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TEN KINGS

The united European
empire is rising

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COVER

Bible prophecy says 10 kings will arise in the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire just before Jesus Christ returns.
(GARY DORNING/TRUMPET)



FROM THE EDITOR
GERALD FLURRY

AMERICA'S CRISIS WILL

**This will lead to terrible nightmares—
but then a glorious hope!**

AMERICA'S BANKING SYSTEM IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. Several large banks have failed, causing severe alarm in America and around the world.

People are comparing this to the 2008 banking crisis, when the American financial system came within hours of collapse and was saved only by spending huge amounts of money we did not have. Now we have *trillions more* in debt, and the system is at risk of a truly catastrophic collapse.

The system *will* come to ruin. And as the *Trumpet* has warned for decades, this event will cause Europe to unite into a fearsome superpower!

Since March, the financial system has seen Silvergate Bank, Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank and First Republic Bank fail, and PacWest has come very close to failing. The value of these banks exceeds that of Washington Mutual Bank, which became the largest bank bankruptcy in United States history in 2008.

The failure of American banks affects others as well. For example, Switzerland's second-largest bank, Credit Suisse, crashed, and the fallout threatens Switzerland's status as an international banking hub.

What is really happening here?

The *New York Times* said this financial collapse "changed capitalism." How so? Governments are intervening at enormous expense, giving them more power over their peoples. The Biden administration is using this crisis to radically change America's financial system. Few people realize how *revolutionary* its decision was to bail out rich account holders at Silicon Valley Bank using taxpayer money. The Federal Reserve completely rewrote the rules on bank bailouts. Many people who would normally lose a fortune in a bank collapse were rescued, with money coming from fees charged on everyday bank accounts. Yet the public was not consulted on this decision.

Risky speculation often results in failure—but here the government unilaterally decreed that there would be no consequences for risk-taking. The *New York Times* called this a "breathtaking leap." It is a huge incentive for people to devote even more money to even riskier speculation.

If people do not suffer the consequences of their own actions, the only way to stop risky behavior is for the government to

BANKING UNITE EUROPE



step in and regulate the banks more severely. And you can be sure the government will use this power to serve its own ends.

The Federal Reserve also indicated that it will let small banks fail. This means that if you keep your savings in a small bank, you could lose everything. Better to invest in the big banks that the government will rescue. That is just what happened: In the week that Silicon Valley Bank went under, customers withdrew nearly \$120 billion from small American banks.

This gives the big banks and the U.S. government far more control. It's far easier for the government to control and regulate a small number of big banks than a lot of small banks. And many heads of big banks share the same ideological goals as leftist politicians.

A massive banking crisis “could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power, larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.”

— Herbert W. Armstrong, July 22, 1984

Look at how the government has weaponized government agencies like the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If they get control over the banking system, they can weaponize that too. This is paving the way to tyranny!

God wants us to be able to withstand these threats and SOLVE these problems. We could do so if we would just turn to Him. But we continue to make wrong decisions, ignore our problems, and, most of all, *ignore God*. This will result in disaster.

It Will Affect Europe

America's debt danger is compounded by how it affects Europe. The U.S. financial system has a tremendous effect on the European system.

When the U.S. faced collapse in 2008, it would have been a disaster for Europe as well. European governments worked with America to ward off that outcome. But the U.S. is not following the rules that were put in place. This is causing urgency and panic in the European Union. The *Financial Times* wrote

on March 15 that “Europe’s financial regulators are furious” at the way America has behaved. Their rules and banking regulations were already far more stringent than those in America, and they are realizing the need to tighten those rules and make consequences for breaking them even MORE severe. They also realize that they cannot continue to depend on the U.S.

The late Herbert W. Armstrong warned about this very issue in July 1984. He said: “The whole banking structure in the United States is a network all joined together; but not only that—one nation has to deal with other nations in imports and exports. And so they have to have means of transferring money from one nation to another. And so the banking structure is *international* and *interwoven*. ... [T]he banking system has become very complex” (emphasis mine).

Paschal Donohoe, president of the Eurogroup of eurozone finance ministers, told the *Financial Times* that “the biggest antidote” to the risk of depending on America was to speed up work on strengthening EU rules for dealing with failing lenders. This is really motivating the Europeans. They see China and Russia and Iran uniting. They see Ukraine being wrecked and possibly completely conquered by Russia. They feel vulnerable. They know they need a strong financial system—not to mention a strong leader and a strong military (article, page 15).

The EU currently includes 27 nations. Each nation still retains much of its sovereignty, so passing new financial regulations is extremely difficult. Those who want to immunize Europe against the U.S. financial contagion cannot do so in the current situation.

But Mr. Armstrong warned that a massive crisis “could SUD- DENLY result in triggering European nations to unite as a NEW WORLD POWER, larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.” (co-worker letter, July 22, 1984). He showed from Bible prophecy that modern Europe will rapidly unite into a superpower greater than even the U.S.!

Intelligence company Stratfor wrote this in March 2009: “Rather than pushing for transnational stimulus or bailouts, Germany is forcing the European Union into a common position on financial regulation. ... Put another way, instead of mitigating the ongoing recession, Germany is attempting to extend its own financial system, writ large, over all of Europe.”

After 2008, this started to happen. The Germans rewrote the rules of finance. These states have become utterly dependent on Germany for their livelihood.

What we are watching unfold is exactly what Mr. Armstrong warned of 40 years ago. (The man who founded Stratfor was one of the millions who was familiar with Mr. Armstrong and the Bible prophecies he taught.) I have mentioned several times over the years that this prophesied banking crisis was one of the greatest personal prophecies Mr. Armstrong ever made.

The second part of that prophecy is even MORE stunning: He believed the banking crisis would cause 10 kings, prophesied in Revelation 17, to unite as a superpower!

Mr. Armstrong knew from the Bible that the European power would be great, would have 10 kings, and would shock the world with its sudden rise to dizzying power. And he was looking for a banking crisis in America to trigger it.

An Empire Rises

Europe has built great empires in the past. Germany attempted to dominate the Continent during World Wars I and II and make it into a great empire. But since then, Europe has been weak and dependent on America financially and militarily. Many people do not fear Europe right now.

This is about to change!

Certain political leaders will work to manipulate this financial crisis to their own devious ends. Such manipulation has happened repeatedly because these financial mechanisms are so complex that most people don't understand them.

Mr. Armstrong also said this in 1984: "In London, the economic conference was on while we were there; that is a summit conference of the major powers. And I can tell you now that I learned things while in London that have alarmed me very greatly! And I can see now the event that is going to trigger the formation of reunification in Europe, the resurrection of the medieval Holy Roman Empire that we've been looking forward to that is prophesied to come" (sermon, July 7, 1984).

Bible prophecy and world history reveal a fearsome empire that has risen, fallen and revived throughout the centuries: the Roman Empire. This empire is revealed in passages like Daniel 2 and Revelation 13. The rulers of the last six resurrections of the Roman Empire have been directed by the Catholic Church—the Holy Roman Empire—symbolized by a beast with seven heads in Revelation 17.

Each of the six resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire had been terribly destructive. Mr. Armstrong talked a lot about this medieval empire. He knew how horrifying it was when European nations combined their financial and military strength under one religion. Revelation 17 says 10 KINGS will unite to resurrect this old empire. This seventh and final

resurrection is prophesied to be more destructive than ALL the previous six!

This European empire is going to drag the world into an unparalleled holocaust. Jesus Christ prophesied what would happen in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed (Matthew 24:15-20)—and that was only a forerunner of what is about to strike the world on a much greater scale! (verses 21-22). The disasters, suffering, starvation and worse that America, Britain and Israel's ancestors suffered in ancient Israel when they were conquered by foreign empires is a type of what this financial collapse in America is leading to!

Add to the banking crisis the fact that, because of America's addiction to debt, the dollar is already losing value rapidly. It is still used as a reserve currency, but many nations are moving away from it. Russia and China are trading with each other using the Chinese currency. The more that other countries stop using our currency in world trade, the more the dollar's value will plunge. Ultimately, Americans will be unable to buy basic things, even food, and cities will erupt in chaos! (See page 20.)

And these horrors are just the prophesied beginning of nuclear war!

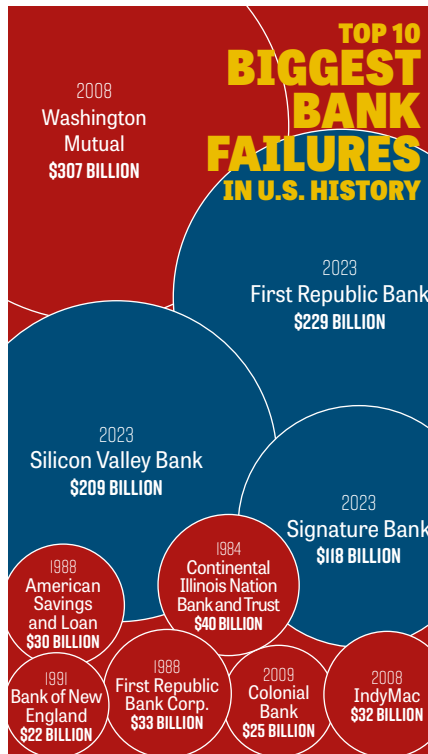
NUCLEAR BOMBS TODAY HAVE SOME 500 TIMES THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF THE ATOMIC BOMB AMERICA DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA! What will happen when modern empires start using these and other terrible weapons?

Jesus Christ prophesied that this end-time conflict between great powers would become so intense that there would be "no flesh saved alive" if God didn't intervene (Matthew 24:21-22; Moffatt translation). NOBODY WOULD BE LEFT ALIVE. Look at the state of affairs today and you can see mankind moving quickly in that direction! There is no hope—no future—in this world. Humanly, MANKIND IS BEYOND SAVING!

Mr. Armstrong wrote that the sudden rise of the 10 kings "could bring on the Great Tribulation suddenly. And that will lead quickly into the Second Coming of Christ and end of this world as we know it" (co-worker letter, op cit). The rise of these kings will be even worse than people today can anticipate. That is the end result of a chain reaction that will be set off largely by the very banking crisis we see in our headlines today!

Thankfully, the global war and suffering *will end* before mankind wipes himself out. By a miracle of God, the return of Jesus Christ *will save* humanity alive. All these problems and financial crises will conclude in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah! THE FRIGHTENING EVENTS YOU SEE WILL END IN THE MOST WONDERFUL NEWS YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE.

This recent crisis will actually speed up this very event! It will help the European nations pare down from 27 nations to 10 kings as Revelation 17 prophesies. You are about to see that happen. It is already unfolding just as Mr. Armstrong said it would! ■



TEN KINGS

OF THE NEW HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE



RISING NOW

Half of them have already risen! One of the most important end-time prophecies of the Bible is being fulfilled.

BY GERALD FLURRY

A NEW SUPERPOWER IS rising in Europe! For more than 75 years, the *Trumpet* and our predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong, have been watching for this to happen. Based on Bible prophecy, we expect it to be led by one strongman who leads 10 “kings.”

WE CAN NOW SEE WHO SOME OF THESE KINGS WILL BE.

Europe is facing one crisis after another. Its American ally is collapsing socially, financially and militarily. Russia and China are rising. Europe is responding and is about to *surge with power!* We could see a stunning transformation of Europe before the end of this year!

Your Bible says the new European superpower will be led by 10 kings, all under Germany and a German strongman.

Bible Prophecy

At the beginning of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry, Adolf Hitler was taking control of Germany and Benito Mussolini was taking control of Italy. They formed a great European Axis power that launched World War II, which killed 60 million people. The Vatican worked with both of these leaders. It even saved and relocated Nazi officials *after* the war and the murderous Holocaust!

THIS CHURCH-STATE RELATIONSHIP WAS A MODERN HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE. History shows it was actually the *sixth* revival of that medieval empire. And prophecy shows that a *seventh* resurrection is almost here!

“Revelation 13 and 17, coupled with Daniel 2 and 7, say that a union of 10 NATIONS in the area of the old

GER

HAS GONE FROM A GREAT European power to a defeated power more than once. Right now, it is regarded as an important, well-liked, well-respected nation. It has great industrial strength and a powerful economy, and it dominates European politics. Yet most people still overlook its true power and ambition!

The most recent example of Germany exercising its full power was the military and society that Adolf Hitler led in World War II and the Holocaust. Even before that war ended and the world discovered the full horror of what Germany had done, its leaders planned how it would rise again!

Near the end of World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and United States President Franklin Roosevelt stated, “It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to ensure Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world.” Yet at the same time, some German elites were plotting to preserve the empire underground

America let Germany rebuild almost immediately and let it “denazify” itself just two years after the war. Even in the 1960s, the Bundesbank was led by people who were Nazis. But decades later, people still remembered what



German soldiers evoke their army’s traditions in a torchlit ceremony at the Reichstag.

Roman Empire will plunge the world into the GREAT TRIBULATION!" Mr. Armstrong wrote in 1982, summarizing what he had consistently prophesied for more than 50 years. "The 10 nations of Revelation 17 will be CATHOLIC" (co-worker letter, May 20, 1982). He taught that five of these 10 nations or nation-groups, led by "ten kings" (Revelation 17:12), would be in Western Europe, and five in Eastern Europe.

Revelation 13 describes a fearsome beast that symbolizes the Roman Empire. Its heads and horns represent its domination of the world at its inception and its repeated revivals throughout the past two millennia. Another symbolic beast, in Revelation 17, represents the *last seven resurrections* of that empire, which were all influenced by

a church, symbolized by a woman rider. (Interestingly, one symbol of Europe is the mythical woman Europa, often pictured riding a beast.) This is the *Holy Roman Empire*. (This is all explained in detail in *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*, by Mr. Armstrong. We will gladly send you a free copy.)

Amazingly, Revelation 17:10 *dates this prophecy*: "And there are SEVEN KINGS [seven resurrections of that Holy Roman Empire]: *five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come*; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space." The meaning of this prophecy would be revealed *after* five of those resurrections were history—when "one is" and "the other is not yet come." "One is" refers to the *sixth* resurrection, which was Hitler's Nazi empire! That



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M A N Y

German power had done to the world. Even with the nuclear Soviet Union threatening the West, people feared Germany.

West German Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss was the strongest politician in Europe. He pushed strongly for European unification. But he said in a meeting with Herbert W. Armstrong that Germany would be willing to completely renounce national sovereignty to appease those who feared what a united Europe could do if German militarism returned. He proposed that no German would be president, prime minister, defense minister or foreign minister for the rest of the 20th century. However, he also knew that it would take years for Germany to become powerful.

People thought that uniting Europe with Germany would work as long as Germany did not become strong.

Bernard Connolly worked inside the European financial system. In 1995, he wrote a book to expose "the doubletalk surrounding the efforts of politicians, bankers and bureaucrats to force Europe into a crippling monetary straightjacket" through the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and the push for monetary union. He titled his book *The Rotten Heart of Europe*. Why?

Because it was a "European cloak for German ambition."

A European cloak for German ambition! It's a Trojan horse in Europe!

But now the 20th century is over. Germany is reunited, and it has moved its capital back to Berlin. Germany is not only a great economic power, it is also becoming an increasingly assertive diplomatic and even military power. In fact, it is leading the armies of other European nations (article, page 15). Its *Luftwaffe* pilots have again flown in combat as part of NATO (bombing the Serbs, who had fought the Nazis) and had waged war in Afghanistan. It has won the struggle with France to dominate Europe, and now France, its victim in two world wars, strongly supports Germany and its efforts for European unification.

Germany has the largest gross domestic product in Europe (\$4.3 trillion). It uses this economic power to dictate terms to other nations, like it did with Greece and Cyprus when those nations needed financial rescue.

It has allowed its military to be far less powerful than it would normally be, spending slightly less than France. But last year, it pledged to raise military spending to 2 percent of its GDP and also set aside a special new military fund of €100 billion (\$108.5 billion) to purchase

advanced American F-35 fighter jets to carry the nuclear bombs that America gave it! It also produces weapons through more than 200 firms, including Rheinmetall, Heckler & Koch, Thyssen-Krupp and the multinational European conglomerate Airbus.

Bible prophecy warns us that our "lovers" will betray us! (Ezekiel 16:33). Germany will probably use those same bombs to attack America.

Germany is one of the top five weapons exporters in the world, and it uses this power as part of its foreign policy. It has sold billions of dollars in weapons to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and other nations. It has also deployed troops in several African countries and had more than 5,000 personnel in Afghanistan at the peak of the war. German troops are also stationed in Turkey, Lebanon and the Balkans (in Kosovo).

We are now seeing the emergence of the "ten kings" military empire prophesied in Revelation 17. The Bible prophesies that Germany, and a German strongman, will rule this empire!

The German people trace back to the ancient Assyrians, an extremely warlike people. God says that the modern Assyrians will make war on a scale unlike anything ever seen before!

is when Mr. Armstrong was on the scene and God revealed the meaning of this prophecy.

Even *before* World War II ended in the defeat of Hitler and Mussolini, Mr. Armstrong taught on the *World Tomorrow* television program and in the *Plain Truth* magazine that Germany would not only rise again but also build a European superpower mightier than America and its allies. While the war still raged, and then while Germany lay defeated, he taught that the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire was certain. And he explained that it would have 10 kings under German domination.

At the time, Germany was extremely weak. In fact, the Allies and the Soviets cut it in half. Germany had started two world wars in 25 years, and the victors promised to prevent it from doing so ever again (sidebar, page 4). The power of Catholic leaders in the Vatican was also diminished (though

not enough to prevent them from helping most of the top Nazis escape). Meanwhile—it would emerge decades later—German political and industrial leaders, Vatican officials, a future pope and allies in other countries were carrying out a plan to take German and European power *underground*.

