

# Trumpet Weekly

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a ceremony at the Grand Synagogue in Paris on January 11 in honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris, which claimed 17 lives.



## Netanyahu Requests Europe's Help to Fight Terrorists

By Kiall Lorenz

**"I** SRAEL IS BEING ATTACKED BY THE VERY SAME FORCES THAT attack Europe. Israel stands with Europe. Europe must stand with Israel," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on January 8, one day after the bloody terrorist attacks in France that left 17 people dead over the three-day period. Al Qaeda in Yemen has claimed partial responsibility for the attacks.

On Sunday, Netanyahu participated in the biggest march in French history to honor the victims of the attacks. He joined about 40 world leaders and over 1 million people in the streets of Paris. Across France, around 4 million people took to the streets to show support. Netanyahu marched in the first line of leaders alongside German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande in a show of defiance and unity after the terrorist attacks.

The following day, while touring the kosher supermarket where four Jews were murdered on January 9, Netanyahu encouraged his European counterparts to support Israel's fight against terrorism. "A direct line leads between the attacks of extremist Islam around the world to the attack that took place here at a kosher supermarket in the heart of Paris," he said. "I expect all of the leaders, with whom we marched in the streets of

Paris yesterday, to fight terrorism wherever it is, also when it is directed against Israel and Jews."

The Israeli prime minister has a lot of experience with terrorist attacks; his country regularly witnesses their devastation. Netanyahu is concerned terrorist activity in Europe will continue to grow, reaching levels people cannot comprehend. He called on European leaders to wake up and unite against radical Islam before it is too late. Netanyahu guaranteed Israel's support of Europe, but has asked Europe to support Israel in its battle against terrorists. "Israel supports Europe in its fight against terrorism, and it's time Europe supported Israel in the same fight," he said.

As Israel's relationship with the United States grows cold, Netanyahu is looking to Europe for support. U.S. President Barack Obama's decision not to attend the Paris rally or even to send any high level official in his place reinforces the prime minister's decision to look elsewhere.

This call to Europe for help could lead to the fulfillment of Hosea 5:13, which prophesies of an alliance between Israel and Germany, the leader of Europe. Germany is a big provider of military hardware to Israel. These trade transactions could lead to a

more comprehensive alliance between these two nations, founded on Israel's need for security from surrounding hostile nations.

But students of Bible prophecy know this alliance will have a

negative outcome. Read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's article "The Whirlwind Prophecy" to further understand Germany's current and future involvement in the Middle East.

## MIDDLE EAST

### **T** Islamic State Expands to Afghanistan and Pakistan Callum Wood | January 15

**I**N A RECRUITMENT VIDEO POSTED ON JANUARY 10, ISLAMIC STATE chief of Khorasan appealed not just to the young and uninitiated, but to seasoned veterans—bomb-makers, guerrilla-warfare tacticians and general battle-hardened, run-of-the-mill terrorists.

Khorasan is the historic name given to the region containing Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and some parts of Southeast Asia.

Already the Islamic State is having major success in the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. In October of last year, six faction commanders in northwestern tribal areas pledged allegiance to it.

The recruitment situation is similar in Pakistan, with the Islamic State looking to enlist pre-trained Taliban forces. Since the [Taliban massacred 132 Pakistani schoolchildren](#) in Peshawar on Dec. 16, 2014, the Pakistani government has cracked down on

the Taliban. Embattled Taliban terrorists could be swayed to join the Islamic State to try to escape the pressure from the government.

If the Islamic State builds a presence in the mountains, it would pose an enduring threat to both Pakistan and Afghanistan. History proves the mountains are a near-insurmountable bastion for terrorists.

The recruitment video ends in typical Islamic State fashion—with a decapitation. The victim appears to be a Pakistani soldier.

The Islamic State has already reversed U.S. efforts in Iraq, and now it threatens to bring further bloodshed and violence to the already troubled region of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Watch as the Islamic State continues to destabilize the broader Middle East. Such action is already triggering response from key nations such as [Iran](#) and Germany.

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### Iran Eclipses U.S. as Iraq's Ally in Fight Against Militants Associated Press | January 12

**I**N THE EYES OF MOST IRAQIS, THEIR COUNTRY'S BEST ALLY IN THE war against the Islamic State group is not the United States and the coalition air campaign against the militants. It's Iran, which is credited with stopping the extremists' march on Baghdad.

Shiite, non-Arab Iran has effectively taken charge of Iraq's defense against the Sunni radical group, meeting the Iraqi government's need for immediate help on the ground.

Two to three Iranian military aircraft a day land at Baghdad airport, bringing in weapons and ammunition. Iran's most potent military force and best known general—the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force and its commander Gen. Ghasem Soleimani—are organizing Iraqi forces and have become the de facto leaders of Iraqi Shiite militias that are the backbone of the fight. Iran carried out airstrikes to help push militants from an Iraqi province on its border.

The result is that Tehran's influence in Iraq, already high since U.S. forces left at the end of 2011, has grown to an unprecedented level. ...

The meltdown of Iraq's military in the face of the extremists' summer blitz across much of northern and western Iraq gave Iran the opportunity to step in. A flood of Shiite volunteers joined the fight to fill the void, bolstering the ranks of Shiite militias already allied with Iran.

Those militias have now been more or less integrated into

Iraq's official security apparatus, an Iraqi government official said, calling this the Islamic State group's "biggest gift" to Tehran.

"Iran's hold on Iraq grows tighter and faster every day," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the sensitive subject.

Over the past year, Iran sold Iraq nearly \$10 billion worth of weapons and hardware, mostly weapons for urban warfare like assault rifles, heavy machine guns and rocket launchers, he said. The daily stream of Iranian cargo planes bringing weapons to Baghdad was confirmed at a news conference by a former Shiite militia leader, Jamal Jaafar. Better known by his alias Abu Mahdi al-Mohandis, Jaafar is second-in-command of the recently created state agency in charge of volunteer fighters.

Some Sunnis are clearly worried. Sunni lawmaker Mohammed al-Karbuly said the United States must increase its support of Iraq against the extremists in order to reduce Iran's influence.

