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# The Obama Administration

VS.

# the American Constitution





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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

# What Is True Freedom?

People everywhere fight and strive for greater freedom. At the same time, they fight against law. That shows a dangerous misunderstanding of the nature of true freedom and the need for righteous law.

**F**REEDOM IS ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER IDEALS IN human history. Man's search for freedom has taken him into the fiercest of protests, struggles, revolutions, civil wars—even world wars. Today, in the midst of free societies, many continue to fight for what they perceive as ever greater freedoms.

Did you know that what most people call *freedom* today is really slavery?

*The great majority of people today are deceived about what freedom truly is!* And yet, we can't be free until we know what freedom is. Neither can we avoid slavery unless we know what slavery is. Are you sure you know?

## False Promise of Freedom

Notice what the Apostle Peter said about many people who promote freedom: "They promise them freedom, but *they themselves are slaves of corruption*; for whatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved" (2 Peter 2:19; Revised Standard Version). If you are overcome by something, you are *enslaved* to it. What does that mean, exactly?

Take alcoholism, for example. People may consider it freedom to be able to drink to excess, but many people do that so often, they become alcoholics; they then *crave* alcohol and feel miserable without it.

Alcohol abuse comes with a staggering price tag, socially and economically. It costs billions of dollars each year to cover health and welfare services provided to alcoholics and their families in the U.S. Include their decreased productivity at work, and the cost is far greater. Alcoholics have higher rates of marriage separation and divorce, crime, automobile accidents, property damage and injuries to persons, depression and suicide. They, their family and their friends all end up being the losers.

It is easy to see—as they struggle with their addiction, ruining their family, their career, their life—that alcoholics are not free. At one time they may have thought alcohol gave them freedom, but in truth it has *enslaved* them!

The same is true of drugs. We have developed a *drug culture* in America and Britain. Mind-damaging, escapist drugs are increasingly mainstream and popular, moving well past the pockets within the big cities. They are taking over the lives of people of all income levels, all walks of life. Even 1 in 10 of our youth ages 12 to 17 are regular drug users! Our entertainment is more and more obsessed with the drug world. Often we see high-profile entertainers grappling with severe addiction, and even dying prematurely from overdoses.

*Is that freedom?* How many of these people have gotten hooked on drugs and cannot stop? Even low levels of drug use can do irreparable damage to their minds. On top of that disastrous effect, how many of these people are injecting or sniffing away increasing portions of their incomes at their families' expense? How many are having to resort to ever more unsavory activities to fund their drug habits?

Many people would consider it freedom to destroy their lives

with deadly drugs. That is not freedom! Instead they have become totally **ENSLAVED** to drugs!

For many years we have declared a war on drugs in America. What has been the result? Look at the facts and we must concede that we have lost that war!

America is *overcome* by its drug problem. And "whatever *overcomes* a man [or a nation], to that he is enslaved."

We don't talk much about the war on drugs today. People don't like to talk about *losing* a war. Many people began to see their own families and children caught up in drugs and felt they needed to tone down their approach. They didn't want to be involved in a war so close to home.

## The War on Pornography

Another terrible addiction is gripping America today: sex addiction. It is more and more taking center stage in our culture and entertainment. It too is becoming more common, more mainstream, more widely accepted. Our television and movies portray increasing levels of filth. And the problem is made all the worse by the widespread availability of pornography on the Internet. It is big business—people by the millions are lapping it up.

What does that say about us? It is Britain and the United States that primarily fuel that endeavor. Are we free? Most people would call that freedom. Is it really? Or is it enslaving us in ways that will destroy our marriages and families? Are we enslaved to pornography?

Deep down we know that pornography is evil! In the past, even the thought of it caused us shame. At one time, some even declared a war on pornography, but we don't hear about that war anymore. Why? Because we don't like admitting defeat. We lost that war as well.

What does it mean to lose the war on pornography? It means losing the values that build strong marriages and strong families. Strong families are the backbone of any strong nation. Yet we have *been overcome* by something we were too weak to resist. "Whatever *overcomes* a man [or a nation], *to that he is enslaved!*" Just look at the facts and you can plainly see that America is *enslaved* to pornography.

Social workers and ministers often discuss a rapidly growing problem. Many people (especially the young) tell these professionals that they are hooked on Internet sex and can't break the habit. They have become addicted and have lost control.

In the name of "free speech," our leaders are allowing the evil god of this world to enslave our young people before they even learn how to live! (2 Corinthians 4:4). The most vile pornography is channeled right into their own homes, which increases the temptation.

The Bible commands us to **FLEE** temptation and fornication. We are going to pay a *deadly* price for our rebellion against God.

The fact is, the more pornography we have, the less freedom we have. The negative impact of all that obscenity is incalculable.

See **FREEDOM** page 8 ►



# THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

# VS.

# THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

The government's new health-care mandate is a stunning assault against the Constitution, against freedom of religion, against conscience, against life. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**T**HE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION is taking an ax to America's freedom of religion. It has deliberately picked a fight with religious Americans and the Catholic Church in particular in a move that should alarm Americans of all faiths.

The president has mandated that employers provide health-care coverage for all employees. He is now also demanding that this coverage include birth control: free sterilizations and access to all FDA-approved contraceptives, including those that induce abortions. Of course, Catholic doctrine forbids all of these practices, and even many non-Catholics likewise oppose abortion, including the "morning-after pill," on religious grounds.

*The government doesn't care. It doesn't matter how upset religious leaders get, whose*

conscience is violated, or whose beliefs are trampled. The president has settled the issue: Abortion-inducing drugs are every woman's right—even if God Himself disagrees.

### Attacking Freedom of Religion

When the Department of Health and Human Services first published this proposal last August, Catholic leaders were among those who objected the most strenuously, calling it "an unprecedented attack on religious freedom." Efforts to stop the law failed, and in January, DHH Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that it will go into effect in August. She offered one bizarre, meaningless concession: Religiously affiliated organizations like hospitals and universities are allowed an additional year to "adapt" to the change. They won't have to betray their convictions until August 2013.

Predictably, people were outraged that Americans are going to be forced to pay for things they morally oppose. The administration knew this would happen, and President Obama "retreated" to what was surely his pre-planned position. Supposedly to appease those with religious objections, he announced in mid-February "a solution that works for everyone."

What "works for everyone" is not to back off the demand for free abortifacients, sterilizations and contraceptives in all federally mandated health-insurance plans. "Under the rule, women will still have access to free preventive care that includes contraceptive services—*no matter where they work. So that core principle remains,*" the president explained. "But if a woman's employer is a charity or a hospital that has a religious objection to providing contraceptive services as part of their health plan, *the insurance company—not the hospital,*

not the charity—will be required to reach out and offer the woman contraceptive care free of charge, without co-pays and without hassles” (emphasis added).

So the “free” pharmacological abortions are still ordered by law, but the insurance company must pay for them and can’t *explicitly* bill the employer. Most likely it will recoup the cost simply by charging the employer higher premiums. And the employer is still required to provide free access to services it views as *sin*. The president did not try to “accommodate” religious freedom; rather, he demonstrated himself to be completely intolerant of dissent.

There are no exceptions for religious insurance companies, self-insured religious employers, non-profit employers who are religious, or non-religious employers (such as small business owners with personal convictions). Any American who simply does not want his or her money paying for someone else to get sterilized or to fatally poison a human embryo will pay stiff fines for obeying his or her conscience rather than the law.

This is not just morally wrong, it is *constitutionally* wrong.

## Governing the Government

This president is hostile toward the original intent of the United States Constitution, and this is just the latest example. The First Amendment guarantees that no law will prohibit an American from free exercise of religion. But in the president’s view, a woman’s right to have recreational sex and enjoy cost-free access to pregnancy prevention/termination trumps the constitutional right to act according to one’s religious beliefs.

The Founding Fathers had such an abuse of power in mind when they *wrote* the Constitution—a document that is now getting almost the same dismissive, infinitely subjective treatment as the Bible itself.

The liberal view is that human nature is fundamentally good and should be given room to flourish. The realist—and biblical—view is that human nature is fundamentally evil and must be conscientiously governed. Thankfully, the Framers took the latter view. That is a big part of the reason that the system of government they created, while imperfect, has stood for over two centuries and done much to guarantee the success of the United States of America and its people.

The Founders realized that government is necessary in order to check the evils of human nature in society. They also recognized—having fought and bled in order to free themselves from a

tyrant—that firm limits on power are needed in order to check the evils of human nature *within the government*.

As James Madison wrote in *Federalist* 51, “If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.”

In the Constitution, the American Founders established a system that successfully *governs the government*.

The fundamental means by which the Constitution accomplishes this are *representation, separation of powers, and limited government*. The first of these puts the ultimate power in the hands of voters. The second lies in the checks and balances the Founders created through interaction among three branches of government. The third comes in the form of enumerated powers. For example, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution outlines the duties of Congress. If it’s not listed here, Congress can’t do it. And the head of government—very unlike a monarch—is voted in, carries out his constitutional duties for four years, and

## In the president’s view, a woman’s right to have recreational sex and enjoy cost-free access to pregnancy prevention/termination trumps the constitutional right to act according to one’s religious beliefs.

can be dismissed at that point, if not before.

Remember, these fundamental restrictions were borne of a realistic understanding of human nature. But right now, these restraints are under the knife.

## Attacking the Constitution

Upon entering office, the president must solemnly promise that, to the best of his ability, he will “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” That is required by the Constitution, which also says that “senators and representatives, and all executive and judicial officers ... shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution.”

Far too many of these leaders have taken that oath—and then done the opposite! The current president has, to the best of his ability, *smear*ed, *ignore*d and *undermin*ed that founding document!

America’s most powerful leaders today *fundamentally disagree* with the charter they are meant to uphold! In the eyes of the president and his top leaders, the Founders’ limits on the government,

which protect the nation from human nature, are *obstacles* preventing them from remaking the nation according to their own perverse ideals (article, page 5).

This thinking is not unique to the 21st century. Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn points out that the seeds of this anti-law thinking were sown a century ago by Woodrow Wilson, who viewed the Constitution’s doctrines of limited government as *obsolete*. “Wilson argued that progress and evolution had brought human beings to a place and time where we didn’t have to worry about limited government,” Arnn said. “He rejected what the Founders identified as a fixed or unchanging human nature, and thought we should be governed by an elite class of people who are *not subject to political forces or constitutional checks and balances*—a class of people such as we find in our modern bureaucracy. This form of government would operate above politics, acting impartially in accordance with reason” (emphasis added).

Here is the crux of it. This thinking *trusts in* human nature and human reasoning. It sees nothing that needs restraining. It is so confident in its own correctness that it seeks to operate *above the law*. Today, with a government that is fiercely following this philosophy, it is plain to see the problems that can result.

## Casting Off Restraint

Right after Mr. Obama was elected, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote on this subject in the January 2009 issue: “The Founding Fathers created the Constitution to limit the government’s power because they had *lived under a tyrant* who decided, according to his own whims, what was fair for the people and what wasn’t. The Constitution gave them a certain protection from evil human nature. THE FOUNDERS BASED THIS CHARTER ON CERTAIN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, NOT JUST HUMAN REASONING.”

What began with Wilson and blossomed under Franklin Roosevelt is now reaching its apex: transcending the limits imposed by the Founders, and perpetually increasing the government’s power as a guarantor of “positive rights.”

Today the federal government acts, for example, as though citizens have the “right” to material goods and services—housing, education, health-care, abortifacients—giving the government the obligation to *take resources from other citizens* to pay for them. This represents an enormous

expansion in federal power at the expense of the rights and freedoms of individuals.

The president is bypassing the democratic process with growing impunity. The legislature is blowing past its constitutionally enumerated powers and continually enlarging its mandate. And the judiciary is torturing the Constitution's language to force ever more bizarre meanings into it, thus bringing it into conformity with its own liberal plans. These efforts are just getting started—and are quickly gaining momentum.

These leaders are shucking off the constitutional system by which the government itself is properly governed. Why? *Because of their basic, fatal misunderstanding of human nature.* Because they reject the *crucial need* for human beings to live subject to God's law and, in this case, even the law of the land!

Essentially, this thrusts the door open to the *very abuses of power* the American Founders had *FLED* and worked so diligently to prevent. It *destroys* the rule of law and replaces it with the *RULE OF MEN*. In the end, human reasoning reigns supreme. The whim of the tyrant becomes law.

### The Tyranny of Human Reasoning

Lest you think there is no cause for concern that circumstances could descend to that state, consider again the administration's latest ruling—not only mandating that all Americans receive health-care coverage, but also that in it, insurance companies must provide free sterilization, contraception and pharmacological abortion.

This ruling imposes breathtaking constraints on private companies, placing them at the mercy of governmental whims. It forces individual citizens to enter into contracts whether or not they want to. And it undercuts the Bill of Rights' protection of free exercise of religion, compelling anyone who disapproves of these practices on religious grounds to compromise their beliefs.

Why is the president making such sweeping moves, sacrificing such pillar American freedoms? Simply because he believes it is the right thing to do.

Insurance companies that reduce the number of pregnancies will help their bottom line, the president contends. This new regulation labels birth control—including sterilizations and abortion-causing drugs—as “preventive care.” “That means free check-ups, free mammograms, immunizations and other basic services,” Mr. Obama explained. “We fought for this because it saves lives and it saves money—for families, for businesses, for government, for

everybody. That's because it's a lot cheaper to prevent an illness than to treat one.”

There is something chilling about this reasoning when applied to *human life itself*.

Many people believe—correctly—that human life starts at conception and stoutly oppose drugs that induce early-term abortions. With this law, the administration isn't just making it possible for a woman to take such drugs—it is *forcing* all taxpaying citizens to indirectly provide her with these drugs for free. And the president praises the termination of the pregnancy—what could be a fertilized ovum or human embryo—for its *cost savings*. Like catching a cancer in its early stages.

He's right in one sense: *TERMINATING A PREGNANCY* is certainly *cheaper* than *RAISING A CHILD*. Death is *cheaper* than life.

This president is solidly in favor of abortions (what he calls “reproductive rights”). As an Illinois state senator, he voted against a ban on what is called partial-birth abortion—and then went a step further: *He opposed a bill to protect the life of a newborn that managed to SURVIVE that grisly procedure.* Take a moment, if you can stomach it, to imagine what that would actually mean within the walls of an abortion clinic!

Now this man holds the highest office in the land and is dictating the nation's health-care law. His administration is deftly couching this latest mandate in noble language like “women's health,” “preventive care” and “reproductive services” (as if anyone who opposes it is *against* women's health). But it is the product of

some truly *ignoble* thinking.

How else can you explain the government so pitilessly steamrolling over deeply held religious objections as though they are utterly baseless, undermining constitutional protections and even alienating voters in the process?

In pushing his radical social agenda, the president is so convinced of his own righteousness, none of that matters. From his perspective, the centuries-old doctrine of a church with a billion believers is a fringe view, and freedom of religion is just a bump in the road.

### Where This Is Leading

This is just a single example of the *dangers* posed by throwing out the rule of law.

“A president who slights the Constitution is like a rider who hates his horse: He will be thrown, and the nation along with him,” said U.S. Rep. Mike Pence in September 2010.

This exploding development calls to mind the darkest period in the history of ancient Israel—the period of the judges. As the nation turned its back on God and His law, it suffered curse upon nightmarish curse. Scripture uses a simple description of the moral and intellectual climate at that time—one that rings sickeningly true today: “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

Quoting that verse in 2001, Mr. Flurry wrote, “This was the condition of our biblical forefathers—just before their nation collapsed and they went into slavery!”

Watch for history to repeat itself. ■

**ARE WE FREE?**

*More and more Americans are worried about their government. After decades of trusting human reasoning instead of restraining it, we find ourselves more and more lawless. But are we more free?*

**No Freedom Without Law**  
*shows exactly why law and liberty are linked. Request your **FREE** copy today.*

WHY LIBERTY LAW

# How the Constitution Crisis Will End

What happens when leaders put themselves above the law.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY



**S**UPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH Bader Ginsburg must have missed the memo about Egypt's radical Islamist transformation over the past year. Since Hosni Mubarak's government crumbled under heavy pressure from the United States, Islamic extremists have been assaulting Coptic Christians, raping their wives and daughters, and burning their homes and churches to the ground. In September, terrorists ambushed Israel's embassy, prompting a late-night emergency evacuation in September. In January, Islamist hard-liners, led by the Muslim Brotherhood, won 72 percent of the seats in Egypt's parliament. They refuse to recognize the State of Israel and have threatened to dissolve the Egypt-Israel peace treaty.

Yet, despite the transparent nature of Egypt's Islamic revolution, liberal elites in the West continue marching along in TOTAL darkness, fantasizing about what rights the new Egyptian constitution might guarantee for homosexuals and women. These blind guides act as if a piece of paper will prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from implementing tyranny and enforcing sharia law, and will usher in a new era of Western-style freedom and peace in Egypt.

"It is a very inspiring time—that you have overthrown a dictator, and that you are striving to achieve a genuine democracy," Ginsburg said while visiting Cairo in February. She lavished praise on Egypt's recent parliamentary elections, saying they were free and fair.

After that, she proceeded to trash the *United States Constitution*—the VERY

DOCUMENT she is sworn to support as one of just nine sitting justices on the United States Supreme Court.

"I would *not* look to the U.S. Constitution, if I were drafting a constitution in the year 2012," Ginsburg told her foreign audience. Egypt needs a *more recent* document to work from, she believes, like South Africa's constitution. South African law guarantees citizens the rights to housing, education and health care—all high-ranking items on the liberal agenda. South Africa's free speech clause, on the other hand, is much more restrictive than the U.S. Constitution and could be used by oppressors as an easy excuse to squelch any expression deemed to be "controversial."

"It really is a great piece of work," Ginsburg said, referring to the South African document. As for America's Constitution, it's just *too old*, she told her Egyptian interviewers.

Of course, Ruth Bader Ginsburg is hardly the first progressive to call for a more flexible constitution that can be periodically adjusted to accommodate a radical leftist agenda. But it's still shocking to hear a Supreme Court justice, *of all people*, insult the supreme law of the United States in front of a foreign audience.