Germany and Europe were decimated. Russia, leading the Soviet Union, was so powerful it seized much of Eastern Europe, including East Germany, and was in a position to conquer even more of the Continent. The only thing holding it back was America, which placed forces in Europe and built up Western Europe, including West Germany. In fact, largely out of fear of Russia, America let the Germans “denazify” themselves only *two years* after Hitler died and the Third Reich surrendered!

Decades passed. Was this beastly, bloody European empire truly destroyed? Revelation 17

AUSTRIA

AS WE KNOW IT today was founded by Charlemagne. Its capital, Vienna, is the cultural capital of the Holy Roman Empire.

This powerful Frankish king conquered this part of central Europe in the late eighth century and used it as a bulwark against Slavic peoples, as well as a bridge between Western Europe and Eastern Europe along the Danube River and from north to south through mountain passes in the Alps. The House of Habsburg, also known as the House of Austria, ruled from Vienna for more than 600 years and occupied the throne of the Holy Roman Empire for most of that time.

Even after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte, which many consider the end of the Holy Roman Empire, the Austrian Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire continued to exist until World War I, which was sparked by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. In that war, Austria allied with the German Empire. And in the aftermath of that war, it was an Austrian—Adolf Hitler, who was transfixed by Charlemagne’s crown jewels in Vienna and influenced by voices—who

again rose up to revive history’s bloodiest empire. In doing so, he made Austria part of the Third Reich and brought the crown jewels from Vienna to Germany. It is said that he spoke even more powerfully when he was in Nuremberg, the new location of those crown jewels that fascinated him so much.

Austria joined the European Union in 1995. In recent years, conservative Catholicism has surged in the nation’s politics. Part of this was due to Sebastian Kurz, a young popular politician who won the chancellorship of Austria twice. Although he is no longer in politics today, he and others stood out for being willing to resist the surge of Islamic immigration and stand up for Catholicism. *Welt* characterized him as a modern version of a “Habsburg royal imperial strategist.” Kurz in particular had a close relationship with the archbishop of Vienna and MADE SEVERAL BOLD STATEMENTS THAT HIS RELIGION GUIDED HIS POLITICS.

Whoever leads Austria into this beast power, *religion will guide his politics*.

During Kurz’s time as chancellor, Austria held the rotating presidency of the European Council. Austria’s motto for its presidency was “A Europe that

protects.” Meanwhile, the Imperial Treasury in Vienna used the occasion to promote the Holy Roman Empire and exhibits glorifying the crown of Charlemagne. A miniature museum featuring the crown was also set up in the European Council building. The Treasury said that Austria’s Council presidency was “the occasion for lively debate about what Europe is, and what it should be in the future. The Imperial Treasury in the Vienna Hofburg is well suited as a forum for this discourse, for many of the objects preserved here are directly related to Europe’s past.” (Read “The Holy Roman Empire Goes Public—Big Time!” at theTrumpet.com/17669.)

Austria remains an important strategic nation today in terms of geography and trade, and especially in culture and religion.

One expression of its importance was the government and Catholic Church’s joint restoration of the Austrian Hospice of the Holy Family in Jerusalem in 2018, one century after the Habsburg dynasty ended. This, among other things, emphasized Austria’s connection to and desire to rule Jerusalem! Over the centuries,

describes it as “the beast that was, and is not, and yet is” that “shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.” It is stunning how *perfectly* the facts fit that prophetic description. Mr. Armstrong’s explanation of this prophecy, and of the prophecy that “five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come,” is more relevant today than ever!

United Europe

Even in the postwar period, a few politicians had a vision for a united European power. One was Franz-Josef Strauss, longtime leader of Bavaria, second defense minister of West Germany and one of Europe’s strongest leaders. And he actually knew Mr. Armstrong!

During a meeting with Mr. Armstrong in 1970, Strauss summarized his thinking this way: “A united Europe is more essential now for the free world than it would have been any time before Big powers have been established, the United States of America,

Russia, Japan. I think that small and medium-sized European states are no longer able to face what the future demands from all of us. ... Therefore my political friends and I have been pleading for years and years now for a UNITED EUROPE” (emphasis mine).

Strauss insisted that European unification would be incomplete without Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the other East European countries.

Strauss died in 1988. (Mr. Armstrong died in 1986.) The “strongman of Europe” never saw his dream fulfilled. But just one year later, the Berlin Wall fell. A year after that, the crumbling Soviet Union relinquished control of the eastern part of the country, and *Germany reunited*.

The nations of Eastern Europe were then able to work with and unite with the nations of Western Europe in various ways. But the close cooperation Strauss envisioned remained elusive—until now.

Strauss was actually just one of dozens of cabinet officials, legislators, prime ministers, presidents,

kings in Austria claimed rulership over Jerusalem. Many times they and their subjects never even *traveled* to the Holy Land, let alone ruled it. But the hospice provided a way for them to make pilgrimages there, remain connected, and maintain their claims.

And sometimes they *did* travel to the Holy Land—to wage religious war in the Catholic Crusades! The reason the flag of Austria has a horizontal white stripe framed by two red stripes, according to legend, is because an Austrian noble removed his belt after a battle in the Holy Land, and that was the only part of him that was not drenched in blood.

The empire that Austria has been a part of—and will again be a part of—has ambitions to *rule the world*. The motto of the Imperial House of Habsburg was “*Austriae es imperare orbi universo*” (Latin) or “*Alles Erdreich is Osterreich untertan*” (German) Abbreviated *a.e.i.o.u.*, it means, “It is Austria’s responsibility to dominate the world.”

When Austria and the empire are weak, people ignore these ambitions. But when they are strong and motivated by the ultimate symbol of Europe, the crown of Charlemagne, the world should fear!



“The Conquest of Acre in 1191,” by Duke Leopold V of Austria (1841) depicts the violence of one of the Catholic Crusades in the Holy Land.



French Foreign Legion troops on parade in Paris on the Champs Elysees, in front of the Arc de Triomphe.

kings and other top world leaders that Mr. Armstrong knew personally. Another was Otto von Habsburg. This man was the last crown prince of Austria-Hungary and what had previously been the Holy Roman Empire. He was a member of the European Parliament, representing Germany and Bavaria's Christian Social Union, and a leader of the International Paneuropean Union. He spoke openly about how the Holy Roman Empire had united Europe into a great power in the past and

FRANCE

IS ONE OF THE RISING 10 kings of the new Holy Roman Empire. The French have a long history that traces all the way back to ancient Israel. The nation is largely Israelite, yet it will help Germany, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and the other nations of this empire *attack* the Israelite nations of America, Britain and the Jewish state of Israel—and destroy them!

France today has the largest economy in Europe after Germany. Its military expenditure is similar to Germany's: Each has one of the top 10 militaries in the world. The French Army has small numbers of troops deployed in several African nations and in the United Arab Emirates. The French Navy possesses four of continental Europe's seven aircraft carriers, and the French Navy and Air Force possess Europe's only current arsenal of nuclear weapons.

The French have been involved in dozens of major European wars. According to historian Niall Ferguson, they have fought in more of Europe's wars than any other nation. French kingdoms, empires and republics have been the most powerful or second-most powerful nation in Europe and even the world through much of history.

In the early modern era, French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte led the fifth revival of the Holy Roman Empire, and France possessed the world's largest overseas empire after Britain. After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, France went

on to fight other European nations, including the Austrian Empire in 1859 and a German confederation in 1870, in which it was aided by Great Britain.

Britain, as well as the United States, again came to France's aid in World War I and saved it from the German Empire and its allies, at indescribable cost. Then came the Third Reich.

Between the wars, Germany spent years illegally and secretly building up its military and pushing diplomatically against France. France had a strong military, but Germany attacked rapidly and in unexpected places and conquered the entire country outright in *six weeks*. It then commenced a brutal occupation for 3½ years.

In the world wars, Germany ultimately caused the deaths of 2.3 million French. And across France, you will find dozens of cemeteries—*hundreds* of acres filled with rows upon rows of tens of thousands of British and American graves. Yet not long after these soldiers had given France back its sovereignty, the French government and people began resenting and pushing away from the United States and from Britain. Amazingly, they quickly drew close to the nation that has been their terrible enemy throughout the modern era: Germany.

Since World War II, France's relationship with Germany has formed the core of European economic, political and even military unification, with a goal of empowering Europe to counterbalance and frequently oppose the U.S.

in diplomacy, finance and culture. This is symbolized in part by the 1963 Elysee Treaty just 18 years after the Nazis lost power; by the French-German Eurocorps Brigade created in 1989; by French-German tanks, planes and other weaponry created by Airbus and other firms; by the 2019 Aachen Treaty, signed in the city of Charlemagne; and by repeated French support for German policies.

Yet this desire for independence from America has been consistently limited by the fact the French and other Europeans have been dependent on American resources. They particularly need trade and military protection through NATO in the face of nuclear-armed Russia and other threats (article, page 15).

But now America is weak. The threat from the East was minimal when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. But Vladimir Putin now leading Russia and warring in Ukraine is a major motivator for Europe to get stronger.

France and Europe still need help from abroad, but supposedly democratic Europe is turning away from the U.S. and toward dictatorial Communist China (article, page 20). In April, French President Emmanuel Macron openly stated that France should not follow U.S. policy and help democratic Taiwan if Communist China invades. He has discussed undermining the U.S. dollar and said that Europe needs to become a "third superpower." Chinese General Secretary Xi Jinping surely couldn't be happier.

said reviving it was the only way Europe could return to greatness.

While in Los Angeles, California, attending a council on world affairs in 1983, Mr. Habsburg visited with Mr. Armstrong. The two men discussed why a new European empire was rising slowly rather than quickly at that time.

Mr. Armstrong told him this: *I think what you're going to see is a financial collapse of the Western world. Then the Holy Roman Empire will rise with great power, exceeding China or Russia.*

That was an extraordinary forecast. And we are

Neither could Germany. Throughout the centuries, France and Germany have both wanted to rule Europe and beyond. Like the Germans, the French trace much of their cultural, military and religious heritage back to Charlemagne. Today, Macron seems to think France, and perhaps he himself, can overtake Germany and lead Europe. But he also knows that right now Germany is in charge. He likely would not speak out against America like this if the Germans did not tell him to.

Germany uses France to push against and undermine the United States so it can accomplish its goals yet still seem harmless. Germany is powerful, but it is not openly asserting that power—yet. When it does, the world will be shocked!

These European nations are what the Bible calls “lovers” of the Israelite nations (Ezekiel 23). God says our “lovers” will commit deadly betrayals. Bible prophecy shows that a coming economic alliance between Europe and Asia will indeed undermine the entire American economy. France’s betrayal in this and other ways connects to another specific prophecy as well. The ancestor of France was Reuben, brother of Joseph, the ancestor of America and Britain. The book of Genesis records how Reuben betrayed Joseph. Similarly today, France will betray the Americans and British. For more information, read Gerald Flurry’s article “France Is Betraying America and Fulfilling Bible Prophecy!” at theTrumpet.com/17945.

now experiencing just such a collapse today, starting with America’s banks! Watch how this develops and how it affects Europe (article, page 1).

Mr. Armstrong went on to say that this European empire might assemble in pieces. But he said definitely that when it is time for the 10 kings to rise in unity, it will happen SUDDENLY.

Otto von Habsburg made *two crucial statements* that we need to understand. The first is this: “The European community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it, don’t know by what heritage they live.”

Why don’t many people, including the Europeans, understand Europe’s heritage? One reason is that those who are building the new Holy Roman Empire have done so mostly UNDERGROUND, just as Revelation describes.

Another reason is that leaders have deliberately kept quiet about just *what kind of heritage* the Holy Roman Empire really has!

What Kind of Empire?

Mr. Habsburg was born into the royal line of the centuries-old House of Habsburg in Austria, but his father was forced out, and in 1961, he renounced any claim to his father’s throne. He did not want to be on that throne. He did, however, want to be involved in the European Parliament and politics, and he was for many years prior to his death in 2011.

He kept the dream of a glorious European empire alive. *And he helped lay the foundation for the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.*

Habsburg had a vision of making Europe great by reviving “the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire.” But *what is* that heritage? What did the Holy Roman Empire do, throughout its history, when it was strong?

Here is the other key statement Habsburg made: “We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally. This is THE CROWN of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies *the tradition of Charlemagne.*”

Charlemagne brought the Holy Roman Empire to the heartland of Europe, known as the FIRST REICH. And he accomplished his goals with horrific *violence!* He waded through blood to conquer Europe and fulfill his vision. The brutality with which he treated those he conquered shocked even his own nobles. In one instance, he executed 4,500 Saxons in a single day. He managed to unite Europe for the first time since Justinian for this reason: Europeans submitted to him and his version of Christianity—otherwise he killed them.

This is part of the “tradition of Charlemagne”!

After the Holy Roman Empire of the German People dissolved in 1803, Germany continued to live by

that tradition. And what did it produce? The world witnessed the SECOND REICH during World War I (1914–1918), when the German kaiser (a title derived from caesar) plunged Europe and other parts of the world into a bloodbath that killed an estimated 14 million people.

After Germany lost that war, the Holy Roman Empire again went underground. *Five were fallen*, as Revelation 17 says. In the aftermath, one man who had been born in Austria-Hungary and had fought for the army of the German Empire before its defeat took a deep interest in its history. In Vienna, he viewed that powerful European symbol that Habsburg exalted: *the crown jewels of*

Charlemagne. This man was fascinated by them, in fact. He practically worshiped Charlemagne.

Author Robert G.L. Waite said it was there in Vienna that this man said he “formed an image of the world and a view of life which became the foundation for my actions. ... I have had to change nothing” (*The Psychopathic God—Adolf Hitler*). Regarding this time in Vienna, Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf*, “This was the time in which the greatest change I was ever to experience took place in me.”

“[F]inally he knew who he was and what he must do,” Waite wrote. “He was the leader sent by destiny. He must answer the ‘voices’ that he said he heard ...” (op cit). As Waite recorded, this man heard voices in

THE NETHER

—POSSIBLY AS PART OF A small group of related nations—will produce one of the 10 kings of the new Holy Roman Empire. It has worked extremely closely with Germany, to the point that it has handed over the command of its entire army to the German Army. This successful integration is held up as a pattern for other nations to follow in the quest to produce a united European military.

“With the subordination of the Dutch 13th Light Brigade, all brigades of the Dutch Field Army will be subordinated to the divisions of the German Army.” This official statement by the German military sounds like a declaration of victory in battle—but not a shot was fired. The Netherlands voluntarily submitted the last of its three Royal Netherlands Army combat brigades to German command on March 30.

Germany has been working toward this end for decades. The German-Netherlands Corps was established in 1995, and the two armies have held regular joint exercises and shared in procurement and development. In 2014, the Netherlands’ 11th Airmobile Brigade, which includes paratroopers, mountain infantry and special operations forces, was integrated into Germany’s Rapid Forces Division. The infantry operates in

conjunction with helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft of Germany’s air force, the *Luftwaffe*, which previously bombed Rotterdam and the entire country into submission in one week as it launched World War II. (Rotterdam remains a strategic asset: It is Europe’s largest port and lies at the mouth of the Rhine, which Germany heavily depends upon.)

In 2016, the Netherlands 43rd Mechanized Brigade was integrated into Germany’s 1st Armored Division. This division also cooperates with Polish and British units, serves as a leading land division in NATO’s rapid reaction force, and has been deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia. With the 13th Light Brigade joining Germany’s 10th Armored Division, which has operated in Kosovo and Mali, all 9,000 of the Netherlands combat soldiers and officers take orders from German generals.

Under NATO, Germany and the Netherlands are developing and practicing strategies for using B-61 nuclear bombs that the U.S. has deployed to Europe. (Belgium, Italy and Turkey are also part of this NATO nuclear-sharing deterrence policy.) This shocking development has been promoted and accepted as a cost-saving measure, which may help induce other nations to do the same.

At the same time, children in the

Netherlands learn the German language in school, to the point that about 70 percent of the population now speaks German. This is a key reason that units from the Netherlands have integrated into the larger German divisions even better than the long-standing French-German brigade.

The website of the German military states, “The excellent cooperation between the German and Dutch armed forces is regarded as a special example of a close common European security and defense policy.” This statement reveals Germany’s goal. This should be extremely disturbing to the world. If other nations want to be part of what Germany is building, *this is the example*. This was Germany’s plan all along.

The Netherlands is also an example of how parts of Europe are forming into nation-groups. Within larger groupings like the European Union or the eurozone, smaller groups exist and are forming. The Netherlands often cooperates with Belgium and Luxembourg, forming agreements like the Benelux Economic Union and working together on nuclear power plants, warships, naval agreements and other coordinated policies.

Mr. Armstrong wrote in the October 1962 *Plain Truth* about the Revelation 17 beast symbolizing the modern European

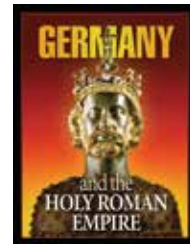
his mind and underwent the greatest change he was ever to experience.

There in Vienna, the cultural capital of the Holy Roman Empire, Adolf Hitler had an awakening. He received a supernatural VISION, he said, and he heard voices that he had to respond to. “The voices told him to rescue his motherland from the Jews who had violated her” (ibid).

This man would rise quickly to take control of Germany and much of Europe. He *walked in the bloody footsteps of Charlemagne*, whom he revered. He called his empire the THIRD REICH. He annexed Austria and “had brought from Vienna, after 140 years, the insignia of the First Reich—the imperial crown, the

orb of empire, the scepter and the imperial sword. At the presentation of these symbols of imperialism he solemnly vowed that they would remain in Nuremberg FOREVER” (John Toland, *Adolf Hitler*). Taking those jewels, he said, signified that his people—and no longer the Jews—were now God’s chosen people.

