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The Spirit of Charlemagne Is Alive in Europe

To see what is ahead for European unity, look at what is behind.

N MAY 4, 2012, THE DAILY EXPRESS WROTE ONE OF THE most shocking articles I have ever read. It was titled "EU Plot to Scrap Britain." The article described Germany, Italy and France meeting privately to discuss a new form of leadership for the European Union. Britain was excluded from these discussions. This happened four years

before the Brexit referendum.



GERALD FLURRY

This small faction of European foreign ministers was informally called the "Berlin Group." Its confidential discussions revolved around combining the presidencies of the European Council and the European Commission. These foreign ministers wanted to merge the two positions and create an EU superpresident, a monolithic

position of absolute power greater than that of the president of the United States!

The author of this article, Macer Hall, described the powers of such a European president this way: "Opponents fear the plan would create a modern-day equivalent of the European emperor envisaged by Napoleon Bonaparte or a return to the Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne that dominated Europe in the Dark Ages" (emphasis mine throughout).

Germany's World War II empire was even named the *Third* Reich—it was a resurrection of an empire that had existed before. The *Second* Reich was the German Empire from 1871 to 1919. And what was the *First* Reich? The Holy Roman Empire ruled by Charlemagne!

Europe is now looking to revive that same spirit—the same spirit Hitler had revived. European leaders see problems in Europe, and they want to establish order in Europe once again by creating a new Charlemagne.

The Berlin Group, officially known as the Future of Europe Group, knew that one of the European Union's most prominent member states would totally reject this plan. So, even though it meant insulting and opposing an important fellow member of the EU, they excluded Britain. For decades, Britain has stood against the idea of an undemocratic bureaucrat receiving Charlemagne-like powers. It has restrained Europe from replacing democracy with an empire.

In response to the meetings of the Berlin Group, then United Kingdom Independence Party Deputy Leader Paul Nuttall said, "This is a truly ridiculous idea that must never be allowed to happen. It sounds as if they are trying to go back to the days of the Holy ROMAN EMPEROR."

Britain was forced into a no-win situation. If it remained in the EU, it would have to accept less and less sovereignty, less

Most people romanticize and glorify the reigns of these two European emperors. BUT THEY FORGET THE BLOODSHED, THEY BLOT OUT THAT BLOODY HISTORY.

The EU has yet to realize this plan. But keep watching Europe—you can expect it to happen soon! Many Europeans continue to hope for just such an individual.

Napoleon ruled 200 years ago. Charlemagne ruled 1,200 years ago. Today, most people romanticize and glorify the reigns of these two European emperors. But they forget the bloodshed. They forget the violence these European rulers brought about. They blot out that bloody, bloody history.

It is much more difficult to forget about Adolf Hitler. His Nazi death machine sparked a world war and murdered by the millions. His horrific rule is much more recent. In many ways, he committed some of the worst atrocities in human history—and it happened during the lifetimes of many of us. These facts are well known, and Hitler is still reviled today. What is less well known is that Adolf Hitler was a leader of the Holy Roman Empire, just like Napoleon and Charlemagne!

Adolf Hitler came in the Spirit of Charlemagne!

democracy, more and more integration, and more power for EU leaders. If Britain did not conform to the idea of an *EU super-president*, it would either be kicked out of the Union or choose to leave—which is exactly what British voters did in June.

The Brexit referendum facilitated Europe's plans to build empire by removing one of its biggest obstacles.

Europe After Brexit

After Britain's referendum to leave the European Union, the *Daily Express* published an article about a development in Europe that some have called an "ultimatum." In the article "European Superstate to Be Unveiled: EU Nations 'to Be Morphed Into One' Post-Brexit," Nick Gutteridge explained that political chiefs within Europe are taking advantage of Britain leaving the EU by revealing blueprints for a giant European superstate. He wrote, "Under the radical proposals, EU countries will lose the right to have their own army, criminal law,

taxation system or central bank, with all those powers being transferred to Brussels" (June 28).

This development has "sparked fury and panic in Poland," the article said. Why would Poland be panicking? Could it have something to do with the fact that Poland was one of the first nations to experience the spirit of Charlemagne in World War II? Poland has a bloody history in dealing with the spirit of Charlemagne! The Polish people know what a powerful Europe with Germany at the forefront means for civilization!

The transfer of power to Brussels is really a monstrous deceit. The power is actually being transferred to Berlin. The whole European project is ultimately about Germany leading a united European army, economy and government. Virtually the whole world knows that fact, but no one wants to talk about it.

Foreign ministers from France and Germany are the main architects behind this plan to unify Europe like we have never seen it unified in modern times.

Post-World War II Solutions

Germany has had a long-term plan to revive the Holy Roman Empire. At the end of World War II—when the most recent resurrection of that empire was defeated—that plan was already in motion.

In August 1944,

German industrialists gathered for a meeting in Strasbourg, France, where they began planning for the future. (You can read the document detailing this meeting at the Trumpet. com/go/922). It was becoming clear that Germany would lose World War II. These industrialists committed themselves to financing the Nazi Party underground.

Presiding over the meeting was Dr. Scheid, who held the rank of Schutzstaffel Obergruppenführer, one of the highest commands of the Nazi SS! In attendance were representatives of Volkswagenwerk, Rheinmetall, Krupp, Messerschmitt and at least half a dozen other industrial conglomerates. According to an informant, the SS commander ordered the evacuation of industrial material from France into Germany and that Germany "must take steps in preparation for a postwar commercial campaign."

Dr. Scheid directed that "[e]ach industrialist must make contacts and alliances with foreign firms, but this must be done individually and without attracting any suspicion. Moreover, the ground would have to be laid on the financial level for borrowing considerable sums from foreign countries after the war."

At a subsequent meeting, the German Armaments Ministry told representatives of Krupp, Rochling and Hecho, "Existing financial reserves in foreign countries must be placed at the disposal of the [Nazi] Party so that a strong German Empire



Margaret **Thatcher** Saw the **Rising Beast** of Europe

FTER WORLD WAR II, THE HERITAGE and the dream of a united Catholic Europe did not die. Some European elites have constantly tried to reunify the Continent, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was the one person who stood up against this plan.

She did not fully realize it, but she was standing up against the resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire!

Yet Thatcher's own people, even her own parliamentary leaders and others, betrayed her. Many were Euro-enthusiasts, and they did not like what she was doing. They made opposing her politically a top priority. They decided she had to be politically executed, and that is exactly what happened.

In The Rotten Heart of Europe, Bernard Connolly writes, "By mid-1989, many of Mrs. Thatcher's supporters knew in their hearts that she was politically dead." She was a great lady, and she was the only one who had the courage to stand up and fight against this dangerous European empire! But she had no chance to survive.

If you look at the timing of Thatcher's political demise, it looks like the real intensity coming against her began forming in 1986. Perhaps it even began to really intensify on January 16, a date we at the Trumpet watch closely. (Request our free booklet America *Under Attack* to learn why.)

Why was so much opposition aimed at Prime Minister Thatcher? Because she was fighting against the evil spirit of Charlemagne! That empire was gathering speed like a runaway train about to run over a lot of people! Time has since proved that she was absolutely right about what was happening in Europe. She knew it was all wrong. Yet leaders even in her own country, Britain, did not see what she could see.

Connolly writes that even in the United States, politicians started a whispering campaign against Thatcher to undermine her and get rid of her. America actually gave full backing to Germany becoming the sole great power of Europe! America did that!

Has everyone forgotten what Germany did in World War II and World War I? Why is it that nobody but Margaret Thatcher would really stand up to it? Where are the men in Israel?

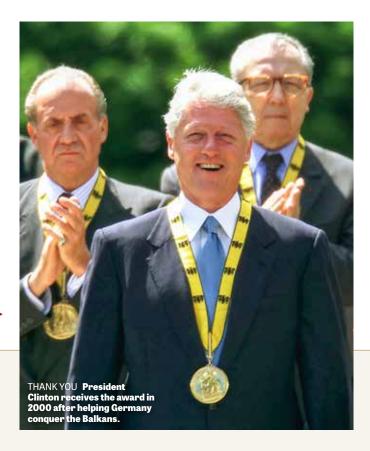
can be created after the defeat." The Allied communiqué that documented these meetings and their plans to hide funds, resources and even Nazi leaders in foreign countries using German industries was unknown to the world until it was declassified by the U.S. government—in 1996!

This was a plan to resurrect not just the German Reich, but the Holy Roman Empire!

Emperor Charlemagne

In 1995, British economist Bernard Connolly wrote about former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and German statesman Helmut Schmidt's meeting at a very interesting and very significant location. Connolly writes in The Rotten Heart of Europe: "It was no coincidence, either, that Giscard and Schmidt agreed to accept the Belgian compromise proposal at a bilateral summit in September 1978 at Aachen, Germany, principal seat and burial place of Charlemagne. The symbolism was heavily underlined in both France and

CHARLEMAGNE PAGE 32 ▶



Why Bill Clinton Won the Charlemagne Prize

BRITISH AND AMERICAN LEADERS have actually helped build a modern resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

Former United States President Bill Clinton did so much to help Europe unify that in 2000, he received an award for doing so. The name of that prize was the Charlemagne Prize. President Clinton wanted to build up a power in Europe. In fact, he was the one who gave Germany the American firepower to conquer the Balkan states.

Croatia and Slovenia tried to break away from Yugoslavia in 1991. The whole world was against that, because everyone knew it would cause terrible bloodshed. But Germany supported these two states, states that were closely allied with the Nazis in World War II. Croatia and Slovenia committed some of the most horrific crimes anywhere in the world during that war—not even a lifetime ago! These two countries ran some of the most obscene extermination camps in history. Yet, a short 46 years later, Germany recognized their independence from Yugoslavia.

Immediately after Germany recognized Croatia and Slovenia, the pope also recognized them, because they are Catholic. Soon after this, the U.S., United Nations, European community and the rest of the world caved in and recognized them as well. Then the U.S. and NATO actually conquered the Balkans for Germany.

Through these events, Germany conquered not only Croatia and Slovenia but ultimately the whole Yugoslav republic and Albania as well.

caved in. That shows a shameful disregard for history!

But Germany's empire building did not stop there. More recently, the Germans have made some deals behind the scenes with Russia. Russia is gobbling up Ukraine and a few other Eastern European states. No one is willing to send Ukraine any defensive weapons even as Russia blasts the country. After the Cold War, the U.S. specifically

When Germany stretched out to grab the Balkans to rebuild its empire, the world just caved in. THAT IS A SHAMEFUL DISREGARD FOR HISTORY.

Why would Germany want the Balkans? The peninsula gives it access to the Mediterranean Sea! That is of huge strategic importance! It is part of its strategy to build a reich! Germany has bold, huge ambitions!

Germany started World War I and World War II—wars that caused the deaths of at least 75 million people. And yet, when it stretched out its tentacles to grab the Balkans to start rebuilding its empire, the world just promised that if Ukraine gave up its nuclear weapons, we would defend it. The Ukrainians kept their part of the agreement. The Americans have not kept theirs. America won't help Ukraine, and neither will Germany.

The Germans have empire on their mind. If they will allow Russia to expand into Ukraine, Russia will allow them to expand some of their interests. The Holy Roman Empire is interested in ruling the world.





Angela Merkel's government is proving inadequate. For the right leader, this could be a terrific opportunity to seize control of Germany. BY BRAD MACDONALD

INCE 1982, THE YEAR E.T. THE Extra Terrestrial was released and the Falkland War occurred, Germany has had only three chancellors. The United States has had five presidents in that time; Britain six prime ministers; and Italy 15 prime ministers.

Even more remarkable: Since the end of World War II, more than 70 years ago, Germany has had only nine chancellors. That's an average of eight years per chancellorship. America, in that time, has had 12 presidents, six years per

presidency; Britain 15 prime ministers, five years per tenure; and Italy 45 prime ministers, averaging 1.5 years each.

Behind these facts is a fundamental truth: Postwar Germany, perhaps more than any other modern nation, is accustomed to political stability and order.

So what happens if this stable, dependable political system breaks down?

History provides some insight. The Weimar Republic (the democratic state of Germany between 1919 and 1933) was plagued by instability and disorder; it was, in general, deeply unpopular.

Extremist parties thrived, while the Weimar government was constantly under threat of collapse (there were 10 national elections in 14 years). By 1933, the Weimar system was so enfeebled and there was so much systemic instability that the regime didn't stand a chance against Adolf Hitler and National Socialism. Seven years after he exploited the political and social crises to take control of Germany, Hitler and the Nazi Party set the world on fire.

Germany's postwar political system was built, among other purposes, to prevent another Weimar scenario. And for seven decades this system has successfully (though not perfectly) created political stability, order and consistency; it has marginalized extremist parties and ideologies, and secured the confidence of the German people. Germany's postwar system has been so successful that few today would consider Germany at risk of Weimar-type conditions. But past success doesn't guarantee future success, and right now, multiple crises are converging to put enormous pressure on Germany's political system.

It's still early, but a major political emergency could be imminent.

First, consider the crises Germany currently faces. Most obvious is the migrant issue and the rapid integration of more than 1 million immigrants, most of whom are Muslim. This comes with significant sacrifice and cost, economically, socially and culturally. Radical Islam has taken root inside Germany and is inflicting violence and suffering. Socially, tension and outright conflict between Germans and foreigners are mounting. The popularity of radical ideologies and political views is rapidly growing. Germany's economic outlook is uncertain and precarious. Deutsche Bank, the nation's largest financial institution, is approaching meltdown, and its struggles signify a larger financial crisis. Outside Germany, a belligerent Russia is pushing and prodding in Eastern Europe. To the north, west and south, ailing European countries are counting on Germany for leadership—and money.

Meanwhile, as all these serious issues converge, Germany is entering a major political crisis. The German government,



and especially Chancellor Angela Merkel, cannot solve Germany's woes and as a result is rapidly losing the confidence of the German public. But that's not the worst of it: Germany right now doesn't have an obvious replacement for Merkel.

Merkel's Downfall

Since 2005, mutti-or "mother"-Merkel has been a textbook example of Teutonic consistency and steadiness. But today there are clear signs of weakness and vulnerability. The problem isn't that Merkel lacks solutions or leadership; the problem is that rapidly growing numbers of Germans flat out disagree with Merkel's solutions and are becoming disenfranchised and angry about her persistence in pushing them. The chancellor, her counterparts and the mainstream German media are increasingly out of touch with the average German.

On September 4, in state elections in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Merkel's own constituency, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), came in third behind the Social Democrats (SPD) and the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD). It was the CDU's worst showing in that state's elections since World War II. Merkel's party was demolished again two weeks later in state elections in Berlin. The CDU won only 17.6 percent of the vote, its worst showing ever in Berlin regional elections. Meanwhile, the AfD in a dramatic increase won 14.1 percent of the vote and Die Linke, a radically left-wing party, won 15.6 percent. This means that 30 percent of Germans in the Berlin region now prefer marginal and extremist political parties over Germany's mainstream parties.

"In Berlin at least, the German polit-ICAL SYSTEM HAS SHATTERED," observed George Friedman of Geopolitical Futures following the Berlin election. "If the Berlin results are replicated on a national level, GERMANY IS GOING TO BECOME UNGOVERNABLE. ... [T]his result, taken at face value, indicates that the European foundation, GERMANY, IS MOV-ING TOWARD A MAJOR POLITICAL CRISIS THAT WILL RESONATE" (September 20; emphasis added throughout).

September's election results validated summer polls that revealed a significant decline in Merkel's popularity nationwide. One August poll showed that 50 percent of Germans are against Merkel serving a fourth term. Another showed support for Merkel had dropped by 12 points to its lowest level in five years. The same poll also revealed that two thirds of voters opposed Merkel's handling of the migrant crisis.

Some of the most intense criticism is coming from Merkel's friends and allies in Bavaria, the heart and soul of German conservatism. Bavaria's Christian Social Union (csu) has been a stalwart ally of the CDU for decades and is the primary reason for the long-standing dominance of conservative coalition governments. These days csu officials, including party leader Horst Seehofer,

Merkel or Bust

Right now, there is no obvious answer. And there's no alternative. It's Angela Merkel or bust. It's really quite remarkable: Despite public opinion's obvious souring on Merkel, there is no significant national conversation about who might replace her. Before September's elections, it was hard to even find commentators addressing the subject of post-Merkel Germany. Merkel has no obvious successor. Nobody on either the left or right is actively campaigning on a national scale to replace Merkel and lead Germany. Germany doesn't have a Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton; it doesn't have a Nigel Farage or a Marine Le Pen.

This massive leadership void is significant.