On the other hand, in today's upside-down world, if you're a Supreme Court justice with a hankering to bash the U.S. Constitution, what better place to receive a warm reception than in Cairo? Cairo, remember, is where President Obama spoke in 2009 about Islam's "proud tradition of tolerance." British-American "colonialism,"

on the other hand, "denied rights and opportunities to many Muslims."

*If only those old documents, like the Constitution and the Magna Carta, would have guaranteed more rights for Muslims.* Think of the peaceful and cooperative spirit there would be between Anglo-Saxon nations and the world of Islam!

During a February interview, President Obama was asked to respond to critics on the left who say he hasn't been the transformational political figure he promised to be. "What's frustrated people," the president said, "is that I have not been able to force Congress to implement every aspect of what I said in 2008. Well, you know, it turns out that OUR FOUNDERS designed a system that makes it more difficult to bring about change than I would like sometimes" (emphasis added throughout).

If it weren't for that old document, in other words, we'd be much further along in our radical transformation of America!

The president has long desired to cast off the restraints of the U.S. Constitution. During a 2001 interview, many years before he became president, Mr. Obama criticized the document as being a charter of *negative* liberties. He said, "It says what the states can't do to you, says what the federal government can't do to you, but it doesn't say what the federal government or the state government *must do* on your behalf."

This administration isn't even *trying* to conceal its CONTEMPT for the Founding

Fathers and the rule of law. But then again, why should it? Most Americans are far too busy watching reality shows and sports events to take note of what's happening. And then there's the liberal media—an establishment chock full of “progressive” thinkers.

The *New York Times*, for example, rushed to defend Justice Ginsburg's subversive remarks in Egypt. It referred to how popular America's constitution used to be around the world. In 1987, for example, *Time* magazine estimated that out of 170 countries in the world at the time, more than 160 nations had “written charters modeled directly or indirectly on the U.S. version.”

But oh how times have changed in just one generation. Today, the supreme law of the land is losing its international appeal—and even here in America, in the

case of liberal progressives.

“There are lots of possible reasons,” the *Times* explained. “The United States Constitution is terse and *old*, and it guarantees relatively few rights. The commitment of some members of the Supreme Court to interpreting the Constitution according to its original meaning in the 18th century may send the signal that it is of little current use to, say, a new African nation. *And the Constitution's waning influence may be part of a general decline in American power and prestige*” (February 6).

The ignorance here is stunning. America is besieged by all kinds of problems and evils. Its stature and influence among nations has been massively diminished. And yet, rather than view the Constitution as a way to solve our problems, many of our leaders now see it *as part of the problem!*

## The Supreme Rule of Law

When the American Framers wrote the U.S. Constitution, they intended to prevent abuse of power by carefully defining the specific responsibilities and narrowly restricting the administrative powers of all three government branches. The highest authority of the land wasn't any particular branch of government or elected official.

*It was the United States Constitution.*

This SUPREME LAW concept, of course, is firmly rooted in the pages of your Bible. There is just ONE LAWGIVER, Scripture says, who can save and destroy (James 4:12). It is the Eternal God, the Prophet Isaiah wrote. God is our righteous judge and king (Isaiah 33:22).

When ancient Israel rejected God as king and insisted on having a *human* king like the nations around it, God outlined

# ‘Die by Suicide’

A solemn warning from one of America's greatest leaders. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**I**N 1838, WHEN HE WAS JUST 28 YEARS OLD, ABRAHAM Lincoln delivered a groundbreaking speech in Springfield, Illinois, titled “The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions.” Here was a young man, less than a decade removed from his *teen* years, delivering a powerful warning to America—boldly telling the fledgling nation what it needed to do in order to survive.

He began the speech, also known as the Lyceum address, by expressing praise and thanksgiving for the stupendous blessings God had bestowed on this land. “We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the Earth as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate,” said Lincoln. He reminded Americans that they also owed a debt of gratitude to their ancestors—the “patriots of seventy-six” who helped establish and build such a powerful nation.

Given these unprecedented benefits and blessings, along with the fact that the United States was barricaded between two massive bodies of water, Lincoln could hardly conceive of any great danger ever coming from abroad to threaten the existence of the United States.

The *real* danger facing America, Lincoln warned, was the lawless spirit he believed to be spreading from *within*. In fact, it was several incidents of mob violence in America that angered Lincoln into preparing his Lyceum remarks.

“I know the American people are much attached to their government,” he said. He firmly believed that most people in his day were prepared to sacrifice and even suffer for the good of country. But if the rebellious element wasn't stamped out, this hostility toward the rule of law would spread and it would eventually divide the nation and threaten its very existence!

The LAW IS THE LAW, Lincoln insisted. There may be *some* bad laws, he explained. And once they are discovered, they should be immediately repealed,



according to the guidelines set forth in the Constitution. But until changes could be *lawfully* enacted, the laws of the land—whether good or bad—HAD TO BE OBEYED, Lincoln strongly maintained. The government was responsible for strictly enforcing these laws. And every American—citizens and leaders alike—was duty-bound to obey the law of the land.

“Let EVERY MAN remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the character of his own, and his children's liberty,” Lincoln said. “Let *reverence* for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap—let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and in almanacs—let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the *political religion* of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay, of all sexes and tongues, and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.”

Just before making those powerful remarks, Lincoln urged all Americans to look to and follow the example of the Founders—those who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to uphold and to defend the rule of law.

Now look around. *Where* in America TODAY do we find *that* kind of reverential respect for the rule of law? Where are the courageous leaders who faithfully uphold and defend the law of the land? Where are the ones who would defend the integrity and the humility of the Founders? The *leaders of 2012* see the Founding Fathers as obstacles in the way of the progressive agenda. They barely even blink as they publicly denounce the very document they have sworn to promote and defend!

*A nation at war against the rule of law cannot last.* This is the sobering warning young Lincoln wanted to pass on to the men at Lyceum.

“If destruction be our lot,” Lincoln said, “we must *ourselves* be its *AUTHOR* and *finisher*.” In other words, if we end in ruin, we have only ourselves to blame. “As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or DIE BY SUICIDE.”





## Destroying Family

Peter paints an extraordinary picture. Imagine someone coming to you enclosed in a cage, handcuffed, his legs bound by shackles—and offering you freedom! “They promise . . . freedom, but *they themselves are slaves of corruption . . .*” That’s exactly what is happening so often today! The drug pushers and pornographers do not have true freedom!

God cares deeply about the family. God commands husbands to treat their wives with a high degree of honor (1 Peter 3:7). He wants stable marriages that stay together and rear stable children in an environment of authoritative love and care.

Do we really believe marriages are strengthened when men watch pornography? Does being addicted to pornography help you to honor your wife more—perhaps the wife that God Himself has given you? We all know the answer to that; it’s just a matter of whether we are willing to face it.

We must realize what this way of thinking is doing to us! It is tearing our families apart and leaving our children, in many cases, without the proper love and protection from their mother and father. Then they become very vulnerable to drug and sex addictions themselves!

True freedom means being free of *dishonor* in our marriages. That is the kind of freedom we need more of today.

We need to be free of fighting, divorce and perversion. Free of anarchy and chaos in our families. We need to be stable! Parents must be stable, or what can we expect of the children? They desperately need a mother and father to love them, guide them, teach them—show them how to be strong, how to face life without drugs and other addictions.

Yet, *under the guise of “free speech,” we are destroying our marriages and families—the foundation of our nation!* Spewing out tons of pornography is not free speech—it is a diabolical plot to destroy America and Britain! And the plan is working extremely well.

## A Nation Enslaved

Strong marriages build strong children. We need strong children who are not vulnerable to drugs.

Why do children want to take drugs and destroy their minds? The mind is the only thing that really sets us apart from animals. What is lacking in their lives that would make them want to do that to themselves? Why even take a *chance* on something so destructive? Because their wills are so weakened, they must have something to fill the void their parents have left—in most cases. Of course, drugs don’t truly fill that void at all—they only bring people into slavery of the worst possible kind.

Drug addiction destroys the will! Sex addiction destroys the will! The worse the addiction, the weaker the will to resist, to fight evil.

The courts are trying to protect free speech. Yet, what will happen if families fall apart and there is no strong nation left? What good will “free” speech be then? If the family is in turmoil and confusion, if parents are divorcing and children are left to themselves, how important is free speech at that point?

What good is free speech if you lose the very values that made you great? We are polluting and vitiating the public good, the character, that we have possessed as a nation in the past.

Understand: I value free speech highly! I know that I could not be printing these words without the free

speech afforded our society. It is a great value that we should protect. I promote it in every way I possibly can.

But let’s get our priorities right. Is free speech more important than family? No, it is not. People behave as if family doesn’t even matter! And yet, family is the foundation of every great nation!

The stability of our nation is at stake. Why do nations die? God asks, “Why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11). Can we really calculate the damage of all these social evils? They add up to the destruction of our nations! Nations collapse by giving in to these evils that are erroneously called *freedoms!* Not only does our will become hopelessly weak, but our sins cut us off from God’s blessings and protection!

I don’t care who calls it freedom; it is not freedom to get into pornography and drugs! It is enslavement! It enslaves individuals, and it leads to the enslavement of the whole nation!

**“Live as free men,  
yet without using  
your freedom as a  
pretext for evil; but live  
as servants of God.”**

## 1 PETER 2:16

### What Is True Freedom?

Many religious people like to talk about freedom. But are they getting their definition of freedom from the Bible? “And ye shall know the truth, and *the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32). If they have a different idea of freedom, they are

*enslaved*. They are not following true Christianity! And that is true of many who consider themselves very religious.

Jesus said to the religious people of His day, “This people *honoureth me with their lips*, but their heart is far from me” (Mark 7:6). Christ condemns a lot of people with this statement! Many people talk about God and Jesus Christ; they act religious. But in truth, their hearts are far from God! They are actually *enslaved* to a false religion, and think they are obeying God.

We must be free from that kind of false Christianity!

If you’re going to be a Christian, you must follow Christ (1 Peter 2:21). Christ lived His life in perfect subjection to the law of God. He *resisted* the pulls of His flesh rather than *being overcome* by them! We need to be like Christ—*free* of human nature! Most people don’t even know what human nature is.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). That is God’s view of human nature, though most people don’t believe that. Do you recognize the evil in your own heart—or are you, like most others, *deceived* about human nature?

We can see this truth illustrated all around us: *If you let a desperately wicked heart run free, it will do great damage!*

It is very difficult to keep God’s law. But the problem isn’t with the law, it is with us. We need to change and conform ourselves to that law. We need to replace the wickedness of our hearts with the righteousness of God by writing God’s law in our hearts! (Hebrews 8:8-10). We need to write God’s law on our hearts indelibly—to etch it on our hearts and minds so it will never go away! That will bring true freedom into our lives!

We have been deceived to believe just the reverse—that God’s law somehow enslaves us. That is false! Beware of men—no man can give you true freedom! Only God can do that.

God’s law brings us the ultimate, most wonderful freedom of all. It protects our families. It protects our children. It protects us from all the evil in this world.

We should have joyful freedom. I want to be free! “Live as free men, yet *without using your freedom as a pretext for evil*; but live as servants of God” (1 Peter 2:16; RSV).

How beautiful and precious is freedom! *True* freedom is a wonderful gift! The greatest gift God can give us is to make us truly free.



# Why Food Prices Keep Climbing

Have you heard of the black horse of the apocalypse?

BY JOHN KRUEGER

**M**Y HAPPIEST TIMES AS A YOUTH were when I was working on my grandfather's farm. He had 400 acres of wheat, corn, potatoes, soybeans and cattle in one of the most fertile parts of Michigan. The property was dotted with gardens and apple, pear and cherry trees. It yielded so much produce that my grandfather opened a stand and sold the excess to people who came out from the city.

My wish as a youngster was to be a farmer like him. But as time went on, Grandpa died and Grandma sold the farm. Like thousands of other farms that have gone by the wayside, it faded from view.

Now, instead of a farmer, I am a food manager for a commercial kitchen. I receive periodic bulletins from the agriculture organizations informing me about cattle and food crop production in the United States.

In February, we received some alarming—but anticipated—news: Food prices are going way up.

Last summer, ranchers in Texas, Oklahoma and other states experienced the most severe drought in over half a century, leaving meager supplies of grass and water for the cattle. Hay went from \$80 to \$200 a ton. The cattle inventory shrank to its smallest size since 1952—the 14th annual decline and the longest downward cycle in the history of the business.

That means retail beef prices are rising. After climbing 10 percent last year, they are expected to climb another 5 percent this year. Corn, wheat and soybeans are trending upward, and we should expect to pay 10 percent more for eggs, butter and milk.

What caused the drought?

Meteorologists blame the La Niña weather pattern and a cool Pacific Ocean. This year, La Niña has formed again, so the already drought-stricken states of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico might be in for another dry year. In Texas, meteorologists fear this trend could persist for a decade.

The American farmer is now caught in a storm of damaging weather and economic chaos. Farmers in other countries are also having trouble producing. Between 1999 and 2006, world food stocks shrank by half. In the past five years, world food prices have risen 68 percent!

## A Disturbing Picture

I often think back on my times as a young lad on Grandpa's farm. I can still visualize the abundance of the vegetables and fruits. But that vision is often overshadowed by another scene that plays out in my mind.

I'm standing on a vast plain, looking to the horizon. It begins to blur; a bloom of dust rises up. Billowing with particles of dry earthen debris, a dust cloud sweeps across the land in great rolling waves. It is coming toward me. I begin to see something inside it: a vague figure. Flecks of dust land on my eyelashes. Suddenly the figure explodes out of the cloud—a black horse carrying a skeletal rider holding a pair of scales. I turn to flee, but I'm overrun. The cloud covers me in dry, choking blackness. I see, and feel, only a dark tempest.

The cloud gradually becomes lighter, and I can see light from the sun again. I can gradually discern the

landscape around me again. But what I see is terrifying.

The trees are stripped bare of their leaves. There is no grass. The water in the streams and watering holes is sand, fringed with the dry bones of animals. The lushness of the farmland has been completely denuded. There are people here—only a few. But there is a commotion among them. They are fighting over what seems to be a small loaf of dry bread. I begin to feel hungry.

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine” (Revelation 6:5-6).

## Look to the Cause

Although most of us don't go hungry from day to day, the facts are changing, and more and more people are realizing that our food chain is really in danger.

We will soon live in the world of the black horse. The truth is, our weather, the yields of our crops and the prices—or existence—of our food is not ultimately decided by La Niña or the randomness of global weather. *God* is in control! And He actually uses the weather to bless or punish us. Our worldwide weather and food problems are long-overdue curses for our worldwide sins.

What can you do as the black horse begins pacing? In a world where having *food* to *survive* is in question? Where a modest Michigan farm will seem like a food paradise fantasy?

You have to go to the cause. The root cause is not a cool Pacific Ocean. It is our transgression of God's laws. In Leviticus 26, God promised to bless us abundantly for obedience. (And He *has* blessed this nation—and others that are also descendants of Abraham, because Abraham *obeyed* Him.)

But today, we are not obeying Him. Leviticus 26 also tells us what that will produce. Our nations, our leaders, our families and our minds are suffering, and soon our stomachs will be, too.

There is a permanent solution to food security, though. Not willful ignorance, not wishful thinking, not idle criticizing, not reducing pollution. The solution is to admit that we are helpless to control the weather, and that we must *repent* and obey the God who does!

Request a free copy of our booklet **The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.**





# PARENTS!

## Take Charge of Your Child's Incredible Potential

They possess dazzling promise. Be honest: Will your parenting help them attain it?

BY DENNIS LEAP

FACEBOOK PUBLISHED A LIST OF most-shared articles in 2011. The stories most often passed on to others dealt with parenting advice or other parenting-related issues. This means multiple thousands of people have high interest in nurturing their children. That is great news.

It is obvious that many parents expend a lot of money and effort transporting children to dance lessons, music lessons and sporting events. However, a close look at article content on Facebook's list reveals that there is little about the nuts and bolts of the life-altering parenting skills necessary to help guarantee a child's success for a lifetime.

All children possess amazing promise. No sum of gold can equal the value of what children can attain when put in the proper environment and provided with ample challenging opportunities. Yet, no child is capable of mapping out a fantastically successful future on his own. Every child needs the help of loving and involved adults—in particular, the parents.

But parenting is more than providing music, dance and sports lessons. Sadly, because of this lack of robust parenting, children, parents and society as a whole are suffering.

How concerned are you about your child's future? What steps are you taking to help him achieve his fullest potential? There is one *critically* important step you must take to ensure your child attains his incredible human potential. Do you know what that step is?

### The Latest on Parenting

Just reading a couple of article titles from the Facebook list easily shows that there is something radically wrong with today's parenting: "Parents, Don't Dress Your Girls Like Tramps" and "Permissive Parents: Curb Your Brats."

Excerpts from several more articles are even more revealing. Lisa Bloom, in her article "How to Talk to Little Girls," wrote, "15 to 18 percent of girls under 12 now wear mascara, eyeliner and lipstick regularly; eating disorders are up and self-esteem is down ..." Amy Chua tells us in "Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior," "... 70 percent of the Western mothers said either that 'stressing academic success is not good for children' or that 'parents need to foster the idea that learning is fun.'" Ron Clark, an award-winning teacher who started his own academy in Atlanta, Georgia, stated in "What Teachers Really Want to Tell

PHOTOS: TO GO

Parents”: “For starters, we are educators, not nannies. We are educated professionals who work with kids every day and often see your child in a different light than you do. If we give you advice, don’t fight it. Take it, and digest it in the same way you would consider advice from a doctor or lawyer. I have become used to some parents who just don’t want to hear anything negative about their child .... And if you really want to help your children be successful, stop making excuses for them.”

Although these articles and others like them discuss the problems and challenges parents face, none digs deep and asks critical questions like: Are our parenting methods *causing* the problems parents face? Or: How do we fix modern parenting?

You can waste a lot of time and energy reading articles about parenting problems similar to your own. You may get some encouragement, but unless you find a solution that works, your own parenting problems won’t improve.

In order to help your child achieve his fullest potential, you must become a very effective parent. This is your primary responsibility while your children live with you! Time is wasting.

