**DIVIDING LINE** Where U.S. race problems are leading us

Hope for the child victims of Rotherham

How 'functional movement' helps you at any age!

A God'seye view of the universe



# RUMPET

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# The Danger of Complacency

## TRUMPET

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**Photo:** A Palestinian militant waves a machine gun in Gaza following the recent war with Israel. (MAHMUD HAMS/AFP) **Cover Illustration:** Drinking while sinking. (GARY DORNING/TRUMPET)





## 'The World Is Descending Into Chaos'

Experts admit it—and the Bible prophesied it. By GERALD FLURRY

SLAMIC TERRORISTS HAVE CONQUERED A LARGE PART OF Iraq and Syria. These are surely the worst terrorists on Earth. They are killing men, women and children, and committing horrible atrocities against people of different religions. Nations throughout the Middle East are shaken, and nations around the world are horrified by what these terrorist monsters are doing. We have never seen anything so demoniacal as the nightmares the "Islamic State" is unleashing.

As serious as this situation is, however, it is just one of MANY terrible crises hammering the world right now.

The Jewish nation in the Middle East has been in a war with Palestinian Hamas terrorists in Gaza. Hamas terrorists have been shooting powerful missiles from Gaza's cities while hiding in schools, hospitals and residential areas. "Look at the danger that we face when they have rockets and missiles," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on August 7. "Now imagine what KIND OF DANGER WE'D HAVE IF THEY CAN PUT A NUCLEAR WAR-HEAD ON TOP OF THESE MISSILES" (emphasis mine throughout). Look at the actions and the character of these Palestinian terrorists, and you know exactly what they would do if they obtained nuclear weapons—unless some power were to stop them.

In time, these nuclear weapons will get into the hands of Hamas terrorists. With the world's attention diverted elsewhere, Iran is racing forward with building nuclear weapons. The Iranian government is the number one state sponsor of terrorism in the world. Do you

think the mullahs would give nuclear weapons to terrorists? I do. Somehow the terrorists will get those weapons. That makes this situation extremely important to all of us.

Look elsewhere throughout that region—in Libya, in Syria, in Egypt, in Pakistan—and you see instability increasing. Elsewhere in the world are still more serious crises. In Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin is waging an outright war, taking over territory, even threatening nuclear war! Ebola is spreading in Africa. Tensions are growing between China and Japan. And the United States is experiencing multiple dangerous crises, including race riots, rampant illegal immigration that most certainly includes criminals and terrorists, crushing drought, a sluggish economy, and multiple political scandals.

Former Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said, "The world is descending into chaos." This isn't merely some fringe opinion. Observers everywhere are deeply concerned.

Mr. Bolton is right, and this is a chaos like this world has NEVER experienced before!

Bolton talked about this chaos just weeks ago. But did you know that your Bible talked about it millennia ago? This chaos we are experiencing in 2014 was prophesied in the Bible!

We have been prophesying about this crisis of crises for 70 years. That is because the Bible foretells, in quite a lot of detail, the great carnage that would come upon the Earth in this very end time.

#### **Shaking the Nations**

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The book of Haggai contains a number of forecasts about the future that God gave to a prophet. Haggai 2:23 dates this book to a certain time period: "in that day." "In that day" always refers to what Numbers, Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Hosea call "the latter days." That is a time far beyond when Haggai lived—in fact, it is the time we live in now! You can prove that by putting together what this and other prophecies say and comparing them to what is happening in the world.

Notice especially what God says in verse 7: "And I will SHAKE ALL NATIONS ...." This is *global*. This has never happened before.

> This is in the end time, and it is happening to all nations. Even now, many are shaking—and all of them should be.

> This verse could read, "The world is descending into chaos"because God says HE WILL SHAKE ALL NATIONS! GOD PROPHESIED

THIS TURMOIL WOULD HAPPEN.

Why would God shake all nations? He is clearly heavily involved in what is happening, and for a specific reason. He is shaking—but He isn't wiping out the planet altogether. Why? Because of the *end result* it will produce.

Notice what will come as a *result* of God shaking all nations: "And I will shake all nations, AND THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS SHALL COME: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts" (verse 7). The God of love wants to give the nations what they DESIRE: peace, prosperity, joy and happiness. And He will! However, they must first be corrected. And God is doing that, just like a loving father does for his children.

Right now God is shaking the nations. God is doing this out of love! The nations need strong correction. He will shake us to our very foundations, and even destroy our foundations, because He wants to save us and turn us from





"In the 30 years or so that I have been writing about world affairs and the international economy, I have never seen a more dangerous confluence of circumstances, or more remarkable complacency."

AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD

our self-destructive ways, and turn us toward our loving Father. That is what will result from Him shaking all nations!

God has to shake the nations *first*—before He can give them what they desire. They desire peace. They desire prosperity. They desire for everyone to have exciting, wonderful lives. God is going to give that to them. *But He has to shake them to their senses first*.

This prophesied shaking is coming to pass right now, and it will conclude with the fulfillment of the most amazing prophecy in the Bible.

This world is about to be filled with light! God is about to illuminate this world with all of the brilliant beauty and love you can ever imagine.

#### 'It Could Happen Again'

Recent news reports show just how much the nations are shaking. And when you compare these events to the Bible, you can see that they correlate exactly with what God prophesied. Reporters can *see* it happening. That is startling, and it ought to shake *all* of us.

In *Atlantic* magazine, Roger Cohen wrote a July 29 article titled, "Yes, It Could Happen Again," with the quip, "Instability in Ukraine, chaos in Syria, conflict in the East China Sea—THE TRIGGER POINTS FOR WORLD WAR III ARE IN PLACE."

Regarding President Putin gobbling up parts of Ukraine, Cohen wrote, "[A] major power has forcefully changed a European border for the first time since 1945," when World War II ended. Meanwhile, terrorists are conquering every inch of territory they can possibly get in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The *Telegraph*, one of the best newspapers in the world, published an article on August 1 titled, "Today's parallels with 1914 are very worrying." Speaking of the serious conflicts raging in Gaza, Syria, Ukraine, Iraq and even China, it reported, "All this might not matter so much if it were against the backdrop of

a generally stable world economy. But very few would describe it as such. Pregnant with record amounts of debt—emerging markets are now piling it on with the

same reckless abandon as the West—and highly reliant on the steroids of artificial monetary support, financial markets have rarely looked more vulnerable to unexpected shocks."

We are about to see a lot of shocks. That is what the *shaking* of nations is all about! Our economies are so weak and indebted that they won't be able to withstand these shocks.

"I don't want to over-egg the point," author Jeremy Warner continued, "but the parallels with the calm before the storm of 100 years ago are impossible to ignore." He then described 1914, the year World War I broke out. Here we are 100 years later, and we have the same situation—but with far more terrible weapons.

The period before World War I witnessed unparalleled international travel—ambassadors of peace were flying everywhere, trying to keep their nations from descending into the Great War. Their failure is a matter of history. In the worldwide catastrophe that followed, 10 million people were murdered.

Today, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and countless other diplomats are flying all over the world trying to deal with the multiplying crises. I'm sure these leaders are sincere in trying to bring world peace, but according to Bible prophecy, their efforts are all going to fail. We are about to experience another worldwide catastrophe, and God will see to it that His plan is implemented in the process.

Thankfully, in the end we will have peace like they can't even imagine—but it will not come the way they think it will.

#### The Ambassadors of Peace

The July 30 Wall Street Journal published "WINDS OF WAR, AGAIN." This article said, "In 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, not unlike John Kerry today, shuttled tirelessly between London and wherever Adolf Hitler consented to meet him to discuss a non-violent solution to Hitler's intention to annex the Sudetenland, the part of Czechoslovakia inhabited by ethnic Germans. Hitler earlier in the year had annexed Austria, with nary a peep from the world 'community."

Chamberlain was racing all over Europe trying to appease Hitler, giving him chunks of territory without him having to fire a shot! The attitude was, *Let's not voice criticism*; *let's keep quiet about Hitler's takeovers. Maybe that way we can have peace.* But that attitude made war CERTAIN!

Britain and its allies were so weak! And Chamberlain and others virtually forced Czechoslovakia to give up the Sudetenland to the Germans. Even the Sudetenland's inhabitants didn't want to join Germany, but these nations handed Hitler their sovereignty and forced them to.

Chamberlain signed off on that in Munich, Germany, and came home with a little document that he waved in the air, declaring "Peace in our time!" The people who saw him wave that piece of paper were almost hysterical with happiness. They really believed they were going to have peace.

Less than a year later, Hitler invaded Poland, and World War II started.

And, as the Bible prophesied, the ambassadors of peace began to weep bitterly (Isaiah 33:7).

Winston Churchill warned for *years* that they would not have peace, but virtually every newspaper proclaimed there would be peace, and every Briton seemed to believe that. The papers

lauded Prime Minister Chamberlain for his brilliant efforts—but *there was no peace*. Why? Because of what *Hitler* believed. He believed in conquering, and he was determined to have war from the very beginning. Many will not accept the fact that people think this way. But people have thought like Hitler throughout history! Evil men have killed masses of people—especially the appeasers—time and time again.

We have been prophesying about the rise of these evil men and these destructive trends for 70 years. Now it is happening—in a horrifying way. How were we—and Herbert W. Armstrong before us—able to prophesy this situation? Because God revealed it in the Bible. U.S. race riots; economic disaster; even fires, droughts and floods are all discussed in detail in prophecies like Amos 4 and dozens of others.

#### 'Consider Your Ways'

Here is what Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote July 25 in the Telegraph: "In the 30 years or so that I have been writing about world affairs and the international economy, I have never seen a more dangerous confluence of circumstances, or more remarkable complacency." This ESTEEMED ANALYST SAYS HE HAS NEVER SEEN THE WORLD IN SUCH CRISIS—AND NEVER SEEN PEOPLE SO UNCONCERNED! What a perilous situation we are living in!

Notice Haggai 1:3-4: "Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled [luxurious] houses, and this house lie

waste?" Is it time for self-luxury as God's work is neglected? Or is it a time to be sobered and shaken by God as never before?

"Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your

God tells us to consider our ways. Consider how much you concern yourself over acquiring luxurious goods and other personal things. Consider how little you are concerned about God's house and the work of getting His message to the world.

Most people are too glutted on selfishness to even notice the dire situation we are in and how it mirrors the prelude to World War I and World War II. But even for those who do see the danger—who are racing around the world trying to create peace who among them talks about God? Who says anything about looking to *His* house and serving *Him?* Even the ambassadors of peace are just trying to use human reasoning and pressure to stabilize things so everyone can get back to luxuriating inside their ceiled houses.

Where is God in this world crisis? Where is His will, His wisdom, His input, His reason? Man is trying to solve his own

#### Terrorist pool party at U.S. Embassy!

SLAMIST FIGHTERS FROM THE LIBYA DAWN MILI-tant group recently enjoyed diving and swimming at an evacuated residential annex of the United States Embassy in Tripoli. The apparent pool party for jihadis appeared in a YouTube video posted on August 31.

Some of the videotaped militants were in military uniform, armed with guns; some wore casual sum-

mer attire and roamed the party with cell phone cameras, and some took turns swan diving from a second-floor balcony into the compound's pool.

The Islamist militants are part of a jihadi coalition that now controls Tripoli and other parts of Libya. The advance of Libya Dawn to the capital city has driven Libya's elected government to Tobruk. The Islamists have also taken over the airport. Western intelligence has reported 11 commercial airliners missing from the airport, raising fears of 9/11-style terrorist attacks.

Marines evacuated the last American diplomatic personnel from Libya in late July. The scene at the diplomatic compound from which they fled symbolizes how far the U.S. has plunged from its status as a reputed, decisive superpower.

After America led the invasion of Libya in Operation Odyssey Dawn in March 2011, Trumpet readers knew exactly what to expect. Gerald Flurry warned that "the government that replaces Qadhafi will be a thousand times worse" (October 2011).