Hitler’s murderous motivation came from voices, from spirits. He didn’t know it, but Hitler was actually POSSESSED by an evil spirit! (To learn more, request your free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* at theTrumpet.com/go/ghre.) He was being influenced by the father of vanity, lies and murder. Hitler was the tool the devil used to ignite World War II and the Holocaust! This man tried



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superpower, led by a German strongman: “The beast, then, is the leader, or ruler, over all—and 10 other dictator-kings, or lesser rulers over 10 European nations or nation-groups (the ‘Benelux’ nations, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg, for example, might constitute ONE of the 10), are to be associated in this UNION of European nations. The ‘one hour’ of their reign indicates, as in [Revelation 17:10], a very ‘short space’ of time.”

This empire will definitely be a close union of church and state once again. For that reason, Mr. Armstrong said in the 1950s that the Netherlands, where most people are not religious and only 1 in 5 is Catholic, would probably not be part of the new Holy Roman Empire. But in the September 1961 *Plain Truth*, he wrote that when God said, “Come out of her, my people” (Revelation 18:4), He was speaking to some nations of Israel, which would be part of this empire—which is heavily influenced by Catholicism, which is heavily influenced by Babylon. He then cited France, Belgium and the Netherlands as likely possibilities.

The Netherlands is a special example. Watch for other nations, both Israelite and Gentile, to follow it, give up sovereignty, and even give up their own armies to “receive power as kings one hour with the beast” (Revelation 17:12).



Lt. Gen. Martin Wijnen (left) of the Dutch Land Forces relinquishes the flag of the 13th Light Brigade to German Lt. Gen. Alfons Mais.

7

THE
RESURRECTIONS
OF THE HOLY
ROMAN EMPIRE

- 1
JUSTINIAN
Holy Roman
Empire
A.D. 554
- 2
CHARLEMAGNE
Carolingian
Empire
A.D. 800
- 3
OTTO THE GREAT
Holy Roman
Empire of the
German Nation
A.D. 962
- 4
CHARLES V
Habsburg Dynasty
1520
- 5
NAPOLEON
French Empire
1805
- 6
ADOLF HITLER
German Reich
1933
- 7
**GERMAN
STRONGMAN**
A united
European empire

not only to supplant the Jews but to exterminate them altogether! He murdered 6 million Jews and caused the deaths of another *54 million!*

The reichs are among six total resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire that have occurred so far. All six of them shed *rivers* of European blood to conquer other peoples!

Happening Now

After the war, the Nazis went underground. The Bible even prophesies about this underground, called “the bottomless pit” or “the abyss” in Revelation 17:8. Just like the postwar Nazis, the Holy Roman Empire today is underground. But it is growing in strength, and some people are passionate about it, which is bringing it more out into the open. Very soon, you are going to see it plainly!

I don’t believe Habsburg thought like Adolf Hitler. However, the great empire that he and others helped to build is going to be HIJACKED by an evil spiritual force and cause unspeakable destruction and death! Today, the FOURTH REICH is ready to rise!

The unification project that Strauss, Habsburg and others pushed for is almost complete! The European Common Market became the European Union in 1993. Smaller nations are bonding together and integrating into the large union. East European nations are just as much a part of the union as West European states are. Catholicism has a strong influence over the Continent, and it will become *much* stronger. The federal authority of the EU has taken more and more sovereignty and power away from member nations. It has become increasingly undemocratic. The Lisbon Treaty of 2007 defied national referenda to the contrary and created an EU constitution. Europe has developed a common currency, trade policy, diplomatic service, court system, border agency, coast guard, police force, legislature, flag, anthem and more.

And, as Mr. Armstrong also specifically prophesied, Britain has *exited* and is “no part of it.”

People are even referring to what is taking shape in the same terms Mr. Armstrong often used: “a United States of Europe.” And when this beast that “was, and is not, and yet is” ascends, it will happen suddenly, and it will surpass the power of America, Russia or China.

We are seeing nothing less than the rise of the “ten kings” prophesied in Daniel 2 and Revelation 17!

The prophetic image in Daniel 2 portrays these 10 kings as *10 toes* on the two feet of a mighty statue. This shows that this empire will have 10 kings leading European nations or nation-groups: half in Western Europe, half in Eastern Europe. Mr. Armstrong also taught that the composition of the legs and feet—iron and miry clay (Daniel 2:41)—represents the iron strength of the Roman Empire

nations mixed with weaker Israelitish nations.

Who will they be? The precise composition remains to be seen, but Mr. Armstrong speculated about it for years, and we are increasingly seeing just how accurate his views were!

He wrote in 1953, “These will include Germany and Italy, probably Spain and Portugal and France, Greece, and probably some of the Balkan nations from among Yugoslavia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania or others” (*Good News*, May 1953). In 1980 and 1982, he again pointed to these same nations, along with Poland and Ireland.

Spain, along with Portugal, is very Catholic. At one point, the two were under one king of the Iberian Union. It is where much of the bloody Catholic Inquisition took place. It was involved in

IT A

IS CERTAIN TO BE ONE OF THE prophesied 10 nations or nation-groups that constitute the new Holy Roman Empire superpower. It has Europe’s third-largest economy, after Germany and France. It also hosts the heritage of the great Roman Empire and, most importantly, the headquarters of the Catholic Church.

Rome has been a great city for more than 2,500 years. From its seven hills, kings and emperors and their people superseded the greatest previous empires with greater strategies and numbers than the Greeks and Persians, and greater splendor than Babylon. The Roman Empire grew into an ancient superpower that waged war after war and conquered kingdoms, confederations and empires. It dominated the Mediterranean region and much of the known world. Italy has not forgotten that imperial glory.

As Rome grew from a republic into an empire, a certain version of Christianity was taking root in the city. It became a political power in the fourth century A.D. when Constantine converted to it, and in the sixth century it became a fearsome orthodoxy enforceable by persecution and death under Justinian. It became

establishing the Nazi underground after World War II. Hungary has a history as an important part of the Holy Roman Empire and is currently led by a strongman who emphasizes Christian heritage and has tied his military to Germany. Czechoslovakia separated into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but the two cooperate closely. The Czechs even send soldiers to help protect Slovakia's borders. They also use German military equipment and have a brigade that works closely with a German armored division. Romania also has a brigade working closely with the German Army.

Germany sparked the Yugoslav Wars in 1991, gaining control of the Balkans in 1998. It recognized Kosovo and pressured the United States and NATO into bombing Yugoslavia, breaking it

apart into separate countries. (Request *Germany's Conquest of the Balkans*.) This strategic region, which provides access to the Mediterranean Sea, will certainly be part of the new European superpower. Some Balkan states are not part of the European Union, yet the EU border patrol, Frontex, already operates in several of them.

Poland, which was dominated by Soviet Russia, was able to break away as Mr. Armstrong forecast.



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St. Peter's Square at the Vatican

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known as the Catholic Church, headquartered within Rome in its own nation (Vatican City), ruled by the bishop of Rome (the pope), and ambitious to convert the *world* to its religion, by lethal force if necessary and when possible.

For roughly 1,500 years, the leaders of Roman Catholicism and leaders of Italian government have blended their powers together in an intercourse that has repeatedly produced strong, cohesive, deadly empires.

In recent history, Benito Mussolini rose in Italy in the 1920s and 1930s after creating the fascist movement and successfully pushing Italy into World War I. He was an immoral, unprincipled, violent but influential leader who made himself dictator and transformed Italy into a one-party police-state ally of Adolf Hitler. He also allied with the Roman Catholic Church through a concordat with the Vatican and other means. Beyond empowering himself, his goal was to re-create a Roman Empire that spanned from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean. He invaded Libya, Greece, Ethiopia and Spain prior to launching Italy into World War II in an alliance with Nazi Germany. After that

he attacked France, Belgium, Greece, the Balkans and the British in Egypt, Palestine, Sudan, Kenya and Somaliland before leading Italy into defeat and ruin.

Hitler and Mussolini raised up the sixth prophesied head of the Holy Roman Empire.

Italy has been a supporter of European unification, and in recent years has begun to resist multiculturalism and immigration to build itself into a strong power once again. Now it has actually elected a prime minister who leads the successor party to Mussolini's fascist party! This party is rehabilitating Mussolini's reputation and putting religion—Roman Catholicism—front and center.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is happy to bring God—her Roman Catholic idea of God—into her politics. For many Italians and others, this is a refreshing change from liberal, lawless, globalist, godless multiculturalism, and she is rising in popularity. Journalists have even characterized her as “the leader of the European right” and “the most important political leader in Europe.”

But people are forgetting what this version of Christianity and its

intercourse with political and military power has done in the past!

Under Meloni, Italy is building partnerships with Middle East energy suppliers and rapidly developing relationships with North Africa, the Balkans and Turkey. It is helping to build up the Holy Roman Empire. But neither Meloni nor Italy will lead this bloc. It will be led by a strongman in Germany, influenced by the Vatican.

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote last year in “Fascism Reawakens in Italy” (theTrumpet.com/26213), “Mussolini prepared the way for Adolf Hitler, who copied him and used the same formula. ... The rise of Meloni's movement matches exactly what the Bible foretold. These prophecies warn that we need to be watching for the rise of this power.”

Every single iteration of the Holy Roman Empire has waded through blood to conquer and convert or kill others. The world has been free of the Holy Roman Empire for decades, but now one Holy Roman Empire king after another is popping up. What happened? It went underground—but now it is again rising out of the abyss.

It is 90 percent Catholic, its largest trade partner is Germany, its economy is currently surging, and it is suddenly building a mighty military. It has announced that it is increasing military spending by 60 percent and doubling its number of troops, which could soon make it the largest military in Europe.

The rising Holy Roman Empire will *not* include all 27 current European Union nations. It will be ruled by 10 kings who will dominate Europe and much of the world. FIVE OF THOSE KINGS ARE ALREADY BECOMING CLEAR!

War and Peace

Mr. Armstrong consistently said that Britain would *not* be part of this European empire, decades before Britain officially left in 2020! In fact, he showed that Bible prophecy identified Britain, America and the Jewish nation in the Middle East as the *victims* of this empire!

Prophecy makes clear that this modern Holy Roman Empire will cause horrifying bloodshed. Yes, Germany is about to unleash another global conflict, FAR WORSE THAN BOTH WORLD WARS COMBINED!

God is allowing this deadly empire to rise for a seventh and final time for the very purpose of *punishing* nations who have known Him and who have rebelled and turned against him. The British, the Americans, the Jews and the other peoples that descended from ancient Israel have received immense blessings from God. (This is explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong; request your free copy.) But as we can clearly see, these peoples have rejected God, and He is removing those blessings and allowing the modern descendants of the ancient Assyrians to once again attack and conquer them!

Other Bible prophecies show that Britain, America, Judah and the other nations of Israel are about to pay a bloody, bloody price for their terrible

rebellion and sin! Much of this bloodshed will be inflicted by the new Holy Roman Empire.

We are about to see *millions of people* slaughtered by this conquering empire.

Given the severity of these prophecies, is there any hope? There certainly is!

These three nations could heed God's last warning message and repent (Amos 7:8). At this point, they don't seem to be moving in that direction.

Revelation 17:13-14 state this about the 10 kings: "These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb [Jesus Christ], and THE LAMB SHALL OVERCOME THEM: FOR HE IS LORD OF LORDS, AND KING OF KINGS: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

That's right: The Bible reveals that this bloody European superpower will fight Jesus Christ! That means the kings we now see rising are a sign that Jesus Christ's return is imminent!

Those kings are rising now, and *five kings have already risen*. Time is very, very short.

Bible prophecy is true, and the revealed explanation taught by Mr. Armstrong is true. The prophecy of the Second Coming is also true! This leads to the best news you could possibly hear!

The Bible talks about only *one group* escaping this coming calamity. Revelation 3:10 reads, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon ALL THE WORLD, to try them that dwell upon the earth." That "hour of temptation" will start with the Great Tribulation, which will include an attack from the Holy Roman Empire on the nations of Israel—primarily the United States and Britain (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy* will explain this to you). But God *will* protect those who keep His word!

Will that include you? ■

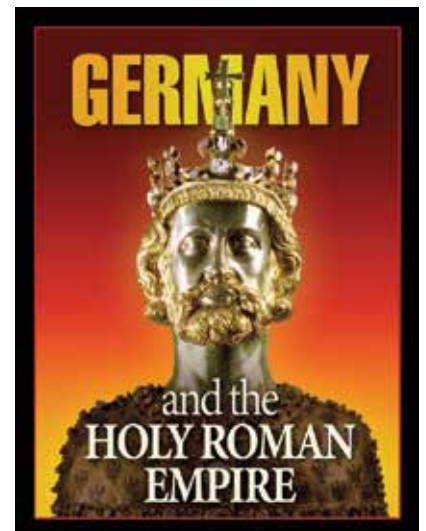


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A SUPERPOWER PREPARING FOR WAR

Europe is consolidating into a new superpower, and Bible prophecy reveals to what end.

For a deep study on this earthshaking prophecy, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.





Joint military schools, joint exercises, joint missions: The anticipated, doubted, feared EU war machine is already here. **BY JOSUÉ MICHELS**

THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA DOESN'T cover it. News analysts ignore it. Politicians don't discuss it. The world doesn't fear it. But a European military is already in place.

After building and fielding two of its own world-war-class forces in the past century, Germany is now subtly building a multinational army. Some have confused quietness with weakness, but anyone who knows Germany's history knows that secrecy is its strength.

Foreign Policy noted, "Germany Is Quietly Building a European Army Under Its Command." German war planners have built a lot, both before that article was published in 2017 and since. In 2018, French President Emmanuel Macron openly called for the creation of "a real European army." There is work yet to be done, but the core of that military is already a *fait accompli*. And it will not be commanded by France.

Germany is operating on multiple fronts: integrating the forces of other nations under its command, using the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for

its own purpose, drastically increasing military spending, exporting weapons and German interests abroad, and participating in joint missions around the world.

News analysts have ignored it. Governments have dismissed it. But the German-dominated European military that the *Trumpet* has warned about for decades is now a reality!

German Commanders, Foreign Forces

On March 30, the last Dutch combat brigade joined a division of the German Army. The integration of all Dutch combat land forces is a prime example of Germany's goal of building a multinational military force. This cooperation has been decades in the making. It has been made possible by language-training in Dutch schools, joint exercises, and the 24 Bundeswehr training facilities open to soldiers from other European Union nations. Also, German troops are on staff at 55 training facilities for other militaries across Europe.

No other European country has subordinated its entire land force to

the Germans, yet. But in 2017, Romania agreed to have its 81st Mechanized Brigade work closely with Germany's Rapid Response Forces Division. This division is now in charge of a Dutch and Romanian brigade. The Czech Republic agreed to have its elite 4th Rapid Deployment Brigade work with Germany's 10th Armored Division. That division now commands a Dutch and a Czech brigade.

The Czech Republic is just a step away from doing the same as the Netherlands. A mechanized brigade includes armored personnel carriers or infantry fighting vehicles, which are crucial to a nation's defense. The Czech Republic has only two of these in its land combat forces. One of them is now under German command. Romania has given up one of its eight brigades.

France, twice conquered by invasions of German troops in two world wars, has consistently supported European unification and even German leadership for decades. The French-German Brigade was established in 1989. Since 1992, it has been part of the Eurocorps, which



Dutch Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren greets German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius as the Dutch 13th Light Brigade submits to Germany's 10th Armored Division.

includes four additional core nations, plus five associated nations. The Eurocorps serves Europe and NATO and is one of the latter's high-readiness commands.

France and Germany have also joined industrial forces to manufacture military equipment that is compatible with the militaries of several countries. This includes the Tiger combat helicopter, the Alpha Jet training and close air support aircraft, the Transall transport aircraft, and the A400M, an advanced transport aircraft. Even without France, Germany is a leader in producing military equipment. A dozen other European countries rely on modern German Leopard 2 tanks. And German weapons manufacturers are supplying militaries worldwide with weapons platforms, small arms and other technologies.

At Sea

Though only a few countries have literally subordinated their soldiers to German command, many more are joining German-led exercises. Under the cloak of NATO cooperation, Germany is leading and coordinating Europe's armies. The more you look under the umbrella, the more you see Germany commanding a European army.

More and more, Germans are taking the lead in an alliance that originally formed in part to stop them from building a military. Germany is no longer the conquered aggressor, nor is it completely dependent on the U.S. as it was in the Cold War. It is steadily increasing its power over NATO.

Finland joined the NATO alliance on April 4. Within 10 days, it was included in a joint military exercise. Was it the

United States, Britain or France that led the mission? No, Finnish, Portuguese and German forces in Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 were commanded by German Rear Adm. Thorsten Marx.

Germany is also working with Britain's Royal Navy at a new naval headquarters in Rostock. The headquarters will command operations for the United Nations, NATO, the German Navy and the European Union. In the meantime, the EU held its first-ever joint naval exercise with the U.S. on March 23 and 24.

While other nations might be in leadership positions, watch for German admirals to gain more and more control over European naval exercises.

On Land

Presently, Germany holds the leadership over NATO's highest-readiness military force, the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. The unit includes 11,500 troops from nine NATO countries: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Slovenia. These troops are always on standby, ready to deploy within days. Germany also leads the unit's special forces command.

Germany is leading the rapid deployment of European troops under the NATO umbrella. But it is also preparing to do the same without NATO help.

In 2018, NATO accepted Germany's offer to establish a NATO command center that focuses on rapid troop movement across

Europe. Unlike other headquarters, this one does not fall under NATO's command structure. Thus the same troops that Germany currently leads in the NATO framework could be under Germany's command in an EU army.

To facilitate all the details of such an army, the German-led EU also established a military pact called Permanent Structured Cooperation. This governs logistics, transportation and training missions that will help member countries coordinate their operations.

Meanwhile, German generals receive practical training within the NATO framework. In Eastern Europe, NATO soldiers are also taking orders from a German.

In 2021, Lt. Gen. Jür-

gen-Joachim von Sandrart became commander of operations in Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia—NATO's northeastern flank, near Russia.



The Dutch Navy transfers NATO command to the German Navy on January 6.