### Time to Face Reality

Robert Fritz, in his book *Creating*, writes: “When I first began to teach people the creative process, I assumed that people would have some difficulty in forming the end result they wanted, but that they would have no difficulty in noting where they were since reality is always there to see .... [W]as I wrong ... when it came to accurately describing current reality, people often did not do as well.”

A lot of parents assume they are doing a pretty good job of raising their children. If you feel this way, it may be time to take a second look. Be honest with yourself. Are you accurately describing current reality?

Only one article on Facebook’s list actually identified the *cause* for today’s poor parenting—by candidly stating that parents are too permissive! In his article “Permissive Parents: Curb Your Brats,” CNN contributor L.Z. Granderson colorfully listed the socially unacceptable infractions children of permissive parents commit regularly: 5-year-olds running rampant in public places like restaurants, grocery stores and airports—even on airplanes. He reported seeing “a small child slapping her mother in the face,” and hearing other children telling their parents to “‘shut up’ and ‘leave me alone’ at

the top of their lungs.” Granderson expressed deep frustration at having to be in a public place with families where the parents have to tell their children “to ‘sit down’ a thousand times.”

We have all shared similar uncomfortable experiences. Granderson concludes that the poor fruits of permissive parenting are one of the reasons why many people do not like children.

Amy Chua does not use the word *permissive*, but heavily implies it in her article. Comparing Western parents with Eastern, she wrote, “[T]he vast majority of the Chinese mothers said that they believe their children can be ‘the best’ students, that ‘academic achievement reflects successful parenting,’ and that if children did not excel at school then there was a ‘problem’ and parents ‘were not doing their job.’” By the way, Amy Chua took a lot of flak for her views on parenting, which many people viewed as child abuse. Although some of her views are extreme, much of what she says is just like the old-school parenting my parents used with me.

What is permissiveness in parenting?

### Permissiveness Explained

*Merriam-Webster Dictionary* gives one definition of *permissiveness* as: “deficient in firmness or control: INDULGENT, lax.” That definition well describes permissive parenting. When parents do not use firmness in controlling their child in either the home or public—when they are indulgent, simply giving the child everything desired, and don’t require much in the way of obedience—that is permissive parenting. A permissive parent has great difficulty saying no—ever!

This method of parenting does not work. You won’t find a book titled *Permissive Parenting*, or *How to Be a Permissive Parent*. But the fact is, permissive ideas are spread throughout many books, promoted on television and seen in movies. Permissiveness has been encouraged throughout Western society for decades. It began with the young adults of the 1960s who wanted unrestrained personal freedoms for themselves and their children. Through the revolt against “the oppressive establishment,” massive social changes in morals, sexuality and traditional values engulfed and reshaped the way churches, schools, governments and families did things. Freedom was in—control, law, order and rules were out.

As society has freed itself from restraints, we have created a horrible monster that is devouring us with alcohol and illicit drugs, epidemic crime, killer sexually transmitted diseases, and children

who hate us and are killing us.

Robert Shaw, in his book *The Epidemic*, shows that the fruit of faddish parenting—which is permissive parenting—is now plain. He writes, “Far too many children today are sullen, unfriendly, distant, preoccupied and even unpleasant. They whine, nag, throw tantrums and demand constant attention from their parents, who are spread too thin to spend enough time with them. Feeling guilty and anxious, the parents in turn soothe their kids with unhealthy snacks, faddish clothing, toys and media. Many kids, even very young ones, treat their parents with contempt, rolling their eyes and speaking rudely.” Naturally many parents are upset at the negative daily struggle with their children. Yet few are willing to admit *the real problems lie with them*.

As a result, Shaw tells us, “A host of new ‘clinical diagnoses’ have been invented to explain why children seem totally spoiled, untrained and unsocialized, and an incredibly large number of children have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and bombarded with psychoactive drugs.” Isn’t it time we wake up to the fact that permissive parenting cannot be fixed by stuffing our children full of pills?

Shaw courageously says that the tragic slaughter of students and teachers at Columbine High School (and so many other schools) should be attributed to the failure in modern parenting. Wouldn’t you agree, parents, that it is time to get control of our broken families? There is a way.

### Regain Control

The Prophet Isaiah, through the inspiration of Almighty God, was able to see into our day and write down in his book a nearly word-for-word description of what we read in our newspaper and magazine headlines concerning our frightening problems with our youth: “And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable” (Isaiah 3:5).

Isaiah prefaced this statement with a detailed description of the breakdown in leadership—in society and in the home. *The mighty man, the judge, the prudent and ancient* are all gone. When strong leadership is stripped from us, we get a mess like permissive parenting and a society full of crime, immorality and violence. Just a little honesty tells us that our Western world is headed for a titanic crash.

Yet notice that the prophet does more than simply warn us. He also *diagnoses* the problem, and thus indirectly gives us the *solution*: “As for my people, children are

their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths” (verse 12). Isaiah tells us our family life has been turned upside down. If we truly desire to fix our parenting problems, we have to turn the family right side up!

The Prophet Jeremiah encourages us: “Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and *ask for the old paths*, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). All parents need to quit experimenting and get back to the *old path* of effective parenting.

The *old path* of parenting requires that you first *reestablish adult authority* in your home. In traditional marriages (the only true marriage), this means that the father must be restored to his respected position as chief. Permissive progressives detest such a thought, but this is the only way to set the family on a course for success. A loving male in authority in the home cures many ills.

Sadly, due to untimely death and a high divorce rate, not every child can have a two-parent family with a dad as the head. However, firm and loving authority must still be established in the home. Children need well-defined rules and regulations to help them govern their behavior. Parents today have trouble saying no to their children. Every human being must experience and accept being told *no* sometimes. Establishing clear and firm boundaries for children gives them a sense of security that helps them thrive. For example, children should be taught not to draw on walls, climb on furniture, or throw food. Children should be taught how to maintain their bedrooms and other personal spaces neatly and to respect the property of others.

Above all, apply the Golden Rule while teaching your child: Be sure your children learn to behave the way you wish other children would. The public will love you for doing this!

### Love Your Children

Young children and teenagers require ample amounts of love in order to achieve their potential. When children do not receive deep love, affection and attention, they wither like plants in drought. Realize that children who are not loved struggle to love others.

Parents must be sure to show their love daily. Parents should tell their children they love them often. But true love is more than

just saying it. Loving your child means that you give warm affection and undivided attention. Undivided attention is not sitting in your living room watching television with your children. Playing indoor or outdoor games together, assisting with homework, and talking together at a sit-down meal are examples of undivided attention.

Many parents think love is simply a matter of buying things for their children. This is far from the truth. A majority of children today are showered with an abundance of unnecessary things. Children wallowing in material things are still unhappy. When asked, many children say they would rather spend a day doing something with Dad and Mom than get some new thing.

Parents who love their children do not let them do whatever they want when they want. This is not love—it is the epitome of permissiveness. Parents must understand that love includes firm discipline when necessary. Discipline is more than spanking. As a child grows older, withdrawal of a privilege can be a very effective form of



**Develop a definite plan for providing these necessities for your child. Most important, develop a plan to be a more effective parent.**

firm discipline. However, spanking should not be ruled out for young children. Proper spanking should never be child abuse. Recognize that there is a right time to discipline. Direct disobedience is one of those times. Yet, a truly loving parent will never discipline in anger. Never will a loving parent go on a yelling, storming, hair-pulling rampage. That is not discipline. In fact, that kind of behavior in parents teaches a child to be undisciplined. Any such wild, out-of-control emotion will cause your child to disrespect you.

Firm discipline is telling your child why you must discipline him, and then, after administering the punishment, making sure you tell him you love him and only want what is best for him.

### Set the Right Example

A large part of loving your child is *teaching* him. Children learn best by example. Parental example is a critical factor for effective parenting. All children, but especially

teenagers, detect parental hypocrisy immediately. Nothing will undermine your parenting more than a bad parental example. Is it really reasonable to expect your child to adopt a standard that you are unwilling to follow? Children turn a deaf ear to the saying, “Do as I say—not as I do!” If you use illicit drugs, or are addicted to alcohol, tobacco or prescription drugs, don’t expect your children to be any different. Many parents are permissive in parenting because deep down they know they are setting a poor example for their children.

Children naturally mimic their parents. Children will walk, talk and take on the mannerisms of their parents. Learning takes place through all five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, tasting. All humans learn through repetition, perception and association. This places a huge responsibility on parents. Boys will generally grow up to be just like their fathers; girls just like their mothers. So what kind of man or what kind of woman do you want your son or daughter to be? The

character you display to your child will largely determine what he or she becomes.

Parents should provide the basic essentials that children need to achieve their incredible potential. Children need balanced, wholesome food; age-appropriate, quality clothing; clean and uplifting living quarters; wholesome entertainment; protection from moral, physical and spiritual dangers; and a proper education. Develop a definite plan for providing these necessities for your child. Most important, develop a plan to be a more effective parent.

Proper parenting need not be a mystery for you. Time is a precious commodity when working with children—they grow up so fast. Be courageous enough to evaluate your parenting skills now. Permissiveness will never help your child. Make it your primary responsibility to help your child achieve his or her fullest potential. Don’t wait. Take charge of your child’s potential by being the most effective parent you can be. ■



**MEAN STREETS**  
Gunmen continue to face off against each other as blood spills in Syria's cities.

# Lessons From the Bloodbath in Syria

Bashar al-Assad is cracking down harder than ever. Who's to stop him?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

**I**F YOU WANT A GOOD HARD GLIMPSE at this crazy world, look at Syria.

The tragedy there illustrates several important truths. Among them: How brutal life can be in this supposedly enlightened age. What a farce is the United Nations, and any concept of internationally enforced justice. How broken and feckless is America's foreign policy.

Keep your eyes on it, too, because it is also about to reveal a far more important truth—one that could change your life.

## A Bloodied Nation

Among all the countries caught in the "Arab Spring" over the past year, Syria has been the bloodiest. The government's crackdown on protesters has been brutal. In January, the UN said the death toll in the nation's populist uprising since last March is more

than 5,400. An average of 18 more corpses every day for 10 months.

In February, the government's brutality reached new heights. On February 6, in Homs, the epicenter of the country's protests, President Bashar al-Assad's forces reportedly used *rockets, tanks, mortar rounds and machine guns* to shell a makeshift medical clinic and residential areas. The army also used tanks to shell the Zabadani area near Damascus.

The UN has now stopped estimating Syria's death toll; it says confirming the data is just too difficult. By mid-February, Human rights groups placed the total dead around 7,300, and Syrian opposition put the figure at just under 9,000. UNICEF reported that the number of dead includes at least 400 children, some of whom have been "arbitrarily arrested, tortured and sexually abused while in detention."

On February 21, Assad's forces intensified their attack on opposition strongholds in Homs and Idlib, assailing them with torrents of shells and mortars. Opposition activists said the death count for the day was at least 100, just in attacks on those two cities.

In Syria, not only is it against the law to demonstrate and protest against the government—it is also illegal to give and receive medical treatment. Since the earliest days of the uprising, Assad has been waging war against any individual or organization able to bring medical aid to Syrians. "It's very dangerous to be a doctor or a pharmacist," a pharmacist from Homs told the *Guardian*. Medical personnel are routinely imprisoned, tortured or killed—like Abdur Amir, the only doctor in the district of al-Qusayr, who was murdered by military troops in November while he was treating



civilians wounded during an army assault.

### Something People Can Agree On

The humanitarian crisis in Syria has provided an intriguing rallying point for several nations that want to bring an end to the Assad regime.

Within the region, many of Syria's neighbors see it as an opportunity to strike a blow at their primary concern—*Iran*. Take note of this.

Syria is Iran's top ally, and the only Arab state at this point openly partnered with Tehran. If the Sunni protesters were ever able to overthrow their Shiite rulers, this would greatly strengthen Iran's enemies. As former Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich wrote last year, "Syria is the keystone of the pro-Iran axis. Weakening the Assad regime, to say nothing of its collapse, would be a blow to Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah." Syrian opposition chief Burhan Ghalioun has already pledged to cut military ties with Iran should he come to power.

That is exactly why the Arab League—including over 20 nations, most notably Saudi Arabia—is putting on the pressure. It has suspended Syria's membership. In January it called on Assad to step down and transfer power to his deputy while a new government formed. Gulf states are expelling Syria's ambassadors. They are also funding the Free Syrian Army, which is defecting against the government; and Turkey is training it and hosting its headquarters in a refugee camp just outside the Syrian border.

These Arab states are also increasingly looking in another direction for help. On February 14, the Arab League's secretary general, Nabil Al-Arabi, traveled to Berlin to discuss with German Chancellor Angela Merkel what measures could be taken to stop the Syrian bloodbath. Chancellor Merkel commended the Arab League's firm stand against the Assad government. She said the "European Union supports that stance and will stress it with further sanctions."

Now, note this remarkable irony.

### Squandering an Opportunity

America has sunk enormous resources into trying to reshape the Middle East over the past decade. It overthrew the Taliban, then Saddam Hussein. It expended tremendous energies trying to secure Afghanistan and Iraq and empower West-friendly governments in those nations. Just in the last year it supported the ouster of Egypt's government and actively waged war to topple Libya's.

Now, what has all that expenditure gained? Afghanistan appears destined to

revert to Taliban rule. Iraq is falling under Iran's influence. Egypt and Libya are ushering Islamists into power. Tehran has grown far more dominant regionally. And America's relationship with virtually every country in the region has taken a beating.

With Syria, though, you have an increasingly rare instance where U.S. interests actually *align* with those of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and most of the Arab world.

If America wants to enjoy the support of these nations, this is the way. If it wants to undermine Iran, here's how. If it really wants to reshape the Middle East, this would be the place to start. And if it feels the need to point to unselfish humanitarianism as the only proper grounds for taking action, then savage Syria provides ample moral justification.

But Washington—after all the strength it has spent in vain—has decided that *now is the time for a lighter approach*. One of Syria's rebel commanders lamented the absence of foreign support in Syria, calling his nation's uprising an "orphan revolution."

The U.S. certainly doesn't want another Mideast military venture. In early February, President Barack Obama said



he was sure the problem could be solved without arms. The secretary of state said "military intervention has been absolutely ruled out." The White House tried to push a resolution through the UN Security Council supporting the Arab League plan to get Assad to step down. Yet even this measure—which lacked any real teeth and probably would have been ignored in Damascus—was slapped down, vetoed by Russia and China.

This is what American power, such as it is, has been reduced to. Faced with a grave situation in which it could alleviate suffering, garner international goodwill and help its own interests all at once, the U.S. tries to use a blunt diplomatic tool that has no chance of actually doing the job, and is blocked from doing even that.

On February 20, after 17 consecutive days of Assad's forces brutally shelling

Homs, President Obama's top military adviser, U.S. Gen. Martin Dempsey, said any intervention in Syria would be "very difficult" and that it was "premature" to arm the opposition. Of course, a look back through the annals of U.S. foreign policy shows that most interventions have looked "very difficult"—but difficulty has not neutralized Washington's vast power in the past.

### Profound Lessons

How broken and feckless is America's foreign policy. What a farce is the United Nations, and any concept of internationally enforced justice. How brutal life can be in this supposedly enlightened age. All of these truths about this crazy world are on full display in this mess in Syria.

But keep your eyes on it. Though the stalemate between the government and opposition forces looks set to drag on and get even bloodier, eventually, the *Trumpet* expects the Assad regime to weaken, perhaps fall. And that is when the other important truth will be revealed in this country.

As the *Trumpet* has written several times, a divorce between Iran and Syria

A divorce between Iran and Syria is coming. We know this because of biblical prophecy, which speaks of two distinct camps emerging within the Middle East in our day.

is coming. We know this because of biblical prophecy, which speaks of two distinct camps emerging within the Middle East in our day. One camp is prophesied to be led by Iran, the other to include Syria. These two are destined to play very different roles in the sequence of end-time events that lead up to Jesus Christ's Second Coming. (Read about them in our free booklet *The King of the South*.)

The fact that the Iran-Syria alliance—which has been so strong for so long, and has shaped Middle East geopolitics so much in recent years—is under such tension today is deeply significant. Soon it will fracture. And once again, the inerrancy of biblical prophecy—and of the great God who authored it—will be proven true! ■

# Want war? Keep ignoring Iran

OVER A MERE FOUR DAYS IN FEBRUARY, Iran helped orchestrate terrorist attacks on Israeli officials in three separate countries (Azerbaijan, India and Thailand), dispatched hundreds of soldiers to Syria to school Assad's forces in butchering dissenters, cut off oil supplies to France and the Netherlands (and gave an ultimatum to four other European states), and inaugurated to much fanfare three developments in its nuclear weapons program. Just another productive week of provoking, antagonizing and destroying for Iran.

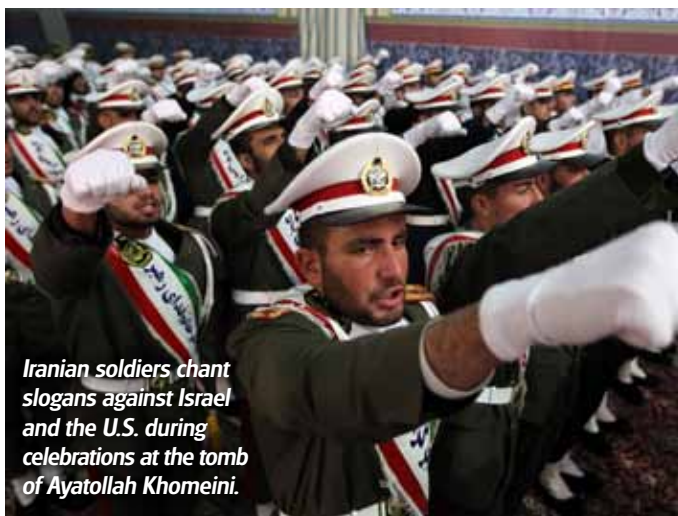
What was most remarkable, though, was the West's reaction. A CNN poll showed that 60 percent of Americans believe using diplomacy against Iran is the right response; more than 20 percent believe *no action* is necessary. The consensus among Western elites is that Iran is ready to sit down and negotiate.

Dennis Ross, who served for two years on the National Security Council as President Obama's special assistant on Iran, explained the need for engaging Iran in peace talks: "Notwithstanding all their **BLUSTER**, there are signs that Tehran is now looking for a way out," he wrote. "With Iran reeling from sanctions, *the proper environment now exists for diplomacy to work*" (*New York Times*, February 14; emphasis added throughout).