"Iran now dominates Iraq," he said.

Equally key to Iran's growing influence has been a persistent suspicion of Washington's intentions, particularly among Shiite militiamen. ...

The praise does not just come from Shiite politicians. ...

U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Iraqi leaders have kept the U.S. informed about Iranian activities against [the Islamic State], and that Washington is

watching the relationship carefully.

He said if the two countries grow closer economically or politically, “as long as the Iraqi government remains committed to inclusivity of all the various groups inside the country, then I think Iranian influence will be positive.”

But Ali Khedery, a top U.S. official in Iraq from 2003 until 2009, warned that Iranian influence will be “strategically catastrophic.”

“It further consolidates Iran’s grip over the Levant and Iraq,” said Khedery, who resigned in protest over U.S. failure to thwart Iranian influence.

Iran’s sphere of influence extends to neighboring Syria, where it has stood by President Bashar Assad’s regime against the mostly Sunni opposition, and to Lebanon, where its main proxy, Hezbollah, is that nation’s most powerful group. Also, the Shiite

Houthi rebels’ takeover of parts of Yemen in recent months has raised concerns of Iranian influence there.

The signs of Iran’s weight in Iraq are many. The prime minister, the Sunni parliament speaker and other top politicians have visited Tehran. Most senior Iraqi Sunni politicians have stopped publicly criticizing Iran and vilifying Shiite politicians for close ties to Tehran.

On billboards around Baghdad, death notices of Iraqi militiamen killed in battle are emblazoned with images of Iran’s late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Last month, an unprecedented number of Iranians—estimated at up to 4 million—crossed into Iraq to visit a revered Shiite shrine south of Baghdad for a major holy day. Visa charges for the Iranians have been waived. ...

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## **T** **Israel: Palestinians ‘Started Legal Warfare’ by Joining ICC** **David Vejlil | January 13**

**O**N DECEMBER 31, THE DAY AFTER PALESTINIANS FELL SHORT AT the Security Council in their push for a resolution to Palestinian statehood, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas signed 20 international conventions, including one regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC). On January 6, the United Nations announced its acceptance of the PA’s request to join the ICC, which will officially occur on April 1.

Recognition by the ICC will allow Palestinians to pursue war crimes charges against Israel.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon called the move “legal warfare, which is not useful to peace.” Noting the Palestinian Authority’s troubling association with the internationally-recognized terrorist organization, Hamas, Nahshon warned that the PA might find itself as the defendant before the ICC.

Be it via the Palestinian Authority and/or Hamas, Bible prophecy informs us that the Palestinians will [violently gain control of East Jerusalem](#) soon. Mahmoud Abbas’s efforts are bringing the Middle East closer and closer to that crisis.

## **Some Shiites Link Saudi King’s Health to the End Times** **Al-Monitor | January 14**

**I**N THE LAST TWO YEARS, MEDIA OUTLETS HAVE PUBLISHED conflicting reports on Saudi King Abdullah’s health. ... But some Shiite scholars [believe] that Abdullah’s death will mark the beginning of a chain of great events that will shock the world. ...

According to Shiite hadiths, after the death of a king named Abdullah in the Hijaz—a western region of present-day Saudi Arabia—no successor to the throne would be accepted, and disagreements would escalate and persist until the rise of Imam Mahdi.

The Shiites believe that divine imams are heirs to the political and religious Ummah, or Islamic nation. These 12 imams are successors to the Prophet Mohammed and to the head of the caliphate, with Mahdi being the final imam who disappeared, or went into occultation. Mahdi will be revealed only in the end times, along with Jesus, to deliver peace to the world. ...

Some believe that the rise of terrorist groups in the Levant, along with their black flags, is another sign of Mahdi’s resurrection. ...

Historian Mohammed Hossein Rajabi Davani told an Iranian newspaper: “With respect to promises in Shiite hadiths, we are certainly experiencing doomsday, but doomsday has no time frame and it’s not known when it begins and ends.”

Yet certain Shiite narratives and hadiths contradict the

aforementioned narratives, suggesting different signs for the rise of Imam Mahdi. Today, however, many are speculating about the events that will follow the Saudi king’s death, as well as its impact on global developments. With the death of King Abdullah, according to some analyses, stability in Riyadh may come to an end, setting off a chain of prophecies and the resurrection of Mahdi.

**“In 2005, Scott Peterson wrote about the centrality of the Mahdi’s return to Iranian foreign policy: ‘From redressing the gulf between rich and poor in Iran, to challenging the United States and Israel and enhancing Iran’s power with nuclear programs, EVERY ISSUE IS DESIGNED TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MAHDI’S RETURN.’ Many in America and the West often fall into the trap of thinking Iran is pursuing nukes for strictly political and strategic reasons. This misconception leads them to believe they can negotiate some sort of agreement with Tehran about its nuclear program.”**  
[theTrumpet.com, Aug. 19, 2010](#)

## Israelis and Palestinians Both Love Germany

The Local | January 12

A STUDY RELEASED ON MONDAY SHOWS THAT MOST ISRAELIS and half of Palestinians have a positive view of Germany, while Palestinians wanted a closer relationship with Germans.

According to the study by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 68 percent of Israelis and 49 percent of Palestinians have a positive or very positive image of Germany, while 23 percent of Israelis and 33 percent of Palestinians viewed Germany negatively. ...

The study found that more religious Israelis had a less favorable view of Germany. While 77 percent of secular Israelis said they had a positive opinion of Germany, 42 percent of Orthodox and 31 percent of ultra-Orthodox people said the same.

Eighty percent of Israelis thought Germany was an important partner for their country—although more than half agreed that

the German government also supported the Palestinian cause.

For Palestinians, differences lay between the two main Palestinian political factions, Hamas and Fatah.

Supporters of Fatah, the party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, view Germany more favorably with 64 percent expressing positive opinions. Only 37 percent of Hamas supporters said they had good feelings toward Germany.

That might be because 55 percent of Palestinians agreed that Germany offers particularly strong support for Israel's right to exist—a figure that shoots up to 83 percent among Israelis.

Palestinians also had good things to say about their potential political relationship with Germany. Seventy-four percent said they wanted [the Palestinian Authority] to have a “close” or “very close” relationship with Germany. ...