In addition to rival militia groups, Libya now has rival governments—an illegitimate, Islamist one trying to establish itself in Tripoli, and an elected house of representatives afraid for its life. Former Gen. Khalifa Haftar is fighting the various Islamist groups, yet he is neither endorsed nor denounced by the elected legislature.

The chaos in Libya—and America's reaction, or lack thereof—has prompted other nations to take matters into their own hands. Against America's policy and without informing Washington, local powers Egypt and the United Arab Emirates conducted two clandestine air strikes against the Islamists in Tripoli in August.

America has very publicly failed in Libya, and the nation is spiraling into chaos.

problems and telling God, Just stay out of it! We'll take care of it ourselves! But human beings can't solve these conflicts. After millennia of war and two world wars in the past century, that ought to be obvious to anybody!

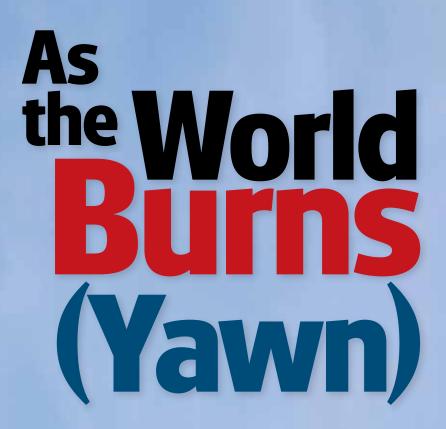
Our entrenched problems and conflicts are of such great magnitude that only our Creator can solve them. But we leave God out of the picture. So He tells us, Consider the way you're living. The Hebrew in Haggai 1:5 means to SET YOUR HEART on your ways. God is telling you to ask yourself, Am I really thinking the way God wants me to? Or are all my efforts just directed toward myself?

God is shaking the nations! And He is just starting. Conditions are going to get a hundredfold worse.

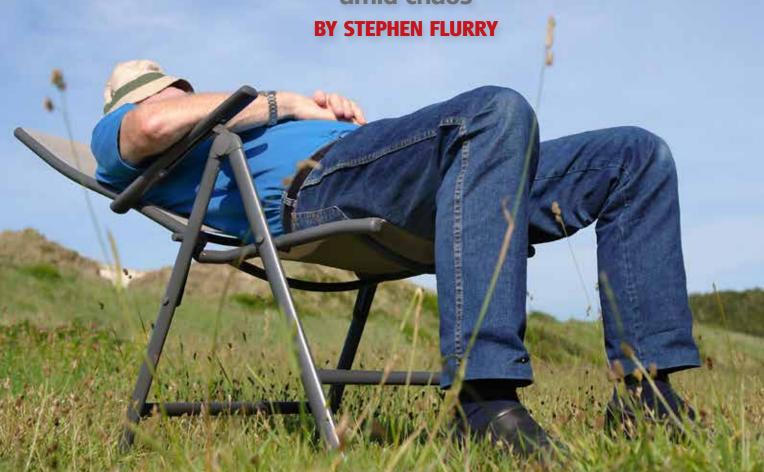
Notice: God repeats this to drive it home to us: "Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Con-SIDER YOUR WAYS" (verses 6-7). God is reasoning with



➤ CHAOS on page 8



The dangers of complacency amid chaos



EVERAL DRAMATIC, VIOlent events are shaking our world. Just recently, we have seen Russia invading Crimea and Ukraine; Palestinians raining down terror on Israel; an entire "state"

of terrorism taking over much of Iraq and Syria; anti-Semites driving Jews out of Europe; Germany overtaking Europe's militaries; Iran building the bomb. And that's just in the past couple of months.

With all this upheaval taking place around you, WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?

Some people say, Well, the world has always had problems. Right now is no different. But it is different. And how you react is going to make all the difference in your life.

The stability of the world is nothing like it was 50 years ago—or even 20 years ago. In fact, the world powers are now experiencing an upheaval much like the one that took place before World War II. Many people even recognized that war was coming—it was only a matter of how big it would be. But the world—the Western world in particular-kept procrastinating. It kept closing its eyes to the imminent disaster. It kept appeasing the aggressors even as war became inevitable. That is how strongly they craved the status quo. That is how much they wanted to remain complacent.

The tragedy of World War II—the most murderous war in history—vividly shows what happens when you fail to confront the problems before it's too late. Yet today, similar events are unfolding, chaos is growing—and this time we have weapons of mass destruction. Are people reacting any differently? And how are you reacting?

You know the history of world war. You may even understand the prophecy of the Bible. And yet many of us still lie in a warm bed of complacency! We just don't want to face the cold reality! We just don't want to snap out of it!

We all have personal lives, living and making our choices day in and day out. We tend to think those choices have nothing to do with national leadership or with geopolitics. But that's not true! National administrations, international conflict, terrorism, world wars—all come from the same place: THE HUMAN HEART.

So it *matters* what happens in Ukraine and Israel and Germany. It matters what populations permit their leaders to do. It matters how you react to the earthshaking events that are taking place around you. It matters whether you roll over and hit the snooze button, or whether you snap awake!

#### At Ease in Zion

Think about these chaotic crises that are piling up around the world right now. Jihadi terrorists—jihadi "states" are committing mass executions and barbaric beheadings in the Middle East. The Ebola outbreak in western Africa is spreading. Russia has basically dropped the pretenses and invaded part of Ukraine. Palestinians are rebuilding so they can terrorize Israel even worse than before. Europe seems in danger of fragmenting-even its individual nation states are in danger of fragmenting. Germany is dominating the continent economically and politically. America is spiraling inward in a vortex of racial conflict, ideological division and a black hole of debt.

Former Amb. John Bolton put it plainly: "The world is DESCENDING INTO CHAOS" (article, page 1).

Yet God says that people are "at ease" at this frighteningly dangerous time (Amos 6:1; Revised Standard Version). And He says WOE unto them. Woe unto the "notable men"—those leading our nations—who have been lulled into a false sense of security—and are lulling us to sleep as well.

hardships that people are going through." The technology just makes the world seem worse than it really is. So go back to sleep. Everyone is safe. America has never been this strong—or more indispensable.

In fact, America has NEVER BEEN MORE COMPLACENT! That should be self-evident.

"Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the midst of the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David invent for themselves instruments of music; who drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!" (verses 4-6; RSV). Here God chastens our peoples, saying they should be grieving the death of entire nations. Instead, we are living it up! Eat, drink and be merry; for tomorrow will never come—that's the way most people live their lives today.

This is the same spirit of complacency that soothed the United States and Britain in the 1930s—shortly before World War II shattered the globe. And it's exactly the way Jesus Christ said it would be just before His return to Earth.

The Apostle Paul said Jesus Christ would return at an UNEXPECTED hour like a "thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is unexpected—not because God fails to warn the world—but because we have gone to sleep! The leaders in the modern-day nations of Israel have promised us prosperity and ease for generations to come.

#### This spirit of complacency in our society reaches all the way up to the top positions of the most powerful nations on Earth!

This spirit of complacency in our society reaches all the way up to the top positions of the most powerful nations on Earth!

On August 29, the president of the United States actually promised Americans that the world is "much less dangerous" now than it was 25 or 30 years ago. He wants you to believe what he believes that everything is getting better. Sure, the world has always been a little bit "messy," the president explained. "We're just noticing now because of social media and our capacity to see in intimate detail the

Our ambassadors are traveling the world proclaiming "peace and safety" (verse 3).

And it's not just the politicians' fault. In general, we WELCOME these smooth words! In Isaiah 30, God says it is the slumbering masses who are responsible for the blind shepherds. We are telling our leaders to preach "smooth things" and to "prophesy deceits." And they are giving us what we want.

Look at how easy it is for human nature to live in denialto murmur about peace and





## **Trivial Pursuits:** Why Americans Are Dangerously Ignorant About the World

n a time of growing domestic and world dangers, America is becoming increasingly enamored with the superficial. A look at its entertainment providers indicates where Americans are spending their time.

In 2005, DirecTV had 15.1 million subscribers; today it has over 37.8 million. TV and Internet provider Comcast went from 22 million subscribers in 2002 to 34 million last year. Over the same period, Netflix went from offering streaming services and DVD rental to just over a million subscribers to having 44 million "streaming members." The 2000 NBA Finals drew close to 17.4 viewers; last year's Finals had 26.3 million. Americans' appetite for entertainment, popular culture, celebrities and sports is insatiable and still growing.

Compare these statistics to the number of news watchers in America. A 2013 study called Filter Bubbles found that only 4 percent of people are "active news customers," meaning "someone who read at least 10 substantive news articles and two opinion pieces in a three-month period"—regardless of medium, whether print publication or online source. Not exactly a high standard. Remove the requirement for reading two opinion articles, and the number only climbs to 14 percent.

In 1993, when President Bill Clinton gave the State of the Union address, 67 million people tuned in. Viewership for this annual event has steadily dropped over the years. By 2013, it was about half: only 33.3 million. Meanwhile, voter turnout has also tanked. In 1968, 91.2 percent

of registered voters cast their vote—79 million people. In 2012, fewer than 73 million Americans voted, though the number of registered voters had risen to 126 million. That represents a mere 57.5 percent of voter engagement.

Growing numbers of Americans don't want to face reality and are dangerously ignorant about the world around them. It is not difficult to see why the Bible prophesies that destruction is going to be so sudden for most people (e.g. 1Thessalonians 5:3).

Steeped in the trivialities of this world, they are oblivious to its dangers.





To learn more about this trend, watch the *Trumpet Daily* program **"Fiddling While Rome Burns"** (the *Trumpet.com/go/12030*).

safety, even as blaring alarms are going off everywhere! People simply will not listen to a warning. They reject a corrective, even when it is delivered by *God*, in *love*. They don't want a message that they consider "doom and gloom." They would rather risk massive destruction than have to spring out of bed and change their lifestyles. So they pull the pillows over their heads and snuggle up to leaders who will reassure them that they don't have to do anything, that nothing will overturn their warm bed of security and prosperity.

The Apostle Paul was a different kind of leader. When giving advice to his young ministerial assistant, he said, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; PREACH THE WORD; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

What a contrast to the "teachers" talked about in so many other Bible prophecies! PREACH THE WORD, God tells His servants. *Be instant*. Stand by it at all times, whether it's in season or out—whether it's popular or not. In this passage, preserved for us, God is showing us how to snap out of complacency.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine," Paul prophesied. That time is now upon us! "And they shall TURN AWAY their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (verses 3-4). What a perfect description of our godless society today—where people en masse have turned away from hearing the simplicity and rigor of God's truth in exchange for warm lies and soft delusion.

When this happens, God says in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, those with eyes to see had better *know* that SUDDEN DESTRUCTION is near!

#### **Vigilance Is the Key**

The sin of complacency is one of the most *universal* and DESTRUCTIVE afflictions of our day. Have *you* been infected by this deadly disease? If so, as Paul wrote in Romans 13:11, it's "high time" to WAKE UP! If you have been reading the *Trumpet* magazine for very long, then YOU KNOW just how short time is. It's time for you to react!

Those who slumber on don't know what is happening. Their eyes are too heavy with ignorance and self-deception (2 Corinthians 4:4). But your eyes are open. You see what is happening! The question is, What will you do?

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Romans 13:12). We are living on the verge of Jesus Christ's spectacular return to Earth! We are in the "last hour" (1 John 2:18; RSV). Isn't that reason enough to roll out of the spiritual sack and go to work putting on the armor of God?

Chaos is happening all around us. We must be MORE AWAKE now than ever before! We must be earnestly preparing daily for the FIGHT OF OUR LIVES. It's a fight not against a foreign enemy or a political ideology, but against the spirit of complacency, the spirit of sin. As these verses show us, complacency isn't just a bad habit, it's a deadly hazard in the fierce spiritual war we are waging against a satanic spiritual force!