*Bluster?* That's not the term Tal Yehoshua-Koren, the Israeli woman hurled from her car when it was exploded by a terrorist's bomb in New Delhi just a week earlier, would use to describe Iran's actions. It's not how the residents of the Israeli town of Sderot, who live under constant threat of rocket attack from Iran-enabled Hamas, would describe Iran's behavior. "Bluster" certainly isn't the term the relatives of the thousands of Syrians, *including hundreds of children,*

butchered by Syrian forces with assistance from Iranian soldiers would use. To its victims, Iran's conduct is consistently combative, aggressive and violent, and in many instances, *barbaric*.

Earlier in February, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a live



*Iranian soldiers chant slogans against Israel and the U.S. during celebrations at the tomb of Ayatollah Khomeini.*

television broadcast, rallied his people to destroy Israel. He called Israel a "cancerous tumor that should be cut and will be cut," and promised Iranian support of any regime or enterprise that attempts to destroy the Jewish state.

This is not mere semantics. The use of "bluster" to describe aggressive, ruthless behavior reveals some deep-seated issues with the West's perception of reality. Iran is consistently displaying by its actions that it's not interested in serious diplomacy and long-term peace. These events provide a glimpse into Iran's true character and ambition, and portend greater, more deadly, confrontation. But the West rejects this reality.

Not all have been so ignorant, however. "The single biggest danger in the Middle East today is not the risk of a six-day Israeli war against Iran," wrote Harvard historian Niall Ferguson in *The Daily Beast*. "It is the risk that Western wishful nonthinking allows the mullahs of Tehran to get their hands on nuclear weapons. *Because I am in no doubt that they would take full advantage of such a lethal lever*" (February 6). Historian Benny Morris warned in the *Los*

*Angeles Times* that "if the Iranian nuclear project is not halted ... there will be, by miscalculation, Iranian assault or Israeli preemption, **A NUCLEAR WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST**" (February 14).

These men grasp the reality of what we're witnessing. They're not rejecting Iran's actions as mere bluster. They're looking at Iran, at its uncompromising drive for nuclear weapons, at its enthusiastic sponsoring of Islamist terrorism, at its constant effort to undermine Western interests, at its promise to annihilate the Jewish state, and simply believing what their eyes and ears are telling them.

It's worth considering the primary motivation behind Iranian foreign policy. Inside Iran, the belief of a returning Mahdi, or Twelfth Imam, is a defining doctrine within the most populous group of Shiites (known as Ithna Ashari, or "Twelvers"), the Iranian president included. And as staunch adherents to the *mahdaviat*, Ahmadinejad and his supporters don't simply believe the Mahdi is about to return—they consider it their *responsibility* to bring about the apocalyptic conditions that will surround his return.

As Joel Rosenburg, former aide to Benjamin Netanyahu, put it: "[I]n order to bring about this Islamic messiah, the Mahdi, the Twelfth Imam, Islamic leaders need to hasten his coming by destroying little Satan, Israel, and the great Satan, the United States. ... [T]he leaders actually believe they need to create bloody carnage, the death of millions of people in order to create the conditions for the Mahdi to bring peace."

Prof. Bernard Lewis, an expert in Middle East history, discussed Iran's infatuation with the Mahdi's return in his keynote address at the 2008 Jerusalem Conference. "Iran's leadership comprises a group of extreme fanatical Muslims who believe that their messianic times have arrived," he warned. He then cautioned the West against subscribing to the MAD (mutually assured destruction) principle, which says that Iran will avoid nuclear war because it would only ensure its own destruction. In Iran's case, Lewis explained, "MAD is not a deterrent factor, but rather an inducement. *They feel that they can hasten the final messianic process.*"

Iran wants war. Yet despite these terrifying ambitions, and Iran's systematic march toward acquiring the means to carry them out, the U.S. and much of the West still pursue negotiation and compromise—policies that only make war all the more inevitable.



To learn where a war with Iran will lead, read our booklet ***The King of the South***.

## 1 | AFGHANISTAN

### Getting out sooner than planned

The United States announced February 1 it will end its combat role in Afghanistan a year earlier than expected, apparently taking Kabul by surprise. U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the U.S.

would stop combat operations before the end of

2013. Washington had previously said it would withdraw most combat troops by the end of 2014. The announcement will assuredly provide a lift to the Taliban, who are holding out for the day they can take over. In a classified report leaked to British media, NATO said the Taliban remain confident they can gain control of the country. "Taliban commanders, along with rank and file members, increasingly believe their control of Afghanistan is inevitable. Though the Taliban suffered severely in 2011, its strength, motivation, funding and tactical proficiency remains intact," the report says.



Iranians place a flag atop a submarine at the end of their 'Velayat-90' war games in January.

## 2 | IRAN Pushy as ever

TENSIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND IRAN KEEP RATCHETING UP. In January Iran again threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz in response to a Western oil embargo. On January 23, EU foreign ministers agreed to place a ban on Iranian oil imports in an effort to stop Tehran's nuclear program. European nations were to immediately cease signing new oil contracts, with states having the option of honoring current contracts through to July 1. This will affect some 18 percent of Iran's oil exports. The EU also froze the assets of Iran's central bank and put sanctions on its state-owned Bank Tejarat, the country's third-largest bank. Iran reacted defiantly, with Emad Hosseini, spokesman for parliament's energy committee, saying that Iran retained its threat to shut the Persian Gulf to shipping. Mohammad Ismail Kowsari, deputy head of Iran's committee on national security, said the Hormuz Strait "would definitely be closed if the sale of Iranian oil is violated in any way." The Associated Press wrote: "The escalating confrontation is fraught with risks—of rising energy prices, global financial instability, and potential military activity to keep the strait open" (January 23).

Meanwhile, Iran's nuclear program steamrolls ahead, achieving two major advancements on February 15. First, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad personally supervised a team of scientists as they installed the first Iranian-made fuel rod into a nuclear reactor in northern Tehran. Iran has said it was forced to manufacture its own nuclear fuel rods because international sanctions banned it from buying them on foreign markets. The IRNA state-run news agency boasted that this is the final step in Iran mastering the entire nuclear fuel cycle, from extracting uranium to producing finished rods. Second, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported that a new generation of Iranian centrifuges is now in operation, at the Islamic Republic's main uranium enrichment plant in Natanz. The announcement of these two major technical advancements shows that Iran remains defiant toward increasingly tough Western sanctions—and that it has the resources to keep progressing with its nuclear weapons program.



## 3 | IRAQ

### Any better than under Saddam?

Iraq is becoming a "police state," an international human rights group says, as the Shiite-led government cracks down harshly on dissidents. In its "World Report 2012," Human Rights Watch says Iraq is slipping back into authoritarianism as security forces abuse protesters, harass journalists, torture prisoners and intimidate activists. The January 22 report says Iraq's human rights situation is worse than it was a year ago, with the U.S. failing to leave behind a stable democracy. The group says it has uncovered a secret prison where detainees are tortured; those who control the facility report to the military office of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. It also says at least 10 protesters and bystanders have been killed and more than 250 injured in Kurdistan.



Iraqi police

### 'Arab Spring' feeds anti-Semitism

New democratic freedom has led to an explosion of anti-Semitic sentiment in Middle Eastern nations whose dictatorships have been toppled in the past year. That was the conclusion of a report released on January 22 by Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry. "[While] the popular uprisings in the Arab world do not represent a general change in attitude towards Israel, Zionism and the Jews, it seems the anti-Semitic discourse and incitement have become more extreme and violent," the report said. "Charges of an international Jewish conspiracy have been a central motif in the anti-Semitic propaganda that has accompanied the Arab Spring uprisings."

## NUMBERS

**2,903** Coalition personnel killed in Afghanistan since 2001

**20** Percent of the world's oil that transits through the Strait of Hormuz

**3** Regimes overthrown so far by the Arab Spring uprisings

1 | GERMANY

# The 'de facto supremo of Europe'

**D**AVOS IS THE SCENE FOR THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF elites to reflect on the world's current economic condition. It is the outgrowth of an idea first given air by German-born economist Klaus Schwab. Schwab launched the European Management Forum in 1971, attracting European business leaders to Davos in Switzerland each subsequent January for an interchange of ideas on a range of business management issues. Over time, the agenda was broadened to embrace economic, social and political issues, with world leaders being invited to participate. The gathering then was renamed the World Economic Forum.

One of these forums in particular was destined to have powerful effect on the world balance of power. In January 1989, East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow met with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the World Economic Forum in Davos to discuss German reunification. Ten months later, the Berlin Wall fell. That event completely altered the status quo—the prevailing balance of power between the United States and the USSR—that had existed for over 40 years.

Track forward to this year's Davos summit in January. What began in 1971 as a German idea, was used as a forum 18 years later for leaders to prepare to reunify Germany, 22 years further on featured as its keynote speaker Germany's current chancellor, Angela Merkel. The chancellor's speech was a milestone in the coming of age of her newly assertive nation, boldly declaring a German agenda for Europe.

In one of Merkel's key statements, she unequivocally endorsed the transfer of European Union member nations' sovereign powers to EU imperial control: "We will only be able to strengthen our common currency if we coordinate our policies more closely and are prepared to *gradually give up more powers to the EU*. If we make loads of promises about debt reduction and sound budgeting, those need to be *things that can be enforced* or brought to court in the future. The point of the fiscal compact, after all, is to make it more to check on those commitments. That means *giving our [European] institutions more monitoring rights—and more bite.*"

Further emphasizing the agenda for a Germanized Europe, Merkel even indicated that Germany is "the representative of all European countries," emphasizing that her solution to today's Europe in crisis is "more 'integration,' by transferring more powers from a national level to EU institutions such as the European Court of Justice, so that the continent is 'turned into a Europe that works'"—no doubt a Europe forced to work the German way! (EUobserver.com, January 26). EUobserver.com said it was clear that Chancellor Merkel now ranks as "the de facto supremo of Europe."

Glaringly absent from the spotlight that blazed on Chancellor Merkel was the leader of France, Germany's former partner in promoting the European imperial dream. President Nicolas Sarkozy is but the poodle that trots behind the German shepherd. This fact even further served to highlight that Europe is today being led, dominated and domineered by but one nation: *Germany.*

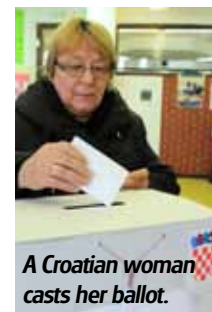


Merkel speaks at the opening of the Davos World Economic Forum.



1 | GERMANY 2 | FRANCE  
The EU taxman cometh!

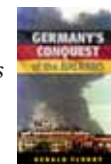
Germany and France plan to give the EU new powers to "coordinate" taxation, Agence France-Presse reported January 18, citing a confidential Franco-German paper seen by several media outlets. "European institutions and member states should accelerate the process of tax coordination," the document says. "In particular, the negotiation of the European Commission proposals on energy tax directive, common consolidated corporate tax base and common system of financial transaction tax should be accelerated." The EU's push for a common corporate tax rate is just the beginning. Already EU officials say this will empower Brussels to impose new energy taxes based on carbon emissions. Britain is opposed to giving the EU more power over taxation. The proposal is yet more evidence of Europe moving toward closer integration while Britain tries to go in the other direction.



A Croatian woman casts her ballot.

5 | CROATIA  
We want EU

Croatia voted to join the EU in a referendum held on January 22. Of the 48 percent of the population that turned out to vote, 68 percent voted yes. Germany deliberately broke apart Yugoslavia to gain power over the Balkans, and now Croatia is joining Germany's club. For more information, request our free booklet *Germany's Conquest of the Balkans.*



3 | SPAIN 4 | GIBRALTAR Pushing for the Rock

Spain's new government is pushing Britain to negotiate over Gibraltar without consideration for the wishes of the inhabitants of Gibraltar. Spanish Foreign Minister José García-Margallo wrote to his British counterpart to this effect after Britain's prime minister promised in January to respect Gibraltar's right to self-determination. This "marks a hardening of Madrid's position over its controversial claim for the return of the Rock" (*Times*, January 31).

Just over a week before this push to exclude Gibraltar from negotiations, former Europe Minister Peter Hain said that in 2002, then Prime Minister Tony Blair came close to giving up the Rock. Hain claims Britain made a deal with Spain on April

**"It is really important to get a better future for Gibraltar, to secure a better relationship with Spain and to remove it as an obstacle to our relations within Europe."**

**TONY BLAIR**  
FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF BRITAIN

18, 2002, to share sovereignty over the area and allow Britain to keep a naval base there. The Spanish vetoed the deal. So Britain has already come close to giving away the Rock. With the Spanish pushing for Gibraltar again, will Britain have the will to hold on to it? Bible prophecy says no.

## 6 | PHILIPPINES Facing punishment

Beijing must punish the Philippines economically for Manila's moves toward closer military ties with the United States, China's state-run *Global Times* said on January 29. The article was a response to an agreement the previous week between Philippine and American officials to boost cooperation in several areas including maritime defense and security. Manila also said it is considering hosting more U.S. troops and conducting more joint military drills with U.S. forces. The Philippines is among several nations with which China is engaged in territorial disputes regarding the South China Sea, and Beijing views the U.S. as an unwelcome participant in those skirmishes. The *Global Times*, published by the Communist Party, said China must apply economic pressure on the Philippines in order to make it abandon its cooperation with Washington. Although Manila may cling to the declining U.S. in the short term, it will eventually be won or forced over to allegiance with China.

## 7 | CHINA Asia's big military spender

CHINA'S MILITARY SPENDING WILL DOUBLE BY 2015, SWELLING it to more than the combined defense budgets of the rest of the Asia Pacific, according to a report published February 14. Global research group IHS projects that by 2015, Beijing's military budget will double to US\$238.2 billion, more than the US\$232.5



billion spent by Asia's 12 chief military powers, including India and Japan.

From 2000 to 2009, Beijing has reported defense budget increases averaging 12 percent annually, but analysts believe the actual increases are substantially more than Chi-

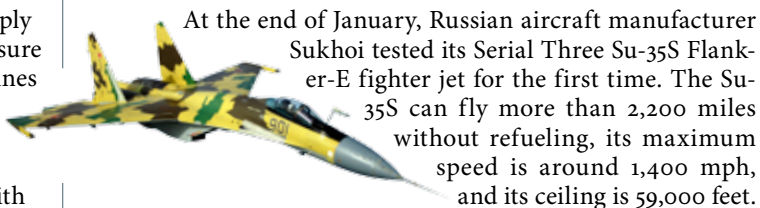
na reports. The release of the IHS report was timed to coincide with a mid-February visit to the U.S. by China's president-in-waiting Xi Jinping. Xi and other Chinese leaders have expressed concern about Washington's decision to realign its military strategy to focus on the Asia Pacific region, saying China's military expansion poses no threat to its neighbors. But the actions of China's neighbors reveal that they do feel threatened. India, for example, has in recent weeks obtained a nuclear-powered submarine, moved to acquire its first aircraft carrier, and announced plans to buy 126 French fighter jets, all to help it counter China's rise.

China's rising power will prompt more and more Asian states to bolster their defenses, but Bible prophecy says that all of Asia's military might will soon be pooled together to form a colossal Eastern military bloc.

**"Beijing has been able to devote an increasingly large proportion of its overall budget towards defense and has been steadily building up its military capabilities for more than two decades."**

**RAJIV BISWA**  
IHS ASIA PACIFIC CHIEF ECONOMIST

## 8 | RUSSIA Moving forward at jet speed



At the end of January, Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi tested its Serial Three Su-35S Flanker-E fighter jet for the first time. The Su-35S can fly more than 2,200 miles without refueling, its maximum speed is around 1,400 mph, and its ceiling is 59,000 feet.

The jets can also detect aircraft to a range of almost 250 miles, farther than any other combat aircraft. The Su-35S has two central digital computers, advanced avionics and a new radar system with phased array antennas. Weaponry carried by the Su-35S includes laser-guided and unguided bombs, anti-radar missiles, a 30mm cannon, and anti-aircraft missiles. Sukhoi expects to sell the new fighters not only to Russia, but also China, India, Malaysia, Brazil and Indonesia, which would represent a significant boost to the military capability of these Eastern powers.



A coal-fired power plant in the suburbs of Beijing

## 7 | CHINA A big appetite for coal

China surpassed Japan in 2011 to become the world's top coal importer, according to data published January 26. The switch was driven by robust Chinese demand and by a drop in Japan's imports after the March 2011 earthquake damaged many of its coal-fired power plants. In 2009, China overtook the U.S. to become the world's largest energy consumer. Its economic rate of growth is historically unprecedented, and its frenetic drive for resources is intensifying the global scramble for the planet's wealth.

## President-in-waiting warns U.S.

China's upcoming president traveled to the United States in early February to issue a message of wooing and warning. Xi Jinping offered America deeper economic cooperation as long as Washington heeds Beijing's demands on Tibet and Taiwan. As America's financial condition deteriorates, the government is finding that it has to give in to its creditors' demands on more and more issues. As King Solomon wrote in the ancient book of Proverbs, "Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender."

## 9 | INDIA

### Bypassing dollar for Iran's oil

India has agreed to buy Iran's oil with gold rather than the U.S. dollar. India now joins China and Russia in ignoring Western sanctions on Tehran's financial business and oil exports. China is expected to soon switch to gold for Iranian oil purchases. Both India and China are superpowers in terms of gold holdings. Together, they buy around 1 million barrels of Iranian oil each day, 40 percent of Iran's total exports. By using gold, India and China allow Tehran to bypass the freeze on its central bank's assets and work around the EU's oil embargo. Analysts also expect the colossal amounts involved in these transactions to boost the price of gold and diminish the utility of the dollar on global markets.



Prince William (left) prepares for his first sortie in the Falklands in February.

**1 | ARGENTINA** President: Prince William get out

On February 7, Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner criticized Prince William's deployment to the Falkland Islands. The British heir to the throne is accompanying one of the Royal Navy's most modern warships and will serve for three months as a military search and rescue pilot. Kirchner accused Britain of "militarizing" the long-standing dispute over the South Atlantic islands. Argentina continues to demand that Britain return the Falklands to its control after it lost dominion over them in 1833. Argentine troops invaded the Falklands in 1982, but were defeated by the British. Britain continues to say that as long as the Falklands inhabitants desire to remain British, it will defend its possession. Continue to watch events in the South Atlantic. Based on Bible prophecy, the *Trumpet* has predicted that Britain will eventually lose control of these islands.