## EUROPE

## Europe's Imperial Court Is a Threat to All Our Democracies

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Telegraph | January 14

THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE (ECJ) HAS DECLARED LEGAL supremacy over the sovereign state of Germany, and therefore of Britain, France, Denmark and Poland as well.

The ECJ's advocate general has not only brushed aside the careful findings of the German Constitutional Court on a matter of highest importance, he has gone so far as to claim that Germany is obliged to submit to the final decision. “We cannot possibly accept this and they know it,” said one German jurist close to the case.

The matter at hand is whether the European Central Bank broke the law with its back-stop plan for Italian and Spanish debt (OMT) in 2012. The teleological ECJ—always eager to further the cause of EU integration—did come up with the politically correct answer as expected. The ECB is in the clear. The opinion is a green light for quantitative easing next week, legally never in doubt.

The European Court did defer to the *Verfassungsgericht* [German Constitutional Court] in Karlsruhe on a few points. ... But these details are not the deeper import of the case.

The opinion is a vaulting assertion of EU primacy. If the Karlsruhe accepts this, the implication is that Germany will no longer be a fully self-governing sovereign state.

The advocate general knows he is risking a showdown but views this fight as unavoidable. “It seems to me an all but impossible task to preserve this Union, as we know it today, if it is to be made subject to an absolute reservation, ill-defined and virtually at the discretion of each of the member states,” he said.

In this he is right. “This Union”—meaning the Union to which EU integrationists aspire—is currently blocked by the German court, the last safeguard of our nation states against encroachment. This is why the battle is historic.

“His opinion is a direct affront to the German court. It asserts that the EU court has the final say in defining and creating the

EU's own powers, without any national check,” said Gunnar Beck, a German legal theorist at the University of London.

“This would be a fundamental transformation of the EU from a treaty organization, which depends on the democratic assent of the sovereign states, into a supranational entity.”

Germany's judges have never accepted the ECJ's outlandish claims to primacy. Their ruling on the Maastricht Treaty in 1993 warned in thunderous terms that the court reserves the right to strike down any EU law that breaches the German Grundgesetz or Basic Law.

They went further in their verdict on the Lisbon Treaty in July 2009, shooting down imperial conceits. The EU is merely a treaty club. The historic states are the “masters of the treaties” and not the other way round.

They set limits to EU integration. Whole areas of policy “must forever remain German.” If the drift of EU affairs erodes German democracy—including the Bundestag's fiscal sovereignty—the country must “refuse further participation in the European Union.” ...

In a free speech case that I once covered—*Connolly v. Commission* (C-274/99 P)—another advocate general suggested that criticism of the EU is akin to “blasphemy” and may legitimately be suppressed. His musings on blasphemy did not reach the final judgment, but everything else did.

The European Court has this time departed a long way from the rule of the law, even by its own elastic standards. The opinion contradicts previous ECJ case law in the 2012 *Pringle* case, when the court ruled that the ECB's purchases of government bonds amount to economic policy, and implies fiscal union by the back door.

It gives the ECB almost unfettered discretion, adding for good measure that the courts should refrain from meddling in monetary policy. Not only is this an attempt to tie the hands of the



Verfassungsgericht when the inevitable case against QE is filed, it is also enthrones the ECB over a monetary dictatorship answerable to nobody.

From a strictly economic view, my sympathies lie with the advocate general and the ECB's Mario Draghi. The eurozone needs QE *à l'outrance* to avert a deflation trap. It also needs the OMT to reassure markets that there is a lender-of-last-resort in case a crisis erupts in Greece and sets off contagion.

But the political destiny of Europe should not be decided in this fashion, lurching from crisis to crisis towards a sovereign union that no citizen has ever voted for. ...

This is the Investiture Contest of our times, echoing the 11th-century clash between the German emperor Henry IV and the imperial papacy of Gregory VII over supremacy in Europe. ...

It was Henry who conquered Rome. It was a deposed Pope Gregory who died in exile.

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## A War Between Two Worlds

George Friedman, Stratfor | January 13

THE MURDERS OF CARTOONISTS WHO MADE FUN OF ISLAM AND OF Jews shopping for their Sabbath meals by Islamists in Paris last week have galvanized the world. A galvanized world is always dangerous. Galvanized people can do careless things. ...

Islam invaded Europe twice from the Mediterranean—first in Iberia, the second time in southeastern Europe, as well as nibbling at Sicily and elsewhere. Christianity invaded Islam multiple times, the first time in the Crusades and in the battle to expel the Muslims from Iberia. Then it forced the Turks back from Central Europe. The Christians finally crossed the Mediterranean in the 19th century, taking control of large parts of North Africa. Each of these two religions wanted to dominate the other. Each seemed close to its goal. Neither was successful. What remains true is that Islam and Christianity were obsessed with each other from the first encounter. Like Rome and Egypt they traded with each other and made war on each other.

Christians and Muslims have been bitter enemies .... No single phrase can summarize the relationship between the two save perhaps this: It is rare that two religions might be so obsessed with each other and at the same time so ambivalent. This is an explosive mixture.

The current crisis has its origins in the collapse of European hegemony over North Africa after World War II and the Europeans' need for cheap labor. As a result of the way in which they ended their imperial relations, they were bound to allow the migration of Muslims into Europe, and the permeable borders of the European Union enabled them to settle where they chose.

The Muslims, for their part, did not come to join in a cultural transformation. They came for work, and money, and for the simplest reasons. The Europeans' appetite for cheap labor and the Muslims' appetite for work combined to generate a massive movement of populations. ...

There are many charms in secularism, in particular the freedom to believe what you will in private. But secularism also poses a public problem.

There are those whose beliefs are so different from others' beliefs that finding common ground in the public space is impossible. And then there are those for whom the very distinction between private and public is either meaningless or unacceptable. The complex contrivances of secularism have their charm, but not everyone is charmed. ...

There is here a question of what we mean when we speak of

things like Christianity, Islam and secularism. There are more than a billion Christians and more than a billion Muslims and uncountable secularists who mix all things. ...