America, Britain and France all have obvious candidates vying to replace the incumbent party or leader, or to

"The European foundation, Germany, is MOVING TOWARD A MAJOR POLITICAL CRISIS THAT WILL RESONATE." -GEORGE FRIEDMAN

are extremely critical of Merkel. Many CSU politicians declared that they will not endorse her reelection in 2017. Seehofer blamed the poor showing in the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania election squarely on Merkel and warned that unless the situation changes soon, Germany's conservative parties will be in big trouble. "The situation for the CONSERVATIVES IS EXTREMELY THREAT-ENING," Seehofer told Süddeutsche Zeitung September 5. The problem, he said, is that voters are sick and tired of "Berlin politics."

Two days after the election, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, in an address in the Bundestag, warned that Germany was entering uncertain and dangerous times. There "IS AN INCREASINGLY LOUD CALL AMONG US FOR A STRONGMAN," he warned, and conditions are ripe for the emergence of a "DEMAGOGUE."

"In my view," cautioned Friedman, "THERE IS A GROWING SENSE IN GERMANY THAT THE GERMAN SYSTEM IS FAILING" (op cit).

So what comes next?

represent the dissatisfied and angry segments of the population nationally. These countries have popular individuals who are publicly discussing the problems, recognizing the public's frustrations, and proposing their own ideas and solutions. Dissatisfied Americans, British and French are represented by a national figure and movement. They have someone who shares their concerns, someone who at least appears to hear them. Worried Americans, British and French have someone to rally behind. To Americans concerned about immigration, Donald Trump is superman. And to Americans concerned about Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton is superman. To Britons concerned about immigration or membership in the European Union, Nigel Farage is superman.

Germany doesn't have a superman.

There are, of course, politicians in Germany who would put their hand up to do Merkel's job. But no one is actively, enthusiastically going after it; and the German public isn't excited about any particular candidate. So far, no one

GETTT IMAGE

has developed a national campaign. No one is going on television or writing articles or producing commercials to reach out to the German people and show them that he understands their concerns, that he agrees with their anxieties, and that he has tangible solutions to Germany's crises. No one has captured the imagination of the people. Germany lacks a leader with the personality, the leadership, the style, the policies and the solutions to get the public excited and hopeful.

So, the desire for a superman intensifies.

This is a potentially dangerous scenario. Politics abhors a vacuum. The greater the number and intensity of the crises, the stronger the desire for someone with real solutions. This is exactly the scenario that facilitated the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. Compared to his Weimar counterparts, Hitler was energetic, passionate and urgent. He came with what seemed to be practical, rational solutions, and he appeared to genuinely care about Germany. And by 1933, the public's frustration and anxiety was so intense—and its hunger for better leadership so acute—that many Germans ignored Hitler's sociopathic traits and, instead, embraced him as a superman who would soothe their anxieties and restore stability and order.

The Merkel administration today isn't the Weimar regime. (The Merkel regime, at least between 2005 and 2014, was the antithesis of Weimar Germany.) But what if the Islamist terrorist attacks continue? What if migrants continue raping and attacking Germans? What if the tension and violence intensifies? What if migrants continue pouring in? What if the economy slumps? What if the far right continues to rise? It's not unreasonable to expect *all* these trends to continue. What will Merkel's fate be then?

Many people hope it will all be OK and the right candidate will emerge at the right time to capture the hearts of the German people and seamlessly replace Merkel. Others hope Merkel will change her views and side with the German public. The more realistic

scenario is that the crises will continue to converge, Merkel's popularity will continue to drop, and the hunger of the German people for an individual with real solutions will continue to grow.

Germany is headed for a major political crisis. The German people generally tend to be imperturbable and pragmatic, and they have a high tolerance for discomfort and sacrifice. But they dislike instability and uncertainty, and



they have a low tolerance for disorder. Unless something changes soon to reverse the worsening of the nation's many crises, Germany could descend into political and social disarray.

From Crisis, Leadership

As we watch the situation in Germany we need to keep an eye out for potential Merkel replacements. For an individual with the right personality and leadership, GERMANY RIGHT NOW IS AN OPPORTUNITY. There are countless historic examples of authoritative leaders emerging during periods of intense crisis. The French Revolution produced Napoleon Bonaparte. Muslim invasions into Europe in the eighth century produced strong Carolingian leaders, including Charlemagne. The crises created by a weak Weimar regime gave Hitler an opening to exploit.

It's human nature: People seek strong leadership during crisis. And Germany, and the world, right now is entering a time of crisis. Even now there are millions of disenfranchised, angry Germans craving a leader whom they can really get excited about. Will we soon see a leader exploit this crisis to take control of Germany, and perhaps even Europe?

Bible prophecy says this is what is going to happen. Isaiah 10:5 and Habakkuk 1:6, for example, prophesy about the end-time reemergence of the Holy Roman Empire. This European superpower will be led by Germany.

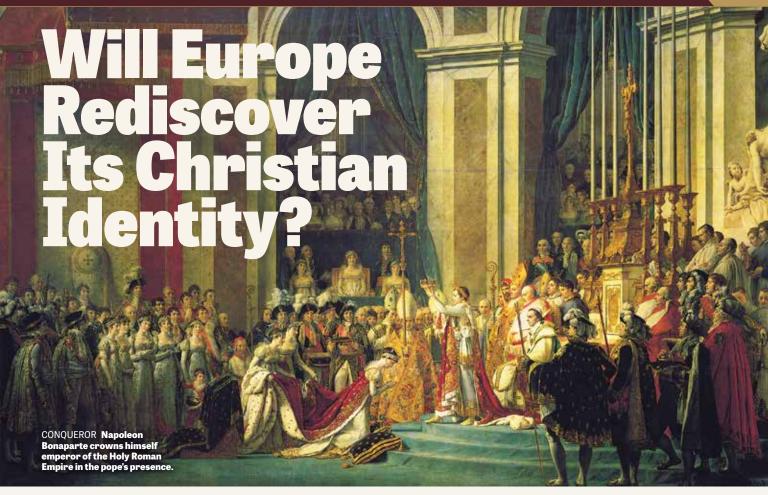
Keep an eye out for potential Merkel replacements. For an individual with the right personality and leadership, GERMANY RIGHT NOW IS AN OPPORTUNITY.

Daniel 7 and 8 provide further insight into this seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. In fact, these chapters describe specifically the appearance of an end-time antitype of Antiochus Epiphanes—the cunning, calloused Greek dictator who inflicted terrible destruction on the Jews and Jerusalem in the second century B.C.

Notice how the Bible describes this end-time Antiochus: "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many ..." (Daniel 8:23-25).

This man is discussed again in Daniel 11:21: "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries." Notice how this man is characterized. He has a "fierce countenance," meaning he's mighty

SUPERMAN PAGE 36 >



Many believe this bastion of secularism will never again embrace religion. History shows otherwise. BY RICHARD PALMER

HE LATE 20TH CENTURY has seen a global resurgence of religions around the world." That was the observation made in 1997 by renowned thinker on international relations Samuel Huntington (The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order).

The statement has only become truer in the time since. Is there any other time in history where religion has exploded onto the world scene in such a short space of time? Thirty years ago, Islamists who were so religious they would blow themselves up for Allah were virtually unknown. The East was largely dominated by atheistic communism. Today, radical religion has resurged among Muslims to the point that Islamic terrorism is making headlines around the world every day, and the Middle East is dealing with an

Islamic terrorist group so large that it is a pseudo-nation of its own.

But radical fundamentalists are, as Huntington wrote, "only the surface waves of a much broader and more fundamental religious tide."

In 1989, Central Asia had only 160 active mosques. Four years later, there were 10,000. Moscow had 50 churches in 1988. By 1993, it had 250. Around the same time nearly a third of Russians under age 25 said they had switched from being atheist to believing in God.

In the still officially atheist state of China, the World Religion Database shows the total number of followers of all religions jumping from around 300 million in 1970 to around 700 million today. Despite government attempts to stop it, religion has spread much faster than Chinese population growth.

In South Korea in 1962, 2.6 percent of the population were Buddhist and 5

percent were Christian. Now 23 percent are Buddhist and over 29 percent are Christian.

"Religion continues to dominate our everyday lives, and we see that the total number of people who consider themselves to be religious is actually relatively high," wrote Jean-Marc Leger, President of WIN/Gallup International Association after conducting a global poll in late 2014. "Furthermore, with the trend of an increasingly religious youth globally, we can assume that the number of people who consider themselves religious will only continue to increase."

Those of us in the West, watching our society become increasingly secular, are the exception. The Gallup International poll found that Western Europe and Oceania were the only two regions in the world where around half of the population were either atheist or not religious.





For Napoleon, the Catholic Church provided a common heritage that helped hold his empire of the French, Germans, Spaniards, Poles, Italians and others together. Today, **EUROPE IS SEARCHING FOR A SIMILAR GLUE.**

"In the modern world, religion is a central, perhaps *the* central, force that motivates and mobilizes people," wrote Huntington (op cit).

This raises the important question: Could the same dramatic trend sweep the secular West? Could religion surge back in the most secular region of the secular West? Could Europe turn religious?

This change has been one of the key forecasts of the *Trumpet*. If you've read this magazine for any length of time, you'll have come across articles forecasting that the Catholic Church or Europe's Christian heritage will be used to unite the Continent.

To many, the idea of the Catholic Church playing this major political role is completely alien. But is it possible?

It would be foolish to just assume that Europe will stand as the sole exception to this worldwide trend. History shows that the religious revolution that has swept the rest of the world could, in fact, come to Europe.

A Religious Revolution

You might think that Europe is as secular as any region has ever been. But early 19th-century France was far more radically secular. The Catholic Church and its rich bishops had been one of the

top targets of the French Revolution. Crosses were destroyed. Priests who refused to swear loyalty to the new Civil Constitution of the Clergy were arrested; many were put to death.

The new order even eliminated the Gregorian calendar and abolished the seven-day week, using (in their opinion) a far more scientific 10-day system. To satiate any lingering desire for organized religion, revolutionaries set up their own alternatives, such as the Cult of Reason and Cult of the Supreme Being.

Napoleon Bonaparte opposed the church from the beginnings of his career. In his campaigns in Italy from 1796 to 1797, General Bonaparte often ended the church's inquisitions, repealed Catholic-inspired anti-Semitic laws and nationalized church property. The Catholic Church led local opposition to Napoleon, with its priests stirring up revolts. Napoleon responded with massacres and village burning. Church bells used to summon rebels to arms were destroyed. Priests who were found leading armed bands were shot.

Pope Pius vI supported the first international coalition against revolutionary France. Napoleon's army forced the pope to surrender as it stood ready to invade the Papal States. The Catholic Church soon resumed supporting

France's enemies, and Napoleon's army fought directly with soldiers from the Papal States, though Napoleon refrained from marching on Rome. In 1798, the French took Pius VI prisoner. By this time, Napoleon had already left Italy; he was busy evaluating the suitability of France's northern ports for launching an invasion of England. It's unlikely he would have consented to the arrest.

Napoleon learned from this experience. Italy "instilled in him a respect for the power of the church as an institution, which he realized he could not wholly oppose," wrote Andrew Roberts in his book *Napoleon: A Life*. General Bonaparte wrote back to his superiors in Paris that "it was a great mistake to quarrel with that power."

Napoleon soon had an opportunity to put this lesson in the power of religion into effect. Later in 1798, he led an invasion of Egypt. "People of Egypt!" he wrote. "I am come to restore your rights, to punish usurpers. I reverence ... God, his prophet Mohammed, and the Koran! ... Have we not destroyed the pope, who made men wage war on the Muslims?"

Asked many years later about this, Napoleon said, "I always adopt the religion of the country I am in." In this case, it came back to bite him. After invading Egypt, Napoleon went on into Palestine and Lebanon. Here he posed as a Christian hero. The local British commander, Commodore Sir Sidney Smith, collected Napoleon's letters professing loyalty to Mohammed and passed them on to Syrian and Lebanese Christians. Smith's brilliant psychological and also physical warfare handed Napoleon one of his first defeats at Acre.

After failing to take Acre, Napoleon returned to Egypt and then to France. On Nov. 9, 1799, he took over the country, becoming France's "first consul."

One of his first moves was to return France to the Roman Catholic Church.

Napoleon saw that the support of the pope and the church would improve his position domestically and abroad. "In religion," he told one adviser, "I do not see the mystery of the Incarnation, but the mystery of the social order Society is impossible without inequality; inequality intolerable without a code of



morality, and a code of morality unacceptable without religion."

The concordat with the church was signed in July 1801. But it was nine months before Napoleon made it public, such was the opposition to the Catholic Church within the top ranks of the army and the post-revolutionary regime.

"The government of the republic acknowledges that the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman religion is the religion of the great majority of French citizens," it began. Catholic worship was reestablished.

But it was a state Catholicism. The pope and Napoleon would each choose the archbishops. Bishops would swear not to "disturb the public tranquility." The church promised to read Napoleon's decrees to the congregation and preach that conscription into the army was a patriotic duty.

The seven-day week was restored, with Sunday as the day of rest. Eventually the Gregorian calendar was also restored. The Catholic Church regained control of primary education. The church did not regain all the wealth and power that it had before the revolution, and still it was vastly more powerful than it is today.

The clergy hailed Napoleon as the "Restorer of Religion." The archbishop of Besançon said he was "like God Himself." Many in the army and government grumbled. But the move gained Napoleon great support in rural France. In fact, the concordat was so popular that it lasted many decades longer than Napoleon himself.

In 1804, Napoleon looked to the papacy to secure his rule once again. He asked Pope Pius VII to come to Paris and crown him emperor. In just six years, the head of the Catholic Church had gone from being France's prisoner to its chief priest.

Napoleon told his officials to treat the pope as if he had 200,000 soldiers. The pope anointed Napoleon—though the emperor crowned himself, lifting above his head the replica of the crown of Charlemagne (the Austrians wouldn't let him use the original). In his coronation oath, he swore to uphold the concordat he had signed with the Catholic Church.

Even in a regime so thoroughly secular that it had abolished the seven-day week, Europe's leader found it to his great advantage to restore the power of the church.

That same potential exists today.

Religion's Power Today

Christianity is far from a spent force. In Poland, Malta and Ireland, around half of the population say they attend church every week. In Italy, it's about one in three; Portugal and Greece one in four; Spain around one in five.

But as impressive as those numbers are, there are far more adherents beyond those who attend church every week.

Over three quarters of Europeans identify as Christians of some form. About half of these Christians are Catholic. This Christian identity crosses all borders, uniting east and west, north and south. Just about all of Europe has at one time belonged to the Christian Roman Empire, or one of the empires that tried to resurrect Rome.

As the Arab Spring demonstrated, the post-Cold War world is still in ideological flux. People are still struggling to determine what defines them now that the secular and other ideologies of the 20th century have crumbled.

For Napoleon, the Catholic Church provided a common heritage that helped hold his empire of the French, Germans, Spaniards, Poles, Italians and others together. Today, Europe is searching for a similar glue.

The Cold War imposed an ideological identity on the Continent: Europe was part of the anti-Communist West. Now Brexit and the migrant crisis are forcing Europe to ask the existential questions that have gone unasked for years. What is it that holds the nations of Europe together? What is the EU for? NATO is already unraveling in the face of such questions.

In this new search for cultural identities, FEAR and ENEMIES are hugely important. As Huntington wrote, "We know who we are only when we know who we are not and often *only when we know whom we are against*" (op cit; emphasis added throughout).

Europe right now is being confronted

with "what they are not" like no other time in recent history. When France was attacked by radical Islam, it responded by attacking the burkini. Banning a form of swimwear has nothing to do with making the nation safer, and everything to do with cultural identity.

"In the post-Cold War world flags count and so do other symbols of cultural identity, including crosses, crescents and even head coverings, because culture counts, and cultural identity is what is most meaningful to most people," wrote Huntington. "People are discovering new but often old identities and marching under new but often old flags, which lead to wars with new but often old enemies" (ibid).

What is the dividing line between old Europe and the newcomers? Nationalism is one, but it's also an identity that divides Europe into competing nationalities. Nevertheless nationalism is Europe's fastest-rising response to radical Islam and mass migration, and it is threatening to split apart the European Union.

But Europe's cultural, civilizational and religious identity is a powerful alternative. That Christian, Roman identity solves the two biggest problems facing Europe right now: how to face radical Islam and how to unify the Continent. Nothing else fits the problems that Europe faces today so perfectly.

"People do not live by reason alone," wrote Huntington. "They cannot calculate and act rationally in pursuit of their self-interest until they define their self. ... For people facing the need to determine Who am I? Where do I belong?, religion provides compelling answers ..." (ibid).