"If I had to choose between pain and nothing, I would choose pain." That's how author William Faulkner understood this: To grow and develop as a human being, he had to struggle and fight to overcome obstacles. And the consequential pain was much better than lazy indolence.

Now is not the time for spiritual drowsiness!

In 1 Peter 5:8, God identifies the power behind this spirit of complacency: Satan the devil. Satan is very much a real being, and he is very much active in our lives right now. God compares him to a ROAR-ING LION that walks about "seeking whom he may devour." When lions hunt in the wild, they target the weakest member of the herd. They seek to devour the one that SLOWS DOWN during the chase or that carelessly waits too long before sprinting into action. They stalk their prey silently, invisibly. Then when you hear the terrifying roar, it's too late.

God says we must be sober and vig-ILANT in order to avoid spiritual catastrophe. This serious-minded alertness is the key. The Greek word for "vigilant" in 1 Peter 5 means "to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one" (Strong's Enhanced Lexicon). If we let





#### Look at how easy it is for human nature to live in denial—to murmur about peace and safety, even as blaring alarms are going off everywhere.

down spiritually and become complacent and lazy, calamity will swallow us whole.

So be spiritually alert and on the watch-constantly on guard against drowsiness. Diligently PREPARE for what is coming, the inevitable (and prophesied) pandemonium that will explode out of the current world chaos. Put forth the CON-STANT, energetic effort it takes to serve God acceptably—with REVERENCE and FEAR (Hebrews 12:28).

#### The Vigilant Christian

Here are five positive steps you can take to spring into action and shake off the deadly comfort of complacency:

#### WATCH

L Jesus said, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). First, we have to watch world events. That means we have to turn off the entertainment long enough to see this evil world for what it is. God refers to His people as the "children of light." This is because they see and understand the truth of God. They focus on world events in the spotlight of Bible prophecy. They don't scoff and ridicule the prophecies of God.

They watch!

#### ) PRAY

Christ said to watch and pray. In Matthew 6:10, He commanded us to pray fervently, "Thy kingdom come." The Bible says "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). Fervent prayer really GETS RESULTS! When you habitually pray fervently every day, this connection with God fires you up! Jesus Christ was in the daily habit of rising a "great while before day" in order to talk to God alone in prayer (Mark 1:35). Numerous times the Gospels recount Christ talking to His heavenly Father for hours at a time! On at least one occasion, Jesus prayed all night long! The Apostle Peter said we must have the SAME MIND as Christ in order to survive what is ahead (1 Peter 4:1). That means we MUST set aside time every day for effectual and fervent prayer to God.

2 STUDY

Numerous Bible passages show that daily Bible study powerfully impacts our lives. This is how God feeds us the spiritual food we need to survive. Studying God's Word has so many specific and tangible benefits! It teaches us to properly fear and honor our Creator (Proverbs 1:7). It teaches us how to live like Jesus Christ, who said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). So slow down and TAKE THE TIME to diligently study the Word of God-and then meditate on what you are learning. Be like the Bereans, who searched the Scriptures daily to prove God Word true! (Acts 17:10-11). This will exhilarate a complacent mind like nothing else will!

MOVE

God's Word also prods us to labor for physical fitness. The Apostle John wished "above *all* things" that we have good physical health (3 John 1:2). Can *physical* health really be THAT important? It is if we are serious about serving God with energy and vitality! We can't serve God powerfully with physical bodies that are tired and sluggish. As Herbert W. Armstrong once wrote, "Next

to the salvation of one's soul, sound, vigorous bodily health surely is the most necessary and the most valuable treasure a man can achieve in this world." God created the physical body to be a

Improving your physical health is simpler than you might think. See "A Step Toward Better Health," page 10

temple for the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). That alone is reason enough to keep it clean and healthy! But think about how much more you can serve God and His work if you are FIT for the task physically.

**PRIORITIZE** 

Change your life to put God first. Get out of bed as soon as your alarm sounds and organize your day so that it revolves around God. Show God every day that you are willing to work at this—to set your mind on the things above (Colossians 3:1). Show Him you are SERIOUS about bringing energy and zeal to your daily Bible study and prayer—that you are eager to "stir up" the gift of God's Holy Spirit in your mind (2 Timothy 1:6). How we manage our time says a WHOLE LOT about how URGENT we are in these last days.

Don't give in to the pulls of the flesh and succumb to the deadly sin of complacency. Become perfect—even as our Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48). We can't sleepwalk our way to perfection!

Of course, we can't overcome *any* sin or build *any* character on our own power and strength. Only the AWESOME POWER of God can reproduce His character and nature in us (Genesis 1:26; Zechariah 4:6).

But give God something to work with! Go to work each day PUTTING ON the whole armor of God. FIGHT the good fight of faith (Ephesians 6:11; 2 Timothy 4:7). Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Draw near to God. Submit to His authority. Actively RESIST THE DEVIL so that he will flee from you (James 4:7-8).

And do these things with your WHOLE HEART! Now is the time—it's high time—to snap to attention and serve God with red-hot zeal and determination!

➤ CHAOS from page 3

people who are focused on themselves and their possessions—people who are working harder and harder yet have less and less. He points out to us: You're not being blessed. We're not receiving prosperity and peace and happy marriages and families. Yet all of those are blessings God wants to give us! So why are we not experiencing those blessings? God says, Consider your ways. You're not LIVING the way that causes these things you desire! Consider your ways!

God wants to give these blessings to us—to the whole world. And the Bible promises He will do it—within the next few years! Can God just take us as we are—selfish, evil, godless, ungrateful, greedy, violent—and pour all these blessings on us? Or does He need to shake us and correct us first?

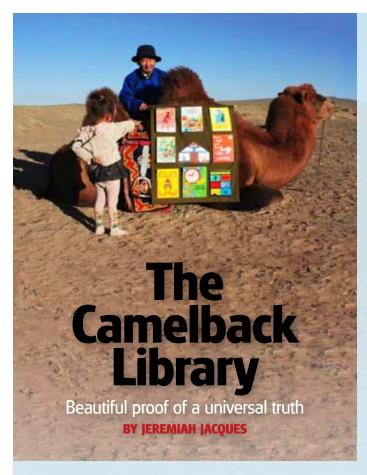
#### Correction

"Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house" (Haggai 1:9).

What does that mean? God's "house" is His work of proclaiming His message of warning and repentance and hope. That message ought to be going out to the world with POWER! But the people God is addressing are not concerned about that! God says, You are concerned about YOUR house and YOUR work, YOUR ideas, YOUR thoughts.

And when you try to acquire more for yourself, you are just putting those earnings into a sack with holes. That way of life never works out.

"Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands" (verses 9-11). God called for a drought upon the land. Do you think God wouldn't do that? Do you think God's job is to only send blessings of wealth and peace, and to never send you the blessing of punishment and correction?



You go to the library. But what if you live in the rural regions of the Gobi desert? Your situation would be bleak—were it not for Dashdondog Jamba. He has devoted his life to writing, translating, publishing and transporting books to children all over Mongolia with his Children's Mobile Library.

"I can't remember how many trips I have made—I have lost count," Mr. Jamba said. "Sometimes we travel by camel, sometimes on horseback, and with horse carts or ox carts; we now also have our van."

Over the last 20 years, his library has traveled 50,000 miles through every province of Mongolia—mostly before the van was part of the operation. Jamba's assistants are his wife and his son. They often spend several days in one place to give as many children as possible a chance to read their books.

"[It] is a little different from other libraries," Jamba says. "The walls of this reading room are made of mountains covered with forest, the roof is blue sky, the floor is a flower-covered steppe, and the reading light bulb is the sun."

Jamba created his library in the early 1990s, shortly after Mongolia abandoned communism and adopted free-market economics. Life in Mongolia changed dramatically, mostly for the good. But organizations focused on children's literature fared badly. They were viewed as profitless, so no private investors wanted to take them over. Most children's libraries were converted into banks.

Jamba tried to keep the libraries alive. "Even though I had fought against it," he said, "my efforts didn't work." But he

didn't give up. He determined that if the children had no place to go get books, he would get the books to the children.

Ever since, he's been writing children's books, translating foreign youth literature into Mongolian, and bringing books to children who would otherwise never read them. Several of his original books have earned the Best Book of Mongolia award. Some of his stories have been put to song. Some have been made into movies. In 2006, his mobile library won the prestigious IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award.

But more remarkable than any of these honors is the fact that Jamba has done the lion's share of his work *without financial compensation*. Most of the money for publishing, translating, printing and mobilizing comes from his own pocket—from profits he earns from selling his original books. "Sometimes people ask me how it benefits me [as] an individual. With respect to money, there is no benefit," he said.

Because of this, Mr. Jamba deserves recognition as a man who lives the way of give.

The *Trumpet* offered to pay Jamba for permission to reprint the photograph at left (which he owns), or to donate to one of his projects. He not only declined, but insisted on mailing us a complimentary assortment of his books.

What effect has 20 years of generous giving had on Jamba? Has it worn him down? Has it jaded him? No, it has made him happy! "My devotion for children is my happiness," he said. Author Ramendra Kumar spent time with Jamba in 2009, and said: "With his cherubic smile, bright sparkling eyes and an endearing countenance he inspires trust. No wonder wherever he has gone in Mongolia he has succeeded in winning the love, affection and confidence of children" (*BoloKids*, Sept. 7, 2009).

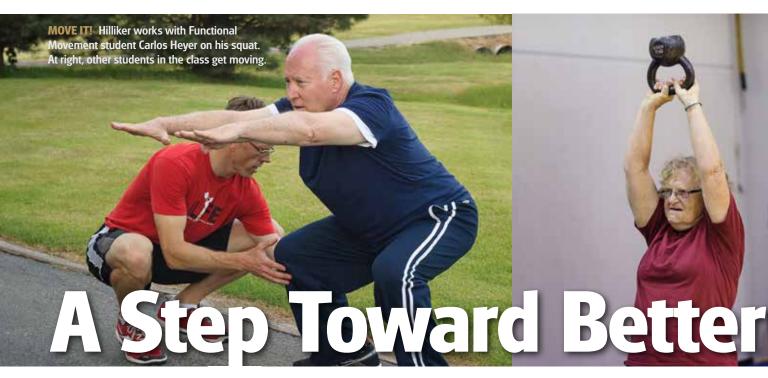
How can constant giving and scant receiving make a man happy?

Mr. Jamba's happiness is no anomaly. Last year, researchers analyzing data from 40 studies found undeniable proof that people who give to others by volunteering had significantly lower levels of depression, and far higher levels of "life satisfaction." One study called "Do Good Live Well" found that 68 percent of people who volunteer report feeling physically healthier, 73 percent experience lower stress levels, and 89 percent enjoy an improved sense of well-being.

These studies—and Mr. Jamba's generosity-generated joy—confirm a fundamental truth about human beings, which Jesus Christ taught during His ministry on Earth: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Proverbs 11:25 adds, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed" (New International Version).

A person who gives becomes refreshed and happier. That's a universal aspect of the human condition. Yet most of us fail to recognize it, calculating that we'll be happiest if we *receive* and *take*. To put the matter to the test, focus on giving to others. Create happiness for someone. Give more to your family. Give more on the job. Then survey how you feel.

Whether you begin serving more in your home and job, or you hop on a camel and start bringing books to children, it won't take long for you to know that it truly is more blessed to give than to receive.



Whatever your age, you can enjoy higher quality of life by learning how to move.

#### BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

IGHT NOW, YOUR SHOULDERS are probably saying, 'Hello! Good morning! I haven't done this in a while,'" Joel Hilliker says to a gym full of students. For Hilliker, the work of *Trumpet* editing is over, for now, and the work of coaching fitness for people of all ages and shapes has begun.