**2 | BRAZIL** EU-Mercosur: Partners in the making

Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota met with his visiting German counterpart, Guido Westerwelle, on February 13, calling for the signing of the long-delayed free trade agreement between the European Union and the South American Mercosur trade bloc. With Brazil emerging as a leading nation in the Mercosur union, its developing alliance with Germany, the leading nation in the European Union, is likely to produce momentous economic results. Expect South America to become more aligned with Germany in the near future.

**U.S. 'reset' backfires**

Ten months after U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to help develop its potentially massive offshore oil reserves, Brazil spurned the U.S. and opted to sell its oil to China. China recently



A Petrobras platform in port at Rio de Janeiro

bought a 40 percent stake in Repsol YPF's Brazil unit, which has drilling rights to the Santos Offshore Basin, according to the *Washington Times*. The *Times* also revealed that China has bought a 30 percent stake in Galp Energia, a Portuguese company with rights to the same basin. As rival powers snatch up oil in its backyard, Washington appears to be asleep.

**3 | SOMALIA** Famine worsens

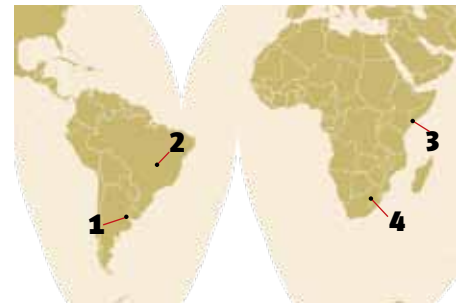
The United Nations says that tens of thousands are likely to starve in Somalia by the time the famine there ends. In addition to the grim effects of a two-year drought, ongoing violence perpetrated by radical Islamic militias is devastating the region. Islamist militants have cut off emergency food delivery for an estimated 240,000 people in the central and southern regions of Somalia, according to relief workers. Biblical prophecy foretells an increase in famines as one of the signs of Christ's return. Also watch for instability in Somalia to potentially spill over into Ethiopia.



A malnourished child suffers in Somalia.

**"We know that tens of thousands of people will have died over the last year."**

**MARK BOWDEN**  
UN AID CHIEF IN SOMALIA



Shaken by violent attacks and reforms, South African farmers are emigrating around the world.

**4 | SOUTH AFRICA** An exodus of whites

**A**S CRIME AND RACE RELATIONS WORSEN in South Africa, the white population is steadily declining as those of European ancestry leave the country. The South African government estimates that as many as 1 million white South Africans have left their homeland since the end of apartheid in 1994, with many citing a lack of opportunity and crime as their reasons for leaving. According to a recently released report by the South African Institute of Race Relations, the white population will decline another 20 percent by 2040.

The end of apartheid in 1994 was supposed to have marked the dawn of a new age in South Africa, an age of peace and stability, and of freedom and equality for all races. Eighteen years on, South Africa remains a land of prejudice and inequality, the main difference being that today it's the Caucasian community being maligned and persecuted, often by the politicians and parties who replaced apartheid and promised to create a safer, more stable and equitable social and political system.

Post-apartheid South Africa is a lesson in human nature. The Bible says the human heart is selfish, vain, and constantly self-serving. So many of South Africa's problems, past and present, have been caused by politicians, political parties and even races seeking to serve their own interests, and the interests of their own party or race, above all else. The solution to South Africa's racial strife lies not in politics or policies, but rather the transformation of the human heart.

## Should we stay or should we go?

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond is preparing Scotland to hold a referendum on independence, which is leading to clashes between the devolved government in Scotland and the national government in Westminster.

Salmond wants to boost his chances of winning the referendum by holding it in 2014 while nationalist emotions are high as Scotland celebrates the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. British

Prime Minister David Cameron wants the referendum to be held within 18 months. According to polls, the majority of Scottish people don't want independence. Even if Scotland ultimately votes to stay, however, months, if not years, of campaigning and arguing isn't going to help the unity of the United Kingdom. All kinds of details will have to be decided, such as currency. Originally, Salmond said an independent Scotland would join the euro. These days, joining the euro isn't that popular, so now he wants to keep the pound. But the euro crisis has just proven that a currency union without political union can't work. How much would an independent Scotland's share of the national debt be? What about its share of North Sea oil? These kinds of questions could be expected to be accompanied by combative rhetoric, accusation and even court cases from both sides. In other words, a "No" to independence could still leave the two sides bitter and divided. Just the act of holding a referendum will result in Britain becoming even more split and inward focused over the next few years, when there are serious external challenges to confront.

## Over 1 in 3 not in labor force

The percentage of Americans participating in the labor force has dropped to a 30-year low, data released in early February by the U.S. government revealed. Only 63.5 percent of Americans are now employed or actively searching for employment. The other 36.5 percent of Americans are counted as "not in the labor force." The Chicago Fed has attributed about half of the decline to retiring baby boomers and half of the decline to those who have given up looking for work. Despite what the mainstream media are reporting, America's unemployment woes are far from over.



Scottish leader Alex Salmond



Three former Anglican bishops participate in a ceremony in Westminster Cathedral.

## Anglicans split over tough issues

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SEEMS TO BE ABOUT TO TEAR ITSELF to pieces over the divisive issues of homosexual unions and women bishops. Last year, the British government struck down a church ban on holding civil partnership ceremonies for homosexual couples in churches, but the church has told priests they cannot conduct them until the General Synod approves. Around 120 Church of England clergy in the diocese of London have signed a petition demanding that they be allowed to conduct these ceremonies for homosexual couples. The diocese of London is one of the more conservative districts, so support for homosexual unions is likely to grow as the petition spreads to other areas.

A compromise that would have allowed Anglicans opposed to women bishops to be under an alternative male bishop was rejected by the Church of England's General Synod on February 8. This move could push traditionalist Anglicans toward the Roman Catholic Church. Legislation allowing female bishops in Britain is expected to pass by 2014. As these divisions widen, the Catholic Church is ready to absorb disaffected Anglicans through its personal ordinariate, a structure that allows converting Anglicans to keep many of their old practices.

## Dickens would turn in his grave

Many British children lack a sufficient attention span to read Charles Dickens. Biographer Claire Tomali observed this state of affairs in the run-up to celebrations for the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens's birth on February 7. "Children have very short attention spans because they are being reared on dreadful television programs which are flickering away in the corner," she said. "Children are not being educated to have prolonged attention spans ...." Meanwhile, in a speech on February 7, Schools Minister Nick Gibb warned that "there are still shadows of Dickens's world in our own—with literacy problems remaining asymmetric and heavily orientated towards the poorest in our communities." He warned that "it is gravely concerning to see this country's young people falling out of love with reading."

## Most divisive president ever

During U.S. President Barack Obama's third year in office, an average 80 percent of Democrats approved of his job performance, compared to 12 percent of Republicans, according to the *Washington Post*. That equates to a 68 percent partisan gap, the highest in history for any president's third year in office. The previous high of 59 percent) came during President George W. Bush's third year in office. Seven of the 10 most partisan years in terms of presidential job approval have come since 2004, according to Gallup tracking polls. Political division is crippling America.

**"Obama's ratings have been consistently among the most polarized for a president in the last 60 years."**

JEFFREY JONES GALLUP

## Budget deficit definitely not cut in half

Shortly after taking office in 2008, President Obama promised to cut the budget deficit in half by the end of his first term. Since the budget deficit for 2009 was \$1.2 trillion, the president's target deficit for 2012 should have been \$600 billion. On February 13, the Obama administration officially broke that promise by unveiling a budget with a built-in deficit of \$1.3 trillion. This will be the fourth consecutive budget deficit in excess of a trillion dollars.

America's ballooning debt is a ticking time bomb that is about to explode.





# WHY THE FASCINATION WITH SUPERHEROES

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's ... you? **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**





SP?

TRUMPER/ISTOCKPHOTO

**O**N MAY 4, THE GROUND-work laid by half a dozen previous movies will culminate when *The Avengers* hits the multiplexes, and Iron Man, Thor, The Hulk, Captain America, Loki and others assemble for what's being trumpeted as the greatest superhero film of all time. For dyed-in-the-tights superhero fanatics, one movie with all those personalities is no small cinematic event.

Since the year 2000, a hulking 50 big-budget superhero movies have been released at the box office. There were also 30 major vampire movies, eight *Harry Potter* films, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, two *Star Wars* films, and two *Matrix* movies. All together, that makes almost 100 big-budget movies featuring characters with various superhuman abilities, released just since 2000—from an industry that releases only 50 or fewer big-budget movies per year. And they are consistently among the highest grossing movies.

Superheroes have taken charge of the theaters; vampires, like *Star Trek's* Tribble creatures, are multiplying so quickly they threaten to overwhelm the whole enterprise. And a glance at bookstores, TV shows, magazines and video games reveals that the trend spills over the cinema's banks to saturate the floodplains of the entire entertainment industry.

So, what is it about these creations that makes consumers want to put on a brightly colored leotard and yell "Flame on!"? Why are they so massively popular?

The common thread is that these characters all possess superhuman abilities. Common powers include telekinesis, super strength, invisibility, ESP, weather manipulation, mercurial speed, teleportation, immortality, x-ray vision, elasticity, telepathy, power to regenerate or resurrect, kinetic energy manipulation and, of course, the ability to fly. Even the few superheroes that are technically just human (Batman, Iron Man, Sherlock Holmes, etc.) are larger than life and display superhuman traits—astounding fortitude and martial skills, bewildering intelligence, apparently divine protection, and advanced technology that differs from magic simply because the author says so. Despite the absence of radioactive spider venom or super-soldier serum coursing through their veins, these "real world" characters consistently perform at a level far beyond the ability of even the most testosterone-fueled and brilliant real-life man, so they are superheroes.

## Cineplex = Our Modern Campfire

Turning these larger-than-life characters into hyperrealistic, special-effects-laden blockbuster movies is a relatively recent trend. But mankind's fascination with superbeings is an ancient and ubiquitous idea that has left a herculean footprint on nearly every culture since Eden.

After all, how is the Marvel Comics universe different from the pantheon of Greek gods and goddesses? What fundamental disparities lie between DC's heroes and the beings of Roman, Mesopotamian or Norse mythologies? It's actually common for modern comic authors to lift characters directly from the pantheons of ancient cultures—Thor, Loki, Hercules, etc. Sometimes the personalities they create are based heavily on famous ancient deities: Wonder Woman on Athena, or The Flash on Hermes, for example. The archetypal sky-god, Superman, is an amalgam of powerful warriors like Zeus, Hercules and Achilles.

Though comic books have only been around since *The Adventures of Obadiah Oldbuck* was printed in 1842, the type of superhuman characters they feature have roamed the scene since time immemorial. The second-oldest work of literature known to mankind is the *Legend of Etana* (dating to 2,600 B.C.), which details the heroics of a Sumerian king who "ascended to heaven and consolidated all the foreign countries," and who ruled for 1,560 years. Sound like an ordinary man? One of the next-earliest surviving documents is the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, still widely read today, which recounts the adventures of the king of Urak, who met every modern criterion of the superhero. Part god and part man? Check. Strong enough to move mountains? Sure was. Able to swim to the deepest part of the ocean and back to the surface with a single breath? No problem. And Gilgamesh was also pitted against a superhuman arch nemesis, at least until the two reconciled their differences, became comrades, and teamed up to carouse and slay demigods. The plotline would hold up against any modern X-Men movie.

Other early "superhero" folklore accounts include ancient Egypt's *Tale of Sinuhe*, the Babylonians' *Enūma Eliš*, India's epics about Krishna, China's *What Confucius Didn't Speak Of*, the Japanese *Nihon Shoki*, the Anglo-Saxons' epic poem about superhuman Beowulf—and the list goes "to infinity and beyond!"

As soon as a society would outgrow its

fascination with its pantheon of mountaintop-dwelling sociopaths who toy with people for fun, it would reinvent those superbeings in new forms. In the West, King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table came to fill the superhero's role, before handing the baton off to explorer legends and Musketeers, who then passed it along to supercowboys and Tall Tale heroes. During the interval between gods and superheroes, Eastern culture invented Samurai and Ninja myths in which heroes could control weather, walk on water, become invisible and so on. A set of gods or heroes may be slain by the capricious kryptonite of pop cultural fads, but, like a phoenix rising from the ashes of its old self, the idea of superhuman characters is reborn and recreated again and again.

### Why So Universal?

Why is the fascination with immortality and superhuman ability so universal? It



At present, we are mere men and women—mortal, physical, earthbound, and sustained for a few decades by food, water and the air we breathe. We can't pick up objects with mindpower, though few are the *Star Wars* fans who have not tried. Yet our hearts are "filled with eternity"—a longing to be exceptional, immortal and superhuman—but our bodies are bound by reality. Superhero tales, in a sense, attempt to peer into the great gulf between the two.

In Hebrews 2:7, Paul explains this massive gulf between man's current state and our incredible potential: God created man to be "for a little while lower than the angels" and "crowned him with glory and honor, and appointed him over the works of [God's] hands" (New American Standard). In verse 8, Paul continues, saying God has "put everything in subjection under [mankind's] feet. For this subjecting of the universe to man implies the leaving nothing not subject to him"

**Our Creator planted within us a longing for something beyond ourselves, something transcendent—something superhuman.**

seems that people through the ages and across the globe have wished to break free of the limits of our human existence. Some of that reflects a simple desire to escape from the challenges that ordinary mortal life brings. But in many cases there may be more behind it.

King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 3:11 that God "has put eternity into man's heart" (English Standard Version).

About this verse, *Barnes' Notes on the Bible* says, "God has placed in the inborn constitution of man the capability of conceiving of eternity, the struggle to apprehend the everlasting ...." Our Creator planted within us a longing for something beyond ourselves, something transcendent—something superhuman. This yearning is actually a longing for God, and a desire to realize our potential with Him. And the human potential is truly incredible.

(Weymouth New Testament).

Can you grasp that mind-boggling truth? God created men to start off as physical beings—less powerful than the angels. But we are to be in this physical state only "for a little while." Our long-term, eternal purpose is to be born into His Family, to become *more powerful* than angels—one day to *rule over the entire, infinite universe!*

That breathtaking future, however, is reserved for BORN sons of God. Man is not yet born into God's Family, as Paul explains in the next sentence: "But we do not as yet [in our present physical, mortal state] see the universe subject to [men]."

This truth has vexed many who have heard it. The Jews of Christ's day were irate when Jesus said He was the Son of God. Christ answered their wrath by quoting a passage from Psalm 82, which the Jews would have been well acquainted with:

"Is it not written in your law, I said, *Ye are gods?*" (John 10:34). *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote about this landmark scripture, saying, "Jesus Christ—the Word made flesh—said, *Why are you so upset when I tell you that I am the Son of God? Look—it's right there in your own Bible that YOU ARE GODS! You all have the potential to be God—with a capital 'G'!*" (*John's Gospel: The Love of God*; request your free copy).

The Apostle John got specific about this transcendent human potential: "It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when [Christ] shall appear [at His Second Coming to Earth], WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM ..." (1 John 3:2). We will look like the glorified, eternal, spirit Being, Jesus Christ!

What does the glorified Christ look like? His eyes blaze like flames of fire. His feet glow like brass in the refiner's fire. His face shines like the sun in full strength—so brilliant it would blind a man's eyes and kill him if he looked upon it (Revelation

1:14-16; 19:12-13; Matthew 17:2; Exodus 33:20). God is infinitely more powerful than any fantasy creation from the imagination of men! And He has *perfect godly character* instead of the deeply flawed, human character these fictional personalities are governed by.

If and when we are finally born into God's eternal Family, we will have God's glorious appearance and power, and also His perfect character.

Part of the reason cultures of the world continuously create superheroes springs from the longing for eternity God planted in man's heart—a capacity to ponder the infinite and superhuman. But of course, fantasy characters are missing the key dimension of *character*. The adolescent fascination with fantasy tends to focus on the *POWER* while overlooking the perfect, righteous and godly *character* that God requires an individual to develop before He will give that power. Every man has the dazzling potential to be born into the God Family—to become a God who rules the universe with ineffable power for eternity. But to do so, we must strive to develop perfect, godly character.

Consider skipping the fantasy world of *The Avengers*, and instead set your heart on the *REALITY* of your true potential! That potential is infinitely beyond anything that can spring from a man's imagination. Remember that "Ye are Gods!" ■



**B**LACK IS BETTER THAN RED. You'd rather have someone owe you \$100 than owe someone \$100. Better to have \$10,000 in the bank than to be \$10,000 in the hole. Financial security brings peace—debt brings grief. That's just common sense.

Except, apparently, when applied nationally.

America's preposterously elephantine national debt is in the news again, for good reason. In January, it reached an embarrassing milestone: It is now bigger than the entire economy.

Total federal debt now surpasses \$15 trillion, and that doesn't count the more than \$50 trillion the government owes in unfunded retirement promises. The debt exceeds America's GDP. And on January 26, the Senate agreed to allow President Obama to raise the debt ceiling \$1.2 trillion higher—the sixth such increase since the president took office three years ago.

Just do the math: The federal government collected \$2.2 trillion last year—a huge heap of money that is nowhere near the \$3.7 trillion it *spent*.

Imagine a household that makes \$4,000 a month sitting down to make a budget, and patting itself on the back for *planning* to spend \$6,500. We're not talking about impulse buying. We're talking about *planning* to go \$2,500 deeper into debt every month—\$30,000 a year.

Comparing income to spending, that reckless family would actually be doing somewhat *better* than America.

Every year, the federal government takes an average of about \$7,000 in taxes per American—and then spends nearly \$12,000 per American. That is how it goes a heart-stopping *\$4 billion deeper into debt every single day*.