THERE IS A CATHOLIC CHURCH-SHAPED HOLE IN THE HEART OF EUROPE. It's only a matter of time before a new Napoleon tries to fill it.

While Christianity, in general, provides an identity all of Europe can aspire to, it is divided. The north is largely Protestant. The south is Catholic. The east is Orthodox. But these differences diminish greatly in importance when compared to the "otherness" of Islam.

Of course, most of those who identify as Christian do not attend church

regularly. But Christianity's power as a unifying force lies in its ability to foster a sense of shared identity, history and destiny, rather than its ability to force obedience to church doctrine.

The First Glimpses of Change

The resurrection of a Christian identity would be a radical step. The very idea of Western-style nation-states is founded in the rejection of a religion-based state in the wake of the Thirty Years' War in the 17th century. That ideal was further cemented by the Age of Enlightenment. Many take it for granted that religion is now separate from politics, and it will take some force to change that thinking.

Even so, that separation is not so great as it first appears, particularly in Europe. Italy, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland and Iceland all fund an established church, or churches, with tax money. But it would take someone with Napoleon's vision to bring the church around to Europe's cause.

is also noteworthy, according to the German daily.

The csu's policy paper also promised to anchor the term "dominant culture" in the Bavarian constitution.

These are logical and simple steps in response to a mass Islamic migration that is intrinsically changing parts of Europe. But they are also radical proposals. They bring back religious identity not just into law, but even into the state's constitution. In response to these Muslim "others," Europe's sense of its Christian self is growing in a way never seen in recent times.

As for the Vatican, Pope Francis is positioning the church to play a greater role in the global economy. But up till now, he hasn't followed up on his predecessor's efforts to make the church Europe's leader against radical Islam.

That could be changing. On September 14, Pope Francis stiffened his stance against radical Islam. Discussing Jacques Hamel, the French priest murdered by two Islamic State-supporting

Schönborn prayed, according to local media reports.

It is important to note: These are words not just against radical Islam, but against Islam as a whole.

Schönborn is a former pupil of the former pope, Benedict xvi. It's not hard to imagine Catholic leaders who fear Islam and German leaders who fear Islam's arrival in Europe getting together. We are not far from someone copying Napoleon's alliance.

Centuries of Mistrust

But there is a more fundamental obstacle to a Vatican-EU pact, and it underlies Europe's modern secular identity. Napoleon's alliance with the Vatican did not end well, for either party. The relationship between emperor and pope deteriorated until, in 1809, Napoleon annexed the Papal States, the pope excommunicated Napoleon, and Napoleon arrested the pope. In 1813, they patched things up with another concordat. Just over a week later, the pope decided that the agreement was a mistake and asked Napoleon to cancel it. The emperor reminded the pope that he was infallible, and thus could not have been mistaken.

At the roots of this conflict was an ancient disagreement. "You are sovereign in Rome, but I am its emperor," Napoleon wrote the pope in 1806. He instructed his ambassador to the Vatican, Cardinal Joseph Fesch, to tell the pope "that I am Charlemagne, the sword of the church and their emperor. And that I should be treated as such I have briefly laid out my intentions. If he does not reply, I shall reduce him to the condition of his predecessors before Charlemagne."

The pope responded that "the Holy Father [referring to himself] does not recognize and has never recognized, in his states, any power superior to his own, and that no emperor has any rights over Rome."

At issue was the pope's refusal to cut relations with Britain. But the substance was a question as old as the Catholic Church: Is the pope the superior of the emperor, or vice versa? It was "a theory of papal world government,"

Christianity's power as a unifying force lies in its ABILITY TO FOSTER A SENSE OF SHARED **IDENTITY, HISTORY AND DESTINY.**

Yet a shift in this direction is occurring. Germany's Christian Social Union (csu), the sister party to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, called for a new Immigration Limitation Act in September. One of its slogans was, "Germany must remain German." How would it accomplish that goal? Limit immigration and place a "priority" on "immigrants from our Western Christian culture."

Central and Eastern European countries have made this kind of call before. But now this is a call from the Bavarian, Catholic heart of Germany, and from a political party whose star is rising because it shares the concern of many Germans about mass migration.

"What stands out is the rejection not only of Islamism, but also of Islam," wrote *Tagesspiegel*, describing the new proposals (September 8; Trumpet translation throughout). Additionally, "the summoning of the Christian culture"

terrorists on July 26, the pope said that "to kill in the name of God is satanic." Christian Today reported that "Pope Francis has signaled that he is preparing to canonize" Hamel (September 14). Such a canonization would be deeply symbolic, telegraphing the Catholic Church's opposition to radical Islam.

A few days earlier, on September 11, Archbishop of Vienna Christoph Schönborn warned of an "Islamic conquest of Europe." He was speaking on the 333rd anniversary of the Battle of Vienna, when Christian nations of Europe joined forces to prevent Muslim Ottomans from conquering Vienna and continuing their expansion in Europe.

"Will there now be a third attempt at an Islamic conquest of Europe?" he asked. "Many Muslims want that and say: Europe is at its end."

"God have mercy on Europe and on thy people, who are in danger of forfeiting our Christian heritage,"

#

as historian Paul Johnson put it, that caused the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV to fall out with Pope Gregory VII in the Investiture Controversy. It was a bitter feud, and 200 years later the Catholic Church was still hunting down Henry's last remaining descendants.

No wonder Europe tired of religious leaders meddling in its affairs. This lies at the root of the secular traditions that hold European leaders back from drawing on the power of the pope. European leaders talk about Charlemagne often. They like his vision of European unity. But they forget that Charlemagne kneeled before the pope to receive his crown. It will take a crisis before Europe's current leaders are willing to bend their knees. But those crises are here, and the attraction of what Rome alone can offer is growing.

A Biblical Prophecy

The pattern of the Catholic Church granting legitimacy to a rising European power is familiar to historians. It should be familiar to students of the Bible too. It describes a political power led by a church, a model that continually recurs in Europe's history. For an in-depth study on this, request our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.

Herbert W. Armstrong described how this empire would function in modern times. The leaders of Europe, he wrote in 1980, "talk continually of POLITICAL union—which means, also, military. So far they have been unable to bring about full political union. This will be made possible by the 'good offices' of the Vatican, who alone can be the symbol of unity to which they can look" (The United States and Britain in Prophecy; request your free copy).

That is Europe today—unable to bring about full political union. Among its elites, the desire for union is stronger than ever, and they have tried just about every other option for unity and seen each of them fail.

The church may have to compromise to bring about this church-state entity. Mr. Armstrong wrote in 1978 that "liberals will object to this *enforcement* of the Catholic faith, if it is to



enforce the traditional conservative doctrines" (*Good News*, Aug. 28, 1978). Mr. Armstrong was speculating about the outcome of a specific conclave, but it's clear he considered this a possible outcome more generally.

"The conservative cardinals may give some ground," Mr. Armstrong wrote, noting that the church "may emerge with a slightly changed Catholic doctrine" to facilitate the church's leadership in Europe. However, he still believed that "traditional conservatism will probably carry the balance of power" within the church.

Just as in the past, this will not be a harmonious marriage or meeting of minds. Church and state will still have their own ambitions and will disagree on who is in charge. Their alliance will vault both of these entities into great power. But once that power is attained, the nations of this coming European superstate "shall hate" the Catholic Church (Revelation 17:16). They "shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

"One of the most remarkable aspects of the Revelation 17 prophecy," notes our book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy,* "is that in addition to forecasting the unity" between church and state, "it says that there would also be tension and confrontation."

The fact that Europe has moved away from the Catholic Church in recent decades is not a sign that the two can never cooperate. But it is a foreshadowing of their eventual fallout.

Europe has hosted the bloodiest empires the world has ever seen. Autocratic powers have repeatedly arisen, claiming the mantle of Rome and working with the Catholic Church to further their power.

The Bible says only one more of these destructive empires is to come, and it will only last "a short space" before it all falls apart (Revelation 17:10). Ultimately the history of Napoleon and of other "holy" Roman emperors shows that European powers have a strong incentive to work with the Catholic Church, but also that that power cannot last long.

That is the good news behind Europe's migrant crisis. It is hastening the arrival of the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. With today's modern technology, that empire will be able to inflict more destruction than ever before. But after a short span, that empire will be gone forever.

The Bible clearly prophesied of this repeated church-state empire. Details about this empire recorded in Revelation 13 and 17 and elsewhere have proven correct.

These same prophecies foretell what happens *after* this final empire is destroyed. Jesus Christ will return and set up His benevolent empire. It won't be an empire that uses religion to dominate men. Instead it will use religion to finally bring peace to the world.





THE BIBLE: **Legend or Literal?**

What does science say? BY CHRISTOPHER EAMES

AN WE REALLY TRUST THE BIBLE? The Holy Book was written over the course of 1,500 years by about 40 different authors on three different continents. Its first words were penned around 3,500 years ago. For thousands of years, this unique collection of writings has been preserved, prized, parsed, weaponized and warred over. Surely no book has been hacked apart, questioned and ridiculed as much as the Bible, especially in our modern age.

Yet the Bible has stood the test of time like no other book. Why? Even those who ridicule the Bible must acknowledge that there isn't anything else on Earth quite like it.

Does science have anything to say about the Bible? There is a field of science that has a *lot* to say about the biblical record. That field is archaeology.

A number of remarkable finds have been made in relatively recent history that prove Bible history—history thought originally to be of scant value at best, if not completely fabricated. Let's examine a sample of these finds to see what the scientific records say about biblical accuracy.

King Belshazzar

The biblical character King Belshazzar is described in the book of Daniel (chapter 5) as the last king of Babylon, killed when the city fell to the Persian Empire. Historians insisted this "Belshazzar" never existed. The Bible was the only known document to mention him. Every historian worth his salt knew that King *Nabonidus* was the final king of Babylon and that he was not killed, but rather taken prisoner. Other historical documents clearly supported this.

This was a great conundrum for Bible believers. Could *Belshazzar* have been another name for *Nabonidus?* If so, why does the Bible say Belshazzar was killed in the attack on Babylon, when Nabonidus was documented as having been captured? Here, it seemed, was an irreconcilable difference between the Bible and ancient history.

In 1854, British Consul John Taylor was excavating an ancient ziggurat, or temple, located in the area of ancient Ur, an area ruled by Babylon, in what is now the Dhi Qar province of Iraq. There, he discovered what became known as the Nabonidus Cylinders. On these cylindrical clay documents, King Nabonidus recorded the history of the ziggurat and made a request to his god: "[A]s for Belshazzar, the eldest son, the offspring of my heart, the fear of thy great divinity cause thou to exist in his heart, and let not sin possess him, let him be satisfied with fullness of life."

Of this discovery, Brian Edwards and Clive Anderson write in their book Through the British Museum With the Bible: "In response to an omen, Nabonidus spent many years on campaign at the oasis of Teima in northwest Arabia, and Belshazzar remained at Babylon as co-regent and thus as de-facto king" (emphasis added throughout). They explain how this reconciles other interesting tidbits from the Daniel 5 account. Verse 29 shows that Daniel was made the "third ruler in the kingdom" for interpreting the handwriting on the wall. Why the third? Because Belshazzar was the second-highest in the kingdom under his father, and third position was the best he could give! This also explains how the real ruler of all Babylon, Nabonidus, was taken prisoner while the de-facto king, Belshazzar, was killed during the invasion as Daniel records.

What an amazing reconciliation between the biblical account and scientific evidence. Even a die-hard Bible critic has to admit the Bible nailed this one.



Scripture describes Abraham burying his wife in land bought from Hittite merchants. The Hittites were allied with the king of Israel in fending off the Syrian Empire. Yet, like King Belshazzar, the Hittite Empire's existence was claimed only by the Bible prior to the 20th century. Historians said it probably never existed, and even if it did, it couldn't have been a very strong regional power, considering this lack of evidence.

In 1906, however, an immense, sprawling fortified city found in modern-day Turkey was confirmed to have been the Hittite capital, Hattusha. A Hittite royal library of around 10,000 tablets helped prove to archaeologists that these people were indeed the people of the land of Hatti, the kingdom of Kheta in the Egyptian texts, and the Hittites of the Bible. This massive empire controlled what later became modern-day Turkey, and its power and influence had expanded as far south as Syria and around parts of northern Canaan.

It's one thing for historians to overlook a man like Belshazzar. It's another thing for them to dismiss the existence of an entire empire. Yet that is what they did—and once again, the Bible's accuracy was later confirmed.



House of David

King David is prolifically described in the Bible, yet up until around 20 years ago there was no extra-biblical evidence of his existence. Many historians and scholars considered King David a mere Israelite legend, or perhaps just a small tribal chieftain with a gloriously exaggerated biography.

But in 1993, a large stone, or stele, was discovered during excavations in the ancient northern Israeli city of Tel Dan. The victory stone, written in Aramaic, dated to the ninth century B.C.—at least 100 years after David would have reigned. It is believed to have belonged to Hazael, king of Syria, and was found in "secondary use"—broken apart and used for brickwork in an ancient building. The Tel Dan Stele reads, in part, as follows:

And I killed two [power]ful kin[gs], who harnessed two thou[sand cha]riots and two thousand horsemen. [I killed Jo]ram son of [Ahab] king of Israel, and I killed [Achaz]yahu son of [Joram kin]g of the House of David. And I set

This find provided the first extra-biblical historical reference to King David. It clearly elucidates victories over both what was, by that time, the northern kingdom of Israel divided from the southern kingdom of Judah, the latter being ruled by the "house of David." Over 100 years after King David, at the time the stele was made, the southern kingdom was still identified by the name of its great patriarch.

As an aside, it's clear from the Bible that it was King Jehu who killed kings Joram and Ahaziah. Because of the broken condition of the stele, as shown by the bracketed text, the exact names of these killed kings are not absolutely confirmed. However, the best guess is that the names do refer to Ahaziah and Joram. It would not be surprising for the Syrian king to want to take credit for killing these Israelite kings. And indeed, the Syrians had wounded Joram in battle (2 Kings 8:28-29). Also, seeing that Jehu allied himself in later years with Hazael, the Syrian king may have felt justified in claiming credit for their deaths through association.

This incredible find has had its skeptics. But after much time and careful analysis, scientists have widely come to accept it as an authentic artifact indeed referring to King David of the Bible. It also joins three other ancient artifacts bearing the term "Israel": the Mesha Stele, Merneptah Stele and Kurkh Monolith.





Pontius Pilate

According to the New Testament, Pontius Pilate was the Judean prefect of the Roman Empire who delivered Jesus Christ to be scourged and crucified. The Bible description and later brief Roman histories were the only indications of Pilate's existence. That is, until 1961. A unique white stone, somewhat damaged, and dating to between A.D. 26 and 36, was discovered in Caesarea bearing these Latin words:

DIS AUGUSTI]S TIBERIEUM [... PO]NTIUS PILATUS, [... PRAEF]ECTUS IUDA[EA]E, [...FECIT D] E[DICAVIT]

The English translation reads: To the honorable gods (this) Tiberium; Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea, had dedicated

While the full passage is impossible to read, the clear reference to Pontius Pilate and his governing position is unmistakable. The dating of the stone, as well as the area in which it was found, corroborates the Bible record perfectly.



Luke's Politarchs

The physician Luke wrote one of the four Gospel accounts, as well as the book of Acts. As a well-informed, educated doctor, he wrote in a style that followed closely with his line of work—his words were precise and very detailed. Yet he has not been spared criticism. Many of his word choices had not been previously known in other contemporary sources and were questioned by scholars.

Joseph Holden writes in his book The Popular Handbook of Archaeology and the Bible: "At one time, Luke, the companion of the Apostle Paul, was viewed as an unreliable guide to the history and geography of the Mediterranean world. The writer of Luke and Acts often was alone in his use of terms, location of places, and mention of persons not known to scholarship. Such is no longer the case. He has been vindicated repeatedly, to the point that Sir William Ramsay, noted classical archaeologist,

once a skeptic of the reliability of Luke, called him the greatest of historians, even above the Greek historian Thucydides."

Let's look at one example of Luke's "language choices." In Acts 17:6 and 8, Luke wrote, "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the *rulers* of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city" In the original Greek, Luke used an interesting term for "rulers of the city": politarchs. This confused scholars. Luke was the only known writer to use such a title. So it was assumed that the writing must have been fraudulent, or wrong, or something in some way.

Then archaeology came to Luke's rescue. During the 19th century, a large second-century A.D. inscription from a Roman gateway was uncovered, bearing the word poleitarchounton. This has since been shown to be from the verb politarcheo, meaning "to act as a politarch."

This remarkable corroboration of Luke's account is just one instance that verifies Luke's language use. Others have confirmed terms like areopagite, grammateus, anthupatoi, bolisantes, spermologos, neokoros and others.