The students rotate lengths of lightweight plastic pipe over their heads, from front to back. If it's done right, their shoulders will be "expressing their full range of motion," Hilliker says. Looks of strain mixed with delight suggest that many muscles, ligaments and tendons are indeed waking up.

The youngest students are in their 20s and 30s, but most are over 50, and the eldest are in their 70s. No one here is trying to become a size 2. No one is here to build cosmetic muscle for swimsuit season. No one is exercising for the sake of improving his ability to exercise. The class, an extension of the Herbert W. Armstrong College physical education

program, called "Fundamentals of Functional Movement," is about just that: functional

movement. The reason the students are here is to improve their health and their quality of life. They are here to *function*, and to function better.

Because of this, the exercises tend to mimic the activities of daily life. The shoulder presses the students are doing teach the same movements used for setting something on a shelf above your head. Squatting trains the ability to stand up from a seated position. Deadlifting mimics the movements used for safely picking things up off the floor. Lunges are a critical part of getting yourself up off the ground.

#### **A Strengthening Trend**

Hilliker's class is just one instance of a growing trend—a great trend. Commercial gyms all over the Western world are holding classes for older adults. Exercise programs for seniors ranked sixth on the list of top fitness trends last year published by the American College of Sports Medicine. Functional fitness ranked eighth.

Why are these programs taking off? Partly because more people are taking action to reverse the obvious and dramatic decline in the fitness of the general population. This decline, caused by poor diet and lack of movement, has affected almost everyone in Western society, and functional-movement students know they have to work to fight it.

What also makes such classes attractive is that *anyone* can take part. "[B]elieve me when I say if I can do it anyone can," said Joe Schweda, a 48-year-old electrician who admits to being "king of the couch potatoes" before he started a functional fitness program in Wisconsin. "I have gained strength and energy. ... I really can't imagine a better program for total body fitness."

Functional fitness is also gaining popularity because participants see results quickly. After just three months of classes, administrative assistant Patty Neubauer said: "I hit 50 this year, and I am not slowing down. In fact, since signing on ... I'm speeding up! I am stronger, have considerably less back pain and a lot more energy!"

These students are learning something many people don't realize: Ultimately, fitness isn't about youth or image or a natural high. It's about functioning better. *Everyone* needs to do that. And the good news is, everyone can.

"Our body remains remarkably resilient even when we neglect it for a long time," Hilliker says. "Elderly people who begin an exercise program can *reverse* many of the effects of aging."

This means that you can function better and live better—no matter what your age or how poor your current level of fitness. You can make simple, realistic changes immediately that will move your fitness and your quality of life in the right direction.

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#### **Muscle Matters**

One of the most valuable and important benefits to functional fitness is an increase in muscular strength.

Strength isn't important just for athletes and lumberjacks. It's also crucial for those enjoying the slower pace of the golden years. "[T]he maintenance of

strength and the maintenance of bone density is what enables our quality of life to be maintained into old age," says fitness coach and author Mark Rippetoe.

How much more will you enjoy those golden years if you are independent? If you can spend an afternoon actively playing with your grandchildren on the playground? If you can beautify your home and property? If you never have to miss out on benefits for yourself and others because your body has betrayed you?

Maintaining muscular strength is vital in preserving quality of life over time. But it does not happen without effort.

Individuals in their 30s, 40s and 50s who do not regularly exercise (or otherwise live strenuous lives) generally lose 10 percent of muscle mass *per decade*. People in their 50s and 60s lose 15 percent per decade—and after that, 30 percent per decade.

By contrast, individuals ages 60 to 90 who undertake resistance training on a regular basis significantly slow that process. They average less than 5 percent loss of muscle mass per decade—and in the initial stages of such a program, it is typical to *regain* a lot of the muscle you once had.

Besides maintaining strength, there are numerous other benefits to sustaining

fitness as you age: Reduction in risk of high blood sugar, improvement of balance, reduction in risk of type 2 diabetes, increasing flexibility and joint range of motion, boosting happiness and confidence, lowering the risk of falling, relieving arthritic pain, decrease in loss of reaction time, reduction of mental decline, and numerous others.

Yet despite the very obvious benefits of working toward fitness, and despite the obvious dangers of allowing yourself to "go dormant," about 32 percent of older adults report having *no physical activity time* in a given month.

Which trend will you join? Will you take it easy and surrender to age? Or will you wake up those shoulders and the rest of your muscles, and realize the increased quality of life that comes from simple exercise?

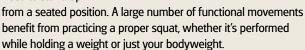
If you're ready to see this law of health activate in your life, commit to getting up and getting active. And if possible, begin your training in functional movement under the guidance of a trained professional. Even after just one session, you are virtually guaranteed to feel some of your muscles saying, "Hello! Good morning!" And that is a wonderful feeling. The time to start is today.

## What's Your Function?

Functional movements are not about awkward-looking lifts and workouts. They're about performing the movements we make in everyday life—and practicing them properly. Two of the most basic everyday movements are squats and deadlifts.

#### **Squats**

What: Squats train the muscles you need to stand up



**How:** Keep your weight on your heels, maintain the lumbar curve in your back and keep those knees from rolling in toward each other.

Why: The air squat is "life's most fundamental movement," Hilliker says. "I want to help an older person to be able to get out of a chair without using the arm rests. The ability to do that is a proven indicator of longevity; once you've lost that, your quality of life significantly decreases."

#### **Deadlifts**

What: A scary-sounding movement that you actually perform all the time. The deadlift is just picking something up off the ground.



*How:* It's all about keeping the weight over the middle of your feet, and keeping your back straight.

Why: Why learn the form for lifting dead weight? Crossfit founder Greg Glassman tells the story of a doctor who told him he didn't think some of his patients—those who are elderly or frail—should do deadlifts. When pressed on the question, the doctor said he would medically clear such a patient to lift up a bag of cat food because it was an "essential activity." Glassman responded, "As I see it the only difference between us is that I want to show her how to do this 'essential activity' safely and soundly, and you don't."



RITAIN WAS SHOCKED BY THE content of a report published in August revealing massive sexual exploitation of teens in and around the town of Rotherham. For more than 15 years, predators, mostly Pakistani men, have horrifically abused hundreds of youths, mostly white girls—and authorities have looked the other way.

The report, written by Prof. Alexis Jay, found that between 1997 and 2013, about 1,400 minors were sexually exploited—and that's a "conservative estimate."

"It is hard to describe the appalling nature of the abuse that child victims suffered," the

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report states. Even in the dry, factual language of an official report, it is difficult reading.

The children "were raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked to other towns and cities in the north of England, abducted, beaten and intimidated," the report says. "There were examples of children who had been doused in petrol

and threatened with being set alight, threatened with guns, made to witness brutally violent rapes and threatened they would be next if they told anyone. Girls as young as 11 were raped by large numbers of male perpetrators. This abuse

is not confined to the past but continues to this day."

"One young person told us that 'gang rape' was a usual part of growing up in

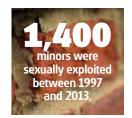
the area of Rotherham in which she lived," the report states.

Just a usual part of growing up—like your first day of school, learning to ride a bike, or getting a summer job.

"The impact sexual exploitation had on

them was absolutely devastating," it reads. "Many children repeatedly self-harmed, and some became suicidal. They suffered family breakdown, and some became homeless. Several years after they had been abused, a dispropor-

tionate number were victims of domestic violence, had developed long-standing drug and alcohol addiction, and had parenting difficulties with their own children."



"Many suffered post-traumatic stress and endured lasting psychological and emotional damage that diminished their capacity to lead normal lives," the report states. One victim said that "sexual exploitation is like a circle that you can never escape from."

Even the report's author, who has investigated these kinds of atrocities before, was "shocked" at "the horrible nature of the sexual acts" and the "utter brutality" that she uncovered. "It was truly frightening that people in our country could be doing that," she said.

The problem predominated within the Pakistani Muslim community in Rotherham. This raises additional disturbing questions about the culture of this particular group and the corrosive influence of political correctness in motivating officials to look the other way.

Events in this town of over 250,000 represent abuses routinely occurring throughout England. They teach us a lot about life in Britain today. The tragedy of Rotherham's children is only possible because of failings at every level of society—in the family, the police, social services, and local and national government. This is about a deep sickness in British society, and it is a sickness shared by many countries around the world.

#### Family Breakdown

For many of these girls, the problem began in their families. The report found that 46 percent of them had "a history of domestic violence." In other words, nearly half of these victimized children grew up in families where the father or some other man around the house was so abusive that he beat at least one member of the family.

One third of the victims were being looked after by the state—removed from their families due to the death of their parents or, more likely, because their parents were incapable of rearing them.

The report makes clear that those responsible for the children failed on many accounts. But the government is looking after a huge number of children: 30,000 were taken into care over the past year in England alone. In part due to family breakdown and also because of a social system that is far too quick to steal children away from their parents, Britain's care system is overwhelmed. With so many children

involved, the state cannot provide the guardianship and care these children need.

The result is a large pool of children desperate for love and affection. So desperate, in fact, that they will do anything to gain what they hope is love—from their tormentors. These are victims that abusers in Rotherham and elsewhere in Britain prey upon.

Andrew Norfolk, the chief investigative reporter at the *Times* who first broke the story and whose reporting helped bring the scandal to light, described the process of recruiting these girls: "The victims were always aged 12 to 15, the first contact was in a public place—a shopping mall, a town center, a bus or train sta-

tion—and a grooming process developed in which girls were initially flattered and excited by the attentions of young men a few years older than them who took an interest, offered the adult thrills of cigarettes, alcohol and rides

in flashy cars, then wanted to become their boyfriends.

Age of some of

the girls who

were victimized

"A sexual relationship developed in which the girl was sooner or later asked to prove her love by sleeping with his best friend, then with more friends. In the worst cases, girls were being taken to 'parties' in house [sic] and flats, or put in cars and driven to locations across the country. Always for sex; often violent sex."

It starts with girls thinking that someone finally loves them. Too often it ends with them going through heartbreak and misery, and becoming too scared or ashamed to tell anyone about their ordeal. Some become suicidal. Some end up earning their tormentors \$325,000 a year as child prostitutes.

It is important to note that although the Rotherham report talked mainly about girls, boys were also victims. They too suffered horribly. There are far fewer reports of abuse of boys, but this could be that they were even more reluctant to come forward and talk to the authorities than the girls.

#### **Uncaring Authorities**

At this point the authorities entered the picture. Or rather, they should have entered the picture, but didn't. Too many simply didn't want to know what was

happening. The police treated these girls as adults, capable of making their own decisions in these relationships. They ignored the reality that they were children being emotionally manipulated and intimidated into doing whatever their tormentors wanted.

Professor Jay's report says that in two cases, girls' fathers tracked down their daughters, found the houses where they were being abused, and called the police. The police arrived—and arrested the fathers.

In another case, the police found one of these victims half naked and in bed with a man much older than her. The man was not investigated for child rape. Instead, she

> was arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Police give no priority to these kinds of crimes. Instead, the report states, they were "regarding many child victims with contempt and failing to act on their

abuse as a crime." Several earlier reports "were ignored, and no action was taken to deal with the issues that were identified in them." Time and again, school teachers, taxi drivers and others raised alarm, but police refused to listen.

Local authorities also turned a blind eye to what was going on. In the early 2000s, a Home Office official traveled to Rotherham to conduct a report on child sexual exploitation as part of a project investigating several towns. Council officials allegedly tried to bully her into rewriting sections of the report. She was so concerned with the situation that she went straight to the chief constable of the local police. But even the *police* tried to bully the official into silence rather than addressing the problem.

Finally, the council launched a special police raid, according to the Times. However, it was not against any of the abusers. Instead, it was against one of their own offices—to remove incriminating files. Every file used in the official's report was removed. Records were wiped from computers, and the names, addresses and photographs of the abusers were confiscated.

