

As Herbert W. Armstrong explained in his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (request a free copy), Britain and America are descended from two of the ancient tribes of Israel. God promised, unconditionally, to bless these nations. But because of their sins, He delayed granting those blessings until the 19th century. Mr. Armstrong's book fully explains the "miracle" that happened around 1800.

in last month's *Trumpet* cover story (the *Trumpet.com/22513*). "Their failure and our failure to be a shining city on a hill to lead people to God and to happiness hurt not just ourselves but all other nations!"

By wiping out slavery, these powers did some good for the world. But it could have been so much more. What would the world be like today if they had led the world to God? Instead, despite all their efforts, 45 million are still enslaved.

But these end-time nations of Israel have played a role in God's plan despite themselves. Their history shows the world that if you want blessings and material greatness, God is the source. He can promise specific blessings, state exactly when those blessing will appear,

Britain and America's history is a massive signpost that points people to God. Thus, Satan the devil hates it and works to blot it out, pushing a new message: God didn't make Britain and America great. Slavery did.

But God didn't supply those blessings for Britain's and America's benefit only. As Mr. Armstrong wrote in his book *Mystery of the Ages*, all God's work with Israel was for "a special purpose *preparatory to the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God!*"

Joshua 4:24 bears this out. This records a miracle God performed for Israel: drying up the Jordan so Israel could walk across. But He didn't want only Israel to benefit. Nor was it simply for the benefit of the surrounding tribes. Instead, He did it "that all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever." When God performs these huge miracles, He has the whole world in mind. The same is true of when God began pouring out blessings on Britain and America around the year 1800.

God gave Britain and America a chance to lead the world to Him. "God chose them not because they were better or because He wanted to give them special favor, but to use them as an example to other nations," wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry

and bring them about exactly as He promised. God rules in the kingdom of men! (Daniel 4:32).

Mr. Armstrong said these blessings given to Britain and America were "the strongest proof of the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible! It is, at the same time, the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!"

These blessings also teach another critical lesson: The greatest of blessings, without obedience to God, ultimately count for nothing. They all dissipate. Britain has lost all those blessings and is now plagued by problems. America is rapidly losing its wealth. None of these blessings can create a stable, lasting prosperity for a nation that fails to obey God. Despite possessing the most abundant of resources, Britain and America are

proving themselves incapable of solving the problems of the world.

The Real Reason for the Attack

If you believe the Bible, you must accept the existence of an evil spirit being who hates God's plan, and who hates what God is doing through Israel. This spirit works through human beings to "blot out the name of Israel" (2 Kings 14:27). He wants to wipe it out so thoroughly the name isn't even mentioned.

You see this in the self-hatred among the radical left in Britain and America. You see it in that hatred for Britain and America in nations around the world. And you see it today in the hatred for this history.

That is what the attacks on Nelson, Drake, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt and more are all about: blotting out the name of Israel.

Britain and America's history is a massive signpost that points people to God. Thus, Satan the devil hates it and works to blot it out, pushing a new message: God didn't make Britain and America great. Slavery did! They only became wealthy because they stole it from everybody else.

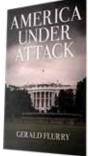
This is why the protesters focus on Britain and America, not Portugal and Brazil. This is why Jefferson and Nelson are attacked, not Napoleon and Simon Bolivar. An attack against the two nations that led the world to get rid of slavery is not an attack on slavery. It is an attack on God.

This agenda underscores the importance of understanding this history. And not just the Victorian era—but the history that reaches back to the patriarch Abraham. It's a history that points you to God and what He is doing in the world today—a history that contains a hope absent from the news today.

You can learn this history by reading our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (the Trumpet.com/go/usbp).

Why just America and Britain?

Why is it just the Americans and the British who are succumbing to an onslaught of self-hate? What is behind that? And what was behind America's and Britain's ascent in the first place? The answers snap into focus when you read **America Under Attack**, by Gerald Flurry.





Be Not Afraid

In fearful times, develop this sorely needed virtue.

HIS WORLD IS CHANGING DRAMATICALLY—AND FAST. A powerful spirit influence that crosses borders, classes and ideologies changed the world with unprecedented, self-destructive coronavirus restrictions, then with the riots and outright assault on American and British history, culture and the last remnants of biblical principles.

This spirit of hate is inspired by *Satan the devil*. Evil is real, and this enraged spirit being is very real. You *must* understand this crucial principle to understand what is happening to the world. (This is explained in my father's free booklet *America Under Attack*. Request a free copy.)

You can feel the hate—and the fear. But don't be afraid.