One could say it's rather presumptuous for a scholar to think he knows more about a language as it was 2,000 years ago than did a trained physician who lived during the period. But such is the case with the deep skepticism and inherent bias that confronts the Bible. If the Bible describes an event not found elsewhere in history, it must be wrong. If the Bible uses a word not found elsewhere in historical writing, it must be wrong. Can such bias and immediate assumption of fiction be found toward any other work? Yet the Bible has been proved time and again to be historically accurate.

This small sampling of archaeological discoveries made in relatively recent years have shown the Bible to be an accurate, reliable document. There have always been those who doubt the biblical record, but never before has so much doubt existed in the face of so much proof! The Bible actually says that in our time today of advanced progress and "enlightenment," there would be more scoffers than ever (e.g. 2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18). Paul foretold that these types would in particular come from today's institutions of higher education, where students are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7).

Contrary to what some might say, the Bible and science are *not* opposites. Science has proved this fact. You don't have to reject one in order to believe the other.

If you would like to learn more about this astounding, scientifically proven Bible history, read our October-November 2013 Trumpet magazine (the Trumpet.com/issue/158). Also be sure to visit our website keytodavidscity.com to learn about our most recent sponsored archaeological excavations in the city of Jerusalem.

Watch out for more Bible-confirming archaeological finds to be made—the Bible actually prophesies certain discoveries to be made in the near future! (the Trumpet.com/go/11045 and theTrumpet.com/go/10910).

Cheap Food Is an Illusion

BY JORG MARDIAN

OOD SEEMS SIMPLE. FARMERS AND RANCHERS GROW IT. GROcery stores sell it. You eat it. But the truth is far more complex, far more corrupt, and far more toxic to your health.

Growing, selling and eating food in America changed in a big way in 1933. That is when the federal government began intervening in food commodity markets with the New Deal and the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Since then, the government has manipulated simple supply and demand in an attempt to stabilize crop prices and farmers' incomes and to provide consumers with an affordable, reliable supply of food.

But in providing these subsidies, the government has entangled itself in a briar patch of complex effects and special interests such as agribusiness monopolies. Through their relationships with politicians, lobbyists for these giant entities wield enormous power in controlling markets and influencing food and agricultural regulations.

What have been the effects? Agribusiness monopolies have surged, expanded and multiplied. Meanwhile, nonindustrial, smaller farms have folded up; junk food has filled the aisles; and we are suffering a pandemic of obesity and other diseases.

It's Not About Supply and Demand

Farm subsidies may seem like a nice thing if you picture a happy Midwestern farm family receiving a modest supplement to their modest income. That is not what is happening. These subsidies are actually largely a form of wasteful corporate welfare.

Between 1995 and 2012, 285 billion American taxpayer dollars were spent on commodity subsidies. Almost 70 percent of that was spent on five crops: corn, cotton, wheat, rice and soybeans.

More than 85 percent of these subsidies go toward the largest 15 percent of farm operations and the richest farmers and landowners. Small farms growing fruits and vegetables are generally excluded from these programs, which are approved and defended by congressional agricultural committees.

Farm subsidies persist not because of supply and demand or the best interests of small farms or of consumers, but because of government involvement and political power. Food has become an industry—an industry polluted with herds of lobbyists, political pandering and inside deals. Farm and insurance lobbies spend tens of millions of dollars supporting congressional political campaigns, and then heavily influencing Congress when their candidates are elected.

The resulting policies have provided financial benefits to large agricultural corporations and have actually encouraged unethical behavior along with factory farming, monoculture and the slow strangulation of family-owned farms.

You Are Subsidizing Twinkies

Agribusinesses are using your tax dollars to increase their size and their power, and to pay lobbyists who will influence politicians, who will send them even more tax dollars. At the same time, these corporations are producing unhealthy junk foods for you to eat. And, because they receive your tax money,



they can make their junk food cheap to buy compared to nutritious—but unsubsidized—foods like fruits and vegetables.

According to the California Public Research Interest Group, the government has given out nearly \$300 billion in agricultural subsidies since 1995. Most of that sum has subsidized crops that are processed as junk-food ingredients.

"[T]he money spent on junk food subsidies since 1995 is enough to buy nearly 52 billion Twinkies, which, if laid out end to end, could encircle the globe 132 times," reported the Huffington Post. "The recently re-released Twinkie is made with 17 taxpayer-subsidized ingredients, including cornstarch, corn syrup and vegetable shortening" (July 16, 2013).

In 2016, the inflation-adjusted price of fresh produce increased by 40 percent, while the price of processed food decreased by as much as 30 percent. That means it is much cheaper to buy a burger, fries and a soda from a fast-food chain than to buy grass-fed beef and veggies and grill your own dinner.

Thanks to market manipulation, prepackaged snacks, readyto-eat meals, fast food, soft drinks, corn-fed beef and others are not only more convenient, they are cheaper. Fast-food restaurants like McDonald's are actually lowering their prices.

Tasty, Cheap, Convenient—and Lethal

The result is, Americans are killing themselves one bite at a time. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seven of the top 10 causes of death are chronic diseases. Heart disease and cancer account for nearly half of all deaths.

It may seem like your \$4.99 meal deal only costs you \$4.99, but it costs you a lot more than that. The cumulative price you are paying over your lifetime could hardly be higher.

"Cheap food is an illusion," author Michael Pollan said in the documentary Fresh. "There is no such thing as cheap food. The real cost of the food is paid somewhere. And if it isn't paid at the cash register, it's charged to the environment or to the public purse in the form of subsidies. And it's charged to your health."

America's federal government now finds itself in the position of moving mountains of cash for the ultimate purpose of getting consumers to eat junk food on the cheap.

The world of cheap food you see around you is *not* normal. To avoid unhealthy food produced by a corrupt system, you have to use more than just a little discernment. It is a battle!

See past the illusion. It takes more work. But when you find yourself and your children healthy and happy in a sea of heart disease and cancer patients, you will know it was worth it.



Who is more dangerous, the Sinaloa drug cartel or the United States pharmaceutical industry? BY ANDREW MILLER

URGESS MACNAMARA WAS IN PAIN. He had been a varsity athlete at the University of Central Florida, where he sustained multiple sports injuries. He took Percocet and Vicodin to numb the discomfort. After knee surgery, however, the pain was becoming intolerable. So his doctor prescribed something stronger: OxyContin.

This narcotic painkiller is marketed with a bold claim: One dose relieves pain for 12 hours. For this elementary school gym teacher, that sounded amazing.

MacNamara described OxyContin's effects as unlike anything he'd ever experienced before. "The first six hours, it is awesome," he later recounted in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. However, the effects of the narcotic began wearing off before the advertised 12 hours, he said. As the effects began to wear off, he found himself obsessed over his next dose: "That's all you think about. Your whole day revolves around that."

Within a month, MacNamara rarely waited the recommended time between doses. "I can't even tell you the times I actually waited 12 hours," he said. "There weren't many of them."

Instead, he started crushing and snorting the pills so that the chemical compounds would diffuse into his blood

faster. Within a year, he was forging prescriptions to get more OxyContin than his doctor was willing to prescribe. He said that as he descended into addiction, "Death was looking real good to me."

Eventually, MacNamara switched to a cheaper alternative with a chemical content very similar to OxyContin.

That alternative was heroin.

MacNamara was eventually arrested and charged with possession of controlled substances, forging prescriptions and stealing pills from a school clinic. He lost his teaching career and spent 19 months in jail.

Yet MacNamara's story has a silver lining. At the time of his interview, he'd been off drugs for more than two years.

Thousands of others have gone through similar experiences; however, their stories ended tragically. In 2014, over 18,000 people died from prescription painkiller overdoses and over 10.000 died from heroin overdose.

In fact, four out of five heroin addicts started out on opioid painkillers like OxyContin before making the switch. Doctors, journalists and government officials now recognize this situation as the opioid epidemic.

Synthetic opioids are engineered to act on the brain in a similar way as

opium (dried latex from poppy flowers used to make heroin). Due to the chemical similarity between synthetic opioids and natural opium, Mexican cartels are pushing heroin on parts of America where people have high rates of prescription painkiller addiction.

Yet the pharmaceutical industry continues to push prescription opioids on people who don't really need them.

Drug Pushers

The United States is easily the most medicated nation on the planet. Two out of three Americans take some sort of prescription. Americans account for 5 percent of Earth's population and 75 percent of its prescription-drug use. In 2014, Americans spent \$374 billion to purchase 4.3 billion drug prescriptions.

This means the average prescription-drug user takes 19 different prescriptions!

The reason Americans consume the majority of the world's prescription drugs isn't because they are less healthy than other people. Rather, Americans consume prescription pills at an abnormally high rate due to a cultural belief that they can use drugs to escape the effects of their problems without having to address root causes.

This belief is exacerbated by a pharmaceutical industry that recklessly pushes prescription drugs on people in an attempt to boost profits—regardless of the tragic consequences overprescription can have on people and families.

Pharmaceutical companies make over \$1,700 per purchaser by selling prescription drugs to Americans, so they have money to spare for advertising and lobbying. The industry spent about \$28 billion in 2012 to convince Americans that they needed to buy more pills. This spending averages out to \$87 for every man, woman and child in America.

A 2003 Government Accountability Office report found that just one company, Purdue Pharma, gave doctors 34,000 coupons for free OxyContin prescriptions in an attempt to boost their drug sales. This advertising brought in some handsome dividends as the number of prescription painkillers being sold by U.S. pharmacies jumped 78 percent in only 14 years—from 116 million in 1999 to 207 million in 2013.

One of the tragic results of this boom in opioid sales is that overdose deaths resulting from opioid abuse quadrupled over this same time period.

Ninety-nine percent of doctors now overprescribe opioid painkillers, according to the National Safety Council. These powerful drugs were engineered to treat cancer patients and people just out of intensive surgery. Yet 71 percent of doctors write opioid prescription for chronic back pain, and 55 percent hand out opioids for toothaches.

With these facts in mind, it shouldn't come as much of a shock that 2.1 million Americans are currently addicted to prescription opioids.

The 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health revealed that 70 percent of those abusing painkillers obtained them from a friend or family member. Another 18 percent got them directly from a prescribing doctor.

Only 5 percent had to get them from a criminal drug dealer.

Ripple Effects

OxyContin, MacNamara's introduction to opioid addiction, was unveiled by Purdue Pharma in 1996.

Eleven years later, the company's president, top lawyer and former chief medical officer all pleaded guilty to misleading the public about OxyContin's risk of addiction. To make amends for their dishonesty, the company agreed to pay a cumulative \$634.5 million in fines to the federal government, state and federal law enforcement agencies, various Medicaid programs, a Virginia prescription monitoring program and individuals who had sued the company.

While OxyContin peddlers misled the public about how addictive a chemical engineered to simulate opium can be, drug traffickers weren't so easily duped.

The chemists working for the Sinaloa Cartel were well aware of what dihydroxycodeinone does to the human body. So when Sinaloa kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán escaped from prison in 2001, he noted that opioid addiction was on the rise in America and instructed his cartel to shift resources toward planting poppies.

Sinaloa was going to ramp up heroin production. It would have an increase in supply ready to meet what would become an inevitable and voracious increase in demand.

It was a shrewd business move.

Guzmán's operatives have spent the last 15 years building heroin refineries and replanting marijuana fields with poppies. The cartel's marijuana profits are falling, since many Americans can now legally use cannabis grown in Amer-

WHERE PAINKILLER **ABUSERS GET DRUGS**

70% Friends or family members **18**% Prescribing doctors 5% Criminal drug dealer

ica. So Guzmán's operatives, much like Purdue Pharma, are pushing a narcotic.

With 2.1 million Americans already addicted to painkillers, market analysts working for drug cartels know that government attempts to crack down on painkiller overprescription will likely be too late. Without intensive rehab efforts to help people overcome their painkiller addiction, attempts to rein in opioid overprescription will likely just push more people into heroin addiction when they can no longer get their pills.

In many ways, the difference between legal opioids and illegal heroin is like the difference between Coke and Pepsi. The products come from different vendors but their overall effect is about the same. And both vendors rake in the profits as long as you consume more of their product—or even their competitor's product.

The Real Solution

The U.S. government has spent over \$1.5 trillion on antidrug programs since 1970, when President Richard Nixon signed the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act and launched the War on Drugs.

Each year, federal, state and local governments spend \$40 billion on drug prohibition efforts, yet 330 tons of cocaine, 20 tons of heroin and 110 tons of methamphetamine are sold in the U.S.

Government efforts have helped control drug-related crime, but they haven't reduced actual drug addiction rates. The number of Americans addicted to illicit drugs has remained relatively steady at about 1.3 percent since 1970. Drug overdose deaths in the U.S. hit an all timehigh of 47,055 in 2014. That amounts to 128 people a day, triple the number of American casualties per day during the worst days of the Vietnam War.

Federal drug policies strive to contain the effects of drug addiction without addressing causes. The government may spend \$40 billion a year to stop illegal drug trafficking, but it also spends over \$20 billion a year to develop new drugs that pharmaceutical companies can sell to foster the culture of substance abuse.

Money will not halt this epidemic as long as Americans glamorize drugs as the solution to their problems. Instead of educating people about diet, exercise, moral living and other healthy lifestyle habits, doctors and educators tout drugs (legal or illegal) as the go-to solution for sickness, pain, anxiety, depression and a myriad of other problems.

Like screen addiction, sugar addiction, gambling addiction or pornography addiction, drug addiction triggers unhealthy levels of the brain chemical dopamine. It is mainly this chemical that gives people the feelings of pleasure and exhilaration during a drug high. Addiction is about escaping.

Instead of addressing the underpinning causes of chronic pain, doctors just write a prescription for painkillers. Instead of educating people about the underpinning causes of sickness, they write a prescription for the newest antibiotic on the market. Instead of counseling people on how to overcome depression, they hand out the latest psychiatric drug. Our culture prescribes pills as a solution to almost every problem imaginable.

As the opioid crisis reveals, America's overreliance on prescription pills is leading millions toward addiction.

There are very real causes behind the problems that drive so many people into addiction. Until people turn to God, His law and His truth—and away from fleeting, drug-induced moments of euphoria—these problems will worsen.

The long-term solution to this epidemic isn't drug legalization or more spending to stop drug trafficking. The solution is dismantling America's culture of escapism and turning to God's pure, wholesome, happy way of life.

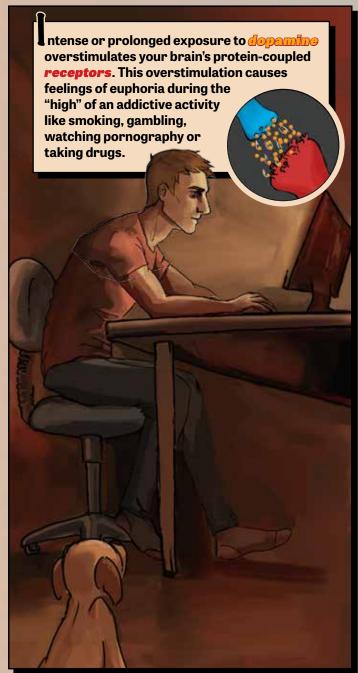
THESCIENCEOFADD

How abusing pleasure makes you less capable of experiencing pleasure

our thoughts, your emotions, your fear, your anger, your sadness and your joy remain largely a mystery to neurological science.

That is partially because your wondrous mind includes a spirit element beyond even your physical brain. However, scientific research has uncovered





ADDICTIONS IN AMERICA

40 million addicted to cigarettes

17 million addicted to alcohol

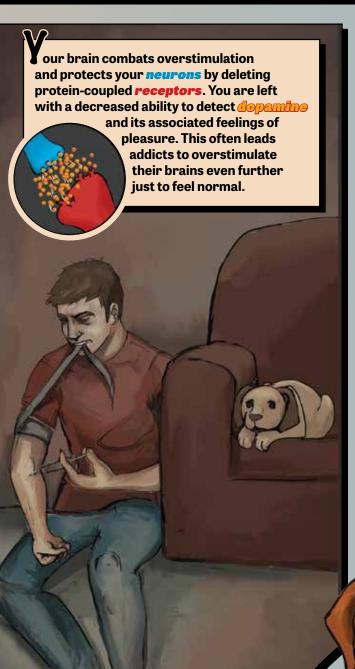
7 million addicted to drugs

6 million addicted to video games

6 mill addicted to

TO CHO HO TO HO

glimpses into how the physical brain affects your thoughts and feelings. Molecules like dopamine and serotonin play a critical role in regulating brain functions. When you experience a pleasurable activity, your brain responds with a distinct physical change. If you abusively pursue gratification, you alter not only your thoughts and feelings, but also the physical structure of your brain.



s more and more protein-coupled receptors are deleted, naturally rewarding activities fail to produce the neurological and emotional responses they once did. The brain craves the abusive activity that causes it to become less and less physically capable of experiencing pleasure.

f you stop abusing your mind, your remaining protein-coupled receptors may never fully heal. After months of abstinence from addictive activities, however, your brain can find new neural pathways to associate with feelings of pleasure.