What would it take to actually pay the bills? Statistician David Burge, author of the famed Iowahawk website, offers one suggestion. To finance one year of federal spending, just take the combined global profits of every one of the Fortune 500 companies; take all the TV ad money spent on all 45 Super Bowls; take the combined salaries of all players in the NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL along with all winnings from the PGA tour and NASCAR; take every penny of household income in excess of \$250,000; take *all the money* from every billionaire and near-billionaire; take every dime the nation is spending on the wars in Iraq and



# An Awesome Secret About America's National Debt

BY JOEL HILLIKER

Afghanistan; take everything pumped into foreign aid; and then make every American man, woman and child chip in another 40 bucks. Voila!

The bad news is, that would only pay *one year's bills*, and the financial wherewithal of the nation would be gutted.

I'm guessing you have enough common sense to recognize that to "*budget*" yourself to go \$1.5 trillion deeper into debt each year simply isn't sustainable. It is lunacy.

But here is something you may not know—something extraordinary.

## National Debt in the Bible

Most Americans believe the Bible. A recent Gallup poll found that 65 percent of Americans believe it "answers all or most of the basic questions of life." So there's a good chance you are one of them.

Did you know that *the Bible specifically foretold America's national debt*? In fact, it prophesied that that debt would be a *curse* on this country!

If you have never read the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, you should. It is a pivotal chapter of prophecy. You don't even have to believe that America is a descendant of the Israelite tribe of Manasseh (which we can prove to you) to appreciate the wisdom in this passage. It is simply a list of the *blessings* that God promises to the nation that obeys Him, and *curses* that He will send on the nation that disobeys Him.

Read verse 12 to see one of the *blessings for obedience*: "The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and *thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*"

That makes sense, doesn't it? It's a *blessing* to be able to lend and not have to borrow. As much a blessing as favorable weather and fruitful labor.

It so happens that for much of its history, America has been a *net lender*. It has been a nation of savers and producers, dominating world trade and manufacturing. It has loaned other nations far more money than it borrowed.

Now, though, look at verse 44. This is within the portion of the chapter describing the *curses for disobedience*. It says of foreigners ("the stranger"): "*He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.*"

This is brutal reality for America today. In the last few decades, debt spending and borrowing have increased dramatically, and the U.S. has become a net debtor, borrowing billions of dollars per year from the rest of the world. Nearly one third of the money the government overspends, it borrows from foreign countries. Today America is *the most indebted nation on Earth*.

Pundits can kid themselves with fancy formulas and say this is no big deal; some even argue America should borrow *more*. But borrowing is a *curse*, and America is already starting to suffer for it. You don't even have to believe the Bible to see it. Just open your eyes.

## Those Are Curses, All Right

Take a good look at all the money being sucked out of America's coffers by interest payments on that debt. In fiscal year 2011, the government paid

See **DEBT** page 36 ►



# IS THERE A **Dictator** IN YOUR MIND?

You may not be aware of it, but it wants to run your life! What is it? You need to identify it so you can whip it into submission. Because once tamed, it actually makes a great companion! **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**D**O YOU TEND TO BUCKLE UNDER pressure? Get stressed out, overwhelmed? These are important questions, because it is when problems arise in your life that a mental coup is likeliest to occur—when *the dictator in your mind* works hardest to conquer you.

Sometimes, life can seem like a litany of problems. You get sick or injured. A family member mistreats you. You have money troubles, job troubles.

When those issues come up, how do you respond? Do you face them? Do you maintain a positive approach to solving them? Do you seek wise counsel?

Or—do you get moody and depressed? Does it seem fairly often that you need a good cry?

Do you complain, whine and gossip? Blame other people?

Do you *deny* the issue is even a problem? Try to ignore it or escape it? Do you just *quit*—roll over and see how bad it will get?

If you tend to take any of these latter approaches, that is a sign that you are under the power of this mental despot.

What is it? It is **EMOTION!**

Emotion can be one of the most enjoyable blessings we possess. Without it, our lives would be bland, flat, colorless—hardly worth living. Our relationships would be boring, our jobs monotonous.

However, if you fail to *assess* and, to a large degree, *master* your own emotions, that is a virtual guarantee that you will often mismanage your problems and create many new ones.

How skilled are you at handling this critical part of life? Are you constantly riding the extremes of the emotional spectrum? Or, on the other hand, are you casual or indifferent about things you *should* feel deeply about? Your personal fulfillment, happiness, peace and well-being depend in large measure upon your answers to these questions.

Many people are mature physically and intellectually, but have simply *never grown up* **EMOTIONALLY**. And that reality is reflected in failed relationships, personal dissatisfaction, depression and misery.

We need to give serious thought to how we measure up in this critical area of our

personal development, and how we can *grow beyond* where we are. We must tame that mental dictator, and learn **EMOTIONAL MATURITY**.

### Why Emotion?

Let's get the right perspective on emotions. They are widely misunderstood.

Why do we have emotions?

In the last couple of decades, scientists have studied emotions intensively after largely dismissing them for many years. But science builds its findings on the faulty foundation of evolutionary biology, which assumes that emotion is all a result of how environmental factors impacted human evolution. For example, we supposedly have “fear” today, manifested in physiological changes that heighten our motivation to act quickly, because our prehistoric ancestors fled from danger; those who didn't run were killed off and didn't procreate.

It is true that such emotional reactions can help us face physical threats. But that is a product of *design*, not happenstance.

The truth is, **GOD** gave us the power of feelings. He gave us emotions so we can experience *joy* and *love*; we can have *deep relationships*; we also can experience *anger* and *jealousy*, *fear* and *sadness*—a *variety* of emotions.

Why? Well, consider these states of mind, described in the Bible and attributed to **GOD HIMSELF!** God is said to experience *love* (John 3:16; Scripture says God is love—1 John 4:8, 16), *joy* (Matthew 25:21, 23; Galatians 5:22), *hatred* (Psalm 11:5; 45:7), *anger* (Judges 10:7; Psalm 7:11), *indignation* (Isaiah 34:2), *jealousy* (Exodus 20:5; 34:14), *concern* (Deuteronomy 5:29), *grief* (Genesis 6:6; Psalm 78:40), *sorrow* (Isaiah 53:3) and *compassion* (Matthew 9:35-36).

*But wait*, some may say. *Emotions are physical—physiological—chemical. God is spirit. He couldn't have emotions.*

Just what *are* emotions?

The word itself comes from the Latin verb *motere*, “to move,” coupled with the prefix *e*, which connotes “move away.” The implication is that emotion is an impulse toward **ACTION**. It is seated in the spirit in man (Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11), that spirit God gives uniquely to human beings to empower our intellect and distinguish

us from animals. *Webster's Dictionary* defines emotion as “physiologically involving changes that prepare the body for **IMMEDIATE VIGOROUS ACTION**.”

So in what way could God have emotions? It is true that He does not and could not have the physiological changes we experience when we have emotions. Yet He has these profound states of mind ranging from love to hate, joy to sorrow, that we associate with *deep emotion*.

God created the human race in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26), and wants us to grow to become like Him (Matthew 5:48). He expects us to grow toward being able to think as He does.

The implication in Scripture is that God gave us these chemical, physiological changes to help us understand the depth of His thinking. Certainly our emotions provide a physical *type* or *counterpart* to the depth of God's mind; they supply a profundity to our thoughts and experiences not otherwise possible. And they stimulate us to act in ways we would not otherwise find the motivation to.

The fact is, *learning to manage our emotions is a significant means by which we can learn to think like our Creator*.

### A Two-Edged Sword

But emotion is a two-edged sword. As great a blessing as it is, our emotions also can be capricious and subject to manipulation.

Evidence of this mental dictator is everywhere. The daily news is full of tragedies caused by people who simply *lacked emotional control* under difficult circumstances and thus committed crimes of passion. Others allow grievances to quietly build and, rather than handling their feelings maturely, end up exploding in violent acts, perhaps even against themselves. The same lack of control is evident in the common, petty arguments and interpersonal warfare between co-workers, neighbors and family members.

Negative, destructive moods and attitudes can tyrannize your mind if you let them. Yes, there is a time for righteous

anger, for indignation, even the right kind of jealousy (e.g. 2 Corinthians 11:2); there is a time for sorrow (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4). But whenever God experiences such things, He keeps them under control, and is, on the whole, a joy-filled Being who walks in light, not in darkness (1 John 1:4-5). Wouldn't you prefer that kind of life?

At the other end of the emotional spectrum, some who experience lust or sexual arousal permit those feelings to become *more important* than personal chastity or even marital fidelity. Substance abuse or addiction also indicates a mental hijacking. Enslaved to emotion, many people allow the rest of their lives to fall apart.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “[W]e poor humans act as though we believed man to be merely the highest of the dumb brutes—as if man were equipped with instinct, and the purpose of life were merely to ENJOY such feelings, sensations, emotions and moods as impulse attracts us to, *without thinking or mental direction!*” (*Good News*, February 1982). That truly is the most common approach to emotion today.

You need to acknowledge this startling fact: *If you fail to master your emotions, you are not really running your own life.* You are susceptible to emotional manipulation from all directions. “He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls” (Proverbs 25:28). This can lead to serious consequences in many aspects of life—not only in your relationships, but also your diet and health, your productivity, your overall well-being.

If you find yourself *resenting* family members, *angry* at people, *frustrated* and *negative* about yourself, *depressed* or *moody*—or, on the other hand, unable to manage your desires, however unpleasant or destructive the consequences—LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY IMMATURE.

Many places in Scripture speak of evil spiritual powers—the origin of which is a very real and active spirit being called Satan the devil—that influence us toward such emotions!

## Why Emotional Mastery Is Vital

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You simply **MUST** learn to master your feelings and emotions. It is in your best interest to *direct*

your mind, *direct* your emotions—so that rather than you serving them, they are serving you.

It is only through emotional mastery that we can work out constructive solutions to the problems we face. Gaining this vital skill may keep you from losing a job, or rescue your marriage—even *save a life* by averting a deadly confrontation.

Think about this important proverb: “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and *he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city*” (Proverbs 16:32)—a stark contrast to the emotional child we read about in Proverbs 25:28.

Why would God praise the person who can CONQUER HIS SPIRIT over the one who can actually CONQUER A CITY? Well, imagine what God can do in the life of the person who develops emotional mastery. This is a person who will not be tempted by an emotional rush to do something he shouldn't—a person who will not be swayed off course.

Perhaps you begin to see more deeply how important emotional mastery is. The implications are profound. In fact, *mastering your emotions is really the essence of godly character.*

Mr. Armstrong defined emotional maturity, “The technical art of putting into practice the Ten Commandments. It is the real secret to human happiness” (ibid, March 1985). Another author defined it as development from the state of taking to the state of giving.

Emotions tend toward action. Thus, if we give in to the wrong emotions, we end up carrying out the wrong actions.

However, if we *reject* wrong emotions, and cultivate the *right* emotions, that will help us to embrace the right actions. Right emotions propel us toward right action.

## The First Step to Emotional Mastery

We need to take control in this important arena of life. But how?

The first step to mastering our emotions is to *become aware of them.*

We must learn to become VERY ATTUNED to what is going on in our mind—to recognize when we are getting emotional in a destructive way, and think hard to identify what is CAUSING the emotion. There is a big difference between being caught up in

the heat of anger, and *realizing* that you are angry. In the first case, your mental dictator is in complete control. In the latter case, you “step outside yourself,” and put yourself in a position to make reasoned decisions.

You may have a legitimate cause—someone mistreating you, a genuine trial in your life. But again, the question is, *how will you handle it?* Will you allow your emotions to take over? Or will you approach the problem in a mature, constructive way that will help you arrive at a solution? It will make all the difference!

“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit [or quick-tempered] exalteth folly” (Proverbs 14:29).

## The Power of Choice

In locating the source of your upset, it may help to realize that emotions are based on your *perceptions*, not necessarily on reality.

Let me illustrate what I mean.

One day my wife's car broke down in town, and she didn't have a cell phone on her. She called me at work from a pay phone and asked if I would pick her up at the gas station where she was stranded. Though I was only 10 to 15 minutes' drive away, she waited two hours and I never showed up. This gave her plenty of time to mull over my insensitivity to her plight. She became more and more emotional—lonely, frustrated and angry. By the time she called a second time, she was in tears.

My version of the story is this: Immediately after hanging up after our first conversation, I got in my car and drove to where she told me she was. When I arrived, she was not there. I drove to every other gas station close by, to no avail. In exasperation, I went back to work and began phoning every gas station in the book, asking if they could spot her car in the parking lot. After over an hour of searching, I was truly frustrated that she had never called back to correct the miscommunication and tell me where she was.

All the emotions we each experienced were based on our *perceptions*—assuming the worst about the other person. So much of the time, we exhaust ourselves with such mental agitation. Faulty perspective can generate countless destructive emotions

# We must strive for a level of maturity where we never allow our emotions to drive us outside the bounds of God's law.



that need to be forcibly checked with cold reason. We worry ourselves sick over mere possibilities. Molehills become mountains.

It is important to realize how much control we really have over our reactions to such circumstances.

If someone says something derogatory, for example, do you take it personally? Do you hold a grudge? The longer you cling to such thoughts, the easier they are to justify. Alternatively, you can choose to *alter your perception* of the offense. You can shrug it off—perhaps with a thought such as, *He must be having a rough morning*, or, *Surely she is unaware of how hurtful that remark was*. We can soften our hurt with empathy or mercy.

If the offense you experienced is a genuine problem that needs to be dealt with, it would still be counterproductive to try to do so while under the sway of hurt feelings, anger and resentment.

An airline flight I took was delayed by a storm. The plane sat on the tarmac for some time while air traffic controllers worked with the pilots to chart an alternate route to our destination. When a new course was agreed upon, the pilots realized they needed more fuel to make the trip. Topping off the fuel tanks necessitated further delay.

The passengers aboard this flight could have been thankful that we would 1) avoid the storm and 2) have enough fuel to land where we needed to go. Instead, they chose to become incensed. You could hear audible expressions of anger throughout the cabin. Their emotion made an inconvenient situation into a tense one.

You are the captain of your mind. You cannot control everything that happens to you—only *what you do in return*. You cannot prevent every inappropriate thought from entering your mind—but you can choose whether to reject them or act upon them. Emotional immaturity makes you a victim of circumstance. Emotional maturity gives you the power to choose your response.

## Cultivate the Right Emotions

It is a mistake to dismiss emotion as being unimportant. Emotion is VITAL. Not only does it make life more interesting, but we can hardly get by without it. Again,

emotions are *impulses to action*. God intends us to be people of action—fueled by constructive emotion. He gave us emotion to control and use, to combine with our rational thinking to help us think and feel deeply, to propel us forward, to drive us toward right and noble action. Emotions are a wonderful gift.

But emotions are temporary. Yes, we may tend to hold on to a grudge or offense for years. But the positive emotions we should cultivate—the affection that binds a family together, the excitement that fuels fulfilling and productive work, the remorse that prevents us from repeating a mistake, the empathy that helps us comfort the grieving—these can fade all too quickly.

God encourages us to stoke and stir up those right emotions, those useful emotions. He tells us to direct our minds to what will motivate us onward. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). The choice is ours.

The common thinking is that *emotion* is opposite and counter to *reason*. In actuality, these two motivational tools should perfectly complement and enhance each other as we endeavor to live positive, morally upright lives.

We must strive for a level of maturity where we never allow our emotions to drive us outside the bounds of God's law. Again, emotional maturity is “the technical art of putting into practice the Ten Commandments.” Ideally, our emotions should impassion us to more perfectly keep God's law.

Godly “emotion” is actually a state of mind produced by *God's mind* IN US, through the power of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:5). Consider, for example, what is commonly called *love*. What is God's view? He says “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10) and that it is “shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit] which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5). The Apostle Paul explained, “Love is patient and kind;

love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends ...” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Revised Standard Version).

God's love is not an emotion, the way we view emotions. It is a *way of life—a perfect spiritual law*. It is not temporary. It *never ends!* It will go on and on—until one day it fills the universe.

This is the emotional mastery we should work to develop. This is how we need to respond to problems, difficulties and trials—bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things. THAT is true emotional maturity!

## The Battle in Your Mind

God wants us to have emotions—to cultivate deep, godly emotion. He wants us to have a proper fear of God. He wants us to hate evil. He wants us to get angry at sin. He wants us to grieve at appropriate times. He wants us to have full joy! He wants us to earnestly yearn for His Kingdom. When we develop these states of mind, we are learning to think like God.

Satan the devil also wants us to have emotions—to cut loose emotionally. He wants us to fear *other people*. He wants us to hate *other people*. He wants us to get angry quickly and hang on to that anger for days or weeks. He wants us to grieve over *ourselves*. He wants us to rejoice over *other people's failures*. He wants us to earnestly yearn to go back to sin, one more time!

This battle is going on in your mind!

Evaluate your own life. You are to become an expert at handling problems in a mature way. When troubles arise, you have an awesome opportunity to respond with emotional control—to collect yourself and tackle the problem head on—to make the right decision and to grow in godly character.

Tame that mental dictator. Learn, practice and grow in emotional maturity, and improve your life! ■

# The Prophetic BEAST

## WHO OR WHAT IS IT?



The true meaning of a pivotal biblical prophecy that has confused people for millennia. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**H**AVE YOU HEARD OF THE prophetic “beast”? Do you know what it is and if it is real?

The Bible describes this beast in detail, but most Christian evangelists ignore this subject altogether—or admit that they just don’t understand it. Yet the prophetic beast is all about prophecies that are focused on the end time—*right now!*

In the Bible, there are four beasts. They are recorded in Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 13 and 17. Daniel saw them in a vision: the first like a lion, the second like a bear and the third like a leopard. But the *fourth* was different.

### The Fourth Beast

This fourth beast is described in Revelation 13:1-2: “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

This beast embodies the strength of the first three beasts—and it is so dreadful and destructive that you can’t compare it to any other beast on Earth!

This fourth beast is rising *right now!* It is going to take power and radically

change our lives for the worse!

This prophecy comes right from your own Bible! Why don’t we hear more about it?

The Bible also talks about the “mark of the beast.” Those who do not accept this mark are going to be oppressed and killed by this fearsome power. Yet Jesus Christ says that *He* will inflict *His worst wrath* on those who receive this mark! It is crucial that we understand what all this means!

Who or what are these beasts?

“These great beasts, which are four, are **FOUR KINGS**, which shall arise out of the earth” (Daniel 7:17).