The official submitted her report to the Home Office unedited, but nothing happened. A decade later, it still has not been published.

## A Sickness Created by Political Correctness

THE RECORD is clear that Rotherham officials were more willing to let the abuse continue than they were to talk about it. This cover-up was certainly motivated in part by their trying to save face. But there is another reason: political correctness.

In the words of the official report by Prof. Alexis Jay, there was a "deep-rooted problem of Pakistani-heritage perpetrators targeting young white girls." The report shows that these perpetrators also preyed on young Pakistani girls. But in almost all cases, attackers were Muslims from Pakistan.

As the report notes, overall the perpetrators of child sexual abuse are most likely to be white men. But this particular type of teenage street-grooming is predominantly a Pakistani Muslim problem. That is not something multicultural Britain is comfortable talking about.

This is not just a trend in Rotherham—it has emerged in towns across the country. Similar patterns of abuse by organized groups "largely of Pakistani origin," as the *Times* put it, have been uncovered in Oxford, Rochdale, Derby and Telford. Here is the evidence as described by Andrew Norfolk, the *Times'* investigative reporter: "Since 1997, there had been 17 court cases from 13 towns and cities in which two or

more men had been convicted of sexual offenses linked to the street-grooming exploitation of young teenage girls. Of the 56 men convicted, three were white and 53 were Asian [in the UK, "Asian" usually means Pakistani or Indian, rather than Chinese]. Of those 53 men, 50 had Muslim names, and the vast majority were members of the Pakistani community" (June 27, 2013).

Armed with these facts, Norfolk began asking questions. "Initial approaches to police forces, local authority social services departments and even the Home Office met with a blank refusal to speak about the issue," he wrote. "Barnardo's, the children's charity that since the mid-1990s has run specialist projects to support the victims of child sexual exploitation, refused to allow any of its staff to talk to me, even off the record."

Britain has allowed this toxic culture to thrive right within its midst. There are "communities ... across Britain [where] the white world never reaches," as Sarfraz Manzoor, an author who moved from Pakistan to Britain as a child, wrote in the *Times*. "These monocultural communities are perpetuated by first-cousin marriages and spouses brought over from Pakistan. The effect is that prejudices in that community are never challenged, only reinforced."

Ultimately the police and local authorities seemed more concerned with bureaucratic box-ticking, meeting targets, and making themselves look good than they were about the welfare of the young girls in their city that they took an oath to protect.

#### **A Sex-Crazed Society**

This scandal reveals a profound sickness in Britain's society that the nation still refuses to address: its highly sexualized culture.

Britain's teens are bombarded with sex—even teenage sex—everywhere they go. It's on billboards, in ads, on TV and even in the books they read at school. The message is that sex is everywhere—that

everyone, including teens, is having sex all the time. Another increasingly strong message is that deviant sexual practices are actually normal, common and healthy.

How deranged is your society when a 12-year-old

girl thinks nothing is amiss when a man twice her age—married with children wants to be her "boyfriend"? When he asks her to sleep with some of his "best friends" too, and she doesn't run for her life? Don't blame her. She's only 12. All

she knows is what the world around her has taught her. The biggest thing she's learned from

pop culture about being an adult woman is that she has to be sexy in order to be liked and valued.

This culture has affected the police and council authorities too. Three Rotherham council members had to be disciplined for watching pornography on their work computers. One person interviewed by the inquiry said that the council was "a very grubby environment" in which to work. Another said that a colleague's "barometer [regarding] sexual matters was skewed."

One of the abusers, married with children and a pregnant wife, got a 14-yearold girl pregnant. The council officials treated the relationship between the teen

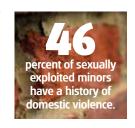
> and the older, married man as perfectly normal. He was even invited along to her antenatal appointments.

> Sadly, given the moral climate of today's society, none of this should be terribly shocking.

Social workers are told that if a 13-yearold comes in and says she wants an abortion, then she must have one. If the social worker tells the girl's parents, he will lose his job. He is taught and institutionally pressured to *withhold* counsel or guidance that may well be in the girl's best interest simply because she is an "adult" and free to make her own decisions. Ultimately, police and social workers are taught to treat girls as adults, perfectly capable of making their own choices about sex and relationships. So that is exactly what they do in Rotherham. The reasoning goes like this: This 11-year-old thinks this 25-year-old man who sleeps around with a dozen other kids is her boyfriend? Well, that's her choice.

By British law, sexual relations with someone under the age of 16 is rape. Children under 16 are rightly deemed incapable of giving consent. But in practice, to put it mildly, the law is often ignored. Society-even many of those who find Rotherham revolting-would be in an uproar if police upheld this law in every case, or even in most cases. So once they began to ignore the law, where to draw the line became unclear. Having been taught to ignore it in some cases, they went on to just ignore it all the time. Steeped in a "don't judge" philosophy, council officials and social workers justify their attempts to quash investigations by saying that they are protecting the children's privacy.

Many right-wing commentators have quite rightly condemned the council for sacrificing these girls because they didn't want to rock the racial boat (sidebar: "Britain's Race Problem"). But a read of the official report shows that this warped attitude to teenage sex was an even bigger



Professor Jay's report indicates that Rotherham's local Pakistani leaders were unwilling to see the problem in their own community. It states that the former deputy leader of the council, Jahangir Akhtar, himself from the Pakistani community, was "at best naive, and at worst ignoring a politically inconvenient truth."

"One senior officer suggested that some influential Pakistani-heritage councilors in Rotherham had acted as barriers" to communication, the report states.

The facts in Rotherham and in cities across Britain are undeniable. Britain has a problem with many of its Muslims. In Birmingham, some Muslims tried to use the British school system to fill the minds of young children with extreme Islamist ideology in what has become known as the "Trojan horse" plot. Details are still emerging of the same scandal in other cities. Meanwhile, London's Tower Hamlets, one of Britain's most Muslim electoral districts, is governed by a mayor with close links to extremist Islamists groups. Allegations of voter intimidation and electoral fraud abound there.

Certainly, Britain has many Muslims who uphold and support the British way of life. That truth is obvious to anyone who has spent any length of time here. But there are also whole groups of Muslims who hate everything Britain stands for and fight to undermine it. Some become extremists and fight against the government. Others use their religion as an excuse to view white girls as "fair game," as Britain's former minister for faith and communities said. These groups often live in their own enclaves with their own cultures, rarely interacting with surrounding society.

That is a problem that almost no one in Britain wants to address.

Denis MacShane, Rotherham's M.P. during most of the period documented in the report, told the British Broadcasting Corporation, "I think there was a culture of not want [sic] to rock the multicultural community boat, if I may put it like that."

The official report states, "Several staff described their nervousness about identifying the ethnic origins of perpetrators for fear of being thought racist; others remembered clear direction from their managers not to do so."

Time and again, people with obviously Muslim names were coming up in court accused of these crimes. But few wanted to highlight this problem for fear of being called racist or Islamophobes.

**RICHARD PALMER** 

factor in refusing to face the problem.

This scandal proves another politically incorrect truth: that teenagers are not adults. They need the help of parents, or, absent that, adult authority figures—

especially when it comes to sex and relationships. But the British government, social workers and all of society teach the opposite. Apparently the attitude holds that if 1,400 young girls are collateral damage, so be it.



#### 'The Whole Head Is Sick'

Each story of each victim is an overflowing tragedy. One girl was left so convinced of her own worthlessness that she tried to kill herself through "serious overdoses and trying to throw herself in front of cars," the report says. Another girl from an abusive family background with parents who had mental health problems was "very naive and desperate for affection." Instead she was "sexually exploited ... by adult males she thought were her boyfriends" who targeted children's homes.

And these statutory rapists had free rein. "To avoid rocking the multicultural boat," local leaders "fed 1,400 children to the sharks," concluded the *Telegraph*'s chief interviewer, Allison Pearson. "No just God would stand for what they did."

"[T]he whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint." That is God's description of today's society. "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises,

and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Isaiah 1:5-6). Britain has completely failed to protect some of its most vulnerable children. Can we describe that any other way

than putrefyingly sick? If so, our barometers are skewed.

Pearson is right. No just God would stand for this. Yet this has happened. So is there a God? And is He just?

#### **Hope for the Fatherless**

There is a Creator God, and He knows every detail of every sobbing victim in Rotherham and around the world. He reveals Himself as a God who has special concern for children made fatherless by death or abandonment. He is a "father of the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5). And He is full of fury toward those who abuse the fatherless, like the predators—and the leaders—of Rotherham.

God pinpoints our condition: *The whole head is sick*. A few verses later, He pinpoints our leaders: "Your princes are

rebellious, And companions of thieves; Everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards. *They do not defend the fatherless*" (Isaiah 1:23; New King James Version). Does that describe Rotherham? Does that describe current officeholders who protect their *careers* more than our *orphans*?

God hates the depraved sin tearing people apart in places like Rotherham. So why doesn't He stop it? Why doesn't He shield us and our children from these consequences? Whatever the cause is, why doesn't He miraculously stop the effect?

It is because we have chosen—repeatedly, dogmatically, vociferously—to ignore, impugn and rebel against God. We want to live the way we decide is best.

Even now, no one in Rotherham is crying out that real repentance and obedience to God is the only real solution. We'd rather risk mass-scale child statutory rape than submit to an omnipotent spiritual authority.

How can you have a family that works? See "The Number One Thing to Make You a Better Husband and Dad," page 33.

But obeying the

Creator of human relationships and human beings *is* the only solution.

That is how the fatherless are defended. That is how monsters

➤ **ROTHERHAM** on page 36



# The Beheader With a British Accent

America isn't the only Western nation being overrun by foreign-born immigrants. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

HE SICKENING SCENE IS NOW ALL too familiar: a radical Islamist, dressed in black, standing above a Western prisoner, who is kneeling with his hands behind his back. The victim's head is shaved, and he's wearing an orange tunic. He reads a prepared statement denouncing the United States. Then the jihadi starts talking. He says that what he is about to do is revenge for American strikes against the Islamic State. Then he takes out a short knife and cuts off the head of the prisoner.

What is almost as shocking—maybe more shocking—is that on the beheading video ISIS posted on August 19, the Islamist murderer spoke with a London accent.

For a lot of people, that brings it *right* home. A vengeful homicidal zealot murdered a helpless and innocent person for everyone to see in the name of Allah—and he might have lived just down the street in Whitechapel. And in a few months, maybe that vengeful, homicidal zealot will come *home* to Whitechapel.

Beyond this jihadi murderer, an estimated 500 and 1,500 *more* British citizens traveled abroad in the last three years to join Islamic militants. They are going to Syria and Iraq, and they're supporting people who are committing armed insurrection, extorting people, raping women, shooting people, blowing people up, burying people alive, beheading people. And maybe they are even committing those acts themselves.

What happens when these people come back to Britain? Well, look what happened when one Algerian French national who was fighting in Syria flew back to France: He walked into a Jewish museum in Brussels with an automatic rifle and a pistol and murdered the first four people he saw. Could this type of thing happen in Birmingham, or with a Londoner?

We have already seen what appears to be a Londoner doing the most heinous thing imaginable. And this isn't the first time. On August 20, the *Spectator* blog listed what British Muslim extremists have already done (all of them of foreign descent).

- 2002: A British citizen who helped bomb an American cultural center in India participated in the kidnapping and beheading of Daniel Pearl, an American journalist.
- 2003: Two British citizens bombed a nightclub in Tel Aviv, killing three people.

HOME-GROWN (Above) A jihadist with a London accent stands moments before murdering American journalist James Foley.

- 2005: Two of the four men who bombed the London Underground and a double-decker bus were British residents. Their attacks on 7/7 killed 52 people and wounded over 700.
- 2009: A British resident tried to blow up an airplane as it landed in Detroit.
- 2013: Two British citizens mowed down British soldier Lee Rigby in broad daylight, then hacked him with a knife and meat cleaver on a busy street in London.