In the Air

NATO's Supreme Headquarters is in Mons, Belgium. Subordinate to it are six commands. One of the most important is located in Germany: Ramstein Air Base, headquarters of NATO's air command. American nuclear bombs are deployed in six European bases, including Germany's Buchel Air Base. They can be carried by German and Italian Tornado warplanes.

The nuclear weapons are currently controlled by the U.S., and Ramstein is an installation of the U.S. Air Force. But in addition to hosting American forces and being one of five European nations that are party to the NATO nuclear weapons-sharing agreement, Germany is acting on its own initiative to strengthen, unite and control European military capabilities in the air.

Germany has organized the largest NATO air exercise since the end of the Cold War: "Air Defender 23." These war games in June will involve 220 aircraft and 10,000 personnel from more than 20 nations. Under the NATO umbrella, the exercise is under German command and initiative. *Air & Space Forces* noted

that “the exercise was organized by Germany, not NATO headquarters.”

German Gen. Michael Loh told Deutsche Welle, “I’m not sure why it’s German-led to tell you the truth. I know that Germany wanted to lead an exercise to test both their ability to host forces and also their ability to do full NATO interoperability.” That’s what Germany wanted, and what it got was the “largest trans-Atlantic movement” of its kind. If you wanted to build and test a European air force, you couldn’t ask for a better military exercise.

Germany says it is ready to defend the NATO alliance. But watch for clues showing that it is learning how to use European forces quite independently of the alliance. That is to say, independent of and even at odds with the U.S. and Britain.

In Space

NATO also established a Space Center at Allied Air Command in Ramstein in 2020. This is controlled by the U.S., but Germany is also working on its own independent Space Command. This command, launched in 2021 in Uedem, combines elements of Germany’s air and cyber forces, and secures its satellites independently from NATO. The defense minister at the time noted, “[O]ur prosperity and security are highly dependent on space. For a long time now, our civilian and military satellites have been a resource without which nothing works. As always, when a resource becomes vital, its security becomes an issue.”

Germany is also a key member of the European Space Agency, which is actively preparing for missions to the moon. If Germany wants an independent European military, this too is a crucial step. Since the early days of the Cold War, analysts have agreed that whoever controls space can control a great deal of what happens below.

European Foreign Missions

In addition to increasing its control in NATO wherever it can, Germany is conducting operations well outside of the alliance. To make such operations possible, Europe needs its own strategic airlift capacity. For decades it has relied on the United States for this. That is now changing.

This crucial need is filled by the Airbus A400M, the world’s most

technologically advanced military transport aircraft. Germany operates 53 of them, France 21, Spain 14 and Turkey 10; and 28 more are on order. Fleets of this large transport enable Europe to massively expand its ability to operate independently of the United States.

Many nations including Germany have stated that they actually have little need for all these airlifters. But this could change as the U.S. increasingly withdraws and as threats as near as Ukraine and as far away as the Pacific continue to multiply.

The EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo was established in 2008 to assist and support the Kosovo authorities. The EU has also led foreign missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Iraq, Mali, Somalia and Ukraine. Some of these could have been NATO operations. In one instance, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg expressed surprise at Germany’s decision to get involved in Iraq outside of the NATO framework.

But these missions allow Germany, through the EU, to build the necessary structure to lead and coordinate future European military missions. The EU Military Committee currently has 21 ongoing missions, including nine military operations.

It took Germany decades to reach this point. But now its multinational military, its influence in NATO, its technological development and its core structures—against the backdrop of increasing threats surrounding Europe—are combining to produce a situation in which the small but growing European military can become a superpower—rapidly.

Unity Prophesied

In 1957, Germany was still recovering from its second devastating world war defeat. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote at the time, “Germany is going to rise again with great power.” Before he witnessed

that economic, diplomatic and finally military ascent, he saw it in the pages of the Bible.

Revelation 17 describes a union of 10 kings who give their “power and strength” to a “beast”—a united European empire. A vision that God inspired the Prophet Daniel to record helps reveal who this empire is. Daniel 2 gives an overview of all the world-ruling empires that lead to God’s prophesied intervention in the affairs of mankind. History identifies these empires as Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. The Roman Empire has risen repeatedly over the centuries, and the Bible reveals that it is rising one final time in modern Europe.

Daniel states that this last resurrection, unlike previous ones, would be ruled by 10 kings. But he also notes that “the kingdom shall be divided” and that it “shall be partly strong, and partly broken” (verses 41-42). This, along with a parallel prophecy in Revelation 17, describes Europe today. Both passages show that the EU will be pared down to 10 nations or closely united groups of nations.

Today we see Germany uniting these nations’ militaries. Once the empire is ready to rise, the world will be shocked by how efficiently it will do its deadly work.

This prophesied empire will use its unified powers for militaristic purposes. But notice how Daniel’s vision ends: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44)

Every step toward European unity is a step toward the fulfillment of these prophecies and God’s prophesied intervention in the affairs of mankind! The world doesn’t see it, but these prophecies are coming to pass. ■

God is using Germany to punish nations

Why would a loving God do this? Request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet **Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany** to find out.

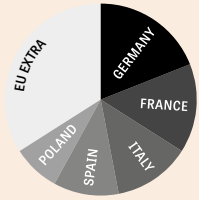


AXIS OF ALLIES

The European Union is a supranational political and economic union of 27 member states. Yet the Bible prophesies that this union will be pared down to an alliance of "ten kings" who give their power and strength unto the beast (Revelation 17:12). The United Kingdom's exit from the European Union was the beginning of a pruning process that will continue until this prophecy is fulfilled.

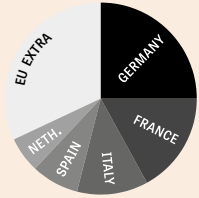
Population

Almost one fifth of the EU's 448 million people live in Germany.



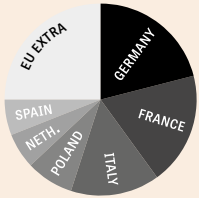
GDP

Nearly one quarter of the EU's \$17 trillion gross GDP is generated in Germany.



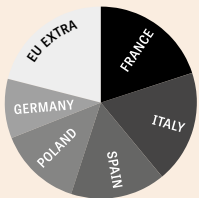
Military Spending

About one fifth of the EU's \$247 billion defense budget is spent by Germany.



Catholic Population

About one fifth of the EU's 259 million Roman Catholics live in France.



Heat Map

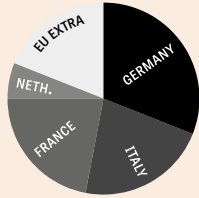
Here is a ranking of European Union member states' dominance on a scale of 1 to 100 using a weighted average—factoring in population, gross domestic product, gold reserves, military spending, active soldiers, arms exports, Roman Catholic cultural influence, and pan-European political integration.



12.5% Population + 12.5% GDP + 12.5% Gold + 12.5% Military Spending + 12.5% Soldiers + 12.5% Arms Export + 12.5% Catholicism + 12.5% Political Integration = 100% Prophetic Power

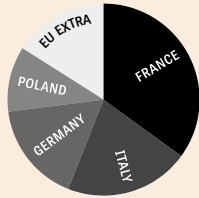
Gold Reserves

Close to one third of the EU's 10,942 tonnes of gold is owned by Germany.



Arms Exports

About one third of the EU's \$195 billion worth of arms exports come from France.



Active Soldiers

More than one seventh of the EU's 1.4 million active soldiers come from France.



Nordic Defense Cooperation

Since 2009, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway have coordinated their military capabilities.

Weimar Triangle

Since 1991, France, Germany and Poland have tried to tackle common crises together.

BeNeSam

Since 1996, the navies of Belgium and the Netherlands have been commanded by the Royal Netherlands Navy.

German-Dutch Corps

Since March 30, the army of the Netherlands has been fully integrated into the command structure of the German military.

Benelux

Since 1948, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands have coordinated with one another politically and economically.

Eurocorps

Since 1992, personnel from Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland and Spain have worked together as a military unit headquartered in Strasbourg, France.

Franco-German Cooperation

Since 1963, France and Germany have sought to lead Europe together as the Continent's two most powerful nations.

Franco-German Brigade

Since 1989, elements of the French and German armies have worked together in a specialized military brigade.

FRANCE

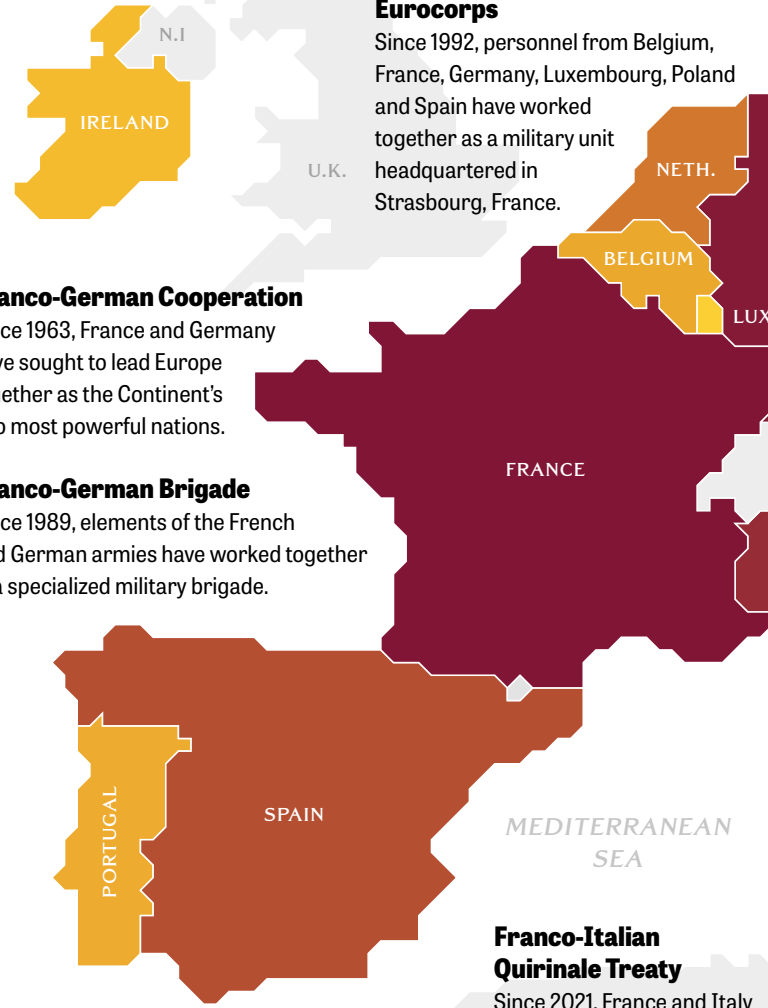
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Franco-Italian Quirinale Treaty

Since 2021, France and Italy have sought to cooperate in a similar way to France and Germany.

Iberian Summit

Since 1983, Portugal and Spain have cooperated closely on areas of mutual concern.



Nordic-Baltic 8

Since 1991, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden have sought to promote Nordic-Baltic cooperation.

New Hanseatic League

Since 2018, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Sweden have coordinated economic policies to increase trade.

Baltic Assembly

Since 1990, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have attempted to establish a common position on many issues, including cultural, economic and political issues.

Bucharest Nine

Since 2015, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia have banded together into an informal defense alliance against Russia.

Central European Defense Cooperation

Since 2010, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia have banded together to share defense capabilities and participate in common training exercises.

Central Five

Since 2020, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia began coordinating their COVID-19 response as a tight-knit group.

Salzburg Forum

Since 2000, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia have operated a security partnership.

Slavkov Format

Since 2015, Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia have participated in a group similar to the Visegrád Group, which includes Hungary but not Austria.

Three Seas Initiative

Since 2016, nations between the Adriatic, Baltic and Black Seas (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) have participated in a regional forum.

BLACK SEA

Visegrád Group

Since 1991, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have cooperated in military, economic, cultural and energy affairs.

EuroMed9

Since 2013, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain have cooperated in an informal group based on their common need to protect the Mediterranean Sea.





Breathing Fire on the Trans-Atlantic Alliance

And European elites are ready to help it burn.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES AND JOSUÉ MICHELS

EUROPE “SHOULD TAKE CONTROL OF its own destiny.” That was the assertion of the *Global Times*, a mouthpiece for the Chinese Communist Party. “[I]f the EU wants to enhance autonomy and maximize its own interests ..., it should think more of pragmatic interests in cooperation with China rather than having ideology, abstract values or another major power dominate the agenda ...” (April 3).

This statement was published days before French President Emmanuel Macron, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other high-level European leaders visited China in April. “Another major power” is a clear reference to the United States, and this was basically an open declaration that China is determined to convince the Europeans to look east instead of west.

Chinese General Secretary Xi Jinping understands that as long as the European nations remain aligned with America, China will struggle to achieve both its immediate goal of conquering Taiwan and its long-term goal of dominating the world. This long-term goal may sound hyperbolic, but both the policy papers and the actions of the Chinese Communist Party in recent years make it inescapably clear. Even the name China calls itself, *Zhongguo*, means “Middle Kingdom,” connoting that China is not only the geographic middle of the world, but should also be the center of its economics, culture and government. This Sino-centrist worldview dates back centuries

and has been making a major comeback under Chairman Xi. And he understands that to achieve it, Europe must be pulled out of its alliance with America.

So Xi is working furiously to draw the Europeans away from their historic ally and over to his dictatorial Communist regime. And what is most alarming is that some in the upper echelons of Europe’s leadership are ignoring history, winking at the dark heart of the Chinese Communist Party, and succumbing to Xi’s advances. In fact, some European elites have long hoped and prepared for just such a shift.

Macron Kowtows to Xi

Xi gave the French president the full red-carpet treatment in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People, hailed him with a military parade in Tiananmen Square, and shared a lavish tea ceremony with him in Guangzhou. Altogether, he spent six hours personally with Macron.

During the flight back to Paris on April 9 aboard the French presidential plane, Macron revealed increased eagerness to realign European geopolitics. “The worst thing would be to think that we Europeans must become followers and take our cue from the U.S. agenda,” he told *Politico*, adding that Europe needs “strategic autonomy.” The clear way to do that is to replace U.S. partnerships with Chinese ones.

In many ways, Europe is the “middle kingdom” in this situation. It lies between the U.S. and China in terms of geography

and world trade. Its historical and cultural identity is, of course, very much its own, but now it has two strong alternatives pulling it in opposite directions. One power is democratic, the other dictatorial.

Macron and other European leaders strive to portray themselves as champions of democracy, human rights and international labor standards. The French claim to stand for the three pillars of their national motto: *liberté, égalité, fraternité*. But Macron is showing that he is willing to overlook the fact that the Chinese Communist Party is made up of a gang of unelected Marxist thieves and that Xi is a dictator-for-life who is committing genocide against China’s Uyghurs, enriching his party via slave labor, and supporting Russia’s brutal invasion of Ukraine. The French president pointedly avoids criticism of China’s COVID-19 culpability, reckless domineering activities in the South China Sea, illegal crackdown on Hong Kong’s freedoms, global police stations, brazen espionage, predatory loans to poor nations, “wolf warrior” diplomacy, systematic theft of intellectual property, abysmal human rights record, and active preparations to invade the free democratic island nation of Taiwan.

Why would the president of France ignore Xi’s egregious tyranny? Macron himself gave the answer in the same interview: Europe’s goal, he said, is to become a “third superpower.” At present, he and other European elites with superpower ambitions feel tightly constrained by America, which has outlived its usefulness to them. But they calculate that with China’s blessing, they can pull free of Washington and give the Continent its rightful place on the global stage as a political, economic and military juggernaut.

To win the blessing of the Chinese dragon, many European elites turn a blind eye to the numerous manifestations of Chinese Communist Party malevolence. In their intensifying disdain for the U.S. system, they essentially cheer for the predatory Asian dictatorship and make plain that they will not stand in the way of its dark ambitions.

Macron’s recent talks with Xi are reminiscent of those he held with Russian President Vladimir Putin as Russia was amassing troops around Ukraine in 2021 and early 2022. At that time, Macron

at least gave the impression that he sought to prevent war. Now he appears interested only in eroding U.S. influence and empowering China. This was made painfully clear by the green light Macron gave Xi to invade Taiwan without European intervention. He said: “Europeans cannot resolve the crisis in Ukraine; how can we credibly say on Taiwan, ‘Watch out; if you do something wrong, we will be there’? If you really want to increase tensions, that’s the way to do it.”

Such an illogical and geopolitically naive statement would have sounded in Xi Jinping’s ears like exhilarating war drums. And that’s what Macron intended.

He understands that European involvement could shred tens of billions of dollars’ worth of Europe-China trade deals. More sinisterly, he also knows that a successful Chinese takeover of Taiwan would be a devastating blow

to the image and influence of the island nation’s main security ally, the United States. If America, already staggering after debacles like Afghanistan, sustains many more blows, it will be forced to retreat from diplomacy even further, creating the space necessary for Europe to become the unrestrained superpower that leaders like Macron yearn for it to be.

This French display of blatant anti-Americanism should be a wake-up call to Washington. Even more alarming, Europe’s main economic powerhouse shares the same sentiment—if that were not the case, France would not dare speak against the U.S. as it does. In this sense Macron acts more like a mouthpiece for the reality that Germany created.

Enter Germany

Four days after Macron returned to the Élysée Palace, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock took her turn visiting the “Middle Kingdom.” In interviews and press conferences, she took a saner and more dignified stance than Macron, voicing concern over the Chinese Communist Party’s human rights violations and

condemning China’s military advances against Taiwan. “A unilateral and violent change in the status quo would not be acceptable to us as Europeans,” she said.

To many onlookers, her visit seemed to provide reassurance that Europe still stands on the side of freedom, Western values and the U.S.-led global order.

Europe is trying to have it both ways. But the cold truth is that many German elites share Macron’s goal of ending the U.S.-dominated era and making Europe an unchained geopolitical colossus. And toward this end, while America works to decrease economic dependence on an increasingly lawless and aggressive China,

Germans are increasing trade ties with China.