There is a built-in indeterminacy in our use of language that allows us to shift responsibility for actions in Paris away from a religion to a minor strand in a religion, or to the actions of only those who pulled the trigger. This is the universal problem of secularism, which eschews stereotyping. It leaves unclear who is to be held responsible for what. By devolving all responsibility on the individual, secularism tends to absolve nations and religions from responsibility.

This is not necessarily wrong, but it creates a tremendous practical problem. If no one but the gunmen and their immediate supporters are responsible for the action, and all others who share their faith are guiltless, you have made a defensible moral judgment.

But as a practical matter, you have paralyzed your ability to defend yourselves. It is impossible to defend against random violence and impermissible to impose collective responsibility. As Europe has been for so long, its moral complexity has posed for it a problem it cannot easily solve. Not all Muslims—not even most Muslims—are responsible for this. But all who committed these acts were Muslims claiming to speak for Muslims. One might say this is a Muslim problem and then hold the Muslims responsible for solving it. But what happens if they don't? And so the moral debate spins endlessly.

This dilemma is compounded by Europe's hidden secret: The Europeans do not see Muslims from North Africa or Turkey as Europeans, nor do they intend to allow them to be Europeans. The European solution to their isolation is the concept of multiculturalism—on the surface a most liberal notion, and in practice, a movement for both cultural fragmentation and ghettoization. But behind this there is another problem ....

Culture implies a desire to live with your own people. Given the economic status of immigrants the world over, the inevitable exclusion that is perhaps unintentionally incorporated in multiculturalism and the desire of like to live with like, the Muslims found themselves living in extraordinarily crowded and squalid conditions. All around Paris there are high-rise apartment buildings housing and separating Muslims from the French, who live elsewhere.

These killings have nothing to do with poverty, of course.

Newly arrived immigrants are always poor. That's why they immigrate. And until they learn the language and customs of their new homes, they are always ghettoized and alien. It is the next generation that flows into the dominant culture. But the dirty secret of multiculturalism was that its consequence was to perpetuate Muslim isolation. And it was not the intention of Muslims to become Europeans, even if they could. They came to make money, not become French. The shallowness of the European postwar values system thereby becomes the horror show that occurred in Paris last week.

But while the Europeans have particular issues with Islam, and have had them for more than 1,000 years, there is a more generalizable problem. Christianity has been sapped of its evangelical zeal and no longer uses the sword to kill and convert its enemies.

At least parts of Islam retain that zeal. And saying that not all Muslims share this vision does not solve the problem. Enough Muslims share that fervency to endanger the lives of those they despise, and this tendency toward violence cannot be tolerated by either their Western targets or by Muslims who refuse to subscribe to a jihadist ideology. And there is no way to distinguish those who might kill from those who won't. The Muslim community might be able to make this distinction, but a 25-year-old European or American policeman cannot. And the Muslims either can't or won't police themselves.

Therefore, we are left in a state of war.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls has called this a war on radical Islam. If only they wore uniforms or bore distinctive birthmarks, then fighting only the radical Islamists would not be a problem. But Valls's distinctions notwithstanding, the world can either accept periodic attacks, or see the entire Muslim community as a potential threat until proven otherwise.

These are terrible choices, but history is filled with them. Calling for a war on radical Islamists is like calling for war on the followers of Jean-Paul Sartre. Exactly what do they look like? ...

Something must be done. I don't know what needs to be done, but I suspect I know what is coming. First, if it is true that Islam is

merely responding to crimes against it, those crimes are not new and certainly didn't originate in the creation of Israel, the invasion of Iraq or recent events. This has been going on far longer than that. For instance, the Assassins were a secret Islamic order to make war on individuals they saw as Muslim heretics. There is nothing new in what is going on, and it will not end if peace comes to Iraq, Muslims occupy Kashmir, or Israel is destroyed.

Nor is secularism about to sweep the Islamic world. The Arab Spring was a Western fantasy that the collapse of communism in 1989 was repeating itself in the Islamic world with the same results. There are certainly Muslim liberals and secularists. However, they do not control events—no single group does—and it is the events, not the theory, that shape our lives.

Europe's sense of nation is rooted in shared history, language, ethnicity and yes, in Christianity, or its heir, secularism. Europe has no concept of the nation except for these things, and Muslims share in none of them.

It is difficult to imagine another outcome save for another round of ghettoization and deportation. This is repulsive to the European sensibility now, but certainly not alien to European history. Unable to distinguish radical Muslims from other Muslims, Europe will increasingly and unintentionally move in this direction.

Paradoxically, this will be exactly what the radical Muslims want because it will strengthen their position in the Islamic world in general, and North Africa and Turkey in particular.

But the alternative to not strengthening the radical Islamists is living with the threat of death if they are offended. And that is not going to be endured in Europe.

Perhaps a magic device will be found that will enable us to read the minds of people to determine what their ideology actually is. But given the offense many in the West have taken to governments reading e-mails, I doubt that they would allow this ....

There is a war, and like all wars, this one is very different from the last in the way it is prosecuted. But it is war nonetheless, and denying that is denying the obvious.

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## Pope on *Charlie Hebdo*: There Are Limits to Free Expression

Associated Press | January 15

**P**OPE FRANCIS SAID THURSDAY THERE ARE LIMITS TO FREEDOM OF expression, especially when it insults or ridicules someone's faith.

Francis spoke about the Paris terror attacks while en route to the Philippines, defending free speech as not only a fundamental human right but a duty to speak one's mind for the sake of the common good.

But he said there were limits.

By way of example, he referred to Alberto Gasparri, who organizes papal trips and was standing by his side aboard the papal plane.

"If my good friend Dr. Gasparri says a curse word against my mother, he can expect a punch," Francis said, throwing a pretend punch his way. "It's normal. You cannot provoke. You cannot insult the faith of others. You cannot make fun of the faith of others."

Many people around the world have defended the right of satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* to publish inflammatory cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in the wake of the massacre by Islamic extremists at its Paris offices and subsequent attack on a kosher supermarket in which three gunmen killed 17 people.

But recently the Vatican and four prominent French imams issued a joint declaration that denounced the attacks but also urged the media to treat religions with respect.