These terrorist attacks were all carried out in the name of Allah. And they were committed by Muslims who lived in Britain, studied in Britain, and most of whom were born in Britain. As the *Spectator* pointed out, they were just a few of the steady stream of other attacks that failed to succeed.

These are extreme examples—but the facts show this problem is not limited to just one Londoner Muslim extremist, or to 500 Islamist jihadis.

#### Failure of Multiculturalism

In 1951, 4.2 percent of Britain's population

was born in another country. After 50 years of immigration, in 2001, the percentage had not quite doubled—to 8.3. Today, however, just a bit over a decade later, the proportion of the population that is foreign-born has jumped to over 12 percent—amounting to about 8 million people.

Britain has opened its doors to an unprecedented level of foreign-born immigration. And as recent years have proven, it is now exporting some of its most hateful, radical residents.

This is a story the *Trumpet* has monitored closely for several years. In 2006, we reported some shocking statistics: "Among those 1.6 million British Muslims, a great number identify more with the global body of Islamic believers than with their home country. One third would rather live in the UK under Islamic law than British law, according to a Channel 4 Dispatches poll in August. That figure roughly matches a shocking one from a YouGov poll a year earlier: Almost a third of British Muslims believe that 'Western society is decadent and immoral, and Muslims should seek to bring it to an end, but only by nonviolent means'" (November-December 2006).

Consider the "Trojan Horse" scandal uncovered earlier this year in Birmingham, Britain's second-largest city. Whistle-blowers in the school system came forward and exposed a program set up by Muslim officials who were working behind the scenes to establish an Islamist-friendly, Islamist-influenced curriculum. And this happened within GOVERNMENT-RUN SCHOOLS in Birmingham. Some of the Muslim leaders responsible harbored

anti-British, radical Islamist views. And they were trying to incorporate these extremist views into the curricula—straight into the minds of unsuspecting British schoolchildren. Some of these schools enforced gender segregation. One invited in a pro-al Qaeda speaker.

Another refused to teach music, art or the humanities to its older students.

The national government's response has been to deny that there is a problem. Even after the Trojan Horse plot was exposed, liberal apologists took to the media, talking about how wrong it would be to promote British values in British schools.

# Britain has opened its doors to an unprecedented level of foreign-born immigration. And it's now exporting some of its most hateful, radical residents.

This is where unchecked immigration and liberal attitudes of "tolerance" are taking Britain.

As Robert Morley wrote in the August 2013 *Trumpet*, "Britain is so obsessed with multiculturalism and not offending Muslims that it seems willing to let its people die rather than admit that some Muslims get their murderous inspiration from the Koran. Instead of expecting immigrants to assimilate into British culture, Britain has encouraged them to bring their beliefs, customs, religions—and hate—to Britain."

In some cases, Britain is now exporting that hatred abroad to places like Syria and Iraq.

#### When Jihadist John Returns Home

On August 11, a report on *Frontline* explained why the Islamic State (ISIS) has been so successful in recruiting Western fighters. "Unlike al Qaeda, which sees attacking the U.S. as key to its goal of establishing a caliphate, ISIS has functionally erased the border between Iraq and Syria and installed a virtual state of its own that now extends for hundreds of miles."

In other words, ISIS wants to establish its own Islamic State *first*—THEN send Western fighters back to their home countries to carry out attacks. That's the best-case scenario, looking at it from ISIS'S

For more on the

price Britain will

let its children pay

for the sake of

"multiculturalism,"

see "Hope for the

**Child Victims of** 

Rotherham," page 12.

perspective. But if ISIS starts losing ground on the battlefield, those bloodthirsty Brits who joined forces with their jihadi brothers could be returning to London and Birmingham sooner than most people think.

Scotland Yard chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe is

preparing for that probability. He told the *Daily Mail* on August 14 that while the British terrorists are in Iraq, "they are not an immediate threat, but should they come back, and should they come back together, that's a concern."

Actually, it is much more than a mere *concern*.

The people of Britain need to wake up to what is happening! The empire is long gone. And now Britain is *disintegrating* before our eyes. It is SICK, as Herbert W. Armstrong declared as far back as the 1960s.

We have a free booklet that will give you a deeper perspective of what this immigration situation in Britain is leading to. It's called *Hosea—Reaping the* 

#### Not the only case ...

THE Islamic State released a video Sept. 13 showing the beheading of British aid worker David Haines. The execution came within less than a month of the killing of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff. Islamic State terrorists videotaped all three savage executions and posted them online. The Islamic State has massacred thousands of Iraqis and Syrians during its drive to create an Islamic caliphate across the Middle East, but the gruesome beheadings of Western hostages carries heavier shock value that resonates far beyond the region. It also functions as a propaganda tool for the organization that is recruiting members from Western nations. In the clip of Haines' killing, the black-clad terrorist displayed another hostage, identified as British citizen Alan Henning. The question now is how many more Western captives the Islamic State is holding, and how many of them will have to die.

Whirlwind. This booklet actually shows that Britain's disintegration is prophesied in your Bible. This is a book that many Britons used to believe in—but that most Britons now scorn. This book foretells the very problems that are besieging Britain today—and prophesies of their ultimate outcome.

Every person who is concerned about what is happening in Britain today needs to study what God has to say on the subject and take warning.

## OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

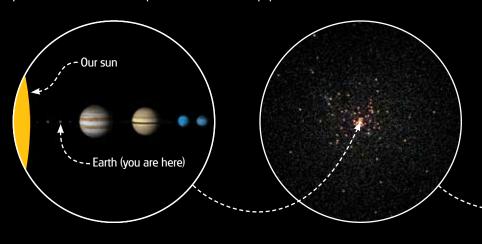
We all know that space is really, really big, and we are really small. But just how much is out there? The huge scale of the universe is impossible for the human mind to comprehend. There is no single picture we can look at to grasp it. But pictures can help us get an idea. In early September a team led by Brent Tully at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu updated our understanding of our place in this vast array of stars with the discovery of Laniakea, the supercluster of galaxies that is our home. How do we fit into Laniakea, and how does Laniakea fit into the universe?

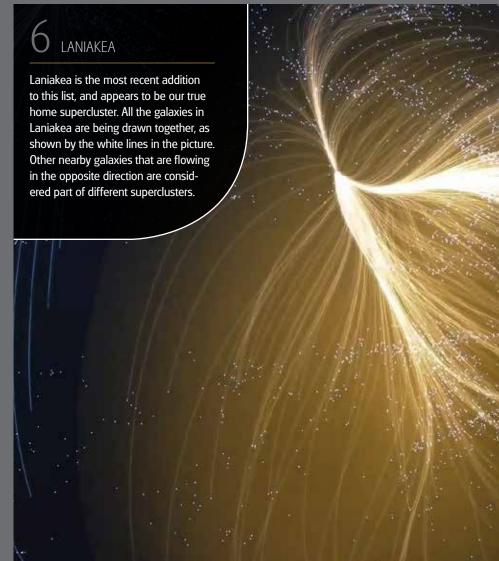
Read "A God's-Eye View of the Universe," page 35.

PHOTOVIDEOSTOCK/ISTOCKPHOTO, COLOSSAL/ GOOGLE CHROME EXPERIMENT, AZCOLVIN, DP AT CEA/SACLAY FRANCE, SPRINGEL ET AL (VIRGO CONSORTIUM)/MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS This is our solar system, the cluster of planets that orbits our sun. That sun is so large that over 1 million Earths could fit inside it. In reality, the planets are much, much more spread out than shown here. Any attempt to draw them in their proper places on this scale would require hundreds of feet of paper.

#### SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD

Here is a computer simulation of o 100,000 of our nearest stars, with as an invisible dot at the center. Th very roughly 1,500 light years acros one 1/100th of the diameter of our





#### OUR GALAXY

ver our sun

is circle is

s, just over

galaxy.

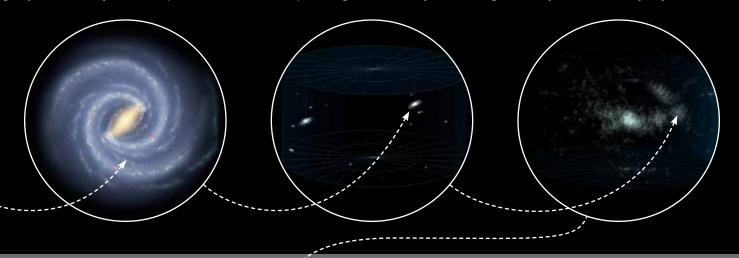
The Milky Way contains between 100 billion and 400 billion stars, and about the same number of planets. Just trying to count them all would take thousands of years. No human has ever left it and looked back to take a photograph, so this is merely an artist's impression, as are the next couple of images.

#### 4 LOCAL GROUP

Our galaxy is part of a group of around 60 galaxies. It is dominated by three galaxies that are larger than the rest: our Milky Way, the Andromeda Galaxy and the Triangulum Galaxy.

#### 5 virgo supercluster

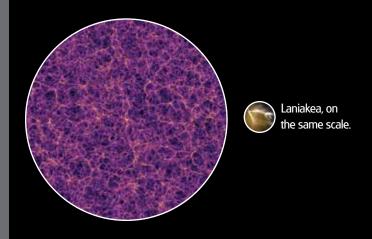
The Virgo Supercluster is a cluster of over 100 groups of galaxies, taking up 100 billion times more space than the Milky Way.



# You are here.

#### COSMIC WEB

As far as we can tell, these giant superclusters all link up to form a cosmic web. The picture below is on a huge scale—its width is 1/25th thediameter of the observable universe. It is not an artist's impression, but a computer simulation of the universe that roughly matches data from our telescopes. Because this is a simulation, it does not show what the universe would actually look like on this scale, but it does give a rough indication. The color yellow represents very dense areas of space, where clusters of galaxies would be found, while purple represents moderately dense regions. This picture is unlikely to be completely accurate, however. The model used to created it cannot account for some of the monumentally huge structures in the universe that have recently been discovered.





Events in Ferguson and elsewhere are beginning to fulfill a terrible prophecy of our future—not only in America but also in Britain and the Jewish nation. However, it is going to end in a miraculous and super-inspiring outcome.

**BY GERALD FLURRY** 

LIVED IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, FOR 14 years before I went to college in the late 1960s. I drove through Ferguson many times. Even back then it was possible to see a growing problem involving race, lawlessness and a lack of respect for authority.

In August, a white police officer killed an 18-year-old black male, and Ferguson erupted in protests and racial unrest. The media inflamed the situation considerably. They essentially reported the event as a policeman brutally murdering an innocent boy out of racism—despite an absence of facts and considerable evidence to the contrary.

America has a judicial system to pursue justice in situations like this. Yet in the media and the public, and even the government itself, many act as judge and jury before the law has a chance.

Angry mobs looted and vandalized local businesses and demonstrated against

police. Police officers came out in riot gear and with heavy equipment. That sparked further accusations of police racism, brutality and oppression. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder criticized the police for being heavy-handed against demonstrators and criminals.

At the same time, business owners and workers were upset because officers didn't do enough. Many reports emerged of policemen simply sitting back and watching the looting, refusing to prevent it or investigate it. When some people in a crowd began throwing rocks and other objects at the police, their captain told them to move back in an effort to ease the tension. No arrests were made. Former St. Louis County Police Chief Tim Fitch tweeted, "You did not see 'police restraint' overnight. You saw police reluctant to act."

People were looting, pillaging, rioting and stealing—yet almost nothing was done about it. It is against the law to do



all that, but what can the police do when even the federal government does not support them?

What we witnessed in Ferguson is more than just a problem with race. It is a problem with LAW. What does it mean for the future of the United States when the police force cannot control the public?