God says these beasts symbolize four Gentile kings, or kingdoms. These beasts are not four *churches*, as some believe, but



four WORLD-RULING EMPIRES!

Daniel lived in the time of the first of these empires. He said Nebuchadnezzar was the first of these beasts, the great king of the Chaldean Empire. Then came the Medo-Persian Empire, then the Greco-Macedonian Empire. That's all well documented in history books, and exactly what Daniel prophesied, right down to the last, most fearsome beast.

The Bible really draws our attention most of all to this fourth beast. What world-ruling empire was more fearsome and powerful than any of those others? Of course, it is the *Roman Empire!*

With all this dramatic emphasis on this end-time beast, *why don't our religious leaders discuss this more?* God commissions us to warn about this rising beast, and that is what we must do!

This is not just ancient history. Daniel tells us that his book was sealed, not to be understood until "the time of the end." I tell you, God PROMISED He would reveal every one of these prophecies to us and fulfill all of these promises—and He has done that throughout history without fail!

Today, He has revealed *who this fourth beast is.*

### Identity of the Fourth Beast

"And the *FOURTH KINGDOM*, which, developing from Rome, spread out and gradually absorbed one after another of these four divisions—'dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly,' was the *ROMAN EMPIRE* (31 B.C. to A.D. 476)."

That statement comes from *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* by Herbert W. Armstrong. You need this powerful booklet, and I encourage you to order it; we will send you a copy completely free.

Mr. Armstrong continued: "It had absorbed all the others, occupied all their territory, was greater and stronger than all. It included all the royal splendor of ancient Babylon, thus having the head—the strongest part—of the lion. It had all the massiveness and numerically powerful army of the Persian Empire—symbolized by the legs, the most powerful part of the bear. It was the greatest war-making machine the world had ever seen, and it also possessed the swiftness, the cunning, the cruelty of Alexander's army, symbolized by the leopard.

"And thus, this fourth beast was unlike any wild beast of the Earth. It was stronger, greater, more terrible, than any."

Yet in Revelation 13, the Bible says this fourth beast was "wounded to death."

That fourth empire was incomparable to any other. How can you even describe the Roman Empire? It was a super-powerful fighting force with mighty political power stretching over most of the known world. The world had never seen anything like it!

But there is something else you need to understand about this beast: *It is still alive!*

### Resurrections

Revelation 13 reveals that *after* this fourth beast was wounded unto death, out of that wound came 10 horns. These horns symbolize 10 *resurrections* of that same Roman system that would rule this territory. These kingdoms exist between A.D. 476 and Jesus Christ's Second Coming. Isn't that incredible? The Bible prophesied about these successive governments centuries in advance, and that is exactly what came to pass!

This is incredible biblical prophecy, but no one proclaims it! God is using the strongest possible symbolism here, and even our religious leaders completely ignore it!

We must *listen* to this incredible message—and the warning—and *believe* what God says. He prophesied that these empires would all come to pass, and they all have. The Bible gets into even *more detail* about these 10 resurrections of the Roman Empire. And you can check the history books to see that all of these details happened just as God said they would. Just as the next world-ruling empire will.

The first three resurrections that ruled the ancient Roman territory were barbaric tribes. Then something momentous happened. A "little horn" plucked up these first three and established its own rule, characterized by a "mouth speaking great things" (Daniel 7:8).

After that point, there is something different—something subtler and even more powerful—about the last seven resurrections of the Roman Empire.

In A.D. 554, Justinian *restored* the Roman Empire, effectively *HEALING the deadly wound*, and turning the page on the rule of the three barbaric tribes. Justinian also did something else: *He recognized the supremacy of the pope.* Because the empire was now tied closely to this great church, it became known as the *Holy Roman Empire.*

Counting Justinian's empire, there have been *SIX MAJOR, HISTORICALLY DOCUMENTED RESURRECTIONS* of the so-called *Holy Roman Empire*—all of which have been heavily influenced, and in some cases dominated, by the Vatican.

Do you think the Bible has anything to say about these powerful empires? It does!

### A Religious Component

The prophecy in Revelation 13 continues: "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Revelation 13:4).

People *worshipped* this beast! This political organization is tied to a *religious* organization, and this combination of church and state *worship* "the dragon"—which is Satan the *devil!*

You can see why *this beast* is so ferocious and fierce, like no other animal on Earth. You can see why it is going to make *WAR*—and how this monstrous machine is so powerful that when people see it, they will think that no nation or even alliance of nations could dare make war with this beast power.

Notice what happens further on in this prophecy: "And I beheld *ANOTHER BEAST* coming up out of the earth; and he had *two horns like a lamb*, and he *spoke as a dragon*" (verse 11).

This is speaking of *another* beast, another organization. On the surface, this organization looks like it is innocent, even *righteous*—following Christ. It looks like a lamb. But when you listen closely to what it *says*, you find that it speaks like a dragon. It actually proclaims the subtle message of the dragon—because it *worships* the dragon!

This means the world is monstrously deceived about this beast that looks like a lamb! People who are actually *following the devil* sincerely believe they are *WORSHIPING CHRIST!*

Verses 13 and 14 show just how powerful this false church is: It will perform all kinds of miracles. Its religious leader will perform great wonders, and people all over the world will believe that this church is from God.

Will you be able to recognize this counterfeit? It looks righteous—but in truth it is following the devil—and deceiving *HUGE NUMBERS* of people! That is quite a compelling counterfeit!

### The Mark of the Beast

The prophecy of Revelation 13 continues in verses 15-17: "And he [this religious beast, this church] had power to give life unto the image of the beast [the political power, the fourth beast], that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive *A MARK* in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

For a more in-depth study of this critical subject, request a copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* We will gladly send you a copy for free.



# THE REIGN OF GENTILE KINGDOMS

## CHALDEAN EMPIRE

1ST HEAD OF PROPHETIC BABYLON  
625 – 538 B.C.



DANIEL 7:4

## MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE

2ND HEAD OF PROPHETIC BABYLON  
558 – 330 B.C.



DANIEL 7:5



DANIEL 8:3-4, 20

## GREECE

3RD, 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH HEADS  
OF PROPHETIC BABYLON  
333 B.C.



DANIEL 7:6



DANIEL 5:8



DANIEL 8:8

## ROMAN EMPIRE

7TH HEAD OF PROPHETIC BABYLON  
31 B.C. – A.D. 478 (DEADLY WOUND A.D. 476)



DANIEL 7:7



REVELATION 13:1-2



REVELATION 17:3

1ST HORN	A.D. 429 – 533	VANDALS
2ND HORN	A.D. 476 – 493	HERULI
3RD HORN	A.D. 493 – 554	OSTROGOTHS
4TH HORN	A.D. 544	IMPERIAL RESTORATION
5TH HORN	A.D. 774	FRANKISH KINGDOM
6TH HORN	A.D. 962	HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE
7TH HORN	A.D. 1520	HABSBURG DYNASTY
8TH HORN	A.D. 1805	NAPOLEON'S KINGDOM
9TH HORN	A.D. 1870 – 1945	ITALY
10TH HORN	JAN 1, 2011	UNITED EUROPE

(FIRST THREE HORNS NOT RIDDEN BY WOMAN AND DESTROYED AT BEHEST OF POPE) (LITTLE HORN, DANIEL 7:8, 20-22, 24-27).

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

This church *guides* that fourth beast. In fact, this prophecy shows that it has done so *for the last six resurrections!*

This church-state combine will gain almost total power over people. It enforces its mark. Many people believe that this “mark of the beast” is a physical mark of some kind. But, as *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* explains in detail, it is a *sign*—a sign that revolves around the day you worship God. It has to do with one of the Ten Commandments: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” But this religious-political power has enforced and will enforce *its* day of worship.

In the past, the Holy Roman Empire has wrought great destruction on Earth. Charlemagne, who led one of those resurrections, “converted” people with his armies, and waded through their blood, believing he was serving God. In the Middle Ages, this “holy” empire destroyed some 50 million people. It is a bloody, bloody empire.

## The Seventh Resurrection

What about the *seventh* resurrection of that Holy Roman Empire? Well, you won’t find it in the history books. Does that mean it hasn’t been fulfilled? *NO! The seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire is taking place right now!*

These verses are about to be fulfilled in a way that will make all the previous blood shed throughout history pale in comparison. The new Holy Roman Empire will combine the modern, high-tech armies of several nations. Its people will be bound together by the incredible force of false Christianity. Its religious and political leaders will be armed with conventional, chemical and nuclear weapons—and they will use them!

Revelation 13:7 says what the final resurrection of that beast power is about to do. All of God’s lukewarm people, *in His own Church*—those who knew the truth about these prophecies—will be *killed* by this monster. Every single one of them! People who are worshiping the dragon will kill God’s people, thinking they are doing Christ a favor.

Satan has labored for centuries to deceive mankind and darken the meaning of what God has revealed in the Bible.

Follow God’s Word, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, and you can see that what is happening in Europe today was prophesied thousands of years ago in your own Bible!

Who understands this today? A lot of religious people and even evangelists won’t even discuss it. They almost ignore it. But here is the truth: This prophecy is being fulfilled *now*—and *now* is the time we must understand it! It’s time to stop ignoring this *extremely dangerous* part of God’s prophecies. It’s time to not just believe *in* God, but also to *believe* WHAT GOD SAYS!

Hosea 4:6 tells us that ignorance is no excuse: God says His people are destroyed because of a lack of Bible knowledge. You need to prove God’s Word.

You need to really understand this beast in *detail* and really study and prove this from your own Bible for yourself. These prophecies in your Bible are coming alive, and you cannot afford not to understand them.



# Your Spiritual Due Date

Live life with a heightened sense of urgency.

**T**HE URGENCY AND UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE birth of my first child struck me. Leading up to it, I knew the baby would eventually come, but I had no way of knowing the precise moment it would occur.

Similarly, Jesus said we could discern the *approximate* time of His return, but not the actual day or the hour (Matthew 24:32-36). That's because God wants us to be urgent *at all times*. What would God's work have been like during the 1950s if Herbert W. Armstrong and the Church had known Christ's return wouldn't be for another 60 or 70 years? A lot less urgent, I'm sure. The Church may have *projected* a "due date" from time to time, but Mr. Armstrong never set the actual day or hour, because he didn't know.

Our midwife projected March 27, 2000, as the "big day," even though she warned us the calculation was essentially based on a bunch of hokey (backtrack 15 days from mother's final menstruation, count 40 weeks forward, subtract father's IQ, multiply by 2, and so on).

Still, though, on my calendar "March 27" stood out like a flaming torch. I was scheduled to speak on March 25, which I figured to be ideal. Deliver a sermon on the Sabbath, rest up on Sunday, have a kid on Monday. It was the perfect plan. Months earlier, I had even told our musical director that my wife and I would have to miss the Philadelphia Singers practice Monday the 27th—that was baby day! *Trumpet* articles were due on the 29th—so I made plans to finish my assignment a week early.

Then nothing happened on March 27.

Something did, however, on March 28. I awakened with a heightened sense of urgency! *Could this be the day?* I wondered. What a boost this was for my spiritual life. I suddenly became more earnest and detailed in my prayers. If this was, after all, **THE DAY**, I wanted to be thoroughly prepared—physically and spiritually.

At work, every project suddenly took on a new level of importance. *I'd better wrap this up*, I thought. *What if my wife goes into labor for two and a half weeks? I may not make it back to the office for a while!* I finished one article and began another in haste. Upon its completion, I launched into preparations for a message I was scheduled to give on April 1.

In the evenings, I waded through pages of *Childbirth Without Fear*, highlighting sections for fathers about preparing for childbirth. On my computer's Bible software, I ran a search on "labor" and "travail." (There are a lot of scriptures about childbirth, by the way.)

On Sunday, April 2, my wife and I planted our garden in the same way we had been doing everything else that week: quickly and efficiently.

It seemed a lot easier to prioritize *after* March 27. With the baby due at any time, every morning my wife and I woke up



intent on making sure we finished those things which were *most* important that day.

Then it happened.

In the early hours of Tuesday morning, April 4, my wife finally awakened to birth pangs! It was the day we had been diligently preparing for! We prayed together with the same earnestness and detail we had been for the past eight days especially.

Then it was time to act! No more reading, no more check-ups to mark progress, no more childbirth classes, no more cups of ice cream sandwiches with pickles on top—this was the moment of truth!

Actually, it was more like a *day and a half* of truth. It's hard to describe that 28-hour period. Certainly, pictures or video do not do it justice, because they leave out the tidal waves of emotion and exhaustion that hit during childbirth. God calls it *labor* and *travail* for a reason. Though women shouldn't fear labor, it is, nevertheless, the *hardest physical work* most mothers will ever know. And to see your wife labor so intensely is difficult for a man to endure as well. But, as Jesus said, both parents forget the anguish of travail the moment their child arrives (John 16:21).

That moment was at 9:32 a.m., Wednesday morning, April 5, 2000—more than a week after the projected due date. After examining our little girl, our midwife said she was born at *just the right time*. "Today," she said, "is her *actual* due date."

Looking back, I'm glad we had that extra week. On March 27, my wife and I never could have realized how much *more* we needed to do before the birth.

Spiritually speaking, we have all probably passed our projected due date. Who among us would have thought 20 or 30 years ago that time would have gone on this long before Jesus Christ's return? That's one reason so many have fallen away from God's truth. In their hearts they have said, "My lord delayeth his coming" (Matthew 24:48). Many of them simply gave up on the birth.

But God says, "Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery? Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" (Isaiah 66:9; New King James Version). God says our spiritual birth is more real—its due date more certain—than any birth in the physical realm. It *will* surely come, though we have no way of knowing its precise moment.

But passing our spiritual due date is nothing to sulk about! What an opportunity—if it adds more urgency to our spiritual lives. Think about how much more *needs* to be done before the birth. Think about how much more we *can* do while there is still time. We haven't a moment to lose.

Don't let up. Instead, let "Could this be the day?" motivate your spiritual life! ■

## Race bomb

African politics has reached the U.S., and Americans have not learned anything from what happened in Africa (“U.S. Attorney General Ignites the Race Bomb,” March). Instead they persist with their political correctness and liberalism. As I have always maintained ... liberalism can be compared to the drug trade: It’s destructive and will never be resolved. Only good thing about Europe is that they are now moving to the right. At least they have woken up. *Xtrato*—SOUTH AFRICA

Wow, what’s evening more “amazing” is the media’s glaring silence on this—they only make the situation worse! Clearly now more than ever do we NEED God’s government back here, and soon it will be here!

*Carmen D. Rivera*—NEW YORK

Mr. Obama and Mr. Holder seem to be dead-set on igniting a true race war in this country. The consequences of such a thing are almost beyond belief ....

*Tim*—ARIZONA

## Caffeine over sleep

Thank you for this wonderful article (“Exhausted Americans Opt for Caffeine Over Sleep,” March). Most mothers usually burn the candle at both ends. Students stay up late because of the Internet. Working adults are pressured by the busy world. This is a good reminder for us all.

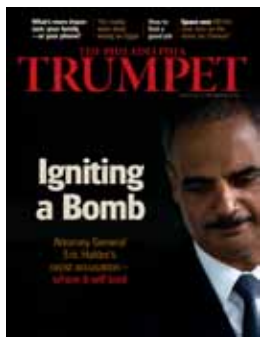
*L.C.*—PHILIPPINES

Mankind appears to be breaking every law and code that God has authorized for mankind—deliberately! The end result is the extreme unhappiness that we witness at this end time.

*Peter Thomas*—MALAYSIA

## Outraged!

You really “nailed” it! (“The Moral Outrage of Urinating Soldiers,” March). Our soldiers are not perfect (after all, they represent our modern Israelite nations), but what a contrast you made so powerfully between the actions of these American soldiers and the Taliban terrorists. They terrorize and victimize and brutalize their own people, and we know what they do if they get their hands on our soldiers, or even a journalist like Daniel Pearl.



It will be wonderful when the politically correct standard is shown for what it is, and God’s perfect standard put in its place.

*F.B.*—TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

What an impressive article. Your article exposes what a hypocritical nation not only America is, but all the world! Oh how we need GOD to fix these problems, for they are far too great for any man to fix. Thank you for shedding God’s light on the situation—and for having the guts to write it. Liberals are far too mouthy these days, and the conservatives ... well ... are too scared to disagree.

*Julie*—ONTARIO

## Smartphones

I really enjoyed this article (“What’s More Important: Your Family—or Your Phone?”, March). I have felt the same sadness and frustration for all these “families” that are just strangers living together. It is especially frustrating when you watch it happen at dinner time when everyone should be reconnecting. Keep up the excellent work!

*Jillian C.*—NEW YORK

Thank you for this article. I agree with you. I don’t like when I am in a conversation with an intelligent adult and they ignore me to check their smartphone. You are right about the moment being lost after that.

*C.A.*—UNITED STATES

## Planets everywhere

Wow! Breathtakingly awesome! (“Our Galaxy Hosts Far More Planets Than Scientists Thought,” March). They say truth is stranger than fiction, and God’s truth is far beyond what even the science fiction writers can imagine! I’m reminded of what the late astronomer Carl Sagan used to quote, “billions and billions”! At least he was right, if only in part. Thanks for a great article to remind us of why it’s worth the struggle to carry on in this human life even when all seems hopeless!

*Kurt J.*—LOUISIANA

Thank you for another inspiring article. Just trying to imagine it all is mind-staggering. If only the scientists could connect the creation with the Creator. If they could only see the true purpose behind it all: that *every star is waiting to be a hearth* is simply worded but truly a

reflection of God’s tremendous purpose and love for mankind—His Family. I truly look forward to that time so very close to us now.

*Rory Harper*

## Creativity points to the Creator

This article you created deeply reflects the mind of God and helps us to develop a respect for human endeavors that propel us beyond mediocrity (“Unleash Your Inner Da Vinci,” March). Many thanks; very well done. It’s something to read and reread to keep us focused more on the future and God, and ironically, less on self.

*Tony Haddad*—WOLLONGONG, AUSTRALIA

Great article. I’ve been an artist since I learnt to hold a pencil, and I always get asked, “How do you do it?” or, “I wish I could draw too.” Your article is the perfect answer, better than I could ever explain myself. What an amazing truth you revealed about our God the supreme Creator. It motivates me to want to strive harder for greater creativity. Thanks for your hard work for making God’s truth come alive.