God is also real. Even in this rising tide of hatred, God has done for the Americans what He did for their Israelite ancestors: He saved them "by the hand of Jeroboam" (see 2 Kings 14:23-27). The fact that God (temporarily) saved this nation by the hand of its leader means that He used not only miracles far beyond this man but also certain qualities within this man.

The current president is flawed. King Jeroboam was flawed. Many more godly men have been flawed: Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Gideon, Ezekiel, Jonah, Paul. These flawed men faced fearsome times that caused others to fall. Yet God intervened by their hands because they all had one quality: courage.

You are going to need courage. You might be a nice person or an intelligent person, but to face the satanic hatred that is literally ending the world as we know it, you must become a *courageous* person!

Some of these men God used started with little courage. But God gave them courage and *used* their courage to save them and to save others.

God gave Jonah a life-threatening mission. He literally fled. But after God strongly corrected him, he went straight into the heart of one of the most cruel and powerful empires in human history and delivered a message that could have gotten him tortured to death. Jonah learned courage. (God also used Jonah to prophesy to King Jeroboam II that by his hand He would save Israel from being blotted out: 2 Kings 14:25-27.)

Gideon asked God for multiple signs before he summoned the courage to lead a host of impoverished Israelites against a huge multinational force. Then he watched God dismiss 31,700 of his men. Yet he and the 300 men who were left courageously risked their lives for their people, and God saved Israel by their hand.

You need courage like this to face the violent physical threats coming your way—and the hateful spiritual force that is behind them.

"It appears that the Joshua of Moses's time had one outstanding strength—spiritual courage," my father wrote in *Malachi's*



Message, citing Joshua 1:5-7. Many true Christians in this generation have turned away from God. To them, he wrote that "spiritual courage may be the greatest need. Without it, the other virtues are of little value!"

Without it, the other virtues are of little value.

Winston Churchill said, "Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities ... because it is the quality which guarantees all the others."

Joshua was strong and of good courage, and God conquered fortified city after fortified city by his hand. Regardless of your strength, physical or otherwise, God can conquer by your hand as well.

How can you take courage? How could Jonah stand alone? How could Gideon advance after God dismissed 99 percent of his men? How could Joshua fight for six or seven *years* without failing?

These men built not just human courage; they built *godly* courage.

The world has changed. It's clearer than ever that we are facing a spirit being spewing more rage than ever. Don't fear. But don't take courage from physical supplies or human intelligence—what's coming is too overwhelming for that. Take courage in God, and He will do mighty things by your hand.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Take courage in God's *spiritual* armor: belted with truth, armored with righteousness, booted with the gospel, shielded by faith, helmeted with salvation, and armed with God's Word (verses 13-18).

Joshua 10:25 states: "Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight."

Without spiritual courage, you are helpless. With it, you are *fearless*. It will be *Satan* who will have to fear *you*. Be brave. Be solid. Be hard. Be of good courage.

Be not afraid.

DISCUSSION BOARD

Your magazine is the best magazine on the planet. The world is crazy right now, and I really appreciate this magazine. Thank you so much for all you do.

Michael Pothorin SHAWNIGAN LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

I look forward to the *Philadelphia Trumpet* every month. It's a wonderful magazine and so wellwritten. I really love the articles.

Robert Agnew

I wanted to take a moment to thank you. Thank you for your newsletters, books and study guides. For the past few weeks, I really thought I was going crazy. I didn't understand why I was seeing things that no one else was. I had searched through some of the pastors I had seen on YouTube. I had to unsubscribe to many after hearing what they were preaching. I was feeling lost, that things were hopeless, knowing how things could end and having no one to talk with. I prayed and cried. Yesterday, I remembered that I was receiving the Trumpet. I apologize upfront that I had not been reading them but am so grateful I was still getting them. It was like an answer to

my prayers. Yesterday, I saw the discussions on the topics of the current events and was so relieved that someone else was seeing what I was seeing. I read today's and was reminded I need to have courage and faith in God. I loved the scriptures you use to help us, so we know we are not alone and what we need to do. I now look forward in receiving the daily brief to help me and guide me.