Many Americans have an uneasy feeling about what is happening. They realize how easy it can be for this type of violence to spread to other cities. The United States is filled with thousands of Fergusons waiting to boil over. These situations are occurring more and more frequently. Each time, the emotion is more heated. The violence is worse. The racial hatred is rising. At the same time, the media and the public trust law enforcement less and less.

The situation is filled with confusion. People are getting whipped into a frenzy of hatred and violence. This is something the devil knows how to exploit. He is the god

of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), and he knows how to work on people's emotions.

As America rejects the law of the land, the result will be anarchy and destruction.

For the United States, what took place in Ferguson, Missouri, is not going away. In fact, as we have prophesied for years from the biblical book of Ezekiel, this type of racial tension is building toward a time of unparalleled suffering.

As surprising as it may seem, the Prophet Ezekiel forecasted this modern situation we face. He accurately illustrated what is about to happen. And he also prophesied how it is all going to end. Read what God inspired him to write, and see if it doesn't reflect today's America in detail.

#### **A Prophesied Siege**

Ezekiel is a book of prophecy for the end time. And the Bible's description of the end time matches perfectly with our present generation! (You can prove this for yourself by requesting a free copy of our booklet *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*). The fourth chapter describes a *siege* against "the house of Israel" (verse 3). *Israel* here primarily refers not to the Jews, but to the modern descendants of ancient Israel—specifically the United States and Britain. (This truth is explained in detail in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

This is a prophecy of a catastrophic siege, *economically and socially*. This siege will cause a financial cataclysm that will develop into terrible race wars and fighting for food and survival.

Through Ezekiel, God reveals shocking, step-by-step detail about America's division, its race problems and lawlessness. And He prophesies exactly where this will lead in the immediate future!

That is why it is so important we take warning from these events. Another closely related problem is the immigration crisis in America. Illegal aliens are pouring over the nation's southern border by the tens of thousands, but our leaders refuse to stop the flow. Who are these immigrants? Many are women and children—but many are gang members, criminals and terrorists. As our border guards care for illegal minors, many violent enemies of America are easily crossing. At the same time, hostility from Latin America and the Hispanics within the U.S. intensifies.

President Obama has asked for almost \$4 billion to provide for these immigrants' health and educational needs. Every economic authority says this cost will grow by many more billions of dollars.

America is already drowning in nearly \$18 trillion of debt. The NATION IS READY TO SUFFER A FINANCIAL MELTDOWN SO horrendous it will lead to unparalleled social anarchy and chaos!

Only the book of Ezekiel explains the extent of this coming nightmare of all nightmares! We can see even from what is happening on the Mexican-American border that the siege storm is building fast.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry sent his national guard to the state's border with Mexico. He said he did it because "our citizens are under SIEGE" (emphasis mine).

Hatred like in Ferguson and lawlessness in our cities and at our border are all building toward the siege that Ezekiel prophesied. It will usher in the crisis of crises—the worst ever on Earth!

#### **How Bad Will It Get?**

Study Ezekiel's prophecy, and you will see how *terrible* this period will be. Ezekiel 5:2 tells us that this siege will end up claiming the lives of *one third* of America—more than *100 million* people!

This prophecy includes the other modern nations of the house of Israel, the other primarily being Britain. That nation will suffer more than 21 million casualties!

The way God had Ezekiel to portray this siege is a *sign* of what is coming upon these nations (Ezekiel 4:3). Notice what God commanded His prophet to do: "Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel" (verses 4-5). This long siege against Israel will last more than a year: 390 days.

Events like what happened in Missouri show this is building *even now!* With the threat of terrorism and racial hatred, it is easy to see how the siege will lead to a third of Americans dying. One third of Britain will die at the

same time.





## The situation in Ferguson is the beginnings of what the Bible terms "great tribulation."

The prophecy goes on to show that biblical Judah (the Jewish state of Israel today) will also experience a siege, though it will be shorter in duration. Verses 6-8 specifically address the Jewish nation: "And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days ..." (verse 6). The siege of Judah, though it begins later and is much shorter, will still destroy one third of the Jewish nation.

The sieges against Israel and Judah begin at different times, but both will end at the same time. Why the siege against Judah is shorter is not stated. Maybe God will make the Jews' suffering and death from the siege quicker. They have endured a lot, particularly in the Holocaust of World War II. Perhaps God plans to limit the suffering they have to endure—though it will still be a tremendous amount of suffering.

The Jewish nation just fought another conflict with Palestinian terrorists. Many other nations condemned it for that. Some are already talking about sanctioning the Jews. They have removed sanctions from Iran—the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism, which is on the cusp of becoming a nuclear power—and want

to apply them to Judah! The eurozone has discussed an economic boycott against Israel, and

some products have already been banned from sale in the European Union. This is proof of either dangerous ignorance or anti-Semitic cruelty.

American and British leaders support the boycott as a means of pressuring the Jewish nation to engage in the peace process! They are doing this to the only country in the Middle East with a free democracy that really wants peace! Is that a siege? It is the threat of one, and it is certain to grow a lot worse.

The main prophecy here is that the *much longer* siege happens against the United States and Britain. The worst of the siege will hit the U.S. because it is the superpower.

The verses that follow emphasize the difficulty of conditions during this siege. "Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem [the ancient capital, a type of these modern nations of Israel]: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment: That they may want bread and water, and be astonied one with another, and consume away for their iniquity" (verses 16-17).

The picture Ezekiel gives us is stark. People will be spooning out tiny portions of what is left of the food and water. The groundwork for this siege is already being laid. People can scoff, but events

happening right now are about to lead to the deaths of *hundreds of millions*.

That is only the first third of one of the most terrifying prophecies in the Bible!

#### Siege, Attack, Slavery

The story flow of Ezekiel's prophecy continues into chapter 5. Here we see that the siege is only *one third* of the entire prophecy. As bad as the siege will be, *the worst is yet to come*.

"And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair. Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled ..." (verses 1-2). When God says, "Thou shalt burn with fire a third part," that concludes the siege. The SIEGE WILL KEEP INTENSIFYING UNTIL THE CITIES BURN WITH FIRE. When it concludes, the economy will be absolutely destroyed! Society will be burning with race wars, crime, chaos and murder. This first third—including 100 million Americans—will experience atrocious deaths. This siege is part of the "great tribulation" that Jesus Christ prophesied in Matthew 24:21.

Verse 2 shows what follows for the people who remain: "[A]nd thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife ...." This second third of our peoples will be CONQUERED MILITARILY. This is a prophecy of A MILITARY ATTACK.

When the siege *ends*, then comes the attack. Life for the surviving Americans, Britons and Jews gets *a lot worse*. America is already weak and bitterly divided today; once that division explodes into widespread violence, it will be easy for a foreign power to lay siege to it—and then to attack.

The 390-day siege of Israel and the 40-day siege of Judah exposes them both to a military attack. Many other prophecies show this attack will leave CITIES WITHOUT INHABITANT! This implies nuclear holocaust. Hosea 5:5 says America, Britain and Judah will fall together—which refers to the military attack, the second third of Ezekiel 5:2. After more than 100 million people die in the siege, more than 100 million will die by the sword.

What happens to the final third? "[A]nd

a third part thou shalt *scatter in the wind*; and I will draw out a sword after them" (verse 2). God says that after the attack, the one in three who are still alive will be forcibly removed from their homeland, taken captive and ENSLAVED. By this point many of the larger cities will be left without a single inhabitant! So most of these enslaved survivors will have to come from more rural areas.

The time periods of the siege, the attack and the captivity are not necessarily equal. But the intensity of human suffering and death is: 100-plus million, 100-plus million and 100-plus million!

This gives you the measure of God's intense wrath because of all our abominable sins!

It will lead the nations of America, Britain and biblical Judah to get to know God (Ezekiel 6:14). That is the ultimate and most wonderful blessing to come from the worst suffering ever on this Earth!

We have been prophesying of this hideous catastrophe for 70 years. Still our peoples refuse to wake up!

#### **Siege Also Prophesied in Deuteronomy**

Ezekiel 5:2 says the first third of Israel and Judah will be burned with fire in the midst of the city, which is under siege. The burning is related to a siege. This siege is also prophesied in the book of Deuteronomy. And this prophecy also indicates that the siege is part of the Tribulation that Christ prophesied.

Deuteronomy 28 is the "blessings and curses" chapter. In it, God promises many wonderful blessings if our nations would obey Him. "[T]he Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth," it says, "and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow" (verses 1, 12). Is America experiencing this blessing today? This nation is more than \$17 trillion in debt!

Rather than obeying God, our nations have rebelled against Him. The curses that God promised for that disobedience begin in verse 15. When you look at this list of curses, you can relate them to what Ezekiel 5 describes—and to what America and Britain and Israel are already beginning to experience!

God prophesied "cursing, vexation, and rebuke" in everything we set our hand to do. "[T]hou shalt not prosper," He says. By the time you get to verse 34—"So

SOCIETYWATCH

## Race relations moving in wrong direction

RACE RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE deteriorating, according to a Pew Research Center/USA Today poll. In 2009, 76 percent of black respondents said blacks and whites got along very well or pretty well. As of August 26, that number was down to 64 percent—a 12-point drop in just five years.



During the Ferguson riots in August, U.S. President Barack Obama stated, "We've made extraordinary progress" in race relations. Sadly, facts on the ground in Missouri and elsewhere illustrate the opposite.

During Senator Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, many said he would become the first "post-racial president." He was hailed as an inspirational leader who would heal America of racism. Prior to the election, 56 percent of Americans predicted race relations would improve under his presidency; this percentage increased to 70 percent the day after the election. Only 10 percent of Americans thought relations would get worse. But as this recent poll documents, those 10 percent were right.

that THOU SHALT BE MAD FOR THE SIGHT OF THINE EYES which thou shalt see"—this is talking about the effects of the siege! God warns that seeing this destruction and suffering will drive you *crazy!* 

Daniel is a book *only* for this end time (Daniel 12:4, 9). Daniel prophesied that all this evil coming upon us was *prophesied* in "the law of Moses"—or the first five books of the Bible, written by Moses. That includes the book of Deuteronomy.

"The stranger [Gentiles] that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low" (Deuteronomy 28:43). Is that happening before our eyes? Are we seeing that in New York and London and Tel Aviv?

For many years, Herbert W. Armstrong said the siege God prophesied in verse 52 symbolized America's economy being battered by competition from foreign powers. "And he shall besiege thee *in all thy gates* ...." Who has those strategically critical gates of international trade? The target here has to be the nations of Israel. America and Britain control or have controlled the gates of maritime and other trade, and we are going to be besieged in *all* of them. We have already virtually lost control of all of them. This is a prophecy for this end time.

America's enemies are going to cause economic problems and bring on destruction in many ways "until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee *in all thy gates* throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (verse 52). The real pressure is coming from without. "In all thy gates" refers to a trade war. The enemies of America, Britain and the Jews will attack their currencies, their financial markets, and their economic might.

But notice the first part of verse 52: America's "high and fenced walls [are to] come down." Aren't we seeing that take place right now? This is talking about a virtually open border where foreigners flood into the land. Illegal immigrants are streaming over the Mexican border in droves—and that is clearly the way some of our leaders want it.

Do you realize that the immigration problem befalling America right now is actually prophesied here in Deuteronomy? The influx of more races into the United States will only worsen the siege of Ezekiel.

But why does God allow this to happen? Notice the last part of verse 52: God gave Israel their land! Did you know God gave America and Britain the land they have? The U.S. has been the beneficiary of the richest land on Earth,

and Britain received a bountiful island, necessary for the rise of

23

#### "Thou shalt burn with fire a third part ..."



Siege
Represents cities
burning with
race war, crime
and anarchy

#### "... take a third part and smite about it with a knife ..."



Attack
Represents a
military onslaught
by a foreign
power

#### "... and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind ..."



Slavery
Represents
survivors being
captured, removed
and subjugated

Ezekiel 5:1-2 describe three stages of destruction God will allow to punish the modern nations of Israel for their sins. But verse 3 adds something else: hope.