Francis, who has urged Muslim leaders in particular to speak out against Islamic extremism, went a step further when asked by a French journalist about whether there were limits when freedom of expression meets freedom of religion.

Francis insisted that it was an "aberration" to kill in the name of God and said religion can never be used to justify violence.

But he said there was a limit to free speech when it concerned

offending someone's religious beliefs.

"There are so many people who speak badly about religions or other religions, who make fun of them, who make a game out of the religions of others," he said. "They are provocateurs. And what happens to them is what would happen to Dr. Gasparri if he says a curse word against my mother. There is a limit." ...

**"The media exist to protect our freedoms! If you don't have freedom of the press, it is only a matter of time before you have tyranny."**

Gerald Flurry, Royal Vision, November-December 2014

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### **German Newspaper That Reprinted Mohammed Cartoons Firebombed**

**The Guardian | January 11**

A GERMAN NEWSPAPER THAT REPRINTED THE MOHAMMED CARTOONS from the French satirical paper *Charlie Hebdo* has been the target of an arson attack. Several stones and an incendiary device were thrown through the window of the archive of the regional tabloid daily, the *Hamburger Morgenpost*, early on Sunday morning. The paper had splashed three *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons on its front page after the Paris massacre, running the headline "This much freedom must be possible!"

"Rocks and then a burning object were thrown through the window," a police spokesman told AFP. "Two rooms on lower floors were damaged but the fire was put out quickly."

No one was hurt in the attack in the northern port city. Two people were detained and an investigation has begun, police said.

The police said it was too soon to say whether there was a connection between the attack and the newspaper's publication of

the *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons.

Police declined to provide further information about the suspects. ...

Several German newspapers had published the *Charlie Hebdo* Mohammed cartoons on their front pages on Thursday in a gesture of solidarity with the French cartoonists and in defense of free speech.

Germany's *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper reported on Sunday that the bloodshed in France could signal the start of a wave of attacks across Europe, citing communications by Islamic State leaders intercepted by U.S. intelligence.

Shortly after the attack in Paris, the U.S. National Security Agency had intercepted communications in which leaders of the jihadi group announced a next wave of attacks, the tabloid said, citing unnamed sources in the U.S. intelligence services.

### **BND Double Agent Stole List of Spies' Aliases**

**The Local | January 14**

INVESTIGATORS FOUND A LIST OF 3,500 GERMAN INTELLIGENCE agents' names and their aliases on a hard drive belonging to a U.S. double agent caught in July.

The list contains the clear "(real) names and cover identities of agents in the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) Theatres of Operations/Foreign Relations" (EA) section, security sources told *Bild* on Wednesday. ...

Investigators said that they did not yet know whether the

32-year-old double agent, identified as Markus R., had sold the classified top-secret information on to foreign spies.

They were searching through the man's hard drive after he was arrested for selling 218 documents to American intelligence for €25,000 (US\$29,000).

The list itself dates to the end of the year 2011, while Markus R. was arrested in early July 2014 for selling the documents to the CIA over a period of two years.

### **Nigel Farage: Ghettos in French Cities Have Become No-Go Zones for Non-Muslims**

**Telegraph | January 13**

MOST BIG FRENCH CITIES HAVE AREAS WHICH HAVE BECOME "NO-go zones," which non-Muslims and even police cannot enter, Nigel Farage has said.

The UKIP leader said that Britain and European countries have suffered from "moral cowardice" and allowed "big ghettos" to develop.

He said: "It's happening right across Europe. We have got no-go zones in most of the big French cities. We've been turning a blind eye to preachers of hate that have been coming here from the Middle East and saying things for which the rest of us would be arrested.

"In parts of northern England we've seen the sexual grooming

of underage girls committed by Muslim men, in the majority, and for all of these things we are seeing the law not being applied equally, we're seeing the police forces not doing their job because we've suffered from moral cowardice.

"We have, through mass immigration and through not checking the details of those people who have come to our countries, we have allowed big ghettos to develop, and when it comes to confronting tough issues we're run a mile, and that is why we're in the mess we're in, we've been led very badly." ...

He said: "We even, a few years ago, had some quite clear examples where the immigration services were actually allowing women to come into Britain from Pakistan and elsewhere to join

polygamous marriages something that is against our law.

“So wherever you look, wherever you look you see this blind eye being turned and you see the growth of ghettos where the police and all the normal agents of the law have withdrawn and that is where sharia law has come in and you know it got so bad in

### **Je ne Suis pas Charlie (I’m Sane)**

**Selwyn Duke, American Thinker | January 13**

**I**N THE WAKE OF THE JANUARY 7 ATTACK ON [THE *CHARLIE HEBDO* (CH)] offices, millions are showing their support, heroicizing CH and saying “Je suis *Charlie*” (I am *Charlie*). On the other hand, there are a few lonely voices ... who have some less than flattering things to say about the magazine. ...

As to this, make no mistake: *Charlie Hebdo* was an enemy of Western civilization.

Question: Did the people at CH ever oppose the Muslim immigration into France that, ultimately, led to their deaths?

Maybe I’m wrong, but I’m willing to go out on a limb and guess they didn’t, that they were rather more inclined to call those who did inveigh against it “racists,” xenophobes and intolerant bigots. And this certainly was reflected in an interview CH cartoonist Bernard Holtrop gave to a Dutch newspaper Saturday. He didn’t say much, it seems, but amidst his few words he made sure to express his dissatisfaction with the fact that the CH attack will help Marine Le Pen’s National Front, the only prominent French party questioning the nation’s immigration model.

We might also note that the victims at CH were basically defenseless, save the one police officer guarding the journalists, because of the gun control that is part of their leftist agenda.

As for the material CH was disgorging, *Town Hall*’s John Ransom characterized it well, saying that the *Charlie* caricatures were “juvenile, loaded with bathroom humor, and not at all smart. There were many cartoons that I felt were just offensive—not just to Muslims, but to me as well” .... In typical liberal style, its artists mistook profanity for profundity, cynicism for sagacity, and insult for intellectualism. It’s reminiscent of the women who strip naked to protest; even if their causes were just—which they invariably aren’t—what does it prove? Could you imagine George Washington, or maybe wife Martha, having bared it all to protest the British? ...