There is often talk of reducing dependence on China, but at the same time Germans see the massive Chinese market as the future for German industry.

China has been

Germany’s largest trading partner for seven consecutive years, and the two sides aim to further build that relationship. Much of this is happening not despite the fact that it pushes the U.S. into the lonely corner of the geopolitical triangle *but because of that fact.*

“We’ve allowed China to drive a huge wedge between the U.S. and Europe,” Reinhard Bütikofer, chairman of the European Parliament’s delegation on China, said of a China-Europe trade deal called the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment. Since the deal aimed to open Chinese markets to Europe’s industries while blocking out those of America, the European Commission called it “the most ambitious outcome that China has ever agreed with a third country or economy.” This agreement is currently stalled, but German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and several other German elites are determined to push it through. Scholz said recently that he hoped the agreement “will take effect as soon as possible.”

Germans understand that to make Europe the superpower they envision, they need to tap more deeply into the

Chinese market. Germany’s green agenda makes closer cooperation with China far more urgent. China controls the production of most of the cobalt, lithium and rare earth elements that are critical for Germany’s transition to clean energy. In mid-April, Germany’s last nuclear power plant was shuttered, making Germany even more dependent on China.

At the same time, China’s vaunted Belt and Road Initiative is building all manner of infrastructure along the thousands of miles between Beijing and European capitals. The purpose of all the highways, rail networks, bridges and ports is to reduce transportation costs and expand trade volumes, and China has invested a trillion dollars toward that end. Several EU countries have signed on, including the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Portugal. Germany does not have a direct part in the initiative, but it is allowing China greater inroads into its borders. Last year, a state-run Chinese firm was allowed to purchase a 24.9 percent stake in a container terminal at Hamburg, Germany’s largest port. And the infrastructure for ever greater trade continues to be laid.

These trends prompted the *New York Times* to headline on April 12 “As U.S. Tries to Isolate China, German Companies Move Closer.” The article calls particular attention to German chemical behemoth BASF and carmaker Volkswagen. Both of these megafirms have shifted into overdrive to increase their already vast manufacturing operations in China and their sales to China’s 1.4 billion-strong market. German companies such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Siemens, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, Deutsche Telekom, Allianz, Daimler and E.ON are on the same basic path.

Reducing trade ties with China would be “unthinkable for almost all of German industry,” Mercedes-Benz CEO Ola Källenius told *Bild* on May 1, adding that “decoupling from China is an illusion.”

So instead of following the U.S.’s lead and working to move away from China, Germany is taking exactly the opposite path. The reason is not that its economy can’t survive without China—but rather that China gives Germany an opportunity for growth. And growth, the Germans know, is vital to the goal of making Europe the “third superpower.”



Chinese General Secretary Xi Jinping (left) welcomes French President Emmanuel Macron to Beijing on April 6.

China Needs Europe

Leaders of nations such as China and Russia have long sought to bypass the U.S. dollar in international trade. After seeing the dollar weaponized against Russia to punish it for its war against Ukraine, this desire greatly intensified. The *Global Times* wrote on April 26, “Facts have proven that the hegemony of the U.S. dollar can be broken.”

But the facts also show that the dominance of U.S. markets, along with macroeconomic inertia, would make this a tall order, particularly if the plan is for China’s currency to take the dollar’s place.

The U.S. dollar’s share of global payment transactions in January, according to the SWIFT banking system, stood at 45 percent, well ahead of any other currency. China’s renminbi was in eighth place, with just 1.3 percent. Meanwhile the dollar still dominates currency reserves held by the world’s central banks, constituting about 60 percent of the total. The renminbi is fifth, with 3 percent.

China is no doubt an economic heavyweight. But since the Chinese Communist Party manipulates the nation’s currency with a heavy hand, finance ministers in other countries look upon the renminbi with a jaundiced eye. Chinese leaders know this and understand that if they end up in a trade war with the U.S., they need an accomplice who wields a currency that has far more international confidence. The euro fits that description.

In global payments, the euro came second in January with an impressive 33 percent. And in currency reserves held by central banks, the euro again takes second, with 20 percent.

In 2013, the People’s Bank of China and the European Central Bank created a landmark bilateral currency swap. The move was designed to lower the cost of financial transactions between the two, help them secure liquidity in the event of stress, and most importantly, let them bypass the U.S. dollar. Last October, the deal was extended for three more years in a decision the *Global Times* called, “a fresh sign of closer ties between the two major currencies amid mounting pressure from a strong U.S. dollar.”

For China, having Europe as a major trade partner is more than merely vital to its export-driven economy. It is also crucial for China’s broader geopolitical

goal of pushing the U.S. dollar out of world trade. And many Europeans are preparing to assist this Chinese push. As his plane flew back to Paris, perhaps somewhere over Central Asia, Macron said he agreed with Xi Jinping that Europe must fight against the “extraterritoriality of the U.S. dollar.”

China and Russia are leading the global push for a de-dollarized world. Both seek the freedom to invade their neighbors and expand their territory without facing dollar-based sanctions such as those currently bedeviling Russia’s economy. When the two trade with each other, it’s now mainly in renminbi, and they’re imploring other nations to follow their example. Argentina, Brazil, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Singapore are all divesting from the dollar.

So far these efforts have only created minor vexations. But as more Europeans buy into the vision of leaders such as Macron and join China’s and Russia’s rejection of the dollar’s “extraterritoriality,” the currency’s days will be numbered.

Two Superpowers Against One

T.H. Tetens wrote *Germany Plots With the Kremlin* just eight years after World War II and noted, “[The Nazis] are dreaming of building a new third power bloc and declared that this new power combination would plunge the United States down from its present dizzy heights.”

That’s exactly what we are seeing happening—what’s more we should have been expecting it in light of Bible prophecy. Some 2,700 years ago, God inspired the Prophet Isaiah to prophesy

Reuben’s Betrayal

In 1870, Germany started a war with France and defeated it. In the two world wars, France survived largely because thousands of Americans died redeeming the French nation. But today, France joins Germany and China to actively work against the U.S. The Bible identifies France as Reuben—thus France is the brother of biblical Joseph, whose son is Manasseh, the biblical name of America. Just as Reuben betrayed Joseph (as recorded in the book of Genesis), so France betrays Joseph’s modern descendants today.

of a staggeringly powerful multinational trade bloc that would emerge in our modern times. And he specified who the main members of this bloc would be.

In Isaiah 23:1, he calls one of the main players “Chittim.” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains the meaning of this name in his booklet *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision*: “Kittim is synonymous with the Chittim of Isaiah’s prophecy. ... After their migration through Central Asia, the Kittim made their appearance in modern-day northeastern China and Mongolia ...” So this refers mainly to modern China.

Isaiah also says “Tyre” will be a major member of this trade alliance. Mr. Flurry explains: “The spiritual center of the [modern European] Holy Roman Empire is called Babylon in your Bible (Revelation 17:5; 18:1-3). But here in Isaiah, the Bible refers to Tyre (and its allies Zidon, etc) as the commercial center of this European power” (ibid).

Isaiah 23, along with a sister passage in Ezekiel 27, shows that Russia and other Asian powers will also join this globe-girdling economic bloc. Together, this alliance of European and Asian countries will seize control of global trade in the near future. Passages such as Deuteronomy 28:52 show that they will use that control to suffocate America and some U.S. allies.

“The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America,” Mr. Flurry continues. When the attack occurs, “there will be no help or sympathy from Asia.” In fact, “Russia, China and Japan” will enter into a “brief alliance” with Europe. “All of them are going to besiege America, Britain and the Jewish nation.”

“This is why Isaiah’s prophecy of an end-time ‘mart of nations’ that includes both European and Asian powers is so intriguing. And why the trend of collusion between these two great economic blocs is worth watching” (ibid).

The geopolitical shifts we are now witnessing in China and Europe go beyond economic considerations. It is all leading to the rise of two mighty superpowers dead set on ending the era of the America-led order. China and Russia are increasingly belligerent and are uniting Asia through trade and force. At the same



King Charles III is crowned with St. Edward's Crown by Archbishop Justin Welby.

The Hidden Danger in the Coronation

The pageantry surrounding King Charles III's crowning points to an illustrious history and glorious future. It also revealed a terrible mistake by the royal family.

BY GERALD FLURRY AND RICHARD PALMER

B RITAIN JUST HELD ITS FIRST coronation in 70 years. Much about the crowning of King Charles III was inspiring. It was saturated with biblical references and spiritual significance.

The coronation put the Bible on display. A choir performed Handel's choral anthem "Zadok the Priest," with text from 1 Kings 1:38-40, about Solomon being anointed king. The priests presented the King with a Bible, calling it "the most valuable gift that this world affords." "This is the royal law, these are the lively oracles of God," the archbishop of Canterbury said.

In the coronation oath, the archbishop asked Charles, "Will you, to the utmost of your power, maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the gospel? Will you, to the utmost of your power, maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed religion established by law? Will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship,

discipline and government thereof, as by law established in England? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England, and to the churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?" And he answered, "All this I promise to do."

When these words were last uttered at a British coronation, it was a very different time. These words ring hollow today, among a people that no longer have respect for the Bible. They have lost their faith in God and their moral moorings at the same time.

There is an indisputable connection between Britain losing its belief in God and His connection to the monarchy—and the massive changes for the worse in British beliefs and morals.

This actually points to a hidden danger in that coronation that almost nobody noticed.

Multiculturalism and Monarchy

King Charles's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, also swore to maintain Britain's religion. This she did not do. She made unprecedented moves to reconcile with the Vatican: visiting Pope John Paul II in Rome; hosting his visit to Britain in 1982, the first pope to do so since the

16th-century Protestant Reformation; allowing him to hold joint services with the archbishop of Canterbury; and appointing a Roman Catholic as her chaplain.

That's not to say that the Protestant Reformed religion is the one true religion. But to the extent that it followed the Bible, Britain was blessed for maintaining it. Today, however, Britain is a morass of secularism, dangerous multicultural religious confusion and submission to the religion of Europe that it once strongly opposed.

King Charles is even more committed to foreign religions than his mother. In his coronation, he introduced several acknowledgments to other religions and cultures. He included official greetings from leaders of Britain's Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Buddhists.

This sounds righteous to a lot of people today. Modern society has virtually swallowed whole the lie that "diversity is our strength." But just look at the disastrous results of such thinking. It has left Britain faithless, materialistic, divided and vulnerable to foreign extremists.

Jesus Christ's return is imminent. Only 10,000 obedient saints will be here when He comes (Deuteronomy 33:2; Jude 14).

All denominations must repent or they will experience the worst suffering ever on this Earth. The 10,000 will be protected from God's wrath.

The Church of England has lost its moral authority, loosening its standards on every culturally charged issue of the day: women in the clergy, premarital sex, homosexuality. This was the first-ever coronation to include female priests. The monarchy, rather than working to prevent the moral slide and uphold godly standards, has simply watched it happen and even gone along with it. British society has suffered immeasurably as a result.

The massive change in Britain's relationship with the Catholic Church was displayed to the world at the coronation.

Most Catholic Crowning in 500 Years

The pope sits on a throne. So does the King. If people understood the true history of those two thrones, they would understand so much! The full story of those two thrones actually reveals where this world is headed and how it

is about to be filled with happiness and joy—after some terrible suffering.

Most Catholics don't understand the true history of their own church. And most of the British people don't understand the true history of the King's throne.

Even under Queen Elizabeth, the Protestant Reformation was being reversed. Charles has taken that even further.

Two cardinals attended the coronation—probably the first time such a thing has happened since the Catholic Mary I was crowned in 1553. That coronation did not work out well for Britain! Mary became known as “Bloody Mary” because of all the Protestants she put to death. But few in Britain believe that history is relevant.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols participated in the coronation, pronouncing a public blessing on the King. Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin represented Pope Francis at the event.

The archdiocese in Westminster noted that at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, “it would not have been permitted for any Catholic to enter a Protestant

the Catholic Church to Britain 1,400 years ago. He is revered as the man who brought Christianity to the British Isles. But it is a matter of historical fact that a different version of Christianity *already existed in Britain*—and THE CATHOLICS STAMPED IT OUT!

Over thousands of years of history, the Catholic Church has violently persecuted its rivals. Most of the world is asleep to this danger. But people are about to be struck by lightning that will rouse them from their stupor.

The Bible tells us that God is going to save most of humanity. That includes Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and all other religious people—but in His time frame and in His way.

God's hand is also behind the rising power of the Catholic Church today. But you need to read our materials to understand why.

'End of the British Empire'

When Pope Benedict visited Britain in 2010—the first official state visit by a pope since the Reformation—Andrew

God of the Bible is a deadly sign of the nation's immediate future.

Christians of this world are embarrassingly ignorant of their Bible. If they don't know their Bible, they don't know God!

As Brown stated, today Britain's “power is gone.” Because of the nation's sins, God has broken the pride of its power (Leviticus 26:19). The British still have considerable power, but are too timid to use it.

It's no coincidence that King Charles removed the word “empire” from his coronation. When his mother was crowned, she was handed a golden orb and told to “remember that the whole world is subject to *the power and empire of Christ our Redeemer*.” Charles changed that to say “remember always the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ.” The British are now so uncomfortable with the idea of “empire” that they are not even willing to talk about GOD's Empire.

The changed words are much less biblical. Yes, God rules in the kingdom of men (Daniel 4:17). But the declaration that “the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord” is a prophecy for the future. It is what the angels will shout at Christ's return (Revelation 11:15). In their embarrassment at the word “empire,” those responsible for the coronation are perverting the gospel.

Two Thrones

“Few realize that the British monarchy is patterned on Jewish history,” wrote British journalist Melanie Phillips two days before the coronation. “Early English kings even believed they were descended from King David. They appreciated the revolutionary aspect of ancient Israel: Its monarch was not the supreme ruler, a status which invites tyranny and despotism, but was himself answerable to God, the one true King over all” (May 4).

It is true that Britain's royal family traces all the way back to King David! Few indeed recognize this, but you can prove it true. Herbert W. Armstrong explained it in his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*; we will send you a free copy at your request.

God promised King David: “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy

church, let alone to take part in a coronation service.” That is how dramatically Queen Elizabeth changed the relationship between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church!

Ahead of the coronation, the pope gave King Charles what he claimed were two fragments of the “True Cross.” These were set inside a much larger cross and used to lead the whole coronation procession. “Given that the relationship between the British crown and the Catholic Church has been rocky in ages past, Charles's decision to place the papal gift at the forefront of his coronation ceremonies is significant,” wrote the Catholic News Agency (April 20).

This was also probably the first time a hymn was sung in Latin at a coronation since the time of Elizabeth I in 1533.

At King Charles's personal request, a copy of the gospels belonging to “saint Augustine” was read at the coronation. Augustine was the man who introduced

Brown wrote at the *Guardian*: “This was the end of the British Empire. In all the four centuries from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II, England has been defined as a Protestant nation. The Catholics were the other; sometimes violent terrorists and rebels, sometimes merely dirty immigrants. THE SENSE THAT THIS WAS A NATION SPECIALLY BLESSED BY GOD AROSE FROM A DEEPLY ANTI-CATHOLIC READING OF THE BIBLE. ... REBELLION AGAINST THE POPE WAS THE FOUNDATIONAL ACT OF ENGLISH POWER. AND NOW THE POWER IS GONE, and perhaps the rebellion has gone, too” (Sept. 9, 2017; emphasis added).

What a marvelous memory of Britain's history! And what a condemning reality. The British people have forgotten that God gave them their majestic empire, which no longer exists. That is because they have forgotten their Bible, *which has a lot to say against the Roman Catholic Church!* Britain forgetting its ties to the

bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I WILL STABLISH THE THRONE OF HIS KINGDOM FOR EVER” (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

This is a universe-shaking truth! God said He would establish David’s throne forever! That is one of the most important promises that God makes in the Bible.

Queen Elizabeth II did indeed sit on David’s throne. God gave her the honor, and with it came a heavy responsibility.

The world and many British people wonder why Britain clings to its throne. The amazing answer is that Jesus Christ has kept the British throne alive!

The solutions to Britain’s problems can be found in the understanding of the British throne’s true ancestry. The rich traditions surrounding that throne

throne has a direct connection to the promise of Jesus Christ returning and bringing peace to the whole world.

Yet the Catholic Church claims to have the throne of God on Earth in the Vatican.

In 1570, Pope Pius V claimed that God had given him the power to remove kings of England from their throne. He wrote, “Pius, bishop, servant of the servants of God. He, who reigneth in the highest ... hath committed to me, ... to one alone upon Earth, ... the bishop of Rome, to be governed in fullness of power.”

THIS RELIGIOUS POWER WANTED TO TAKE OVER KING DAVID’S THRONE! It has made powerful efforts to rule this world.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH’S MAIN GOAL THROUGHOUT THE AGES HAS REALLY BEEN TO DESTROY DAVID’S THRONE. The Holy Roman Empire knows about that throne, and it has tried to destroy it throughout history. It cannot stand the thought of someone else having the preeminent throne on Earth. AND WHEN IT HAS THE POWER, IT KILLS THOSE WHO DISAGREE! IT HAS DONE THIS TIME AFTER TIME, YET PEOPLE STILL DON’T REALIZE JUST HOW DANGEROUS THAT CHURCH IS.

This is why King Charles’s inclusion of the Roman Catholic Church in this ceremony was so dangerous.

None of this accommodation of the Catholic Church is going to help King Charles. Believe it or not, Scripture shows that God is actually raising up a new Catholic empire in Europe to CORRECT Britain’s royal family. Jeremiah 22:18-19 say that the British king “shall be buried with the burial of an ass.” The Holy Roman Empire won’t give this man any royal treatment!

Again, God has a plan ultimately to save all Catholics. He is permitting the rise of this church today. But they are being moved by an evil spirit force that hates the throne of David—because it represents his replacement on the throne of the Earth.