4 million addicted to pornography

HE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I WAS MET WITH CHEERing crowds in Paris. Frenchmen and eager youth jumped at the opportunity to join what they thought would be a short, victorious war. Propagandists sprang into action.

"I hope," wrote France's minister of public instruction as teachers prepared for the 1914 academic year, "that on the day schools reopen, in every town and every class, the teacher's first words to his students will raise their hearts to the fatherland and that his first lesson will honor the sacred battle in which our armies are engaged."

But the years wore on. The Western Front, the main theater of the European war, cut through France's territory, and its battles cut through its morale. France, with a population of 40 million, saw 8.4 million men go off to war. Nearly 1.4 million never came back. Half of those who survived had been injured, and over 1 million of those had been gassed, disfigured and mangled, suffered amputations and left as permanent invalids. Four years of trench warfare devastated the nation.

Within this atmosphere, a sweeping intellectual change occurred.

When World War II came around, there were no crowds cheering in Paris. For nine months while Germany conquered Poland, France waited passively behind its fortifications. Then, Germany looked west and rolled into France. The fight was over in six weeks. The Nazis went on to terrorize the Continent in an unparalleled conflict that ended 66 million lives.

How did the nation that had held out during the four years of World War I collapse after just six weeks in World War II? There is no simple answer. But when the question is explored, we can learn a lesson of eternal importance: Men have an

extraordinary ability to ignore danger—and an alarming willingness to follow the intellectuals of the day, no matter how misguided.

Studies done since the world wars have concluded there was little difference in the strength of the French and German armies, on paper. French tanks had the superiority in numbers, quality and firepower while German airplanes were the more advanced machines.

The overwhelming disparity in performance came from a difference, not in firepower, but in mind-set.

In between the world wars, intellectuals searched for the solution for war. Where were they to look? By that time, the Christian worldview had been thoroughly discredited. The warning of the Prophet Jeremiah—"the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked"—was thought to no longer apply. Intellectuals looked elsewhere for the answers. Were humans the enemy, or was war itself the enemy?

In France, more than any other democracy, the enticing philosophy of pacifism was planted deepest.

Teaching Pacifism

The war of ideas began in the classrooms. Intellectual authorities who had touted nationalism in World War I altered student textbooks to promote an antiwar mood.

History professor Mona Siegel tracks the changes in her book *The Moral Disarmament of France: Education, Pacifism and Patriotism*. Even as World War I was raging, protests from teachers labeled as "defeatists" became more common. "The government moved rapidly to silence teachers who protested too loudly or publicly, removing them from their jobs, fining them and, in a

HOW DANGEROUS IDEAS CRUMBLED FRANCE IN SIX WEEKS

The results of relying on the wisdom of man BY KIEREN UNDERWOOD

few cases, imprisoning them," she writes. "Ironically, government repression of 'defeatist' teachers drew attention to their cause and evoked sympathy from many of their war-weary colleagues. By the mid-1920s, the pacifist beliefs articulated by this small minority from 1914 to 1918 would become the reigning ideology among teachers nationwide."

War not only had taken France's sons, it had wrecked its infrastructure and economy. Rebuilding the devastated areas drained government finances. International trade was disorganized because of the war. Debts piled up, and inflation caused many of the rich to send their wealth abroad. Political groups that were pushed aside during the war began to aggressively reappear: The wealthy classes and conservative peasants fought against the socialists and bureaucrats. In short, France's landscape was ripe for new intellectual solutions.

Just a few years after the war, textbooks that portrayed the war as "heroic French soldiers" triumphing over the tyranny of "brutal German 'Huns'" were labeled as "bellicose" and had to be replaced. Gaston Clémendot, a school teacher and author of history books, was one of the major figures who decried the 1919–1924 French textbooks as having "a warlike spirit and a patriotic, nationalistic and accusing tone toward Germany."

Clémendot feared that the history lessons given to the children of France "inspired hatred of foreigners, glorified the experience of battle, and laid the moral groundwork for future wars." He called upon fellow teachers around the country to abolish the discipline of history in primary schools. "What we need," he insisted to his colleagues, "is to forget, and history is the opposite of forgetting."

In 1924, Clémendot was one of the schoolteachers asked to speak at a convention of the French

> TAKING IN PARIS Hitler and his men walk through the capital city after the French surrender.



schoolteachers union Syndicat National (SN). There he delivered a two-hour summary of his position. "I say history cannot be pacific," Clémendot thundered. "I say that it is inevitably bellicose, that history cannot help but support the spirit of war." He was greeted with a standing ovation, but his proposals were initially turned down.

In the next few years, however, Clémendot was rewarded. French schoolteachers declared the "moral disarmament of France their foremost mission," according to Siegel. "If teachers pursue their pacifist propaganda," wrote Madame Roulet, a schoolteacher and SN leader, "war will not come. Certainly, we are humble and small, but we are numerous and everywhere." Thus, the children who would fold to the Germans 15 years later were intentionally and systematically told not to dwell on their history.

At the same time, antiwar novels flourished. Erich Maria Remarque's All Quiet on the Western Front, published in 1929, was hugely successful in France. Within 10 days, the French had purchased 72,000 copies; by year's end, nearly 450,000. Pacifists hailed All Quiet on the Western Front because it portrayed the brutality of war rather than romanticizing it as honorable and patriotic. Germany banned the book and its sequel.

As economist and social theorist Thomas Sowell notes in his book Intellectuals and Society, "Being a pacifist in the 1920s and 1930s was a badge of honor" Pacifists were the iconoclastic visionaries. Pacifists wanted peace. Others wanted war.

Outlawing War and the Merchants of Death

The devastation of World War I made preventing war the paramount objective. In the mid-1920s, prominent intellectuals called for "some definite step toward complete disarmament and the demilitarizing of the mind of civilized nations." Two French intellectuals, Romain Rolland and Georges Duhamel, were among those who published a petition in the New York Times that called for a ban on military conscription, in part, "to rid the world of the spirit of militarism."

Amid this peacemaking atmosphere, France and the United States developed the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928. It was designed to simply outlaw war. Eventually signed by 62 nations, parties were to renounce the use of war to resolve "disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be."

One American senator satirically remarked that "what the proclamation of Sinai did not accomplish in 4,000 years, what Christ's teachings have not achieved in 20 centuries of time, is to be produced by the magic stroke of Mr. Kellogg's pen." Many intellectuals put their faith in it.

Influential American philosopher John Dewey lambasted the critics of the Kellogg-Briand Pact. They were, to him, part of the "Old World diplomacy" that had led to the First World War. Those who critiqued the pact were trying to be fashionably "realistic" and displayed the "stupidity of habit-bound minds," he wrote.

In Europe, antiwar activist Bertrand Russell advocated that if one simply disarmed, "no one would have any motive to make war" on them. "When disarmament is suggested, it is natural to imagine that foreign conquest would inevitably follow and would be accompanied by all the horrors that characterize warlike invasions," he wrote. "This is a mistake,





as the example of Denmark shows. Probably, if we had neither armaments nor empire, foreign states would let us alone. If they did not, we should have to yield without fighting, and we should therefore not arouse their ferocity."

To French intellectuals, this reasoning did not sound naive or dangerous; it sounded like the only solution.

Intellectuals thus turned on those who manufactured weapons, believing them to be the cause of past wars and possible future wars. Frenchman Romain Rolland, even amid World War I, wrote that the "intellectuals, the press, the politicians, the very members of the cabinets (preposterous puppets!), have, whether they like it or not, become tools in the hands of the profiteers and act as screens to hide them from the public eye." His label for them, "profiteers of massacre," became popular in

carnage of modern warfare in person. The young had been taught in school to avoid it at all costs. This kept many intellectuals from blaming Germany for its actions. Instead, they heaped scorn on those who would dare to suggest a military answer to any of the not-yet-violent pushes of Germany.

Those who wanted to avoid blaming Germany needed a scapegoat. An influential body of intellectuals found one in the United States. The approach of anti-American manifestos, as historian Seth Armus explained in his book French Anti-Americanism (1930-1948), moderated the "traditional anti-German stance of the right." For the authors of such manifestos, Armus wrote, "Everything wrong in France and Europe, even the resurgent militarism of Germany, could be blamed on America." After all. Americans were the ones who demanded the burdensome

The prevailing ideology at the time was that war was the enemy—not people, not nations. The aged people had seen the carnage of modern warfare in person. The young had been taught in primary school to avoid it at all costs. This kept many intellectuals from assigning blame to Germany for its actions.

the 1930s, as did the title of a popular book Merchants of Death.

During the decades between the world wars, the French Army adopted a defensive military budget, abiding by the numerous arms control agreements it had signed. Meanwhile, the Germans pressed ahead and remilitarized. It was only in 1936, after civilians began to call for a more offensive orientation, that the government increased the Army's budget. But it was not enough to secure an advantage over the Germans in 1940.

Blind to German Aggression

Between the world wars, Germany was able to rearm, take back the Rhineland on the border of France (and remilitarize it), and occupy Czechoslovakia without retaliation from surrounding Western democracies. Today it is clear how appeasing Germany led to war. What is less clear is how the surrounding countries were able to rationalize these aggressive German actions away.

The prevailing ideology at the time was that war was the enemy—not people, not nations. The aged people had seen the reparation payments for Germany's role in starting World War I.

Perhaps the most crucial step in the path to World War II, and to France's quick defeat, was Adolf Hitler's decision in 1936 to march into the Rhineland, a zone that was supposed to be off limits to German troops. According to Paul Schmidt, Hitler's interpreter, the dictator later said, "The 48 hours after the march into the Rhineland were the most nerve-racking in my life." Germany's military resources were wholly inadequate for even a "moderate resistance." Had the French marched into the Rhineland, the Germans would have had to fall back, embarrassingly.

But the French did not march.

The lack of French political will during Hitler's march into the Rhineland foreshadowed the political lumbering that would inhibit France during the first six weeks, culminating in its defeat. France's press spouted the expected pacifist lines, as historian Ernest May described in his book Strange Victory: Hitler's Conquest of France: "Nowhere in France was there the



slightest indication that the public wanted or would even tolerate military action on account of German remilitarization of the Rhineland. The satirical weekly Le Canard enchaîné expressed a common view when it said: 'The Germans have invaded-Germany!' Communist leaders, supposedly in the forefront of opposition to Nazism, called stridently for preventing 'the scourge of war from falling anew on us.' They urged the whole nation [to] unite 'against those who want to lead us to massacre.' Socialist spokesmen termed 'inadmissible any response that risked war,' saying that even reinforcing the Maginot Line would be 'provocative.' The right-wing dailies Le Matin and Le Jour declared that conflict with Germany would benefit only Russia."

Subsequent advances were treated similarly, in what Thomas Sowell describes as "one-day-at-a-time rationalism." When the Germans annexed Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland in 1938, some of the French press asked, "Should the French get themselves killed for Beneš, the Free Mason?" The next year, when Hitler demanded annexation of Poland's port of Danzigthe act that precipitated full attack on Poland—the hallmark of sophistication was the headline "Do We Have to Die for Danzig?"

The Defeat

Yet public opinion had begun to part from elite opinion. A poll in France in 1939 actually showed 76 percent of the public was willing to use force to defend Danzig. It was too late. Within months, Germany attacked Poland. France and Great Britain, upholding their pledge to defend Poland, declared war on Germany. Thus began what the Americans coined the "phony war," where Western allies, over a period of eight months, undertook little else but preparation and a few small skirmishes.

During this "phony war" period, French intelligence uncovered plans for a German invasion. French generals, deliberating on whether or not the plans were fake, ultimately failed to change their tactics. Hitler drastically changed his and decided to move his troops through the Ardennes forest—a pass the French thought was too dense for tanks to navigate.

Many historians have a hard time explaining why France fell in six weeks. The Germans were able to outflank the French defensive line, but much of its defeat had to do with the poor quality of the French command, both politically and militarily. As historian and diplomat Robin Winks wrote, "[M]uch of Germany and all of her army had for 20 years been focused on one goal—expunging the shame of 1918." In contrast, France's political system was fighting itself, pacifism was rampant, and the country had begun rearming too late to maintain its advantage.

Aside from some heroic actions by French soldiers and the impressive patriotism of Gen. Charles de Gaulle—who refused to give up the fight—France crumbled. As the nation lay defeated, the head of the teachers union, which had so ardently worked to instill pacifism in French students, was told, "You are partially responsible for the defeat."

What Did We Learn?

World-renowned educator and theologian Herbert W. Armstrong often talked of the pendulum swings of human thought throughout the ages. "Humans tend to swing to opposite extremes like pendulums," he wrote in the August 1957 Plain Truth. One dogma is replaced by another as different intellectuals have their period of influence—with none able to find the truth. In less than a generation, France swung from patriotism to pacifism and avoided the fields of thought in between. It also went from four years of resistance to six weeks until defeat.

In doing so, the greatest minds of France proved, again, that intellectuals must not be blindly trusted.

As British historian Paul Johnson wrote, "The study of history is a powerful antidote to contemporary arrogance. It is humbling to discover how many of our glib assumptions, which have been to us novel and plausible, have been tested before, not once but many times and in innumerable guises; and discovered to be, at great human cost, wholly false."

The men who rejected the Bible's worldview of humanity—a carnal nature prone to despicable acts—and proclaimed a utopian view of the way to end world conflicts were not the first to do so. Pacifism was not invented by French intellectuals between the world wars. It was merely repackaged for the events of the day.

The same idea has been repackaged again for our day. The enemy is once again said to be war and not individuals.

Schoolteacher Clémendot urged France to forget its history, and the damage was horrendous. Today, American colleges are requiring fewer students to take history courses. Less than one in five students is required to take even one survey course of history or government before he or she graduates.

Humans can rationalize anything away. We can remain calm in the face of imminent danger, not because of heroism, but because sometimes we don't even know it's there, or we won't face it. It begs the question: If a population doesn't

have a good grasp of history, can it determine whether an idea that seems novel and plausible has been tested before and found wholly false? No, unfortunately, it can't and it won't.

Peace is a marvelous and important goal, but pacifists go about it the wrong way. For God's perspective, request our free booklet The Way of Peace Restored Momentarily.







Is Syria's Strongman Finally on the Way Out?

Turkey's entrance into the Syrian civil war means Bashar Assad is in trouble. BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL

JERUSALEM

EFORE DAWN ON AUGUST 24, TURkey sent special forces, artillery and tanks across its southern border into Syria. This marked the largest Turkish foray into the Syrian battlefield since the civil war began five years ago. It is the first time a foreign nation has put boots on the ground without the approval of the Syrian regime, and also the first time troops of a NATO member country have seen live action in Syria.

The stated objective of the mission dubbed Operation Euphrates Shield was to remove the Islamic State from the border town of Jarabulus. I say "was" because Turkey achieved that goal within the first 12 hours of the operation without a single casualty. And yet Turkey didn't retreat back over the border.

What, then, is Turkey doing in Syria? As with all the actors participating in the Syrian war, the stated goal of "destroying the Islamic State" seems but an excuse to pursue other national interests. Iran and its proxies from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Lebanon are

there to preserve the rule of their ally, Syrian dictator Bashar Assad. Russia is there to capitalize on America's withdrawal from a position of strength in the region, as well as prop up the Syrian regime, which ensures it can project its power into the Middle East. The Kurds, the non-state entity in northern Syria, are endeavoring to take territory from the Islamic State so they can negotiate their own independent state of Rojava. And the Saudi- and American-backed rebels on the ground are trying to finally rid Syria of Assad, who has caused over 400,000 Syrian deaths and counting.

Adding Turkey into the mix, a NATO member and the nation with the largest Middle Eastern army, seems to complicate matters even more.

Yet there is reason to believe the

At the beginning of the Syrian war, Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry made a bold forecast. In "How the Syrian Crisis Will End," he explained that by the time this war is over, Syria

would no longer be aligned with Iran but, rather, with a German-led Europe also in cahoots with Turkey.

It's taken some years, but now that Turkey has entered the battle space, we can see that the groundwork for the fulfillment of that forecast is being laid.