Michelle E-MAIL RESPONSE

I have been a subscriber for years, beginning while I was in prison. I want to thank you for your time and effort to reach people through your magazine and ministry. Thank you. I wanted to make a quick point; I do not support the riots, but I find it incredible that the amount of racism in this country is still seen as simply a part of the landscape which blacks and others should just accept and deal with. For those who

consider themselves citizens of this country, it is unthinkable that whites do not share the indignation when unarmed people in custody are killed. Or as in the case of Philando Castile, a card-carrying NRA member, was gunned down without drawing a weapon. The NRA didn't even make a peep. And while these cases don't happen every day, other harassing and illegal discriminatory actions are taken on a daily basis that black people see and experience which will never make the news or be bought out into the sunlight. The pain of those incidences and injustices which lie buried are set aflame and fueled by the high-profile cases that everyone else sees as just a single incident. Other groups who could care less about this country may use any and all reasons to go out and promote mayhem and discord, but that doesn't take away the core feeling of deep injustice. Until



you have felt it, you will never understand it. And for those who don't have Christ, they can be pulled hither and thither into Satan's plot for his own purpose. May we all continue to do what we can to glorify Jesus Christ.

Philandes Williams

You did a wonderful job sharing this with us, and I love the magazine! May God richly bless you and your ministry!

Andrew Willard FACEBOOK RESPONSE

I just want to thank the Philadelphia Church of God and the *Trumpet*. I don't know if you realize how much you change people's lives for the good in teaching us about supreme Lord God Almighty and our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm a changed person because of your literature, and I'm grateful and thank you so much. Lord God Almighty bless you.

Pitso Ditheko SOUTH AFRICA

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TOP ARTICLE

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Mystery of the Ages (2020) theTrumpet.com/22560



TOP PODCAST

Celtic Throne in Branson
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How Can You Understand This Mad World?

The world has gone crazy, but you can find understanding and hope.

EWS MEDIA ARE PUSHING A PLAN TO DEFUND THE POLICE. Winston Churchill is coming under attack for being "racist." Big businesses are cheering on the Marxist movement behind it all. And the police simply walk away as police chiefs and mayors decide upholding the rule of law isn't worth the effort.

How did the world get so crazy?

Mainstream politicians and businesses pledge support and donate to Black Lives Matter, an organization that claims to protest American and British "state-sanctioned violence and antiblack racism" as well as "white capitalism" and, notably, "the Western-prescribed nuclear family." One of its leaders said, "[W]e have to disrupt the white supremacist, capitalistic, patriarchal, heteronormative system that is really the root cause of these police killings."

Only nine unarmed black men died at the hands of police in 2019. That's fewer people than the number killed during recent Black Lives Matter riots, half the number that were killed in just one city (Chicago) on one day (May 31), and less than a fifth of the number of police who were murdered. If you are an unarmed white male interacting with the police, you're twice as likely to be killed as an unarmed black

man in the same situation. But these nine deaths, we are told, prove "systemic racism" in the U.S. and Britain. They prove that we need to defund the police.

These extremist views and lack of supporting facts seemed like a fanatical fringe. Many still oppose Black Lives Matter, but it is now supported by politicians and corporations like Barclays, Cisco, Deloitte, Disney, Facebook, Intel, JP Morgan Chase, Lego, Microsoft and dozens of others.

Are you shaking your head, wondering how the world became so insane?

Where do you turn for answers? The wisest, best-connected, best-funded, most-experienced politicians, commentators and historians are at a loss.

You need a source that understands the spirit behind what is happening. And you can only get it from God's Word.

A newsmagazine that reasons this way may seem strange. But as you try to understand your insane world, ask yourself: *Is there any other way?*



IN PROPHECY.

For years, the *Trumpet* has focused on the spiritual causes of world events. We have said that there is a real, spirit world and a real devil. We have said that God has worked out a specific plan for a specific purpose, using nations like Britain and America, and that Satan has tried to destroy that plan and those nations.

How else do you explain the extremes we're seeing right now? Famine caused the French Revolution. Military defeat caused the Communist Revolution. But the average poor person in America has air conditioning and a smartphone—and more than likely wants to destroy his own nation!

"Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth has fallen in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter" (Isaiah 59:14; Revised Standard Version). Doesn't that describe the public squares in many of our cities? Instead we are "speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words" (verse 13; RSV). Verse 8 prophesies that for our people today, "The way of peace they know not, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads

crooked, no one who goes in them knows peace" (RSV).

Our streets are filled with rioting and destruction. As verse 7 says, "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are in their highways" (RSV).

Meanwhile, big business kowtows to the mob. Anyone who speaks out is shouted down. "He that departs from evil maketh himself a prey" as verse 15 puts it.

Passages like these inform us of what is happening, why it is happening, and where it is leading, and not just in general terms.

I can't remember a time when the news was so frustrating. And here the Bible helps too. It is the one source for real understanding and hope. Verse 20 assures us that "the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord."

God is in control!

If you have not really been convinced of the *Trumpet*'s Bible-based approach, or if you have never really dug into what we teach, now is the time to put it to the test. Start with *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. It contains, as he put it, "the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!"