A New Throne

Biblical morals and a history with God are the source of strength for the throne of David. For this reason, the devil has a special hatred for Britain’s royal family. He knows the history and prophecy of the throne of David contain the very master plan of God!

Three years ago I wrote about an important change God is making in the way He deals with Britain’s royal family. I said this change “strongly indicates that Britain is going to go down rapidly!” In November last year I wrote, “I believe that now that the Queen has died, Britain’s demise will accelerate. We are about to see a very sad ending for that throne”

God promised that a descendant of David would always sit on that throne. Yet Jeremiah prophesied about the end of this throne and the death of its last king. How can this be?

In order to keep His promise to David, God must make a change and move that throne. That way He can still protect it from the Holy Roman Empire. It can still shine as a light in a dark world in a way that Britain’s royal family never could.

Queen Elizabeth II sat on David’s throne when she became Queen, according to God’s promise to David. That throne was taken away from her in 2017. My free book *The New Throne of David* explains why and how.

I want to encourage you to study the truth about this new throne of David. Amid all the bad news in this world, this is very inspiring truth! It shows how God is closely watching over these events. It also shows just how close we are to the return of Jesus Christ, when He comes to claim His rightful place on that throne of David. That throne will eventually unite the whole universe! What a vision!

The physical reality of that throne is enough to capture the attention and imagination of the whole world. If only they would contemplate this spiritual reality. What a future mankind has because of the throne of David! ■



point back to something far greater than most people realize.

There is evidence that Queen Elizabeth’s great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria knew the throne of Britain began with David. But most journalists and scholars show no interest in proving if that ancient throne even exists or in the supreme magnitude of its importance. And it is not difficult to prove.

Whether or not you realize it, that throne represents the only hope in this terrifyingly dangerous world. That same



Can you keep a promise for 3,000 years?

For detailed proof of how God fulfilled His promise to King David, request your free copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and *The New Throne of David*. You will never look at history the same way again.



Why America's Will Is **BROKEN**

The spiritual link between surrendering to transgenderism, the affliction of tyrannical leaders, and America's shrinking status in the world **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

SHOULD CHILDREN ATTEND DRAG shows? Across America, libraries, schools and other public spaces are hosting children at “family friendly” homosexual- and transgender-themed story readings and performance exhibitions by sexually perverted men flamboyantly dressed as debauched women.

At least 15 states are considering or adopting rules to stop such displays. But a lot of Americans think they are *fine* for children. A YouGovAmerica poll in April found that 2 out of every 5 Democrats support allowing children at drag shows, along with “just” 1 out of every 12 Republicans. There’s an appetite for this even in America’s “conservative” political party!

Should *adults* attend drag shows? Three out of every four Republicans say, *Sure*.

If you are an American, this is the state of your country today!

Does anyone care what God thinks? The Creator of male and female established, “A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all who do so are an *abomination* to the Lord your God” (Deuteronomy 22:5; New King James Version). *Abomination* means something disgusting and morally abhorrent. That is what God thinks

of “mere” cross-dressing, let alone sexualized drag shows and transgenderism, and still less imposing that on *children*.

Most people dismiss a biblical law like this as primitive, even abhorrent. But *look at what has happened in America because we have ignored it*. Transgenderism has abruptly, brusquely stormed to the center of the stage, the center of the classroom, the center of the legislatures. Teachers are indoctrinating a generation with perverted sex propaganda. The number of youths identifying as “trans” has exploded 1,000 percent in the last 10 years. Businesses are being forced, on penalty from the state, to accommodate and encourage such mental illness. Doctors are chemically and surgically stunting and mutilating children’s healthy bodies. Mobs of sexual deviants are storming state capitals and demanding special legal protections.

Doesn’t this trend demonstrate the real-world perils of ignoring God’s law? Our rejection of this simple, clear moral absolute has been disastrous. And where will we be in another year, or two, or 10?

If there were *no other threats facing America*, this one issue would destroy the country within a single generation.

But There Are Other Threats

Many of them. Americans are too distracted to notice, but a new post-America world order is forming fast.

Several nations are assertively moving away from the United States dollar. World leaders are warning their

people and their bankers to ditch their greenbacks to secure their wealth. Core European states, seeking independence from trans-Atlantic entanglement, are unifying politically and militarily. China is helping pry Europe away from America. It is also supplanting the U.S. as the world’s peace broker—involving itself in negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, between Russia and Ukraine. Xi Jinping is building a new international order in China’s interests. China and Russia are refining technologies that could hinder or

destroy the satellites America relies on so heavily. Vladimir Putin is waging war without fear of American retaliation, even to the point of threatening his enemies with nuclear weapons. China is preparing to conquer Taiwan. It is also building fast-neutron nuclear breeder reactors, moving toward becoming a nuclear superpower. Iran is ready to build a nuclear bomb and throw the Middle East into chaos.

When Pax Americana is dead, the world will be a cutthroat place indeed.

And Pax America is dying, because American will is dying. America is being fundamentally transformed by its moral weakness and by a radical government taking full advantage of it. Federal officials are controlling the media, censoring free speech, and bullying and intimidating people. They are stealing elections, boosting illegal immigration, encouraging criminality and discarding the rule of law.

Many Americans are unhappy about this fundamental transformation, but they are too weak to stop it!

There is an iron link between America’s shrinking status in the world, the affliction it is suffering from its own leaders, and the way it is surrendering to evils such as transgenderism.

A Nation of Cowards

Nearly 25 years ago, *Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry wrote: “America is called the world’s only superpower. Many nations have looked to the U.S.

for protection. But that trust is rapidly fading.

“Nations like China know that Americans are too fearful to fight. ... We do all we possibly can to avoid any human casualties. We do this to the point where we have become A NATION OF COWARDS. ... Weakness only encourages strong, dictatorial leaders. ... How can we correct this deadly disease of a broken WILL?” (*Trumpet*, November 1998; emphasis added throughout). This trend has grown far more deeply entrenched in the quarter century since Mr. Flurry wrote those words.

To correct our broken will, we must know the CAUSE.

Leviticus 26 explains it. There, God warns Israel that rebellion against Him leads to punishment. “And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER ...” (verses 18-19).

America’s persistent rebellion has resulted in God’s intensifying curses. Our will is broken because GOD HAS BROKEN IT.

“What a curse to have a broken will in a world full of dangerous, dictatorial leaders,” Mr. Flurry warned. “We simply cannot survive unless the problem is corrected” (*ibid*).

WILL is so often the decisive factor in war.

Brig. Gen. Wayne Michael Hall (Ret.), author of *The Power of Will in International Conflict*, defines *will* in this detailed and excellent way. It is worth reading two or more times: “one’s desire, volition, life force—empowered by potency of resolve and willingness to sacrifice, that when yoked with strength of motive and appropriate capabilities, provides action sufficient to accomplish or satisfy an aim, goal, objective, strategy and thereby imposing one’s desires over and gaining the acquiescence of a resisting entity” In short, will is that vital desire and determination within a man or an army to do whatever it takes, sacrifice whatever is necessary, to triumph.

You MUST have this kind of will to win in warfare. And America’s is broken.

As grave threats multiply worldwide, America’s military says its top concerns are to “tackle the climate crisis” and “to improve diversity, equity and inclusion across the force,” with

an emphasis on uncovering “possible racial disparity.” The Navy has a “drag queen” as a recruiter. Military bases have joined public libraries and schools in hosting drag shows. After one such show, a military spokesman told Yahoo! News, “Ensuring our ranks reflect and are inclusive of the American people is essential to the morale, cohesion and readiness of the military.”

America is living Leviticus 26! It is now out in the open: Our moral weakness and rebellion against God is so great that even our military is telling the world that promoting sexual deviancy *increases fighting readiness*.

In truth, promoting sexual deviancy is a *root cause* for breaking our will to fight *any war at all*, foreign or domestic! These types of depravity are the exact reasons why our nation is crumbling and God is cursing it. He has removed the mighty man, the man of war, the captain of 50 (Isaiah 3:1-3). Those leading in their place are rendering the mightiest military in world history impotent.

The latest figures show that the American military spends more than the next 10 nations combined. But it can’t stop the Chinese military, which spends only a third as much, nor can it stop the

it practised, and prospered” in its conquest. People who had known and been empowered by God were defeated, routed, destroyed!

How could this happen? Why did God allow it? This passage explains: It happened “by reason of transgression.”

“[T]he *sins of the people* gave Satan his opening,” Mr. Flurry explains in his book *America Under Attack*. “Then he went right into the sanctuary, working through the leaders at the top, and cast the truth to the ground. That is how Satan destroyed God’s Church.”

The same strategy of attack is now destroying target after target across America. “Now Satan and his mighty army of demons are destroying the superpower of end-time Israel the same way,” Mr. Flurry continues. “The values that helped make America great are being cast to the ground—from the top. And why? ... It is ‘by reason of transgression’: BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH SIN WITHIN THE PEOPLE.”

This is a crucial truth. People want to believe the issue is just a handful of radicals in power, or on the fringe, creating all the problems. God says differently.

“This is not merely a problem of one man at the top with a lawless spirit,”

Indulging in sin shatters an individual’s will and a nation’s will, breaks your will to fight, disarms your ability to resist evil. And in a world ruled by the devil, this is a catastrophic problem, because evil is everywhere.

Russian military, which spends less than *one 10th*. Such is the effect of aiming your \$877 billion budget at promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.

This is Leviticus 26:20 in action: “[Y]our strength shall be *spent in vain* ...”

By Reason of Transgression

America’s fecklessness comes from a *curse*. And that curse comes from disobedience.

Daniel 8:10-12 forecast that even the true Church of God would disobey and rebel. It describes a *demon army* attacking God’s people. This force “cast down the truth to the ground; and

Mr. Flurry writes. “He would never have achieved the heights of power if not for a massive *crisis of lawbreaking* throughout the nation! Our people are *saturated* in sin of every imaginable type—and proud of it!” (Request a free copy of this important book.)

This lawless spirit is a curse. And it leads to many other curses—such as strength spent in vain and broken will. We can see it in our leaders. Can we see it in ourselves?

What happens when a superpower loses its patriotism? And its religion, and its desire to have children—all at once? America is about to find out.

Twenty-five years ago, the *Wall Street Journal* and NBC surveyed American adults about values they viewed as “very important.” *Patriotism* was “very important” to 70 percent; *religion* to 62 percent; *having children* to 59 percent. This past March, the *Journal* took the poll again. Today those numbers have plunged to 38 percent for patriotism, 39 percent for religion, and 30 percent for having children. These trends are worst among the youngest adults—18-to-29-year-olds. Religion is very important to a mere 31 percent of them; patriotism and parenthood to only 23 percent. (By contrast, the people for whom *money* is very important rose from 30 percent in 1998 to 43 percent today.)

If America was, as Mr. Flurry wrote, “a nation of cowards” 25 years ago, what about today, with patriotism practically half of what it was?

It appears that fewer than 1 in 4 young adults today are patriotic enough to fight for their country. Yet perhaps even more troubling is that the same trifling percentage are even *fit* to fight. A Pentagon study released in March found that 77 percent of Americans age 17 to 24 *do not qualify for military service*. All but 23 percent of prime-military-age youths are too fat, mentally ill, on drugs or otherwise unfit. Don’t expect this trend to turn around, with the next generation being trained to become emotionally unhinged if someone won’t call them by their preferred pronouns.

America is living in a fantasy that is about to be rudely disrupted by a world that will not tolerate it. A nation cannot harbor such self-hatred and softness and survive.

A Spirit of Surrender

Indulging in sin shatters an individual’s will and a nation’s will, breaks your will to fight, disarms your ability to resist evil. And in a world ruled by the devil (2 Corinthians 4:4), this is a catastrophic problem, because evil is everywhere. When we fail to fight evil, it spreads. In time, it conquers. This is true nationally, and it is true individually.

The appalling proof is all around us.

When you indulge in sin, by definition, you are separating yourself from God. You are rejecting God’s protection and inviting Satan’s influence. You

are accommodating evil rather than fighting it.

You are in a spirit of surrender.

Consider it: How did the world’s most powerful military reach the point where a man who dresses like a woman is celebrated as America’s “first female four-star admiral”? How did we come to believe that we “affirm” our children by pharmacologically castrating them and surgically carving up healthy genitalia?

How did we reach such a moral abyss?

The answer: We got here STEP BY STEP.

Why won’t society stand up to the blatant evil of transgenderism? Because we have already surrendered to the evil of same-sex “marriage.” And before that, to the evil of homosexuality. Before that, to the evil of pornography, the evil of divorce, the evil of adultery, the evil of fornication. For decades, *America has been surrendering to sin* on every front. How then can we expect to suddenly summon the fight to take on the latest evil?

For decades, America has been surrendering to sin on every front. How then can we expect to suddenly summon the fight to take on the latest evil?

The New Testament epistle of Jude reminds us of the fate of ancient cities saturated in immorality. “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7). Supernatural destruction reduced these immoral cities to ash. Yet they had a certain allure, even to Lot and his wife (Genesis 19). Jude 18 shows that this prophetic epistle is for “the last time” and is “an example”—a warning for us.

Regarding verse 7, Mr. Flurry wrote, “Homosexuality and lesbianism have become chic today in the nations of Israel. ... First, our people are ‘giving themselves over,’ utterly surrendering, to an evil spirit of fornication that destroys marriages and families. Then they go after ‘strange flesh,’ or ‘change the natural use into that which is against nature’ (Romans 1:26).

“*Before the plague of homosexuality, there is the spirit of fornication, which tears marriages and families apart!*” (Jude; request a free copy).

That booklet was first published in 2005. At the time, the “plague of homosexuality” had become mainstream, and the battleground in the culture war was shifting. Same-sex unions went from having virtually *no* public support in the 1980s to over 50 percent support in 2011. By 2015, approval had risen to 60 percent, and same-sex unions were legally recognized in all 50 states. (Today that number is over 70 percent.)

We had surrendered to fornication, adultery and homosexuality. Then we surrendered to same-sex “marriage.” So the battleground shifted again. Sin advanced—unless destroyed, *it always advances*.

In June 2015, Olympic gold-medal decathlete Bruce Jenner publicly declared himself transgender. Suddenly this new issue filled the spotlight. Public

debate intensified when, in July 2017, President Donald Trump announced that transgenders would not be allowed to “serve in any capacity in the U.S. military.” Within months, courts overruled the commander in chief and forced the military to allow transgender people in. Surrender on this point set off a social transformation tidal wave aimed at accommodating people confused about their “gender identity.”

Mainstream media and politicians enthusiastically champion the movement. They label efforts to slow the tsunami as attacks on human rights and demonize opponents of child mutilation as enemies of “gender-affirming care.”

The battle continued. In 2021, West Virginia passed a law barring male students in public schools from joining girls’ sports teams. A district court blocked the law’s enforcement pending the outcome of a lawsuit over it, and the state sought to reverse that. But

in April this year, in a 7-2 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the state's challenge. They made sure that biological men can continue to participate in women's sports.

Also in April, Jenner joined the fight *against* men competing against women. He tweeted, "Today I publicly launch Fairness First PAC [political action committee] to fight the radical gender ideology, put parental rights at the forefront of education, and keep boys out of women's sports."

How dominant is sin right now in the American culture war? Take this as an indicator: A man who thinks he's a woman is arguing with the Supreme Court about morality—and *he* holds the more conservative position.

Majority Opinion

All around in America, you see the spirit of surrender.

In April, Bud Light used a man dressed as a woman in a promotional campaign. Many Americans were angry, and sales of the beer dropped. How much? About 20 percent. Many viewed this as a big win in the culture war. But apparently 80 percent of consumers were *fine* with it and couldn't be bothered to switch to another beer. The beer's parent company said the loss represented about 1 percent of global sales volume, that it would win back customers by tripling its ad spending and offering free beer. Within a few weeks, demand for Bud Light had already started stabilizing. Most Americans simply don't care.

This capitulation to transgenderism is just one sign of a widespread spirit of surrender enfeebling the nation.

Consider abortion. The abortion pill mifepristone is used in more than half of all abortions in the U.S. In early April, a U.S. district judge in Texas suspended legal use of this pill. The case quickly came before the U.S. Supreme Court. On April 28, the court struck down the ban. The case must still go through the lower courts, and the Supreme Court—which is notionally 6-to-3 conservative, "the most conservative in 90 years"—wants to make sure that as it does, people can still use mifepristone to kill babies without restrictions.

Several media outlets noted that the justices were simply doing what most

people want. A 2022 Gallup poll showed that 85 percent of Americans support legal abortion in all or most cases. Pew and PRRI polled major religious groups in America and found that except for white evangelical and Hispanic Protestants, Latter-day Saints and Jehovah's Witnesses, a majority in every other religious group favor abortion. PRRI also found that majorities of residents in all but seven states support abortion being at least mostly legal. Within those seven states, abortion supporters still number between 42 and 49 percent. No state has more than 14 percent of respondents who say abortion should be illegal in all cases.

Does anyone care what God thinks? *He says abortion is murder.* (Read "Inspiring Truth Abortionists Should Know" at theTrumpet.com/25974). A great majority of Americans don't care.

When the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, some viewed it as a sign that conservative Americans were battling back and gaining some lost ground. Many religious people think America is enjoying a religious revival. The reality is, overturning *Roe* kicked the matter back to states, and a majority in 43 states *want* abortion. Voters nationwide have been *punishing* politicians who oppose killing unborn babies.

Last November, Montana voted on a legislative referendum requiring health-care providers to take "all medically appropriate and reasonable actions to preserve the life" of an infant that is born alive, including after an attempted abortion. Voters rejected it. *Let those babies die*, they decreed. Not in Massachusetts. In *Montana*.

Behold America's moral infirmity. Our spiritual sickness is reflected in our broken national will. It accounts for America's disappearance from the world scene, as well as public passivity as tyranny swallows the nation.