But I’ll tell you what it proves: that we’ve had a successful Western devolution. It proves that Frankfurt School founder Willi Munzenberg wasn’t kidding when he said that to impose

### **Germany Proposes ‘Jihadi Identity Card’**

**Breitbart | January 15**

**D**ESPITE CONFISCATING PASSPORTS, GERMANY HAS FOUND JIHADISTS have still been able to leave the country to fight and get training abroad by using their federal identity cards, so the state has proposed to replace them, with specially designed “jihadi” cards.

Having an identity document has been compulsory for many Germans since 1938, when the authoritarian Nazi Party introduced papers for adult men and Jews. The identity card program

Britain that our last archbishop of Canterbury, the leader of our church, actually said we should accept sharia law.”

He made the comments after a commentator told Fox News earlier this week that Birmingham has become a totally Muslim city. ...

the dictatorship of the proletariat, they would “make the West so corrupt it stinks.” This putrefaction is now well advanced, and CH was part of this decay.

Of course, many would respect the fact that CH, unlike most leftists, didn’t spare Muslims the scorn it also heaped on Christians and anyone else it didn’t like (which seems to have been everyone else). But while this isn’t as bad as a fifth column in your midst, a platoon that indiscriminately sprays bullets at everybody, its own side as well as the enemy, isn’t exactly helping. (In fact, were one of these leftists in a foxhole next to me, I’d have to frag him before dealing with the foe wearing a different uniform.) ...

We might ask such people, is there any good in the world at all? Or are you the only good extant?

This typical leftist hatred was reflected by CH’s Holtrop, who responded to the outpouring of support for his mag rag by dismissively saying, “We have a lot of new friends, like the pope, Queen Elizabeth and [Russian President Vladimir] Putin. It really makes me laugh .... We vomit on all these people who suddenly say they are our friends.”

But Holtrop and his comrades had been vomiting on Western civilization for years, which is why he doesn’t have to worry about me counting myself among his friends. ...

And whom should we fear most? Who most imperils us? Muslim fundamentalists? Or the secular fundamentalists who, like dysfunctional cells attacking a body’s immune system, make us susceptible to harmful outside agencies? To paraphrase Roman philosopher Cicero, an enemy at the gates carrying his banner openly is less formidable than those within the gates who rot the soul of a nation, work secretly in the night to undermine the pillars of the society, and infect the body politic so that it can no longer resist.

We fought with the besieged Soviets to defeat Hitler, but we never said “I am Stalin.” I’m certainly as opposed to Muslim jihadists as anyone, but I’m proud to say *je ne suis pas Charlie*.

has since expanded and covers all adult Germans, providing them with a convenient document for quick identification and travel within the European Union open borders area.

Because the cards are valid travel documents, Germany has seen a number of suspected terrorists who have already had their passports revoked easily slip away to Turkey, with whom Germany has a borders agreement. From there, crossing into the Islamic State is relatively easy and can be arranged by any one of



a number of smugglers for a small fee.

Jihadists are not the only minority group in German society who could be targeted by the introduction of segregated identity cards. ...

Rather than confiscating the cards completely, which would leave the suspected jihadists in breach of the identity card law, they will instead be issued with distinctively marked cards. Printed with warnings about the nature of the holder in

multiple languages to prevent unauthorized border crossings, the cards will be issued once they have parliamentary appeal, reports *TheLocal.de*.

Going to such efforts to prevent jihadists from leaving the country may not please everyone. Many have criticized Western nations for the apparently prevalent policy of stopping suspected terrorists from traveling to war zones, while not keeping them under sufficient surveillance at home.

## ASIA

### U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Drops, Russia's Missile Stocks Up

IB Times AU | January 13

**A** NEWLY RELEASED REPORT OF THE U.S. MILITARY'S NUCLEAR arsenal by the State Department has disclosed that the country's number of nuclear missiles had continued to reduce in compliance to the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) treaty with Russia. The latter, however, continued the opposite.

Data collected as of Sept. 1, 2014 showed that the number of deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ICBMs and deployed heavy bombers by the U.S. went down from 809 the year before to 794. Russia's inventory was the opposite at 528, from 473 a year ago.

The U.S.'s warheads on deployed ICBMs, SLBMs and nuclear warheads for deployed bombers, from 1,688, went down to 1,642. Russia recorded the same number at 1,642, but the report said the previous was 1,400.

President Barack Obama's bailiwick, as of September 2014, has 912 deployed and non-deployed missile launchers, from 1,015 a year ago. Vladimir Putin's Russia has 911, up from 894.

The U.S. and Russia signed the New START Treaty in April 2010, primarily to *reduce the number of nuclear weapons and launchers*

*that the two countries own and deploy.* The agreement entered into force on February 2011, and is expected to last at least until 2021. ...

Crews with the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, reported in August they have completed the demolition of 50 Minuteman III launch facilities. This was inspected and verified by Russian inspectors. ...

**“As far as global stability is concerned ... [t]he calls for action, for intervention, are bound to escalate. And because America is no longer the one to step up, the position of dominance is up for grabs, both within regions and globally. It will be ugly. We are leaving behind a comfortable era of Western dominance—and entering a new and uncertain era of violent competition for supremacy among remorseless foes.”**

*Trumpet, January 2014*

### China's 10 DF-31 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles Alarm U.S.

IB Times AU | January 6

**T**HE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED AS CHINA'S STRATEGIC missile force, or the Second Artillery Corps, has 10 DF-31 intercontinental ballistic missiles ready in service. Intelligence reports from the Pentagon revealed that while launch of the DF-31 missiles will not be able to hit the central U.S., the modified DF-31A, with a range of 11,200 kilometers (6,900 miles), is capable of hitting key locations in the U.S. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) would only need a maximum of 30 minutes to launch the DF-31 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Pentagon found that China is also developing another missile, the DF-41. Both the DF-31 and DF-41 missiles are road-mobiles with enhanced accuracy and designed to release multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle, or MIRVs. The *Want China Times* reports that the Pentagon found China has 30 DF-31 and DF-31A missiles. ...