Turkey's Real Objectives

At the outset of Euphrates Shield, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim hinted the operation might have some longer-term goals. "We will continue our operations in Syria until we fully guarantee security of life and property for our citizens and the security of our border. We will continue until Daesh [the Islamic State] and other terrorist elements are taken out" (emphasis added). By "other terrorist elements," no doubt Yildirim was referring to the Kurdish forces considered by Turkey to be terrorists but by the United States and the European Union as allies.

For the past couple of years, these same Kurds have been the most effective ground force in the fight against the Islamic State. As the Islamic State withdrew, however, the Kurds filled the power vacuum and gradually gobbled up most of the territory in northern Syria, just south of the Turkish border.

This gets to the main objective of Euphrates Shield: preventing Syrian Kurds from holding a contiguous landmass along its southern border.

On August 12, a Kurdish offensive routed the Islamic State from Manbij, a town south of Jarabulus. Turkey feared the Kurds would then take Jarabulus. which would have connected two regions in northern Syria already under Kurdish control. Turkey feared that if the Kurds were able to occupy all the land south of its border, they could attempt to create an independent Kurdish state that also included territory belonging to Turkey. To Turkey, this was a red line. The Kurds were so close to accomplishing this, that Turkey had to intervene to stop them.

The other objective for Turkey is to establish a safe zone in northern Syria. Ankara has long desired to create a buffer zone in the territory just south of its border so that refugees fleeing to Turkey would be able to find safe haven inside Syria rather than becoming a burden

for the Turks. Turkey already shelters 2.5 million Syrians within its borders.

The creation of such a safe zone three years ago would have largely solved much of the refugee crisis that has since spread to Europe. Realizing that the creation of a safe zone would limit the refugee flow, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov praised Turkey on August 26, saying, "The Turkish Armed Forces have probably prevented a probable new migration wave of 2 million people with the Euphrates Shield operation"

Why hasn't a safe zone been created already? Simply because Turkey faced stiff resistance from the United States since its creation would have upset Iran, jeopardizing the nuclear deal. Iran doesn't want a safe zone created because it would provide cover not only for displaced Syrians, but also for many of the Turkish-backed Syrian rebels who are fighting against Assad, Iran's ally.

Those are two of Turkey's more immediate goals. But what about the longer term?

Coming Russian-Iranian Split in Syria

Considering how hard Russia has fought alongside the Syrian regime, it would be natural to assume Moscow would be upset by Turkey's operation. However, that's not the case. According to the Wall Street Journal, Turkey actually "sent a high-level military delegation to Russia to discuss its planned operation into Syria. The Russians assured Turkish officials that Moscow wouldn't target Ankara's forces if Turkey moved across the border, according to senior Turkish officials" (August 30).

Russia's flip-flop from placing economic sanctions on Turkey six months ago to condoning a Turkish invasion into Syria today is perhaps the most significant change in the Syrian civil war in years. It is significant because it highlights the fact that Iranian and Russian interests in Syria are beginning to diverge.

Moscow's intent from the beginning was to retain its influence in Syria, with or without Assad. Russia favors a political solution where Assad leads for a transitional period. This is something Turkey has staunchly opposed. For five years, Turkey has said that Assad must step aside immediately, leaving no room

for a transition period. However, in early August, when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with the Russians to discuss Euphrates Shield, that long-standing policy changed. Soon after the meeting, Ankara stated it would tolerate an Assad-led transition.

Next came Operation Euphrates Shield, and Russia standing idly by as Turkey entered Syria.

Essentially, by allowing the Turkish Army into northern Syria, Russia has bolstered the Syrian rebels, the very groups Putin has been fighting on Assad's behalf. The rebels, who looked



to be nearing defeat, now have a conventional army in Syria giving them support.

And what's more, Russia was OK with that! This highlights a massive shift of alliances in the Syrian civil war.

The one nation that isn't OK with Turkey's entrance is Iran. Since the early 2000s, Assad has answered heavily to Iran. However, Iran's feelings toward Assad don't extend to the population. In layman's terms, Iran needs Assad in power to maintain its influence in Syria.

But Russia only needs confirmation that the Syrian government, whoever is in charge, will allow Moscow to continue its military presence in Syria, including its Mediterranean Sea naval base.

A year ago, Russia began to intervene in Syria to support the Syrian regime, which looked to be on its last legs. Indeed, Russia had to support Assad to ensure it maintained its own position in Syria.

A year later, it appears that Russia has buttressed the Syrian regime enough so that the only solution going forward is a stalemate that will have to be solved through negotiation. This can allow President Vladimir Putin to continue Russia's presence in Syria and still be the savior of the Syrian people. However, Assad is refusing to submit to Putin's demands for a negotiated settlement with the rebels. "Ever since President Assad was flown in to be received by our president last year, his attitude has been less than satisfactory," a Russian official told the Financial Times, "and this does interfere with our efforts towards a political solution" (January 22). Most notably, Assad declined Russia's request on January 3 to relinquish power.

By allowing Turkey to enter into the Syrian fray, Moscow seems to be increasing the pressure on Assad to negotiate. Russia is using Turkey's incursion as leverage against Assad. This could leave Iran without its man in Damascus, which could lead to the split between Iran and Syria.

There have been many instances in the past five years when it looked like Assad would fall, but he has proved himself resilient at every turn.

Has his time now come? Is Assad finally on the way out?

As referenced earlier, Gerald Flurry forecast that by the end of this war, Syria would no longer be aligned with Iran.

That wasn't a prediction based on geopolitics or insider information, but rather on the sure word of the Bible and a prophecy found in Psalm 83 about an alliance in the times we are living in now. While Bible prophecy isn't so specific as to say that Assad is going to be overthrown, it does indicate that Iran is going to lose its ally in Syria.

Will Turkey's entrance into the Syrian civil war lead to that fulfillment? Only time will tell. But what is sure is that very soon Syria will no longer be allied with Iran. For more details of how this transformation in alliances will take place, read "How the Syrian Crisis Will End" (the Trumpet.com/go/9737). Although it was written four years ago, it is more relevant than ever.

Do You Have a Good Name?

The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrona College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

ET'S START WITH A GAME. PAUSE FOR JUST A moment after reading each of these names. Try to remember the first thing that pops into your mind after each one.

Michael Jordan, Adolf Hitler, Mother Teresa. Albert Einstein. Barack Obama. Jesus Christ.

So, what were the first things you thought of? We associate all kinds of things with a person's name. We think of more than just what the person looks like—we think of who that person is, what he did with his life, what he stands for.

You were given a name when you were born. Ever since, you have been giving *yourself* a name! When people think of your name, they think of your reputation.

What sort of reputation are you giving yourself? What do others think when they hear your name?

The Bible says quite a bit about the importance of your reputation. In this mini-study, we will see what God has to say about giving yourself a good name.

This study is intended to help you find the answers to real-life, everyday questions in your own Bible. When you see references to scriptures, look them up in your Bible, and you'll see just how practical and helpful its wisdom can be!

What's in a Name?

1. How important is it to make a good name for yourself? Proverbs 22:1.

The word *name* could be translated "reputation." This verse reveals a fundamental principle. If you could receive a million dollars for doing something that smears your name, would you do it? That might seem like a dumb question, but in this world, people choose riches over a good name all the time. They lie in order to save a couple of dollars on a movie ticket or song download. They cheat in order to pass an exam or avoid paying taxes. They say they will do one thing, and when they have the opportunity to do something cheaper or more profitable for them, they break their word.

King Solomon wrote this proverb. From experience, observation and extreme wisdom, he understood the value of a good name. He knew that a person with a good reputation enjoys privileges and advantages that a person without one does not.

2. Which is more important: the name you are given at birth, or how you define that name over the course of your lifetime? Ecclesiastes 7:1.

3. Is it possible for your actions to bring shame to other people? Proverbs 19:26; 28:7. Can your actions actually improve the reputations of other people? Proverbs 23:24-25.

The first two verses talk about bringing shame to your parents and to your family name. The next two verses show how you can bring honor to your parents and increase the value of your family name. A good part of your family's reputation rests on you.

Making a name for yourself by being virtuous is not a form of vanity. It is a way to bring honor not only to yourself, but to everything you represent: your family, your job, your God. If you have a relationship with God, you represent His name. Your actions can improve people's impression of everything you are a part of.

How Can You Improve Your Name?

1. How can you improve your name and reputation? Proverbs 21:21; 11:27; 14:9.

In Webster's Dictionary, the first definition for "honor" is "good name, or public esteem: reputation." Someone with a poor reputation does not receive *honor* from people, even if he happens to hold a position of authority where people are required to obey him. The way to receive true honor is to "follow after righteousness and mercy" by keeping God's law: "diligently seek good."

2. How can you harm your reputation? Proverbs 12:8; 13:5.

If someone steals, he gets a reputation as a thief. If he lies or stabs others in the back, that is exactly what he becomes known for. But if he is honest, convicted and upright, day after day, month after month, he builds a strong, unshakable reputation for those virtues. Living this way leads to benefits far beyond what the liar or thief can hope for. Living by God's laws brings benefits in the same way that living by the laws of health, biology, physics or business brings benefits.

3. Can people tell whether your actions are worthy of a good reputation? Proverbs 20:11. Can speaking about your own goodness enhance your reputation? Verse 6; 27:2.

The only way to build a solid reputation is to make sure your "doings" are pure and right. Some try to build their name by talking themselves up. But others can see through that. If you say one thing and do another, God sees your hypocrisy,

and even other people will be able to see it as well. If you live a life of faith-filled action, boasting about your accomplishments will be unnecessary. They will be so numerous, so solid and so obvious that your reputation will go without saying. Focus on living virtuously, and "[l]et another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth."

4. Is being impressed with your own deeds dangerous? Proverbs 29:23. How do you obtain a good name and honor God's way? Same verse; Proverbs 22:4.

People might accomplish impressive things, but unless they are among the very few who submit to God and use His Holy Spirit, they are mostly concerned with themselves. This integral human selfishness and pride ultimately results in futility, shame and trouble.

People will never have true honor until they become humble in spirit. People who realize their limitations, admit their mistakes, seek instruction from God, heed correction and are concerned for others will receive honor from both God and men.

5. Will a person who does diligent work be looked up to by others and receive promotions? Verse 29. What will a lazy worker receive? Proverbs 10:5, 26.

The person who does his work well and on time will receive recognition, praise, promotion and a reputation that will serve him well over time. He will eventually be recognized by influential people in the way that Joseph and Daniel were (Genesis 39:2-6 and Daniel 1:17-21).

The Reputations of Others

1. Can gossip harm someone else's good name? Proverbs 26:22; 16:28.

Once you know how important it is to have a good name, you can understand why God hates gossip, rumor and slander. You must keep damaging information from spreading unnecessarily, and keep other people's good names intact.

People hurt each other through gossip casually and frequently. They think they are making themselves look better by pointing out the real or perceived faults of others. But people who gossip are actually damaging their own reputations at the same time. If you want a good name, respect everyone else's good names as well.

2. As a young man, did David have a good reputation? 1 Samuel 16:18. Did he maintain that reputation throughout his life, finding favor with



God and man? 1 Samuel 18:30; Acts 13:22; 7:46. How did King David handle people who slandered other people's names? Psalm 101:5.

David was respected throughout his life because he strove to obey God. He was highly regarded by God Himself! And David strongly opposed anyone who harmed the name of someone else.

3. Can you actually improve your reputation by simply keeping certain things to yourself? Proverbs 17:28.

Whether it's gossip or simply some other piece of opinion or information, think before you speak. Sometimes the best thing to do is often to not speak at all, but to listen.

4. Is having a good reputation important when you die? What happens to the name of someone who led a wicked life after he dies? Proverbs 10:7.

History is full of examples of heroes and villains. Some men and women lived extraordinary lives of hard work and selfless sacrifice. God recorded some of their good names in the Bible for all time: Abraham, Moses, Ruth, David, Esther, Jeremiah, Paul, John. The sacrifices they made over their relatively short lifetimes will be remembered forever! That's what the Bible means when it says "the memory of the just is blessed."

What sort of legacy will you leave behind? Strive to leave a strong, lasting, positive name that lives on even after you are gone.

The bottom line is, work hard to obey God and treat other people with kindness and respect. Follow the principles of successful relationships laid out in the Bible. Your parents gave you a name at birth, but what that name has come to mean—and what it will mean far into the future—is mostly determined by you! Make your name a good one.

This short study

is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert** W. Armstrong **College Bible** Correspondence Course. Over 100,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

You can read previous articles in this series online at **trmpt.co/bibleiq**.



ur European Union is, at least in part, in an existential crisis." That was the grim assessment of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in his September 14 state of the union speech. One solution? European

military cooperation.

"Europe needs to toughen up," Juncker said. "Nowhere is this truer than in our defense policy. Europe can no longer afford to piggyback on the military might of others or let France alone defend its honor in Mali."

Juncker's push is supported by France and Germany, whose defense ministers sent a six-page paper to the EU's foreign service on September 11. Süddeutsche Zeitung and Le Figaro, which both saw it, reported the paper as stating, "In the context of a deteriorating security environment ... it is high time to reinforce our solidarity and European defense capabilities in order to more effectively protect the citizens and borders of Europe."

At a meeting in Bratislava on September 16. EU leaders minus Britain-agreed on a time line for developing this military cooperation. The European Commission will put forward concrete proposals in December, and governments will aim to form an agreement by June.

Federica Mogherini, the EU's de facto foreign minister, said

earlier in the month that this time the push for a shared military is "the real stuff." The push had moved beyond general discussions, she said, and would have the "first operational results" by spring.

The EU has already engaged in military missions. It has already formed European battle groups, but they have never been used. European leaders want a European military headquarters: Constructing a single headquarters and command structure over Europe's combined military strength will make its potential power more usable.

EU leaders are also aiming to cooperate on defense procurement projects. European militaries share some common weaknesses, such as a lack of air-to-air refueling, drones and air transport. EU leaders want to solve this on the EU level, eliminating redundancies and creating interdependent militaries.

Juncker praised the progress the EU was making in implementing a new border and coast quard force. This alone is a major step toward an army. The force will only be 1,000-strong, but it can deploy in any EU country, even against that country's will.

France and Germany have also called for a new European military academy, or for European military courses to be taught at national academies, in order to forge a European spirit within national militaries.

Many of these leaders have also noted that EU treaties allow a smaller group of nations to move forward on defense cooperation even if others object.

"Whenever I present the plan to ambassadors, ministers, ... my last slide is that all of this requires political commitment." Mogherini said. "At the moment, I don't see resistance: at the moment. I see readiness."

EU attack on Apple: a blatant power grab

n August 30, the European Union's Competition Directorate ordered Ireland to charge Apple \$14.6 billion in back taxes. This represents an extraordinary move to gain power-not just over American corporations, but over the sovereignty of EU nations through tax policy.

The EU's choice of target was well calculated. Corporate tax avoidance is a hot-button issue right now. Popular sentiment is suspicious of corporations not "paying their fair share," and Apple's setup looks suspect. Ninety percent of Apple's non-U.S. profits are earned by subsidiaries located in Ireland but are technically not tax residents in any country at all. According to the EU Commission, in 2014 the company's effective tax rate on its European earnings was 0.005 percent.

Apple has exploited some

loopholes in the international taxation system, but the G-20 has already addressed this problem, and those loopholes are due to be closed by 2018. In truth, the rights or wrongs of Apple's tax arrangement have nothing to do with this case. Individual nations determine taxation policy, not the EU. The EU is massively exceeding its jurisdiction and testing to see if anyone can stop it from doing so.

The European Commission is acting "arbitrarily, retroactively and beyond the rule of law," wrote the Telegraph's international business editor Ambrose Evans-Pritchard. "What is really going on—as often in EU affairs is a complex political attack on multiple fronts" (August 31).

The EU is now ordering Ireland to collect taxes that the Irish government does not want to collect. The EU is "overreaching their competence," said



Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan, "The European treaties say the individual countries are responsible for taxation policy. This is an approach through the back door to try and influence tax policy through competition law." Ireland has joined Apple in appealing the case to the European Court of Justice.

In co-opting taxation policy that it has no legal authority over, the EU is taking an important step toward becoming a superstate. Taxation is an integral power of a nation or empire. The EU is brazenly taking more of that power for itself.



Ethiopia on the brink?

emonstrators in Ethiopia clashed with the police in the capital Addis Ababa in August as part of nationwide protests against the government. Since November last year, members of Ethiopia's two largest districts have been protesting inequality and systemic corruption that have impoverished 80 percent of the country and threatened 15 million residents with famine.

The government responded with strong crackdowns. Relatively peaceful protests have since turned violent. More than 500 protesters have been killed: thousands more have been injured.