This is a war. Surrender to sin creates a toxic environment in which perversion flourishes. It is much like human health: Disease cannot grow in a healthy body; it grows in a *weakened* body. The healthier and fitter you are, the more you are protected from sickness. That is why the devil always works to weaken and sicken people: so he can control us and draw people deeper into spiritual slavery.

When people stand for nothing,

they are vulnerable to exactly the kind of moral bullying that radicals are using today. The American spirit that animated the Revolutionary War, or the War of Texas Independence, is all but extinguished.

And whatever flame still flickers, the government is zealous to smother. Witness its truculence in crushing dissent and prosecuting the "insurrectionists" of Jan. 6, 2021. To actually reverse course and put down such tyranny would require extraordinary patriotism, courage and fight on a magnificent scale. And in today's America, just about everyone is dropping to their knees and conceding to satanic, radical forces.

"We gained our freedom through much bloodshed and courage," Mr. Flurry wrote in that article 25 years ago. "And our freedom cannot be sustained by cowards. We can easily deceive ourselves. But our enemies know the truth and will one day soon put us to the test!" (op cit). America's ultimate defeat from our enemies will come because we first suffered a series of defeats in dealing with our own sins.

Only *one thing* will reverse this rout: *a miracle from God*, who has determined to save Israel by the hand of Jeroboam (2 Kings 14:28; this prophecy is thoroughly explained in *America Under Attack*).

Spiritual Courage

America's will is broken, and the prospect of God healing it is remote. The nation seems doomed to die from its surrender to ever more wretched sin. *But there is something you can do about it!*

The war is ultimately for *your* mind. *You* have the final say on what wins in your mind, in your family, in your home. Each of us individually can strengthen our will to wage spiritual warfare against the evil we encounter.

"*The further we get from God, the more cowardly we become,*" Mr. Flurry continued. "THE CLOSER WE ARE TO GOD, THE MORE WE MANIFEST COURAGE."

When you are spiritually healthy, you do not tolerate evil. Why? Because you are thinking like *God*, who is a warrior against sin. You discern between good and evil, and act accordingly.

The devil has seduced society into deep *ambivalence* about evil. God

commands that we react with stout hatred! We love people, but we *hate* the sin they are engaging in that is *destroying* them! Read Romans 12:9. It doesn't say, "Understand that which is evil," "negotiate with evil" or "try to reason with evil." It says, "ABHOR that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." To *abhor* means to DETEST UTTERLY.

You cannot prevail in warfare if you are lukewarm about your enemy. A casual soldier won't attack the enemy with enough force. You will never win this culture war, even in your own life, until you first recognize clearly your *own* desperately wicked heart (Jeremiah 17:9). ABHOR that which is evil in your own life, and you will be motivated to eradicate it. CLEAVE to that which is good, and you will be inspired to fight and even die for it.

Ours is a Laodicean age: rich, increased with goods, self-satisfied, complacent (Revelation 3:14-17). People are enslaved to materialism and luxury, lusts and sins. But this *is* a war. And complacency is deadly!

We live in modern Sodom and Gomorrah, surrounded by evil. Anciently, righteous Lot was vexed—grievously pained and tormented—by the Sodomites' filthy conduct (2 Peter 2:7-8). Yet over time, seeing such evil day after day makes it difficult to maintain godly disgust. The tendency in human nature is strong to want to compromise with and accommodate evil. Even Lot, though he received this great commendation by the Apostle

Peter, *lingered* when God tried to get him out of there to protect him from destruction (Genesis 19:16). It almost cost him his life. And his wife, who looked back on Sodom with longing, *was* divinely judged (verses 24-26).

To build the spirit of a spiritual warrior takes effort and vigilance, summoning a proper perspective on evil. Here is some practical instruction on how to do that: "[E]ndure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Timothy 2:3-4).

Don't entangle yourself with this sinful world and its ways. Avoid the toxic weapons that fill this world and its influences. If you are casually participating in its trends, entertainments and distractions, you are not thinking like a soldier. The Christian calling requires discipline. If God is to fight for you, you must live in a way that pleases Him. Read Psalm 101 to see how King David, a mighty spiritual warrior, stayed in fighting condition.

This sick world desperately needs strong, righteous leadership. God is calling and training such leaders today—and He needs *fighters*. That is what He is looking for in the leaders of tomorrow's world, the people who will help put down Satan's rule and replace today leaders, who have been conquered by the devil.

Are you among those few with the fighting spirit to join God's cause? ■

► **ALLIANCE** FROM PAGE 22

time, Germany is building a European economic powerhouse with the ambition of making it what Macron called a "third superpower" with an EU military.

Many around the globe today are alarmed by Russia's war on Ukraine and China's increasingly clear plan to conquer Taiwan. But few recognize that the mighty United States, oceans away from its main adversaries, could be similarly brutalized. These prophecies show that this is what lies ahead for America. And in light of them, we should not be surprised to see Europeans willing to overlook the Chinese Communist Party's cruelty in order to partner with it. We should actually expect China-Europe ties to keep growing stronger.

And even as China grows more powerful, belligerent and aggressive, we should expect Europe to increasingly side with Beijing—and against the U.S.

Bible prophecies make plain that these trends will culminate in a time of extreme calamity and heavy darkness. But that is not the end of the story.

The Scriptures also show that the age of darkness will be brief and will then be overcome by light. At that time, a fundamentally different chapter of history will begin—far brighter than any mankind has ever experienced.

"[T]hat trading partnership won't last long," Mr. Flurry writes. "Soon they will clash, just before Jesus Christ returns and destroys both of them" (ibid).

The Creator of man will return to Earth and decisively end our lawlessness, rebellion, tyranny, destructiveness, human rights abuses, genocide, oppression, covetousness, greed and other evils. He will usher in an age of light and peace for the peoples of China, Europe, America and the entire world. "Thank God," Mr. Flurry writes, "there is great news beyond the bad news." ■

How to be an Overcomer

The Christian life is about overcoming and conquering sin. The Bible backs this up from the first chapters of Genesis to the final chapters of Revelation. Scripture frequently describes it as a struggle, a fight, a battle. Anyone who has ever stepped through that narrow gate and undertaken a journey on the difficult path to the Promised Land can identify with that description: It is a war. *How to Be an Overcomer* is a type of field manual for your spiritual warfare. It helps orient you on the battlefield, equip you for the struggle, and guide you through to victory. Request your free copy of **How to Be an Overcomer** today.



Prophecies revealed

Economic siege, world catastrophe and universal hope are among the prophecies found in Isaiah. To understand them, request **Isaiah's End-Time Vision**.



Intimacy in Prayer

Master the language of speaking with your Father.

MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER IS ALMOST 2. SHE SPEAKS INCES-
santly, but English is not her forte. She expresses
her ideas, thoughts, questions and concerns with an
extremely limited set of comprehensible words, mixed with a
barrage of incomprehensible babblings. It's very cute.

With a very limited vocabulary, she is a limited communi-
cator. This does not deter her from saying the same things over
and again: She wants us to know all that is on her mind.

As children grow, so does their repository of words and their
ability to express them. My daughter's two older siblings
brandish a far superior vocabulary with ease.

As our children become
more capable of expressing
themselves, our relationship
with them deepens. We can
understand more of what is
going on in their minds. They
want us to know everything
they know. And they also want
to know what we are thinking
as parents. They are acutely
cognizant of us, and our rela-
tionship is important to them.

God the Father desires to
build a deep, intimate and expressive relationship with each of
His people. "[T]he prayer of the upright is his delight" (Proverbs
15:8). We should desire the same closeness with Him, just as a
little child desires to be close with his parents.

If God has called you into a relationship with Him, then that
is your most important relationship. "Our primary focus in life
must be on how we talk to God in prayer!" *Trumpet* editor in
chief Gerald Flurry wrote (*Royal Vision*, May-June 1998).

But think about this from God's perspective: This relation-
ship is very important to Him too. He is eager to hear from us.
"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are
open unto their cry" (Psalm 34:15). Our Father greatly antici-
pates spending time with us.

Sadly, most people when they talk to God haven't really gone
beyond the level of the infant with the limited vocabulary.
Many just repeat the same things over and over (Matthew 6:7).
This is an easy bad habit to sink into. This kind of prayer does
not build a close Father-child relationship.

Our prayerful relationship with God will grow according to
the *amount* of time we spend with God in prayer, and according
to the *quality* of that time.

I don't see my children much on a regular weekday. The time

I do have with them is invaluable, not just for me to fulfill my
desire to be with them but because they need their father.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "God seems unreal and far
away **ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED AND ARE NOT
ACTIVELY MAINTAINING CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT!** It is not
a matter of distance or visibility—it is a matter of **CONTACT**"
(*Plain Truth*, May 1963).

If I got home from work each day and spent no real time with
my children, our relationship would quickly dissolve. When we
do have a series of quality experiences together, it is amazing
how close we become—even with the youngest, who barely
speaks a lick of English.

Think about our time in prayer in the same way. Our time in
prayer with God is extremely valuable. It is time we set aside to
build a closer, more intimate relationship with Him.

Mr. Armstrong experienced this deepening relationship with
God from the outset of his conversion. "... I began to realize a
new fellowship and friendship had come into my life," he wrote
in his autobiography. "I began to be conscious of a contact and

fellowship with Christ, and
with God the Father. When
I read and studied the Bible,
God was talking to *me*, and
now I loved to listen! I began
to pray, and knew that in
prayer I was talking with
God. I was not yet very well
acquainted with God. But one
gets to be *better* acquainted
with another by constant
contact and continuous
conversation."

Again, think about this
from God's perspective. He
was surely excited to have
Mr. Armstrong as a begotten

son and friend. He could hear someone talk to Him with pas-
sion and fervor. God had someone who was very converted to
converse with.

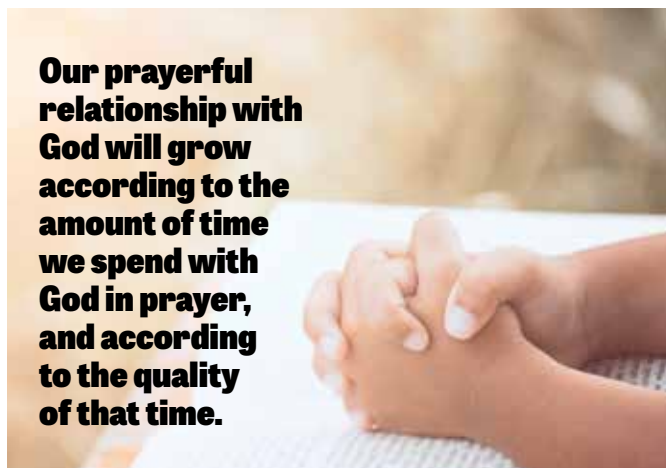
This is the relationship God wants with each of us. Mr. Arm-
strong commented in a *World Tomorrow* broadcast, "[P]rayer
should be an intimate thing where you're really talking to God.
God is real. ... Learn to talk to Him ..."

Just as other interests, demands on our time, materialism
and distractions can so easily interfere with family life, so can
these hinder our prayer life. We must work hard to preserve an
intimate relationship with our Father.

Mr. Armstrong wrote of this common problem: "[O]ur minds
are so filled with the *material* interests of *this* life; our minds and
our hearts are *so far from God*; we are so out of touch with Him
through lack of enough *time* spent in the study of His Word and
lack of enough of the *right* kind of surrendered, submissive, ear-
nest and heartrending PRAYER ..." (*The Plain Truth About Healing*).

Your relationship with God should dominate your life. Share
with Him your innermost thoughts, questions and concerns, all
with intimate, earnest and sometimes passionate expression. ■

To learn more, request your free copy of **How to Pray**.



WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

[theTrumpet.com/more/europe](https://www.thetrumpet.com/more/europe)

Germany continues to extend its relationship with the Jewish nation. On April 25 to 26, the State of Israel celebrated 75 years of independence. The occasion was marked with a flyover of German warplanes: **Luftwaffe Eagle 2.0 fighters** joined jets from Israel and other nations in flying over Jerusalem and the Knesset. Some German fighter jets were painted with both the Israeli and German flags. The flyover symbolizes a high level of cooperation between **Germany and Israel**.

This cooperation was prophesied in Daniel 11:41, which forecasts that a European superstate will rise in the end time and “enter also into the glorious land.”

German interest in Israel is not the only factor drawing Europe into the Middle East. Italy declared a state of emergency on April 13 after more than 31,000 migrants had entered the country since the start of the year—compared to fewer than 8,000 over the same period last year. The migration crisis could grow much worse as war has broken out in Sudan.

Meanwhile, Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** has been actively searching the region for energy exporters to replace Russia. Along with her foreign minister, defense minister, interior minister and other senior officials, Meloni has visited Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia and Tunisia. “While most of Europe remains focused on Ukraine, Italy seems ready to take on more responsibility for safeguarding the Mediterranean,” wrote RealClearWorld (February 17). Throughout

the trip, “Meloni emphasized a Mediterranean destiny that Italy has too often neglected, a theme which runs through her foreign-policy speeches,” wrote *Le Monde* (January 24). Meloni appears to be helping to revive European power and the Holy Roman Empire. The books of Daniel and Revelation describe this empire. Revelation 17 states that this empire would come under the influence of a church, symbolized by a woman. Once the Roman Empire became the

TOPSHOT Indonesians search a landfill for items to sell.

Holy Roman Empire, the Bible prophesied that it would rise and fall seven times. Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler built the sixth of these seven resurrections. They were defeated, and the empire disappeared into “the bottomless pit.” The world thought it was dead, but it is rising again.

Fear of Russia has been the other big driver of news in Europe. Global defense spending reached an all-time high of \$2.2 trillion last year, according to a report published April 24 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. This constitutes a 3.7 percent year-on-year increase, another all-time record, as nations continued to spend on guns, bullets, bombs, personnel and military aid. Most European countries increased defense spending by 15 percent. In another sign of fear, the Latvian parliament voted on April 5 to reinstate mandatory military service for men. Watch for Europe as a whole to continue to rearm, and not only in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. ■



MIDDLE EAST

[theTrumpet.com/more/middle-east](https://www.thetrumpet.com/more/middle-east)

This year, April 25 was Israel's Memorial Day for honoring fallen soldiers. This was also the day that Russian Foreign Minister **Sergei Lavrov**, then chairman of the United Nations Security Council, scheduled a Security Council meeting to discuss Israel-Palestinian relations. Israel has been critical of Russia's war in Ukraine, and Lavrov appeared to be retaliating with open disrespect. Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations **Gilad Erdan** tried in vain to have the meeting rescheduled. On the day of the meeting, he walked out in protest. Lavrov, who has been guilty of making anti-Semitic comments in the past, got his way. Of the 14 other nations on the council, not one followed the Israelis out.

This is just the latest instance of anti-Semitism at the United Nations. During its 17-year history, the UN Human Rights

Council has issued almost as many country-specific condemnations of Israel's actions as all other nations combined. “Criticism of Israel is not inherently anti-Semitic—but such obsession is,” the *Trumpet* wrote in 2019. “There is no evidence to suggest that Israel is the most problematic country on the planet, demanding the overwhelming attention of the United Nations. The Jewish state is being singled out because it is Jewish. That is textbook anti-Semitism.”

Israel also faces threats from within. Leaked classified documents from the United States' Department of Defense indicate that senior leaders of Mossad have been encouraging employees to join the protests against Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**. Mossad, Israel's spy agency, is commissioned to address foreign threats and abstain from political interference, and it reports directly to the prime minister. These leaders are undermining the



ASIA

theTrumpet.com/more/asia

China is closer than ever to becoming a nuclear superpower and closer than ever to Russia. Bloomberg reported on February 28 that **China** is importing tons of Russian uranium to process in two new fast-neutron nuclear breeder reactors on Changbiao Island. **These two advanced reactors are designed to convert uranium into weapons-grade plutonium.** Chinese authorities claim the reactors are for electricity generation for civilian purposes. However, if China uses them for military warheads, the two could churn out enough material for 80 to 100 nuclear warheads per year, rapidly expanding China's nuclear arsenal to a size that rivals that of Russia and the United States.

Russia currently possesses an estimated **5,900 nuclear bombs**, while the U.S. has an estimated 5,300. China has around 400 but with the new reactors could hit 1,000 by the decade's end. Intelligence suggests the Chinese desire an arsenal of **1,500 nuclear bombs**, making it the world's third nuclear superpower.

"By the 2030s the United States will, for the first time in its history, face two major nuclear powers as strategic competitors and potential adversaries," stated the Department of Defense's newest Nuclear Posture Review. "This will create

new stresses on stability and new challenges for deterrence, assurance, arms control, and risk reduction."

Building up China's nuclear arsenal aligns seamlessly with a new foreign-policy document adopted by Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 31. The Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation stresses that Russia will strive to eliminate American dominance in world affairs, largely by working with China and India bilaterally and in various multinational organizations.

The document follows a year of China and India giving Russia steady economic and political backing, even as much of the Western world aimed to isolate Russia over its war on Ukraine. **Russian exports of crude oil are back above prewar levels**, since India and China are each buying about 1.5 million barrels per day. Before the war, European countries bought about 66 percent of Russia's crude oil. Now China and India buy about 90 percent of its oil exports.

Meanwhile, Putin hosted Chinese General Secretary **Xi Jinping** in Moscow from March 20 to 23, the first time the two have met in person since Russia expanded its conflict against Ukraine into a full-scale war. It also marked Xi's first visit to any nation since he secured his third term as the supreme leader of China, revealing his prioritization of China's partnership with Russia. For Russia, Xi's ongoing support is a major diplomatic lifeline and counters the attempts of Western nations to isolate and weaken Putin.