In a separate report ... the Pentagon noted that China had announced a 5.7 percent increase in its annual military budget to \$119.5 billion. The Pentagon report highlights that there have been consistent defense spending increases for more than two decades now.

The Pentagon Annual Report to Congress outlines China had been massively investing in modernizing its strategic weapons, including but not limited to anti-access/area-denial or A2/AD capabilities such as advanced intermediate- and medium-range conventional ballistic missiles, long-range land-attack and anti-ship cruise missiles, counter-space weapons, and offensive cyber capabilities. China's military investments made it possible for the country to own strategic weapons at increasingly longer ranges. ... The Pentagon is concerned that as China enhances its military arsenals, the country is notably increasing its military presence

in regions all over the world, creating new and expanding economic and diplomatic interests that compromise the interests of its neighbor countries, including allies and partners of the United States. It does not help that China had been elusive about its military modernization program. ...

The last progressive talk between U.S. President Barack

Obama and President Xi Jinping was in June 2013. At that time, the two leaders promised to work together in building a “new model” of relations in managing differences in China and U.S. bilateral relationship. However, China had laid out plans of developing and achieving military rejuvenation up until 2049.



## Vladimir Putin's Judo Comrade Will Construct a Bridge to Crimea

Jeremiah Jacques | January 15

A BRIDGE LINKING MAINLAND RUSSIA WITH THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA will be built by Arkady Rotenberg, a Russian construction tycoon and friend of president Vladimir Putin, according to a January 14 report in *Vedomosti*.

Russia has sought to build a bridge to Crimea since the end of World War II, but the massive and controversial project always stalled. Since Russia officially annexed Crimea last spring, there is renewed impetus for a connection.

The plans for the project have not been made public, but sources inside Russia's Finance Ministry told *Vedomosti* that the design is for a 12-mile bridge spanning the Kerch Strait through the Tuzla spit, which divides Russia's Krasnodar region from the Crimean Peninsula. The bridge will accommodate a railway and four car lanes. At an estimated cost of **\$3.5 billion**, the bridge to Crimea will be the most expensive bridge Russia has ever built.

Three firms were considered for the contract, but the Stroygazmontazh Corporation, 51 percent of which Rotenberg owns, won the bid. Rotenberg is one of Russia's most influential businessmen, as well as one of Putin's strongest supporters. His personal relationship with Putin includes regular sessions of judo training and sparring.

The people of Russia heartily celebrated Putin's annexation of Crimea, and the commencement of the bridge project could give the nation's morale a lift during a time of economic suffering.

Additionally, the bridge project could allay concerns among some Westerners who speculate that Russia wants to annex regions of eastern Ukraine in order to connect Crimea to mainland Russia. With such a bridge, Russia would have this connection without needing to pry away other territories from Ukraine.

Follow [Jeremiah Jacques](#)

## LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA



## Boko Haram Massacres Thousands

Callum Wood | January 13

ON JANUARY 7, **BOKO HARAM** ATTACKED THE NIGERIAN FISHING town of Baga and killed as many as 2,000 people. Those who weren't killed in the streets or drowned trying to swim away in Lake Chad were hunted down in the surrounding woods. The few survivors treaded over bodies for miles as they fled the burning town.

It is suspected that Boko Haram most likely targeted the town because its villagers were giving aid to the Nigerian Army. Another probable reason is that Boko Haram wants to establish a caliphate in northern Nigeria—just like the Islamic State. Boko

Haram now controls an area the size of Belgium: 20,000 square miles of **territory**. The region extends out of Nigeria into Niger and Cameroon.

Three days after the Baga attack, Boko Haram bombed a marketplace in Maiduguri. The perpetrator was an unknowing 10-year-old girl. She had been strapped with explosives and sent into the busy marketplace. When her payload was detonated, she died alongside 20 others. Eighteen more were injured, according to Nigerian officials.

North Africa is quickly descending into **Islam-fueled violence**.

## ANGLO-AMERICA

## Most Americans Are One Paycheck Away From the Street

MarketWatch | January 10

AMERICANS ARE FEELING BETTER ABOUT THEIR JOB SECURITY and the economy, but most are theoretically only one paycheck away from the street.

Approximately 62 percent of Americans have no emergency savings for things such as a \$1,000 emergency room visit or a

\$500 car repair, according to a new survey of 1,000 adults by personal finance website Bankrate.com. Faced with an emergency, they say they would raise the money by reducing spending elsewhere (26 percent), borrowing from family and/or friends (16 percent) or using credit cards (12 percent).

“Emergency savings are not just critical for weathering an emergency, they’re also important for successful homeownership and retirement saving,” says Signe-Mary McKernan, senior fellow and economist at the Urban Institute, a nonprofit organization that focuses on social and economic policy.

The findings are strikingly similar to a U.S. Federal Reserve survey of more than 4,000 adults released last year. ... Thirty-nine percent of respondents reported having a “rainy day” fund adequate to cover three months of expenses and only 48 percent of respondents said that they would completely cover a hypothetical emergency expense costing \$400 without selling something or borrowing money.

Why aren’t people saving? “A lot of people are in debt,” says

Andrew Meadows, a San Francisco-based producer of “Broken Eggs,” a documentary about retirement. “Probably the most common types of debt are student loans and costs related to medical issues.” ...

But while the jobs market is improving and the Affordable Care Act has given an estimated 15 million people access to medical care, the Great Recession does appear to have taken its toll on Americans’ finances; in fact, they’re 40 percent poorer today than they were in 2007.

The net worth of American families—that is, the difference between the values of their assets, including homes and investments, and liabilities—fell to \$81,400 in 2013, down slightly from \$82,300 in 2010, but a long way off the \$135,700 in 2007 ....

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### **Nancy Pelosi to Name First Muslim Lawmaker to House Intelligence Committee** **Politico | January 13**

**M**INORITY LEADER NANCY PELOSI ANNOUNCED IN A CLOSED-door meeting Tuesday she would name the first Muslim lawmaker to the House’s Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

A senior Democratic aide said Rep. André Carson of Indiana would be named in the “coming days” to the key national security-focused panel. Pelosi (D-Calif.) told lawmakers of the appointment during the members’ weekly caucus meeting.