Stratfor noted on August 31 that Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn had authorized the country's armed forces to take "any and all" measures necessary to restore order. Laws established in 2009 give the government sweeping powers to combat anyone it considers a terrorist. Some say the government has used these laws to justify the kidnapping, imprisonment and even torture of political opponents.

Human Rights Watch explained that "donor countries to Ethiopia have been largely silent about the brutal crackdown, presumably in part due to the Ethiopian government's strategic relationships on security, peacekeeping, migration and development. For years, the U.S., the UK and other influential governments have basically

rejected public condemnation of the Ethiopian government's repressive practices."

The Ethiopian government has heavily censored the media and refused entry to United Nations investigators since 2007. These harsh tactics have further destabilized Ethiopian society, making it vulnerable to regional predator nations like Iran, which has a history of capitalizing on unrest in Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

To understand why Iran holds a vested interest in this region, "all you need to do is get a good map of the Middle East, with the emphasis on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea." wrote Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry. "Then you can see why the king of the south, or radical Islam, is so interested in an alliance with or control over [Libya and Ethiopia] (as well as Egypt and Tunisia). They are on the two seas that comprise the most important trade route in the world! Whoever heavily influences or controls Ethiopia will undoubtedly also control the small areas of Eritrea and Djibouti on the Red Sea coastline" (April 2011).

To understand the significance of the current strife in Ethiopia and of Iranian meddling in Ethiopia and its neighboring countries, read Daniel 11:43, which mentions Ethiopia as a member of a "king of the south" alliance that is led by Iran and clashes with the European "king of the north."

West Bank: The next Gaza?

n September 8, a Palestinian court postponed municipal elections scheduled for October 8. The postponement arises from the lack of participation by East Jerusalem in the vote and from legal disputes over candidates between the Palestinian rival factions. Hamas and Fatah.

Hamas had been expected to boycott the elections, as it had done in the past. But when the terrorist group announced its participation in the elections in July, the prospect of Hamas using the ballot to take over the West Bank increased.

A Fatah-influenced court postponed the elections until at least December 21. Hamas rejected the ruling, further worsening the political crisis between the two camps.

Though many Israelis have no love for the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, the idea of radical Hamas taking over the PA is deeply concerning.

In 2008, Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "Hamas terrorists (and weapons) are present throughout the West Bank, and there is little doubt that they are working toward getting control of this strategically located region of Israel" (May 19, 2008). Hamas's chief state sponsors in Iran "believe that if they can conquer Jerusalem, they can unite the Arab world under their control." he wrote. He based his analysis primarily on a prophecy in Zechariah 14 indicating that half of Jerusalem will violently fall to a terrorist, anti-Semitic entity.



A Hamas takeover of the West Bank and East Jerusalem makes this outcome many times likelier than it would be otherwise. The struagle is steadily intensifying.

Under threat: American nukes in Turkey

66 per errorists and other hostile forces" could capture dozens of American nuclear weapons from an air base in Turkey close to the Syrian border, the Stimson Center has warned.

The Washington-based nonpartisan think tank issued a report on August 15 about the risk of a potential breach after Turkey's recently failed coup. The air base commander was arrested on suspicion of involvement in the coup.

The United States stores about 50 nuclear weapons at the base; unconfirmed reports say it is preparing to move some of them into Romania, EurActiv

.com wrote on August 18 that the transfer had already started.

One of EurActiv.com's two independent, anonymous sources said U.S.-Turkey relations has deteriorated since the attempted coup, and the U.S. can no longer trust Turkey to host its nuclear weapons. If the reports are true, the weapons will be moved to Deveselu Air Base in Romania.

During the failed coup in Turkey, U.S. aircraft were forbidden from flying in or out of Turkey. The Stimson Center report said it is uncertain whether the U.S. could have maintained control of its weapons if civil conflict had erupted.



odrigo Duterte's presidency of the Philippines has many nations on edge, few more so than the United States. Duterte, who was elected on May 9, has taken steps to expel America's military presence from the Philippine archipelago, and in some cases is replacing it with China and Russia.

On September 12, Duterte called on the U.S. to withdraw from the southern island of Mindanao, Mindanao is a Muslim-majority region and the home of a number of terrorist groups. Duterte considers the U.S. special forces stationed there to be a prime target who must be removed for their own safety and for the stability of the island. As Duterte said, "For as long as we stay with America, we will never have peace in that land."

The next day, Duterte said the Philippines would stop patrolling the South China Sea alongside the U.S. Navy in order to avoid upsetting China. The Philippines military will instead focus on combating drugs and terrorism, he said.

This is a victory for China, which asserts ownership of 90

percent of the South China Sea. including much of the territorial waters of the Philippines. On July 12, the International Court of Justice at The Hague ruled against China's claims and in favor of the Philippines' assertion that Beijing's activities are illegal. But apparently Duterte is choosing to ignore the Hague victory and to tacitly cede ground to China.

On the same day, Duterte ordered his defense secretary to begin seeking military equipment from suppliers in China and Russia. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 75 percent of Philippine weapons have come from America since the 1950s. But Duterte said that Russia and China have agreed to a 25-year soft loan that will allow the Philippines to purchase their weapons.

Announcing the decision, Duterte said he wants to buy arms "where they are cheap and where there are no strings attached and it is transparent." "I don't need iets." he continued. "F-16s, that's no use to us. We don't intend to fight any country."

North Korea tests another nuke with no consequences

rorth Korea carried out its fifth underground nuclear test on September 9. South Koreans felt the magnitude 5.3 earthquake caused by the explosion, which was reported to have a blast yield of up to 20 kilotons.

Following nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013, North Korea detonated what it claimed was a hydrogen bomb in January. The detonations all violated United Nations Security Council resolutions. In April, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned North Korea: "There will be additional strong response in case of another nuclear test."

Five months later, "another nuclear test" came. North Korea detonated its most powerful bomb yet, a 10-kiloton warhead, 25 to 100 percent more powerful than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. It claimed the warhead was miniaturized and can be mounted on its ballistic missiles.

The consequence: U.S. President Barack Obama warned, again, that North Korea would face "consequences to its unlawful and dangerous actions," and discussed taking "additional significant steps,

including new sanctions."

North Korea called the threats of "meaningless sanctions ... highly laughable."

Jae H. Ku, the director of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said, "No amount of sanctions will stop North Korea. Nuclear weapons are their sole survival strategy" (Foreign Policy, September 9). Ku said sanctions are unlikely to have meaningful impact on North Korea so long as Kim Jong-un thinks his nuclear



arsenal is all that protects him from Western attempts to overthrow his dictatorship.

For all its military, political and economic power, the United States has been unable to check this Second World country. The only "strong responses" Washington appears willing to consider are flying warplanes near the border, attempting sanctions and making critical comments.

Rocket launchers in the South China Sea

atellite data published on August 10 revealed that Vietnam moved rocket launchers to five disputed islands in the South China Sea, further escalating tensions between regional powers.

With more than 2,000 miles of coastline to protect. Vietnam's defenses are stretched thin. Chinese incursions in the Spratly Islands constitute a major threat, particularly to

Vietnam's southern regions.

The Vietnamese rocket launchers in the Spratly Islands might appear on the surface to be a good sign for American efforts to curb Chinese claims in the South China Sea. But a look below the surface indicates the opposite. Hanoi is ignoring America's calls for de-escalation in the region. It appears that even smaller Asian nations have lost faith in U.S. policy.



iolent protests erupted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. and Charlotte, North Carolina, this summer.

In Milwaukee, rioting began August 13 after a police officer shot a 23-year-old black man who refused to lay down the stolen semi-automatic handgun he was carrying. The police officer followed procedure and turned on his body cam to record the entire incident. Yet rioters still burned down half a dozen businesses, prompting Gov. Scott Walker to put the National Guard on standby.

According to body-cam footage. Sylville Smith fled when pulled over by officers. Smith was carrying a handgun, which police said had been reported stolen months earlier. When Smith did not comply with orders to put down the gun, the officer, who is also black, reportedly shot him in the arm and chest.

Hundreds of people responded that night by protesting against police violence, with some confronting officers and resisting arrest. Several people were injured, dozens of protesters were arrested and several local businesses burned.

In Charlotte, Gov. Pat McCrory declared a state of emergency and deployed the National Guard to assist local police after people began rioting over the fatal shooting of a 43-year-old black man on September 20. While

police say Keith Lamont Scott was shot after he refused to lav down his handgun, released video footage of the incident has proved inconclusive. Scott had a restraining order filed against him last year on charges of threatening to kill his wife and her son with his handgun.

Racial tensions escalated during riots that took place over the course of the next two nights as one group of black men attempted to burn a white photographer alive and another group dragged a white man through a parking garage, beating him as he begged for mercy. One person was killed during the rioting, 26-year-old Justin Carr, who was shot by an unknown assailant.

Officials in both cities have attributed the unrest to outside agitators. Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn blamed the riots on the Revolutionary Communist Party, which sent professional agitators to the city and, he contends, turned the initial protests violent. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fraternal Order of Police spokesman Todd Walther told CNN that 70 percent of those arrested in the Charlotte riots were from out of state.

To learn what biblical prophecy says about where such riots are leading, read Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry's July 2015 cover story, "Your Cities Are Burned With Fire" at theTrumpet.com/go/12629. ■

Jobs unfilled for lack of skilled labor

fter decades of decline, the number of open manufacturing jobs in the United States has been rising since 2009. The U.S. Labor Department says unfilled manufacturing positions now stand at a 15-year high. The problem is that too few skilled laborers are applying for these positions.

"Factory work has evolved over the past 15 years or so as companies have invested in advanced machinery requiring new sets of skills." the Wall Street Journal wrote September 1. "Many workers who were laid off in recent decades—as technology, globalization and recession wiped out lower-skilled roles-don't have the skills to do today's jobs. The mismatch poses a growing problem for the economy, stymieing the ability of businesses to increase production and weighing on growth, executives say."

There have been an average of 353.000 open American manufacturing positions per month in 2016—almost triple the number in 2009. It now

takes an average of 94 days to recruit highly skilled scientists or engineers, and 70 days to recruit skilled production workers. A 2015 survey by Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute found that 80 percent of manufacturing executives said a growing skills gap would adversely affect their industry.

The Bible prophesied that God would take away educated engineers and skilled workers—the "cunning



artificer" (Isaiah 3:1-3). The fact that the struggling American economy can't even fill many of the jobs it does manage to create is a partial fulfillment of this prophecy.

Chicago suffers most violent month in 19 years

 hirteen people were shot dead in Chicago over Labor Day weekend. These deaths brought the city's gun-homicide total up to 512 since the beginning of the year. At this pace, Chicago is set to have its deadliest year since 1998, when 704 people were shot to death. This August was the city's deadliest month since June 1996, when 90 people were killed and 382 were wounded in gun violence.

The National Review wrote on September 7, "Chicago is perhaps the most obvious example to date of the 'Ferguson Effect,' the previously mocked hypothesis that, in the

wake of the hostility toward law enforcement that sprang up following events in Ferguson, Mo., in 2014, police in minority neighborhoods have backed off interacting with residents when not absolutely necessary."

Last year, homicide rates spiked in major cities across the nation, including St. Louis, Baltimore, Milwaukee and Chicago. All these cities have been affected by aggressive anti-police movements, prompting even skeptics such as Richard Rosenfeld of the University of Missouri to admit that the Ferguson Effect is "the only explanation" that coincides with this spike in crime.

► CHARLEMAGNE FROM PAGE 3

Germany; the two leaders paid a special visit to the throne of Charlemagne and a special service was held in the cathedral; at the end of the summit, Giscard remarked that: 'Perhaps when we discussed monetary problems, the spirit of Charlemagne brooded over us.'"

The spirit of Charlemagne did brood over those men in a way you can't imagine! They don't know what the spirit of Charlemagne really is! When EU leaders say they want to revive the spirit of Charlemagne, they don't fully know what that means!

In fact, they don't understand the spirit of Charlemagne even from a merely historical standpoint. If they understood even the history of his empire, they would be scared to death!

Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne (Charles the Great) emperor of the Holy Roman Empire on Dec. 25, A.D. 800. He is honored in history because he reestablished Western Europe for the first time after the fall of the Roman Empire 300 years earlier. But what was his reign like? IT WAS CONTINUOUS WAR! It was a bloody empire unlike

philosophy was: Convert to Catholic rule, or be executed in the bloodiest fashion.

That is the spirit of Charlemagne.

The Encyclopedia Britannica (15th Edition) says, "The violent methods by which this missionary task was carried out had been unknown to the earlier Middle Ages, and the sanguinary [bloody] punishment meted out to those who broke canon law or continued to engage in pagan practices called forth criticism in Charles's own circle."

Violence of this level hadn't been seen in years! Even Charlemagne's own advisers questioned his methods. But nothing could stop him! That uncontrolled drive for violence is the spirit of Charlemagne. It's not something adventurous and romantic; it is disastrous, a spirit of mass hatred and murder!

Why was Charlemagne's rule so exceedingly bloody? He was led by a different mind.

Led by a Dragon

"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worin the Imperial Restoration, which resuscitated the empire and established the Holy Roman Empire. This history lines up precisely with what the Bible describes. The Bible also describes this Holy Roman Empire being defeated and then re-resurrected another six times—for a total of seven resurrections. Six of these are now a matter of history: They were led by Justinian, then Charlemagne, then Otto the Great, then the Habsburg Dynasty, then Napoleon, then Hitler.

All of these resurrections came from the *same spirit*. What spirit is it? Is it the Spirit of God, as they claimed?

The Bible foretells that one more resurrection of this empire is ahead of us. And events in Europe are dovetailing with that prophecy very closely! Western Europe, a supposed modern bastion of democracy and secularism, is about to once again become a unified empire led by a strongman and influenced by the Catholic Church!

And what spirit will that leader have? The same spirit embraced by Hitler, by Napoleon, by Charlemagne.

If you want to know what spirit leads the Holy Roman Empire, look to the same source that—as a fact of history—accurately forecasted its six resurrections over a period of many centuries. That source is the Bible, and it says that this ferocious, constantly reviving, beastly, potently religious power is led by "the dragon" (Revelation 13:2-11).

The facts of history show that this has been true time after time after time over the past 1,400 years. Each of these empires has been an unholy union between the Vatican and worldly European rulers and their armies. Each of these empires has spilled rivers of blood in the name of God. Each of these has been a false religion and a bloody iteration of an evil empire.

The spirit of this empire is the spirit of Satan the devil!

Many people reject the Bible and reject the existence of the devil. But compare what the Bible says to the documented facts of history and ask yourself, Was the Bible right? And if so, could it be right about the existence of the devil? Could it be right that he will lead one more empire to come?

Prove the truth for yourself. And closely watch the spirit of Charlemagne.

Why was Charlemagne's rule so exceedingly bloody? **HE WAS LED BY A DIFFERENT MIND.**

any that came before it. Charlemagne spilled rivers of human blood, slaying Lombards, Moors and other Muslims, Bretons, Bavarians, Benventians, Slavs, Croats, Byzantines, Bohemians and Danes. But perhaps his cruelest campaign was against the Saxons, which spanned 30 years of continuous war.

Throughout his reign, Charlemagne executed many thousands of Saxons because they refused to be baptized into the Catholic faith. They refused

of the BALKANS

to convert to Catholicism and

to submit to the rule of Charlemagne and the pope, so he killed them. Charlemagne's shipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast" (Revelation 13:3-4).

This is an astounding verse from the Holy Bible. Along with many other verses in Revelation 13, Revelation 17, Daniel 7 and elsewhere, the Bible describes the Holy Roman Empire and its resurrections. As astounding as it might seem, the Bible described this empire in detail centuries and even millennia before those details occurred. Now those details are facts of history!

The wounded beast described in Revelation 13 is the Roman Empire. The wound was inflicted in A.D. 476 when barbarians invaded Italy and sacked Rome. The wound was healed in A.D. 554



One of the forgotten news events of the 1990s was the fracturing of Yugoslavia. What happened was nothing less than the first conquest of World War III! To find out why, request Gerald Flurry's free booklet, **Germany Conquers the Balkans**.

Take Responsibility

Stop the buck in its tracks.

T'S NOT MY FAULT." HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU HEARD—OR said—this? Everyone wants to blame their problems on someone or something else: their parents, their socioeconomic status, their schooling, their boss, their friends, the big banks, big businesses, racists, sexists, special-interest groups, self-serving politicians

Actually, this isn't just a modern trend. People have been trying to wriggle out of responsibility since God asked Adam a



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direct question: "Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Millennia of excusing, covering, evading, shirking, shrugging and rationalizing later, we have elevated avoiding responsibility to an art form.

Stop. *Your* life is *your* responsibility. Accept that fact!