*E.D.*—AUSTRALIA

## God created the week

I just wanted to comment on how excellent it was written (“Why the Week?”, January). I thought the comments about the various theories of how the week came about was exceptional. There certainly is a difference between man’s week and God’s week. A great reminder to the world that the week was created by God.

*Toby Lynn Johnson*—COLORADO

## Be not afraid

We are truly living in days of great turmoil (“What Did Jesus Say About ‘Natural’ Disasters?”, February). Weather, world events, etc. It is so encouraging and brings such joy and comfort to read God’s words in Joshua 1:9: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong, very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go!” (Amplified). So thankful and grateful for the promises of our great God.

UNITED STATES

## I love to share it

Thank you for sending the *Trumpet* to me every time. To me the magazine is opening my eyes and mind day by day. I am a preacher by profession, but to me the magazine is inspiring, challenging, motivating and profitable. I always share it with my other local preachers. May God keep on giving you more wisdom. We love you and always pray for you.

*Partson Maambirwi*—ZIMBABWE

# Why We Must Warn

It's what Christ's followers are commanded to do.

**J**ESUS CHRIST BEGAN HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY BY ANNOUNCING the good news of the soon-coming Kingdom of God *on Earth* (Mark 1:14-15). But before that Kingdom could be established, Jesus said the *ways of man* would lead this world to the brink of annihilation. God's Kingdom will be set up, we read in Daniel and Revelation, *after* the kingdoms of this world are CRUSHED into submission.

Even as bad as we KNOW it will get before Christ's return, the Bible tells us the vast majority of mankind will *still* refuse to repent. Jesus, of course, knew this. Still, right before He ascended to heaven in the first century, He told His disciples to WITNESS unto the uttermost parts of the Earth (Acts 1:8). *He commanded His apostles to warn the nations about the wrath* coming upon our DISOBEDIENT and STUBBORN world.

Why aren't there more preachers and religious groups proclaiming this message? Why do they hold out hope for *man* to solve the problems of this world—even as evil multiplies and the curses intensify?

At the end of Luke's Gospel, Jesus reminded His disciples that "all things" written in the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms WOULD BE FULFILLED. *Everything* recorded in these books about the first *and* Second Coming of Christ—AND the UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION that would immediately precede His return—will be fulfilled, Jesus said (Luke 24:44). He then commanded His disciples to preach a message of "repentance and remission of sins" *to all nations* (verse 47).

Why won't the churches of this world CRY OUT for our nations to *turn* to God in humility and to repent of their wicked ways? Most religious people *don't even grasp* WHAT SIN IS because they've been led to believe, erroneously, that God's spiritual law—which regulates all human conduct—was NAILED TO THE CROSS!

The only thing nailed to that stake was Jesus Christ's crucified body—along with our guilty past, assuming we *turn to God in repentance!* This is why, when Jesus came into Galilee preaching the good news of the coming Kingdom of God, He told people to REPENT and to believe (or accept in faith) the TRUE gospel of the Kingdom. In other words, we have to be willing to change our ways—to *repent of sin*—if we are to enter into God's Kingdom.

This has always been the message of God's true servants: repentance and remission of sins. It was repeatedly proclaimed by all the prophets—those same men Jesus pointed us to in Luke 24.

One of them, Isaiah, wrote, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up *thy voice* LIKE A TRUMPET, and *shew my people their transgression*, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1). Again, God knows most people will not repent. But He says, *Witness against them anyway!* That way they will be left without excuse. If God's true servants do their job, then when the plagues descend, the unrepentant won't be able to say, *You should have warned us!*

Ezekiel is another outstanding example of one who boldly proclaimed a message of repentance and remission of sins. His entire book is about the warning that must be delivered to the latter-day descendants of Jacob. Ancient Israel had gone into captivity *long before* Ezekiel wrote his book. His message is for us today.

"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me" (Ezekiel 33:7). Notice, God says, *You warn*



## SEEING THE SWORD

Unpleasant though it may be, proclaiming that destruction is coming is much better than seeing it coming and saying nothing.

*them from me.* It's God's message—AS DELIVERED through His human instrument. Eight times in verses 3 through 9, God says WARN!

"Say unto them, 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?" (verse 11).

Repentance and remission of sins—that's what Ezekiel was saying. That's what Jesus commanded His faithful to preach before the Great Tribulation and the coming Day of the Lord.

"For I will LAY THE LAND MOST DESOLATE, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through. *Then shall they know that I am the Lord*, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed" (verses 28-29).

*This* is what it takes for mankind to finally come to know its Maker. To our great shame, we simply will not turn to God until after we have suffered devastation and death.

In verses 30 and 31, Ezekiel refers to God's own lukewarm people—those who used to deliver God's warning message of repentance and remission of sins—and who *still* tune in to God's work today, *but who won't change their evil ways!* Most of them won't repent until after it's too late to save their physical lives.

Yet God still thunders, *Warn them anyway! Tell them what's coming!*

Verse 33 tells us why: "And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) *then shall they know* that A PROPHET hath been among them." When all of these dire prophecies come to pass, *then* they will know. They'll *immediately* know where God was working and that the prophetic warning coming from that work was an expression of God's love. It may be too late for them to be saved *physically*. But spiritually, they can still turn to God in repentance.

*This* is why we MUST warn. God's true disciples today, as Jesus said in Luke 24, are WITNESSES of all these prophetic events!

It isn't that difficult to find where God is working. Just look for the organization faithfully fulfilling Christ's commission to *watch* and WARN—the one work lifting up its voice *like a trumpet*, showing the people their transgressions and preaching a message of repentance and remission of sins.

This is the message Christ has always commanded His servants to deliver. And this is the work that the true followers of Christ have faithfully supported.

\$454 billion in interest. Last December alone, maintenance on the debt cost \$98.6 billion.

Look at how such enormous payouts hurt the nation. Last year, America's top military officer, Adm. Michael Mullen, called America's national debt "the biggest threat to our national security." Why? He was just looking at the defense budget. U.S. military policy is being dictated less and less by strategic imperatives and more and more by budget constraints.

Think about where all that money for interest payments is going. Trillions of dollars are flying out of the U.S. into other countries. Though borrowing may prosper America for a moment, it prospers the nation's lenders in the long run—at America's expense, more and more over time.

And think about how that foreign debt can influence policy—even *change the balance of global power*. America's largest creditor is China. How much of Beijing's growing confidence and militarism within Asia, how much of its willingness to defy the U.S. in the international arena, owes to the fact that America owes it well over a trillion dollars? The fact is, large foreign debt hangs over the value of a currency like a sword of Damocles. America lives under the growing threat of dollar or treasury dumping, something that could wipe out its economy in a flash.

Quite a curse, all that debt. Really, that's just common sense.

Fundamentally, though, this isn't a case of bad economics. This is a *curse*—a curse imposed by God for the nation's disobedience to Him.

It's not very fashionable to believe in curses in our modern world. But if you believe the Bible, it's not at all difficult to see the contrast in Deuteronomy 28 between verses 12 and 44, and to recognize which of those prophecies—issued by the Almighty God—applies to America today. It's already hurting the nation, but the situation is precarious, and it's about to get far worse.

Of those foreign lending nations, the prophecy says, "he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail." That's where America is heading, and fast. ■

To see far more biblical proof that America is suffering the curses God warned the ancient nation of Israel about, request ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy***.



**TELEVISION LOG**

# THE KEY OF DAVID

All times are a.m. local time unless otherwise noted.

**UNITED STATES**

**Nationwide Satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET

**Direct TV DBS** WGN Chan. 307 8:00 ET, Sun

**Direct TV DBS** ION Ch. 305 6:00 ET, Fri

**Dish Network** ION Ch. 216 6:00 ET, Fri

**Dish Network DBS** WGN Chan. 239 8:00 ET, Sun

**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 ET, Sun

**Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00, Fri

**Dothan** WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

**Montgomery** WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

**Alaska, Anchorage** KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun

**Fairbanks** KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

**Juneau** KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

**Arizona, Phoenix** KPXX 5:00, Fri

**Yuma-El Centro** KSWT-DT 9:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Fayetteville** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Fort Smith** KCWA 8:30, Sun

**Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun

**Rogers** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Springdale** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

**Chico** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

**El Centro** KWUB 9:30, Sun

**Eureka** KJUV-DT 9:30, Sun

**Los Angeles** KPXX 6:00, Fri

**Monterey** KMWB 9:30, Sun

**Palm Springs** KESQ/KCWO-QT 9:30, Sun

**Redding** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

**Sacramento** KSPX 6:00, Fri

**Salinas** KION 9:30, Sun

**San Francisco** KKPX 6:00, Fri

**Santa Barbara** KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

**Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00, Fri

**Grand Junction** KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

**Montrose** KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

**Connecticut, Hartford** WHXP 6:00, Fri

**Delaware, Dover** WBD 9:30, Sun

**Salisbury** WMVD-DT 9:30, Sun

**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

**Tallahassee-Thomasville** WTLF-DT/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

**Tampa** WXPX 6:00, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

**West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00, Fri

**Georgia, Albany** WBSK 9:30, Sun

**Augusta** WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

**Brunswick** WPXC 6:00, Fri

**Columbus** WLGA 9:30, Sun

**Macon** WBNN 9:30, Sun

**Savannah** WGSB/WGCW-LP 9:30, Sun

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

**Kauai Ho'ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

**Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku**

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

**Idaho, Idaho Falls** KPFI/KBEQ 10:30, Sun

**Pocatello** KPFI 10:30, Sun

**Twin Falls** KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30, Sun

**Illinois, Bloomington** WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Chicago** WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCUU 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

**Peoria** WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Rockford** WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

**Indiana, Fort Wayne** WPTA-DT 21.2 9:30, Sun

**Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri

**Terre Haute** WBI 8:30, Sun

**Iowa, Austin** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri

**Des Moines** KFPP 5:00, Fri

**Keokuk** WEWB 8:30, Sun

**Kirkville** KWOT 8:30, Sun

**Mason City** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30, Sun

**Mason City** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Sioux City** KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

**Kansas, Topeka** KSNT 8:30, Sun

**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO 8:30, Sun

**Lexington** WUPX 6:00, Fri

**Louisiana, Alexandria** KBCA 8:30, Sun

**El Dorado-Monroe** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

**Lafayette** KLWB 8:30, Sun

**Lake Charles** WBLC 8:30, Sun

**New Orleans** WPXL 5:00, Fri

**Maine, Bangor** WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

**Presque Isle** WBPO 9:30, Sun

**Maryland, Salisbury** WBD 9:30, Sun

**Massachusetts, Holyoke** WBQT 9:30, Sun

**Springfield** WBQT 9:30, Sun

**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30, Sun

**Cadillac** WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun

**Detroit** WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun

**Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00, Fri

**Lansing** WLAI-DT 9:30, Sun

**Marquette** WBKP 9:30, Sun

**Traverse City-Cadillac** WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

**Minnesota, Duluth-Superior** WDLH 8:30, Sun

**Mankato** KWYE 8:30, Sun

**Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00, Fri

**Rochester-Austin** KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun

**Sioux Fall (Mitchell)** KWSD/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBPB 8:30, Sun

**Columbus** WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Greenville** WBWD 8:30, Sun

**Greenwood** WBWD 8:30, Sun

**Gulfport** WBPB 8:30, Sun

**Hattiesburg** WBH 8:30, Sun

**Laurel** WBH 8:30, Sun

**Meridian** WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun

**Tupelo** WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun

**West Point** WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun

**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

**Hannibal** WGM-DT 8:30, Sun

**Jefferson City** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

**Joplin-Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30, Sun

**Kansas City** KPXE 5:00, Fri

**Quincy-Keokuk** WGM-DT 8:30, Sun

**St. Joseph** WBJO 8:30, Sun

**Montana, Billings** KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun

**Bozeman-Butte** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30, Sun

**Glendive** KWZB 10:30, Sun

**Great Falls** KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun

**Helena** KMFT-DT 10:30, Sun

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

The Key of David is now available to 110 million homes throughout Europe and the Middle East via CNBC at 11 a.m. Central European Time.

The Key of David is now available on the Discovery channel, Sundays at 6:30 a.m. ET/PT



**Missoula** KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun  
**Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings** KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun  
**Kearney** KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun  
**North Platte** KWPL 8:30, Sun  
**Scottsbluff** KCHW 10:30, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KREN/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYXP 6:00, Fri  
**Binghamton** WBXI 9:30, Sun  
**Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun  
**Elmira** WBE 9:30, Sun  
**New York City** WPXN 6:00, Fri  
**Syracuse** WSPX 6:00, Fri  
**Utica** WBU 9:30, Sun  
**Watertown** WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Carolina, Durham** WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greensboro** WGFX 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; 9:00 am, Sun  
**Washington** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wilmington** WBW 9:30, Sun  
**North Dakota, Bismarck** KWMK 10:30, Sun  
**Dickinson** KWMK 10:30, Sun  
**Fargo** WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Minot** KWMK 10:30, Sun  
**Valley City** WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00, Fri  
**Cincinnati** WSTR 8:30, Sun  
**Lima** WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Steubenville** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Zanesville** WBZV 9:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KSHD 8:30, Sun  
**Lawton** KAUZ 8:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00, Fri  
**Tulsa** KTPX 5:00, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Klamath Falls** KMFD 9:30, Sun  
**Medford** KMFD 9:30, Sun  
**Portland** KPXG 6:00, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WBEP 9:30, Sun  
**Philadelphia** WPPX 6:00, Fri  
**Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WCBD-DT

9:30, Sun  
**Florence** WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Myrtle Beach** WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**South Dakota, Mitchell** KWSD 8:30, Sun  
**Rapid City** KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun  
**Sioux Falls** KWSD 8:30, Sun  
**Tennessee, Jackson** WBJK 8:30, Sun  
**Knoxville** WPXK 6:00, Fri  
**Memphis** WPXX 5:00, Fri  
**Nashville** WNPX 5:00, Fri  
**Texas, Abilene** KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Arillo** KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Beaumont** KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Brownsville** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun  
**Corpus Christi** KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Harlingen** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun  
**Houston** KPXB 5:00, Fri  
**Laredo** KTXW 8:30, Sun  
**Longview** KCEB 8:30, Sun  
**Lubbock** KLCW 8:30, Sun  
**Midland** KWWT 8:30, Sun  
**Odessa** KWWT 8:30, Sun  
**Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30, Sun  
**San Angelo** KWSA 8:30, Sun  
**San Antonio** KPXL 5:00, Fri  
**Sherman-Ada** KTEM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sweetwater** KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tyler** KCEB 8:30, Sun  
**Victoria** KWVB 8:30, Sun  
**Weslaco** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun  
**Wichita Falls** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00, Fri  
**Vermont, Burlington** WVNY 10:00, Sun  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Harrisonburg** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Norfolk** WPXV 6:00, Fri  
**Roanoke** WPXR 6:00, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri  
**Washington, Kennewick** KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun  
**Pasco** KEPR 6:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun  
**Richland** KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun  
**Seattle-Tacoma** KWPX 6:00, Fri  
**Seattle** KCPO 7:00, Sun  
**Spokane** KGPX 6:00, Fri  
**Yakima** KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun

**West Virginia, Beckley** KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Bluefield** KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Charleston** WLPX 6:00, Fri  
**Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Oak Hill** KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Parkersburg** WBPB 9:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wheeling** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**La Crosse** WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun  
**Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Rhineland** WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun  
**Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** 10:30, Sun  
**Cheyenne** KCHW 10:30, Sun  
**Riverton** 10:30, Sun

## EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST

**Pan-European satellite** Astra 1L (free to air) 19.2°E transponder 26 11.597V 220000 (DVB); Astra 1KR 19.2°E transponder 50 10.729V (analogue) 11 am Central European Time, Sun  
**Belgium** TV Vlaanderen channel 62 11:00 am, Sun  
**Germany** KDG channel 840 11:00 am, Sun; TalkTalk TV channel 510 11:00 am, Sun  
**Ireland** Sky channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; UPC channel 204; 10:00 am, Sun  
**Italy** Sky Italia channel 518 11:00 am, Sun; Tiscali TV channel 518 11:00 am, Sun  
**Mediterranean** Eurobirdi 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time  
**Middle East** Eurobirdi 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun  
**Netherlands** Ziggo channel 505 11:00 am, Sun  
**Poland** Cyfra+ channel 105 11:00 am, Sun  
**Portugal** ZonTV Cabo channel 210 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun  
**Romania** UPC channel 146 12:00 am, Sun  
**Spain** Hispstat 1.092V 11:00 am, Sun  
**Switzerland** Nakoo channel 63; Cablecom channel 151 11:00 am, Sun  
**United Kingdom** Sky: Channel 505 10:00

am, Sun; Freestat channel 210 10:00 am, Sun; Virgin Media channel 613 10:00 am, Sun

## CANADA

**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET, Sun  
**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun  
**Grace Television Network** 11:00 ET, Sun.  
**British Columbia, Vancouver** KVOS 8:30, Sun; CHEK 9:00 Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Victoria** CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Maritime Provinces** CHF 7:30, Sun  
**Manitoba, Winnipeg** CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun  
**Ontario, Toronto** WADL 10:00 Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVNY 10:00, Sun

## LATIN AMERICA

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**El Salvador** WGN 6:00, Sun  
**Guatemala** WGN 6:00, Sun  
**Honduras** WGN 6:00, Sun  
**Mexico** WGN 7:00, Sun  
**Panama** WGN 7:00, Sun

## CARIBBEAN

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET, Sun  
**Aruba** WGN 8:00, Sun  
**Bahamas** WGN 8:00, Sun  
**Belize** WGN 7:00, Sun  
**Cuba** WGN 8:00, Sun  
**Dominican Republic** WGN 8:00, Sun  
**Haiti** WGN 7:00, Sun  
**Jamaica** WGN 9:00, Sun  
**Puerto Rico** WGN 8:00, Sun  
**Trinidad and Tobago** WGN 8:00, Sun

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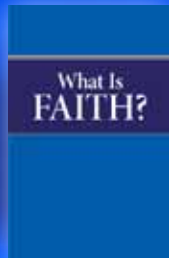
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