Carson would be the first Muslim to serve on the committee and was the second Muslim to be elected to Congress. He already serves on the Armed Services Committee and worked for the

Department of Homeland Security’s Fusion Center—the clearinghouse established by the federal government to streamline data sharing between the CIA, FBI, Department of Justice and the military.

The intelligence committee will most likely tackle a series of high-profile international crises during the 114th Congress, including the threat of Islamic militants and Ukraine. ...

The announcement comes in the wake of last week’s terrorist attack by Islamic extremists and subsequent shootouts with police that left 17 people dead. ...

### **Food Stamp Beneficiaries Exceed 46 Million for 38 Straight Months** **CNS News | January 13**

**T**HE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—aka food stamps—has topped 46,000,000 for 38 straight months, according to data released by the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In October 2014, the latest month reported, there were 46,674,364 Americans on food stamps. Food stamp recipients have exceeded 46 million since September 2011.

The 46,674,364 on food stamps in October was an increase of 214,434 from the 46,459,930 on food stamps in September.

As of July, the national population was 318,857,056, the Census Bureau estimates. Thus, the 46,674,364 on food stamps equaled 14.6 percent of the population. ...

As of September, according to the Census Bureau, there were 115,831,000 households in the country. Thus, the 22,867,248

households on food stamps in October equaled 19.7 percent of the nation’s households.

The 46,674,364 people on food stamps in the United States also exceeded the total populations of Colombia (46,245,297), Kenya (46,245,297), Ukraine (44,291,413) and Argentina (43,024,374).

They were slightly fewer than the population of Spain (47,737,941).

Households on food stamps got an average benefit of \$261.44 during the month, and total benefits for the month cost taxpayers \$5,978,320,593.

In 1969, the average participation in the SNAP program stood at 2,878,000. In 2014, average participation grew to 46,536,000 showing an increase of 1,516.96 percent. ...

### **Less Than Half of Children Grow Up in a Home With a Mother and a Father** **Daily Mail | January 13**

**L**ESS THAN HALF OF U.S. CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 LIVE AT home with two married, heterosexual parents in their first marriage, new research has revealed.

The figures reveal the ever-changing makeup of the family structure. In the 1960s, 73 percent of children had what is

considered a traditional family structure but by 1980 that figure had dropped to 61 percent.

The figures were compiled by the Pew Research Center who analyzed recently-released American Community Survey and Decennial Census data.

The changing structure of the American family has altered the image of who is likely to gather around the table during the holidays.

Previously, couples married young before starting a family, and stayed together. However, the figures show American households are become more complex, and far less traditional.

### **George Soros Funds Ferguson Protests, Hopes to Spur Civil Action** **Washington Times | January 14**

**T**HERE'S A SOLITARY MAN AT THE FINANCIAL CENTER OF THE Ferguson protest movement. No, it's not victim Michael Brown or Officer Darren Wilson. It's not even ... Al Sharpton, despite his ubiquitous campaign on TV and the streets.

Rather, it's liberal billionaire George Soros, who has built a business empire that dominates across the ocean in Europe while forging a political machine powered by nonprofit foundations that impacts American politics and policy, not unlike what he did with MoveOn.org.

Mr. Soros spurred the Ferguson protest movement through years of funding and mobilizing groups across the U.S., according to interviews with key players and financial records reviewed by the *Washington Times*.

In all, Mr. Soros gave at least \$33 million in one year to support already-established groups that emboldened the grassroots, on-the-ground activists in Ferguson, according to the most recent tax filings of his nonprofit Open Society Foundations.

The financial tether from Mr. Soros to the activist groups gave rise to a combustible protest movement that transformed a one-day criminal event in Missouri into a 24-hour-a-day national cause celebre. ...

Soros-sponsored organizations helped mobilize protests in Ferguson, building grassroots coalitions on the ground backed by a nationwide online and social media campaign.

Other Soros-funded groups made it their job to remotely monitor and exploit anything related to the incident that they could portray as a conservative misstep, and to develop academic research and editorials to disseminate to the news media to keep the story alive.

The plethora of organizations involved not only shared Mr.

Americans are getting married later in life, or not at all. And the share of children born outside of marriage has jumped to 41 percent, compared to just 5 percent in 1960.

The biggest shift in family structure, the research center found, was that 34 percent of children were now living with an unmarried parent; in 1960 the figure was just 9 percent ....

Soros's funding, but they also fed off each other, using content and buzzwords developed by one organization on another's website, referencing each other's news columns and by creating a social media echo chamber of Facebook "likes" and Twitter hashtags that dominated the mainstream media and personal online newsfeeds. ...

All were aimed at keeping the media's attention on the city and to widen the scope of the incident to focus on interrelated causes—not just the over-policing and racial discrimination narratives that were highlighted by the news media in August.

... Cassandra Frederique, policy manager at the Drug Policy Alliance, which was founded by Mr. Soros, and which receives \$4 million annually from his foundation ... works with Opal Tometi, co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter—a hashtag that was developed after the killing of Trayvon Martin in Florida .... "I think #BlackLivesMatter's success is because of organizing. This was created after Trayvon Martin, and there has been sustained organizing and conversations about police violence since then," said Ms. Frederique. "Its explosion into the mainstream recently is because it connects all the dots at a time when everyone was lost for words. 'Black Lives Matter' is liberating, unapologetic and leaves no room for confusion." ...

Mr. Soros, who made his fortune betting against the British pound during the currency crisis in the early '90s, is a well-known supporter of progressive-liberal causes and is a political donor to Mr. Obama's campaigns. He committed \$1 million to Mr. Obama's super PAC in 2012. Mr. Soros's two largest foundations manage almost \$3 billion in assets per year, according to their most recent respective tax returns. ...

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### **Fierce King Rising**

**Gerald Flurry,**  
**The Key of David | January 16**

**T**HE BOOK OF DANIEL PROPHESES ABOUT AN END-time 'king of fierce countenance,' who will shake the foundations of this world. That king is on the scene now—and we think we may know who he is.