Anyone who goes through life focusing on what other people *aren't* doing for

him, what they owe him, or the raw deal life gave him, NEVER GROWS UP. In some form, he forfeits responsibility for his life.

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child," the Apostle Paul wrote, "but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11). The man who believes society owes him a comfortable living still thinks like a child. The person who grouses about how unfair the world is, and how riches and privilege are just a matter of luck or corruption, still thinks like a child. The woman whose failures are always someone else's fault is stuck in childish thinking. The individual content to live off of his parents' largesse or a government handout still understands as a child. The

man focused more on what the world should do for him than on what he can contribute to others is not yet thinking like an adult.

Maturing means you move from deflecting blame to accepting responsibility. You move from being a passive observer to an initiator. You move from victim to doer. You move from expecting things to providing things. Maturing means seizing your God-given power to direct your own life, to welcome challenge, to surmount obstacles, to achieve victories.

Blaming other people for your problems is a *trap*. Of course other people's actions affect you, but don't deceive yourself. God says the person who is responsible for you is *you*. "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have

rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden" (Galatians 6:4-5). You must carry your own load. In fact, God wants you to go *beyond* that, and to reach out to help others carry their burden as well (verse 2).

"[W]hatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (verse 7). If you don't like what you're reaping, take a hard look at what you've been sowing. And start making some changes.

God is *radically* pro-responsibility! Think about the command in 2 Thessalonians 3:10: "that if any would not work, neither should he eat." That is God's way: Everyone who is able *must work* in order to eat. If we followed this command, there would be whining, pleading, maybe even yelling—but in the end, everyone would take responsibility, everyone would work, and everyone would eat.

Our modern world, intoxicated with government benefits and welfare programs, has come to view that as cruel. We believe we have a better way: Give the meal to the irresponsible sluggard. Who cares if it stunts his growth, his maturity, his productivity, his dignity and even his happiness?

God says if a man does not provide for his family, let alone himself, his religion is worthless (1 Timothy 5:8). Is this cruel of God? Or is He trying to teach you to become useful and skillful? Does He want you to suffer, or does He want to make you better, stronger and happier?

Taking responsibility means the buck stops with you. It means taking *ownership*: You cause something to happen, you do all you can to make it a success, and you accept blame if it fails. If this is your priority, you will become dependable and trustworthy, fulfilling your commitments to others. If it is not, you will be unreliable, unpredictable, distracted, needful of reminders, always showing up late; you'll consume more time, attention and resources than you produce.

Shirking responsibility for your mistakes is another trap. Until you own up to your own failures, you'll remain stuck in them. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). Confess your error! Then forsake it: Make a different choice the next time. And teach your children to do the same. Don't let them get away with passing blame and sidestepping guilt. Teach them to be upfront about their mistakes.

Accepting responsibility builds momentum toward greater responsibility. God wants to give us *a lot* of responsibility. He is watching to see what we do with what we have. When He gives resources or talents, He wants results. The man who produces the most results is the one God can entrust with more responsibility (Matthew 25:28).

Someday you will have to stand before God and give account (Romans 14:10-12). At that point you can't look around, pointing fingers of blame at others. Those people will have to answer for themselves. And you, face to face with God, will have to answer for yourself. Don't wait until then to start. Take responsibility. As you do, you'll grow up and fulfill much more of your God-given potential.



I was married and stayed home with my children for several years, and at the time, I didn't value my own role enough ("Nationalizing the Family," the Trumpet.com/go/14182). My marriage failed, and through that process, I have come to see things differently. But I wish I would have seen it at the time. While I don't entirely blame society, I can say that it did not help. People need to be supported in their roles within families. It's devastating when a family fails. People need help valuing and investing in their families more. I'm grateful that God supports families, and one day, so will society.

Michelle Dell MANITOBA, CANADA

China's Vision

Today's China has a vision ("All Roads Lead to Beijing," theTrumpet.com/go/14180). That vision unifies them and shows them where they are going. Contrast that with the divided Israelite nations who can't agree on a single thing and are unable to see past the end of their nose.

Majella Tesoriero AUSTRALIA

Clarity at last

Thank you again, Trumpet staff, for the clearest explanation of what the king of the south is really about ("The Islamic State of Mind," thetrumpet.com/go/14186). I try to keep current and figure it out as I go along, but this is the most comprehensive study. Well done.

Wanda Furer ARKANSAS

Right in the face of wrong

I was profoundly moved by this amazing story of one of the few world citizens who decided to do the right thing in the face of wrong ("Japan's Schindler," the Trumpet .com/go/14185). Thank you.

Madeleine Catussatto BRAZIL

There are so many stories of heroes we have never heard of. Thank you for blessing us with this story. Hopefully it will encourage us and strengthen our faith and reliance on God during our time now and the times ahead. Linda

Community before self

The "War on Poverty" article in your October issue is misleading ("The War on Poverty: 50 Years of Failure," the Trumpet .com/go/14183). You begin by mentioning LBJ's "Great Society" program, but failed to add that most of the money intended for this laudable program was instead redirected to fund the Vietnam War. You can hardly blame that on the Left. Secondly, you give readers the impression that America is somehow wallowing in an overdose of social welfare benefits. Hardly! Actually the exact opposite is true. Compared to other modern nations, the U.S. does far less to redistribute wealth and provide benefits to citizens. Example: People in Canada and Great Britain get free doctors and dentists and in Brazil everyone gets free college. Do Americans get any of these? Of course not! "Community before self" was one of the original principles of the Puritans and Pilgrims who founded the U.S. Considering the current dilapidated state of our nation, not to mention all the wealth concentrated at the top by our financial elites, don't you think it's time we returned to those original principles? As Catholic socialist Dorothy Day once said, "If you feed the poor they call you a saint, but if you ask why they're poor they call you a communist." Exactly!

James Camilli NEW JERSEY





Andrew Miiller While it may be true that some of the money originally intended for President Johnson's "War on Poverty" was redirected to the Vietnam War, our infographic shows only the money that was actually spent on means-tested welfare. The U.S. government now spends several times more than President Johnson originally intended on such programs, yet poverty rates still hover around 15 percent. Worse yet, family breakdown among America's poor is at an all-time high. These same problems also plague Canada and Great Britain. You are right that the pilgrims of Plymouth Rock did originally practice a form of communal socialism in 1620. The results of this experiment were disastrous. with half the colony dying of starvation their first winter. This tragedy caused the colony's governor, William Bradford, to abandon the communal socialist principle and decree that every man should provide corn for his own family. He wrote a letter in 1623 describing "the taking away of property and bringing in community" as an imitation of the "conceit of Plato" and a mockery of the laws of God. The "original principles" of communal socialism were abandoned well over a century before the U.S. Constitution was written. While the Bible certainly has a lot to say about helping the poor, all biblical verses on this topic are in reference to freewill charity. Those who give to the poor of their own free will may be saints, but those who have their money forcibly confiscated by the government so it can be redistributed to others are victims of a socialist state.

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False Alarms, **True Terror**

Why do we run when none pursues us? Because terrorism works. BY JEREMIAH JACOUES

HOUSANDS OF PASSENGERS AT LOS ANGELES INTERNAtional Airport fell into panic on the evening of August 28, prompting evacuations, chaos and gridlock at one of America's busiest airports. "It sounded like a stampede of cattle. Everyone is yelling, 'Shooter, shooter,' and they start diving under the seats to hide," Donna Melanson told the New York Times.

But there was no shooter. The mayhem turned out to have been triggered by harmless "loud noises."

The LAX panic was not an isolated incident. On September 12, the campus of Valley Forge Military Academy and College in Philadelphia was placed on lockdown after someone told 911 they heard gunfire. After police spent an hour fanning the campus with weapons drawn, they determined that the culprit was bubble wrap being popped. On August 25, nine people at a Florida mall were injured after the sound of balloons popping sent shoppers into stampedes. A week earlier, a mall in Michigan erupted into hysteria after onlookers mistook the sound of breaking glass or a slamming door for gunfire. On August 14, thousands of travelers at JFK International Airport in New York began stampeding and two terminals were evacuated after travelers mistook for gunfire celebratory applause. The day before, at a mall in Raleigh, North Carolina, eight people were injured because of an unknown sound mistakenly thought to be gunfire.

And the list goes on.

This trend shows that many Americans are on edge.

Memories of recent attacks at airports in Istanbul and Brussels are fresh. Images of the aftermath of shootings in Orlando, San Bernardino, Paris and elsewhere are burned into our minds. Grim pictures of the mass murder in Nice, France, still haunt us.

The result: We are terrified. When we hear balloons or bubble wrap popping, or a door slamming, we are often quick to assume it's an AK-47 in the hands of an Islamic State jihadist or some other deranged gunman.

And this means the terrorists are succeeding. After all, the goal of terrorism isn't necessarily to kill target populations. A big part of the goal is to terrify them—to instill fear into their hearts.

Terrorism has not killed a large percentage of Americans. We are still more likely to be killed by a cow, a falling tree limb, or a toddler with a gun than by a jihadist. But terrorism has terrified a great many of us.

The fact that terrorism has had such an effect was actually foretold long ago-millennia, in fact.



Long before the United States was established, God prophesied many riveting details of the nation's prosperity through His servant Moses (Genesis 48:13-22; 49:22-26; Leviticus 26:3-10). God also explained specifically how He would punish America if this powerful, blessed nation forgot and disobeyed Him: "... I will even appoint over you terror.... [A]nd ye shall flee when none pursueth you" (Leviticus 26:16-17).

Verse 36 offers more detail: "[T]he sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth."

Does this sound like people stampeding and injuring each other because of sounds of applause or balloons popping?

Through the Prophet Isaiah, God foretold how painfully effective terrorist attacks would be if America didn't obey Him. He foretold the disproportionate degree of destruction a small number of terrorists would be able to inflict: "A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away ..." (Isaiah 30:17; New International Version).

Only 19 terrorists were directly involved in the 9/11 "rebuke," and only a handful of others have been involved in attacks on American soil since then. Yet an astonishing number of Westerners have been made to "flee" in fear because of those attacks.

The Boston Marathon bombing was carried out by just two jihadists using about \$200 of homemade explosives, and they turned Boston—a city with more economic output than Finland—into a ghost town for a day.

Take a look at America's systems of education, politics, religion, military, industry and entertainment. It's plain that the nation has rejected the law of the God who blessed it with such unprecedented prosperity. As this slide into lawlessness continues, Americans will increasingly "flee when none pursueth" and descend into mass hysteria at the "sound of a shaken leaf."

But there is also hope on the horizon. God spelled out that warning that we see coming to pass in such specific detail because He is trying to reach out to us. If you can recognize how our nation's disobedience to Him is the real cause for this and other curses, that can put you on the path to repentance, and to being spared from an intensification of those curses.

In addition, Bible prophecy makes plain that on the other side of the terrorism, fear and curses, this world will experience the most radiant future imaginable. Fear and terrorism will be forever vanguished and replaced by a planet of peace, prosperity and a single world religion under the righteous, merciful rulership of the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

► SUPERMAN FROM PAGE 6

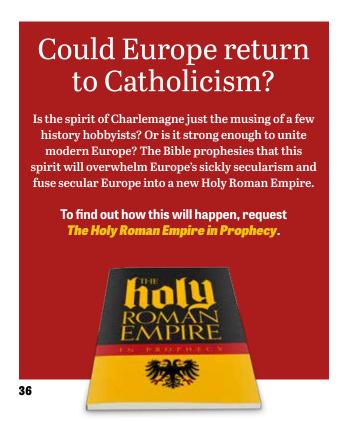
and powerful. He has an "understanding [of] dark sentences." As Clarke's Commentary says, he's "very learned and skillful in all things relating to government and its intrigues"— he's a skilled politician.

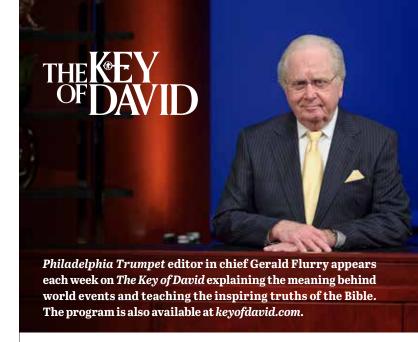
Notice, he inherits the throne of Europe "peaceably," obtaining his kingdom by "flatteries." He's crafty and sly, with an engaging, vibrant, attractive personality. The Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary says "the nation shall not, by a public act, confer the kingdom on him, but he shall obtain it by artifice, 'flattering.'" In other words, the people, and perhaps European leaders, likely invite this man into power.

What might cause the public to invite this man to take control? There must be a political crisis, and the people must believe that only this man can solve their problems!

Chancellor Merkel's star is fading. And it would diminish even quicker if the German people were presented with an individual like the one described in Daniel 7 and 8. If they were presented with a leader who was energetic, eloquent and personable; a leader who wasn't shy about confronting the issues; a leader who wasn't afraid to talk tough, nor to make tough decisions and take tough actions; a leader whose personality and politics appeared suitably modern, moderate and sophisticated, but who could also think and speak and act pragmatically, with force, vigor and power; a leader who felt fresh and new, but at the same time was experienced in German politics, tradition and customs; perhaps a leader with an impressive royal legacy, who would stir the patriotic sentiments of the German people—this kind of leader could capture the imagination of the German people. He would be a leader capable of filling the role of German superman.

Perhaps someone like Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg.





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UNITED STATES

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CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun

Discovery, Chan. 278, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri WGN, Chan. 307, 8:00 ET, Sun

Dish Network

Discovery, Chan. 182, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri WGN, Chan. 239, 8:00 ET, Sun

Nationwide Cable

CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun Discovery, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun ION, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri WGN, 8:00 ET, Sun

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

Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun Mobile WFGX7:30, Sun

Montgomery WBMM-DT/WVCF-DT8:30,Sun Alaska, Anchorage KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri;

KAZT 8:00, Sun Yuma KECY-DT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, El Dorado KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun Fayetteville KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun Rogers KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KHBS-DT/KH0G-DT 8:30, Sun California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

El Centro KECY-DT 8:30, Sun Eureka KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri;

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun Monterey KION 9:30, Sun

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

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri; TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

San Diego TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri Santa Barbara-Santa Maria KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Sun City-Menifee TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri Grand Junction KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Montrose KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP6:00, Fri Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun Pensacola WFGX 7:30, Sun Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/ WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri

West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri Georgia, Albany WSWG-DT9:30, Sun Atlanta WPXA 6:00, Fri

Augusta-Aiken WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri Columbus WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun Macon WMAZ-DT9:30, Sun Savannah WGSA-DT 9:30. Sun

Thomasville WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 546:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed

Kaui Ho' Ike Chan. 529:30, Tue Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Oahu Focus Chan. 497:00 am, Sat Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPX0

Idaho, Boise KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun Pocatello KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30,

Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.29:30, Sun Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun

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Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun Kansas, Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun Pittsburg KSXF8:30, Sun

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Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA-DT 8:30, Sun Monroe KN0E-DT 8:30, Sun Lafayette KADN 7:30, Sun; KATC-DT

8:30. Sun Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun

New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun Portland WPME 7:30, Sun; 7:00, Mon-Fri Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun Massachusetts, Holyoke WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSD/KSWD-DT 8:30. Sun Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Hattiesburg WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT8:30, Sun Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun Helena KMTF-DT 8:30, Sun Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun; KHGI 10:00 Sun North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30. Sun Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT9:30, Sun New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun Buffalo_WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun;
WPXN 6:00, Fri
Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30. Sun Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 8:30, Sun Dickinson KWMK 8:30, Sun Fargo WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun Minot KWMK 8:30, Sun Valley City WDAY-DT/WDAZ-DT 8:30, Sun Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun Steubenville WBW0 9:30, Sun Toledo WMNT 8:00, Sun Zanesville WBZV 9:30. Sun Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30. Sun

Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 8:30, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30. Sun Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston
WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun South Dakota, Rapid City
KWBH/KNBN-DT8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30 Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun Dallas KDAF7:00, Sun; TVCLT-Bilingual, 9:30 Sun Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Lubbock KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30. Sun Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30 Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT9:30, Sun Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun Yakima KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun Wheeling WBW0 9:30, Sun Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun La Crosse WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun

Superior KDLH-DT8:30, Sun Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

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Bahamas Discovery Chan. 26, 6:30, Sun FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun

Belize WGN 7:00, Sun Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun Puerto Rico WGN 8:00, Sun Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

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Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun Mexico TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun; WGN 7:00, Sun

Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Adelaide TV4411:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun Philippines TV4 9:30 PHT, Sun

CBS United Kingdom

Station	Day	Time	sky	*	Fireeview	freesat
CBS Action	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 64	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch.149	Ch. 197	Ch. 71	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

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