You can read the whole book online, but I encourage you to request your own free print copy. We will mail it to you, just about anywhere you might be in the world, with no charge for postage, packaging, handling or any other hidden costs. Your name and address stay private. And we won't contact you for any follow-up. There is no catch. We are simply a group of people who understand that this is the only source of hope and understanding that there is. We know God provides the answers, the hope, and the means to get it out there: We want to share it with as many people as possible. Please order *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* today.

► BARACK OBAMA FROM PAGE 5

darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Satan and his followers hate the light. They work in darkness and secrecy. That is why the devil can use a network like the "deep state" to devastating effect. Something diabolical was going on until Mr. Trump was elected—and it is still going on now.

The modern nations of Israel have forsaken God. They know virtually nothing about the Bible and our adversary, Satan the devil.

God wants this conspiracy exposed to give people one last chance to repent. America's temporary resurgence is giving people a window to repent, but that window will soon close. Eventually, warnings are followed by consequences for inaction.

A prophecy by Amos about an end-time Jeroboam shows just how short our time is: "And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I WILL NOT AGAIN PASS BY THEM ANY MORE" (Amos 7:8).

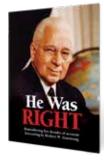
God is measuring America with a "plumbline," very precisely. He "will not again pass by them any more"—which means, this is His final warning. After the Jeroboam resurgence comes the punishment. The Obama administration's efforts to help Iran get a nuclear bomb were a prophetic sign of how devastating this punishment will be.

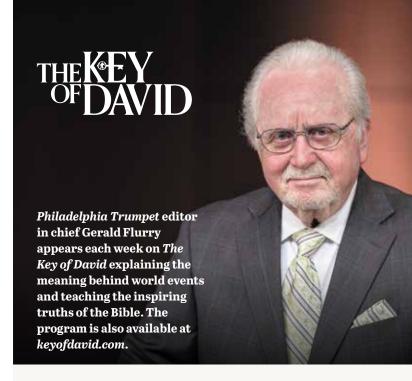
The Bible specifically prophesied Iran's aggressive, terrorism-empowered foreign policy. It also prophesied America's shameful weakness, and the deep corruption in its government. It prophesied that our people's sins are leading directly to weapons of mass destruction striking our populations, and survivors being deported as slaves (Daniel 8:23; 11:40; Leviticus 26:19; Isaiah 1:4-7; Joel 2:3; Luke 21:20-24).

Through the pages of the Bible, God revealed these prophecies to a man who died on Jan. 16, 1986. You need to prove for yourself whether or not this man was a true messenger of God. You can compare what this man wrote to historical facts that have occurred since he died and to events you are seeing on the news every day. Our free booklet *He Was Right* will help you see what this man wrote about the prophecies of the Bible, and you can then prove the truth for yourself.

Was Herbert W. **Armstrong** a messenger of God?

The Bible says God uses individuals to deliver His message. Could this still occur in the modern age? How can you know? To test this regarding Mr. Armstrong, request and study your free copy of He Was Right.





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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite

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

ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri; Chan. 306, 9:00 ET, 6:00 PT

Fox Business Network, 1:00 p.m., Sun Dish Network

Fox Business Network, 1:00 p.m., Sun

ION, Chan. 250, 6:00 ET, Fri Nationwide Cable

CW Plus, 5:30, 9:30 ET/PT, 4:30, 8:30 CT/ MT, Sun

Fox Business Network, 1:00 p.m., Sun ION, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00, Fri: WVUA 8:30, Sun

Dothan 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 KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/ KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/ KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun Jonesboro KAIT3-HD 9:30, Sun; KJOS/

WLMT 8:30. Sun

Rogers KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KH0G-DT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KFTA 9:30, Sun; 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

Fresno-Visalia KFRE Channel 59 7:30, Sun Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri; KTTV 6:00, Sun

Monterey KION 9:30, Sun Palm Springs KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri; Salinas KION 9:30. Sun San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri Santa Barbara-Santa Maria KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Colorado, Colorado Springs KXTU 10:30, Sun 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 KPX0 5:00. Fri Kaui Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon Oahu Focus Chan. 497:00, Sat Idaho, Boise KYUU-LP/KB0I-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 WCIU 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

Peoria WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun Rockford WREX 10:00, Sun; 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 South Bend ESBT/WSBT 7:30, 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/KYOU-DT2 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun Kansas, Pittsburg CWPL 8:30, Sun; KSXF 9:30, Sun

Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT8:30, Sun Lexington WDKY7:00, Sun; WUPX 6:00, Fri Louisiana, Alexandria KALB-DT 8:30, Sun Lafayette KATC-DT 8:30, Sun; KLAF 6:30, Sun

Lake Charles KPLC-DT 8:30, Sun Monroe KN0E-DT8:30, Sun New Orleans WPXL 5:00. Fri Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun Portland WIPL 6:00, Fri

Presque Isle WAGM-DT3/WBPQ 9:30,

Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun Cadillac WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun; WSYM, 7:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun Traverse City WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun 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 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 WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Joplin CWPL 8:30, Sun; KSXF/

KFJX 7:00, Sun Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri Kirksville KW0T/KY0U-DT2 8:30, 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/KCWH-LD

Kearney KWBL/KCWH-LD 8:30, Sun Lincoln KWBL/KCWH-LD 8:30, Sun North Platte KIIT-LD2/KWPL 8:30, Sun Scottsbluff KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA 6:30, Sun; KOLO3/

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 WGPX 6:00, Fri Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT

9:30, Sun Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun North Dakota

Bismarck KXMD/KXMC-DT28:30, Sun Dickinson KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun Fargo KXJB 8:30, Sun Minot KXMD/KXMC-DT2 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 KTEN-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 WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun

South Dakota, Rapid City KLCO-DT 8:30, Sun Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun

Tennessee, Jackson WNBJ 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri

Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun Brownsville KCWT/KNV0-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-DT8:30, Sun Lubbock KLCW-DT8:30, 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 KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Victoria KVCT-DT3/KWVB8:30, 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 WFFF 10:00, Sun; WVNY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30

Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun Harrisonburg WVIR-DT9:30, Sun Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri Richmond WRLH 8:00, Sun Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri

Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun

Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30. Sun Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00. Fri Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun

Yakima KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30. Sun Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Parkersburg WCWP/WOVA-LD29:30,

Weston WVFX-DT 9:30. Sun Wheeling WBW0 9:30, Sun Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun

La Crosse WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun

Superior KDLH-DT8:30, 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

CANADA

Sun

Nationwide satellite

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

Nationwide cable

Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun

Atlantic Provinces

CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun

Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun

British Columbia,

Vancouver CHEK 9:00. Sun: CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun

Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun Manitoba, Winnipeg CTV Winnipeg 9:30, Sun; 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/CTV 8:30, Sun Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:30, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun

P.E.I., Charlottetown CKCW-DT 11, Sun Quebec, Montreal WVNY10:30, Sun Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun;

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

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Regional satellite

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

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Nationwide BOLD 7:30, Sun

Adelaide TV4411:30, Sun; 3:00 p.m., Mon Melbourne C3111:30, Fri; 8:30, Sat

Philippines TV5 PH 6:30, Fri New Zealand

Nationwide Choice TV 7:30, Sun

CBS United Kingdom

Station	Day	Time	sky		Freeview	freesat
CBS Justice	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 39	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 147	Ch. 197	Ch. 71	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

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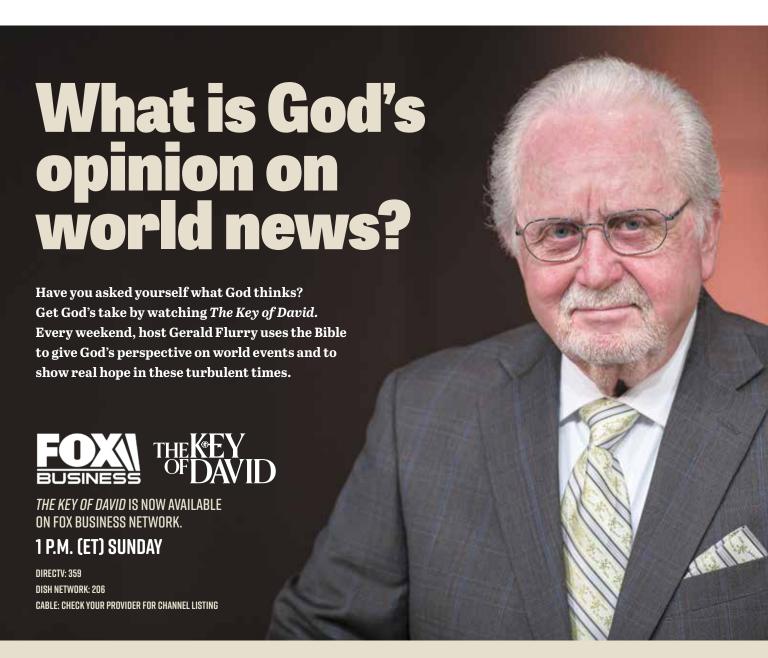
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