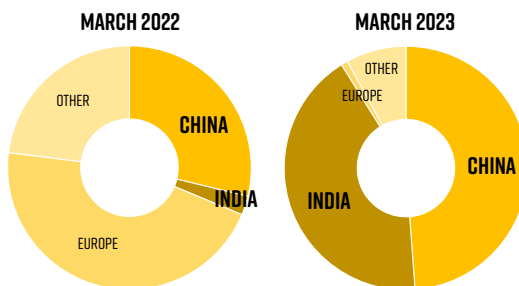
Bible prophecy makes clear that Russia and China are building a super-powerful Asian alliance and will grow more belligerent in pushing against the West. To understand the specific prophecies involved, request your free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

authority of not only Netanyahu but the prime ministership itself. And they are giving the impression that one of the most effective intelligence agencies in the world is attempting regime change in its own capital. The source of this leak could indicate that spies from the United States, who have already overthrown an elected leader in their own country, could be involved.

The **civil war in Yemen** now appears to be ending. Since 2015, the Saudi Arabia-backed government there has been fighting Iran-backed Houthi rebels. However the Saudis held preliminary peace talks with the Houthis in April. After failing to win the war and losing U.S. support, the Saudis appear eager to disengage from Yemen, **even at the cost of legitimizing a certain amount of Houthi—and therefore Iranian—presence in the country.** This gives Iran greater clout over the Bab el-Mandeb, the southern exit point of the Red Sea and a major trade choke point.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in *Germany's Secret Strategy to Destroy Iran*: "The Houthi takeover in Yemen proves that Iran is implementing a bold strategy to control the vital sea-lane from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. ... Now that Iran controls Yemen, it can virtually close or open the spigot on Middle East oil bound for Europe. And Europe is taking notice!" A prophecy in Daniel 11:40 predicts a clash between "the king of the north" (Europe) and "the king of the south" (Iran). Iran's control of Yemen through its Houthi proxies could help bring about that conflict.

CHINA AND INDIA BUY ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF RUSSIA'S OIL EXPORTS.



ANGLO-AMERICA

theTrumpet.com/more/anglo-america

The United States government crossed an ominous line on March 30 when America's justice system made its first indictment, arrest and felony charge against a former (and the rightful) president, **Donald Trump**. The New York County district attorney, notorious for refusing to prosecute many repeat criminals in his jurisdiction, created a historically inventive and unprecedented prosecution, operating beyond his jurisdiction in order to charge Trump with falsifying business records. It amounts to one charge and does not state outright what felony Trump allegedly committed.

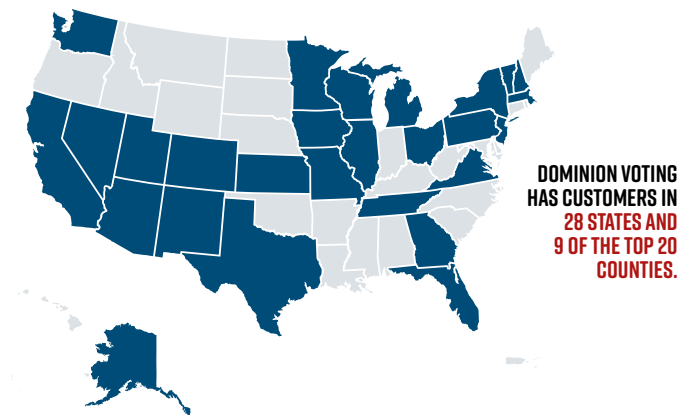
"Think what you want about former President Trump and the reasons he's being indicted," tweeted the president of El Salvador, which has had a notoriously corrupt past in which prosecution was used as a political weapon. "But just imagine if this happened in any other country, where a government arrested the main opposition candidate. The United States' ability to use 'democracy' as foreign policy is gone."

Even many Democrats admit that the charge against Trump is incredibly weak and that the indictment is a national embarrassment. Yet the radicals continue to wage leftist lawfare, and not only in this case.

On April 18, **Fox Corporation** executives abruptly surrendered to **Dominion Voting Systems** and agreed to pay \$787.5 million to avoid a court case. Dominion had claimed that it had been willfully defamed when Fox broadcast about a dozen interviews in the wake of the fraudulent 2020 presidential election in which guests claimed that some of

about Dominion, Fox executives chose to pay enormous amounts of money for the right to walk away and leave Dominion in operation, and greatly enriched.

A prophecy in Micah says that the justice system in the nations that descended from ancient Israel would "hate the good, and love the evil," and that it would figuratively "eat the flesh of my



the irregularities came from Dominion machines subtracting votes from Donald Trump and adding votes for Joe Biden. Preliminary litigation revealed internal e-mails showing that **Dominion executives knew their machines were "riddled with bugs" and had been hacked before.** But rather than use this opportunity to make a fairly easy legal argument and to reveal further newsworthy information

people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron" (Micah 3:1-3). This prophecy is being fulfilled as a conservative president is being charged with crimes he did not commit and a company that appears to be manipulating votes faces only a half-hearted attempt to expose its crimes, and gets paid hundreds of millions. ■

FEATURED FEEDBACK



When I read this magazine (April, theTrumpet.com/27075 "Are Satan and the Demons Real?"), I was crying. Some of the things you say about what is going on in the world are really true. Some people are into demons and all this LGBT stuff; people don't get it, but it comes from Satan. Keep sending me these *Trumpet* magazines. This issue is a powerful one.

Modesty Bridges ILLINOIS

Your last three issues have been awesome. I just eat it up. There is so much in here about what is going on, and I really appreciate it.

Betty-Lee Taylor NORTH CAROLINA

This is one of the best publications I've read. I'd be interested in receiving anything you have to say about the current financial crisis and how to survive it.

Jim Gray TEXAS

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The Lost Lockdown Generation

If human history is, as H. G. Wells said, ‘a race between education and catastrophe,’ then catastrophe is clearly in the lead.



“DON’T WORRY, IT’S JUST ALLERGIES.” THESE WORDS WERE spoken warmly, though somewhat phlegmily, on the evening of March 7, 2020. At that time, a mysterious new illness that Americans were still calling the “Wuhan coronavirus” had started appearing in headlines, and some were worried. My daughter was hours from drawing her first breath, and our nurse at the hospital in Oklahoma City was reassuring us—facetiously since only a handful of Americans had contracted this new disease—that she wasn’t infected.

The nurse soon stopped sneezing and the delivery the next morning went well. But three days later, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. And the events that followed would profoundly alter the next couple of years for my daughter and millions of other children. Their critical years of development took place under the cold shadow of fear and lockdown. The results are chilling.

Part of this is shown in “America’s report card.” The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) regularly tests hundreds of thousands of fourth and eighth graders across the country. Its fall 2022 tests have shown that the COVID years atrophied millions of young minds and reduced reading scores to their lowest levels in 30 years. The overall literacy score dropped by 3 points. In the lowest performing districts, 79 percent of fourth graders and 68 percent of eighth graders could not read at a basic level. In math, the damage was even worse. In 2019, an already alarming 31 percent of eighth graders failed to demonstrate comprehension of the most basic concepts of math, such as the ability to calculate the third angle of a triangle after being given the other two. In 2022, that figure had climbed to almost 40 percent. Overall math scores plummeted to the lowest levels at any time since NAEP testing started in 1969.

This indicates what kind of contribution these students will be able to make to society in the future. A World Bank report in February calculated that today’s teenagers may lose 10 percent of future earnings because of COVID-induced education shock. For preteens, the loss may be closer to 20 percent.

The evidence shows that there are potential effects on even those around my daughter’s age, too young to have undergone school disruptions or to consciously grasp the aberrancy of the times. Perhaps the most formative years in their lives were 2020 and 2021, when they were denied most or all of their playdates with peers or outings to parks, stores, churches and homes of relatives. They also noticed any stress and fear that their parents were feeling and, on some level, internalized it. The World Bank says this age group’s future earnings may be slashed by 25 percent.

Meanwhile, since the pandemic began, emergency rooms have seen stunning increases in young people visiting for mental health-related crises. Even in the pre-COVID era, from 2015 to 2019, such visits were increasing by a disturbing 8 percent per year. Now they’ve soared. For those aged 12 to 17, self-harm injury visits are up 50 percent compared to pre-COVID levels, mental health disorder visits are up 60 percent, and overdoses are up by 70 percent. Compared to 2019, rates have surged among children for everything from depression, tics and eating disorders, to extreme anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The rates of some afflictions have tripled.

In addition to the major disruptions of turning to remote learning and then going back to classrooms, these children experienced authority figures warning that the sky was falling, and others warning that those who were issuing the warnings were dangerously untrustworthy. Parents were losing jobs, losing businesses, losing faith in authorities and institutions. Political and racial tensions were in the stratosphere. For many, it was too much for the half-baked prefrontal cortex of their young brains.

Millions of young people are now failing to manage their lives in the most basic ways or are feigning affliction to gain attention. And increasing numbers are turning to the most violent crime. In 2020, homicides committed by individual American juveniles increased 30 percent over the previous year, while those carried out by multiple juveniles increased 66 percent. The number of murders committed by children under 14 was the highest in 20 years.

A generation of young Americans have suffered a twisted introduction to the real world. They were born into the imbalances of the Internet age, then they were overwhelmed by lockdowns, lies, losses and fear. Even now, many are still reeling in ways they can understand and in ways they can’t.

This doesn’t mean the children in your life or mine have to be lost. Giving children a loving education is a universe-sized task for a parent, but it’s a critical responsibility that can remedy damage done and prepare them to navigate the vicissitudes that lie ahead and lead successful lives. In Proverbs 22:6, God tells parents to give their children exactly this kind of education: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

With this kind of education, you can immunize them to the turbulent gyrations of our civilization that are yet to come. ■

Request your free copy of ***Child Rearing With Vision***.

WYBN 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WONO-CD 6:30, Sun; WSTM-TV-COMET TV 6:00
Troy WYBN 8:30, Sun
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Asheville WGGG 8:30, Sun; WYCW 9:00, Sun
Bowling Green, WBKO 12:30, Fri
Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun; WCCB 5:00/10:30, Sun; WHKY-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Durham WNCN 5:00, Sun; WRDC-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WTVB 6:30, Sun
Fayetteville WTVB 6:30, Sun
Greensboro WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Greenville WCTI-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun
Hickory WHKY-TV-COMET TV 6:30, Sun
High Point WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
New Bern WCTI-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WNCN 5:00, Sun; WRAZ 7:00, Sun; WRDC-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WTVB 6:30, Sun
Salem WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Washington WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WECT 6:00, Sun; WSFX-TV 6:30, Sun; WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun
Winston WMYV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
North Dakota
Bismarck KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun
Dickinson KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun
Fargo KRDX-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KXJB 8:30, Sun
Grand Forks KRDX-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Minot KXMD/KXMC-DT2 8:30, Sun
Valley City KXJB 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Akron WIVM/WIVX 8:30, Sun
Chillicothe WWHO-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Cincinnati WBQC-LD 6:30, Sun; WSTR-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Cleveland WIVM/WIVX 8:30, Sun; WJW-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WUAB 7:30, Sun
Columbus WSYX 6:30, Sun; WWHO-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Dayton WKEF 10:00, Sun; WRGT-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Stuebenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Toledo WMNT-CD 6:30, Sun; WNNW-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Youngstown WYTV 11:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOCB-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KMYT-TV 5:30, Sun; KOTV 5:30, Sat; KQCW 9:30, Sun; KTUL-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KMTR-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun
Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland KATU-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Pennsylvania, Altoona WANT/WWCP 8:30, Sun; WATM-TV 6:30, Sun; WJAC-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisburg GHP 5:30 p.m., Sun
Johnstown WANT/WWCP 8:30, Sun; WATM-TV 6:30, Sun; WJAC-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Philadelphia WPSG-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WPVI-TV 6:30, Sun
Pittsburgh WCPW 9:30, Sun; WPNT-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WPTG-CD 6:30, Sun
Scranton WSWB-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
State College WANT/WWCP 8:30, Sun; WJAC-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Wilkes Barre WSWB-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Puerto Rico, Aguadilla WSJP-LD-COMET TV 7:30, Sun
Rhode Island, Providence WJAR-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
South Carolina, Anderson WGGG 8:30, Sun; WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charleston ECIV 8:30, Sun; WCBT-DT 9:30, Sun; WCBT 12:30, Sun
Columbia WACH-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
WOLO Columbia, SC 11:30 p.m., Sun
Florence WPDE-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WMMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Greenville WGGG 8:30, Sun; WSPA 1:30, Fri/

Sat/Sun; WSPA 12:00 p.m., Sun; WYCW 9:00, Sun
Hardeeville WTGS-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Myrtle Beach WPDE-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Spartanburg WGGG 8:30, Sun; WSPA 12:00 p.m., Sun; WYCW 9:00, Sun
South Dakota, Huron KTTM 5:30, Sun
Rapid City KLCO-DT 8:30, Sun; KNBN 5:30 p.m., Sun; KOTA 5:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun; KTTW 5:30, Sun
Tennessee, Alexandria WRTN-LP 5:30, Sun
Chattanooga WDSI-TV-COMET TV 5:30, Sun
Greensboro WNBK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WEZK/WJZC 8:30, Sun; WKXN 1:30 p.m., Sun
Memphis WATN 6:30 p.m., Sat; WBII 7:30, Sun; WMC-TV 5:30, Sun; WHBQ 5:30, Sun; WMC 1:30, Thur/Fri
Nashville WRTN-LP 5:30, Sun; WUXP-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun; KVII-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVII-DT 8:30, Sun
Austin KCWX 5:30, Sun
Beaumont KBTU-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KFDM, 2:50, Sat; KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun; KGBT-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun; KTXA 7:30, Sun; KTXA 5:30, Sun; KTXD-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
El Paso KFOX-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Ft. Worth KDFW 5:00, Sun; KTXA 5:30, Sun; KTXD-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Greenville WEMT 10:00, Sun
Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun; KGBT-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Houston KIAH-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KTRK-TV 5:30, Sun
IUFKIN KIVY 7:30, Sun
Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun
Longview KIVY 7:30, Sun; KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun; KWWT 5:30, Sun
Port Arthur KBTU-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KFDM, 2:05, Sat/8:30, Sun
San Angelo KTXE 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KCWX 5:30, Sun; KMYS/GOAI 9:00, Sun
Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KFXK 8:30, Sun; KIVY 7:30, Sun; KTPN 7:30, Sun; KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KVCT 5:30, Sun; KVCT-DT3/KWVB 8:30, Sun
Waco KZCZ-LD-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; KWKT 6:30, Sun
Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun; KFDM 6:00, Sun
U.S. Virgin Islands, Charlotte Amalie WVXF 7:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KJZZ-TV-COMET TV 7:00, Sun; KSL-DT3 4:30, Sun
Vermont, Burlington WFFF 10:00, Sun; WVNY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Bristol WCYB 5:00, Sat; WCYB-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Hampton/Norfolk WSKY 9:00, Sun
Harrisonburg WSVW-LD2 8:30, Sun; WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun; W29DH-D-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Lynchburg WSET-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WYAT 8:30, Sun
Newport News WTKR 6:30, Sun
Norfolk WTKR 6:30, Sun; WTVZ-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Richmond WRLH-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WUPV 6:00/10:30, Sun; WWBT 1:30, Sat/10:30, Sun
Roanoke WSET-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; WYAT 8:30, Sun; WSLs 11:30, Sun
Virginia Beach WTKR 6:30, Sun
Washington D.C. WJLA-TV-COMET TV 6:00,

Sun
Washington, Kennewick KGFZ-LD 5:30, Sun; KVVK-CD-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Pasco KGFZ-LD 5:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Richland KGFZ-LD 5:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun; KOMO-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun; KONG 3:30, Sun
Spokane KAYU 7:30, Sun
Tacoma KONG 5:30, Sun
Yakima KGFZ-LD 5:30, Sun; KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun; KUNW-CD-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WVAH-TV-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun; WVUX 8:30, Sun
Fairmont WVUX-LD 6:30, Sun
Moorefield W29DH-D-COMET TV 6:00, Sun
Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WCWP/WOVA-LD2 9:30, Sun
Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun; WVUX 8:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Green Bay WCWF-COMET TV 5:00, Sun; WFRV 1:30, Sun
La Crosse WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Madison WKOW 5:30, Sun; WMSN-TV-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Milwaukee WISN 7:30, Sun; WVTU-DT2-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Superior KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun
Suring WCWF-COMET TV 5:00, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun; KFNB 7:00, Sun; KLVY 7:00, Sun; WVUX 7:30, Sun
Cheyenne KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun
Jackson KPFI 6:30, Sun
Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun
Weston WVUX 8:30, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide cable
 Vision TV 4:30 p.m. ET, Sun
 CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun
Calgary CKCS-DT 10:00, Sun; KAYU 8:30, Sun
Edmonton CKES-DT 10:00, Sun; KAYU 8:30, Sun
Medicine Hat CHAT 8:30, Sun; KAYU 8:30, Sun
Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Kamloops CFJC 9:00, Sun
Prince George CKPG 9:00, Sun
Vancouver CHEK 8:30, Sun; CHNU 11:30, Sun/10:00, Tues; CKPQ 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 11:30, Sun/10:00, Tues
Manitoba, Winnipeg CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:30, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVVY 10:30, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun

AUSTRALASIA

Australia
Nationwide BOLD 7:30, Sun
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 3:00 p.m., Mon
Philippines GTV 5:30, Sun; TV5 PH 12:00, Sat
New Zealand
Nationwide Eden TV 6:00, Sun; Eden+17:00, Sun

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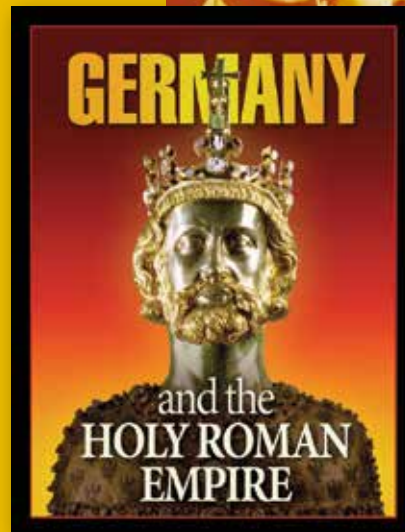
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