"[T]ake thereof a few in number and bind them in thy skirts ..."



Protection
Represents God
shielding a tiny
group of people
from destruction

its empire. And yet, because we have chosen not to acknowledge Him as providing it, He is allowing our lands to be overrun by foreigners.

God gave us these gates, these cities, this wealth and this power! And now He is taking it back because of our ingratitude and rebellion!

Look at the conditions that this siege will cause: "And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body ..." (verse 53). Verse 55 adds that "thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates." Verse 57 describes the horrible *cannibalism* people who are suffering inside this siege will commit—the same siege that Ezekiel 4 and 5 describe.

Notice Deuteronomy 29:14-15: "Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; But with him that standeth here with us this day before the Lord our God, and Also with him that is not here with us this day." That means us—the modern descendants of the nation that covenanted with *God!* It especially applies to those of us living in the latter days.

Moses also warned, "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; AND EVIL WILL BEFALL YOU IN THE LATTER DAYS; BECAUSE YE WILL DO EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, TO PROVOKE HIM TO ANGER THROUGH THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS" (Deuteronomy 31:29).

Clearly this prophecy is dated for this end time. The time we are living in now.

#### **Overthrown by Strangers**

Through the Prophet Isaiah, God says this about the modern nations of Israel: "... I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. ... [T]hey have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto

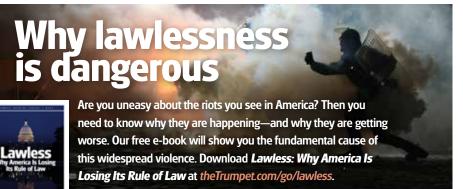
anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:2-4). These nations actually have a *history with God*, unlike any other nation! Yet they have turned their backs on Him.

As a result, God promises punishment. This is another end-time prophecy being fulfilled (for abundant proof, request our free booklet on Isaiah): "Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers [Gentiles] devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers" (verse 7). This is happening right now! America and Britain are being devoured and overthrown by foreigners, because they are under a curse. God is using the Gentiles to punish them—from within as well as from without.

It is amazing how much destruction is going on in America! The dollar is already plummeting in value; we are just awaiting total meltdown. Our financial structure is going to explode like a nuclear bomb! Is there anything this present radical administration has done that has built America up and made it stronger? It is all about destruction! The Gentiles "Devour it in your presence"! Two nations of Israel are becoming "desolate." It is happening before our eyes!

According to the Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, the primary meaning of the word translated "devour" means to consume—"of oppressors consuming their victims; drought, fire, war and other plagues devour them. First it is found in association with the expression of God's anger and wrath on unrepentant Sodom and Gomorrah." It also says "overthrown" is an expression "in connection with Sodom and Gomorrah," and that usually it is a divine judgment. This is an EXTREMELY VIOLENT, MIND-SHATTERING DESTRUCTION. It evokes "a sense of horror and shock," implying that "ISRAEL BECOMES AN OBJECT OF HORROR TO тноѕе who веного іт." This entry also discusses reproach, a curse and an object of hissing: "The emphasis is on the spectacle of the desolation and the reaction it causes." People are going to look and BE HORRIFIED BY WHAT THEY SEE!

This is the conclusion to the siege. Beware! This is the imminent end of the mighty nations of America and Britain! God is cursing these nations. And the American superpower is afflicted most of all.



This really is heavy prophecy, but the living God has spoken!

However, amid all the bad news in Ezekiel 5, there is some extremely good News.

#### **Protection**

God's prophecy for Ezekiel continues: "Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts" (Ezekiel 5:3). Here is a little group of people who will be protected, as if they are tucked away on God's person. God *protects* them from the siege, the attack and the scattering mentioned in verse 2.

Who are these people, a "few in number"? These are the people who *delivered* God's prophecy and did God's work! God rewards those who deliver this message of Ezekiel, even though we are "a few in number." Only *God* can protect people from all that HORROR. And you can STAKE YOUR LIFE on the fact that He will do it.

Even here, though, there is a tragedy: "Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; for thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel" (verse 4). This shows that among God's own people, who knew they were called and commanded to support God's work and deliver God's message, many refused to do so. God is upset by this massive sin! He prophesies that they will be caught in the midst of the fire. They will be trapped in the MIDST of the WORST part of this calamity and be incinerated!

This is a powerful message from God, and it must be delivered. The prospect of doing so might cause us to want to run away. God says three times in Ezekiel 2:6, Be not afraid! Don't be afraid! Be not afraid! There are reasons why people are afraid to deliver the message God gave Ezekiel. But God commands us to do it! He promises to give us all the power we need—AND to reward us for obeying Him no matter what happens.

After all this destruction, people will be humbled and ashamed—and THEY WILL GET TO KNOW GOD! Ezekiel talked about that over and over again: They are going to get to know God (e.g. Ezekiel 6:7; 7:4; 11:10; 12:20; 13:9; 23:48-49; etc.). That is not bad news—it's just bad news about events that it takes to GET them there. But ultimately, it is SPECTACULARLY GOOD NEWS!

## Why is God letting this little girl suffer?

Some people face tragedy—and lose their belief in God. But the God of the Bible foretold this mass-scale suffering. He even prophesied that there is about to be more of it. Is God really a God of love? Answer for yourself with your Bible and our article "Why Does God Allow Human Suffering?" Visit the Trumpet.com/go/whysuffering.

#### ➤ CHAOS from page 8

God is going to get our attention one way or the other, and if we are so stubborn that He has to use deep horror to do it, He will. In fact, He has already prophesied it. God is *shaking* us out of our selfish little empire!

#### **Another Way**

But there are some few people on Earth who have a *totally different* lifestyle. God discusses them too. Haggai 1:12 describes more about Haggai's end-time prophecy: "Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the Lord."

These people do something different: They *fear* God. And look what happens to their lives: They are *blessed* at every turn. God wants to give the rest of the world such blessings, and He will! That is what this is all about—that is why the nations are being shaken! God is going to *insist* that they have these blessings and have their desires for peace and joy filled.

"Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the Lord" (verse 13). I, God, am with you! That is why you're being blessed! I am with you! He is not with those in the nations who need to be shaken from rank self-ishness and rebellion and sin. They don't want God with them! They want to build their own empires, not God's. But they still want Him to give them rain and crops and peace and safety—and then to stay out of their business.

This tiny minority is not that way, and God says: "I am with you." "And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God" (verse 14). That effort just prospered and prospered and prospered. That is amazing.

Jeremiah 8 tells a similar story. It shows how God is going to bring His judgment upon our peoples because, as verse 9 says, "they have rejected the word of the Lord." Verse 11 describes how people are going around "saying, *Peace*, *peace*; WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE." They want so desperately to believe that they can solve the world's problems—but those false hopes are going to explode in their faces!

Isaiah 59:8 says, "The way of Peace They know not"! This world's ambassadors, diplomats, presidents and prime ministers don't know the way of Peace! Soon the *chaos* that this world is descending into will grow so fierce that they will *have* to acknowledge that truth!

God wants to show us how to have peace. All these prophecies of the troubled time we live in show us, in spectacular detail, where this is all leading. At the end of these crises, Jesus Christ is going to return! Though *chaos* will engulf the nations for a few short years—tribulation so severe it will shake mankind to its knees—Christ will come to put an end to all that trouble. All these nightmares are directly tied to His Second

Coming! And that is the best news we could hear!



## Is This God's World?

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

AVE YOU EVER STARTED WATCHING A MOVIE toward the end of it? You probably had a hard time picking up what was happening.

But if you had seen the entire movie from the beginning, everything would have made total sense.

That is exactly how it is with our world. "We were born into this ... world as it is. We take it for granted. But we can't explain it," Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*. "It's like viewing a movie at a point already near the end."

Think of the political coups, the terrorism and the wars man has faced in his days on Earth. Think of all those oppressed by cruel dictators. Or the millions who live with illiteracy, poverty, starvation and filth.

Even in the "civilized" world, think of the perverse and hardened criminals who roam the streets. People suffer broken homes, divorce, abandonment, burglaries, kidnappings, rapes and cold-blooded murders. Think of all the victims of floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts and famine.

Why does God allow so much violence and human suffering? If God is a God of love, as the Bible says, why does He allow so many to suffer and die this way?

To answer these questions, we have to understand how this "movie"—the world you live in—began. We're watching the end of it.

But the Bible can transport us back to the beginning of the "movie" of human history. It is the true, inspired Word of God, and it reveals why the world is the way it is.

#### God's Plan for the Angels

Before He brought the material universe into existence, God created angels. These angels were created "to aid [God] in the work of creating, governing and managing *what was to be* created .... Angels were created to be ministers, agents, helpers in God's creation" (ibid; emphasis added).

God created these angels instantaneously in perfect beauty and splendor. The epitome of God's perfect creation was the great cherub Lucifer.

**1.** When God created Earth, what did the angels do? Job 38:4-7.

These angels, referred to as "sons of God" and "morning stars," were beholding a beautiful, marvelous creation. But God created Earth unfinished. Think of baking a cake. You can finish the main part of it, but your work is not completely done until you've put the icing on. That is how God made His creation. He created it perfect but unfinished

in order to give the angels a part in beautifying it.

These angels had free choice. If they chose obedience and worked in harmony with God on this proving ground of Earth, the universe beyond was waiting for them.

God assigned some of these angels to this planet. He gave the great archangel Lucifer a throne to administer God's government on Earth, ruling the lesser angels and ensuring that they beautified the globe and "put the icing on the cake."

**2.** Did Lucifer and his angels fulfill this purpose? Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:15-16; Revelation 12:7-9.

Lucifer led a violent rebellion against his Creator God, His law and His government—trying to throw Him off His throne. He caused *war* in heaven. But Lucifer and his rebels did not prevail against God's armies. Instead, God threw them BACK DOWN TO EARTH, where He had assigned them in the first place.

**3.** How did this war affect Earth? Genesis 1:2. What did God do in the aftermath? Same verse; Psalm 104:30.

The once-beautiful Earth—along with the entire universe—became a disaster zone. At this time, God realized that the only being with free choice who could be trusted *never* to sin was *Himself*. He was the only being who would never sin—and who would faithfully administer His loving government throughout the universe. Upon recognizing this truth, God decided the only way to accomplish His plan for beautifying creation was to make MORE BEINGS LIKE HIMSELF.

That is why God renewed the face of the Earth—and *created man*.

#### God's Plan for Man

God created mankind for the same reason as the angels: to beautify and finish creation. But the human potential goes *far beyond* that. God made man of material flesh, so if he decided to live a life of unrepentant sin and rebellion (as many angels did), God could erase him from existence (unlike the angels, who are eternal). Yet the Bible reveals something else extraordinary: God *also* gave man a potential *far greater* than the one He gave to the angels! Let's see what the Scriptures say about it.

1. Did Lucifer have a throne? Isaiah 14:13.

God cast Lucifer and his angels back down to Earth, but He did not revoke their authority. Satan was still Earth's ruler. He still had his throne. He still administered Earth's government.

Here is what this means: At this point, the world was NO LONGER GOD'S WORLD! And this remains true

# The first two humans essentially told God they wanted independence from Him and His way.

today! The god of this world is not God, but Satan!

**2.** Is this fact explicitly stated in Scripture? 2 Corinthians 4:4; Matthew 4:8-9; John 12:31.

Though Satan rules the Earth today, God plans to end his rule shortly. And it is *through human beings* that He determined to do so. God directly created and taught Adam and Eve and gave them the opportunity to make this world God's world. To do so, they had to freely choose God's way over Satan's.

**3.** What kinds of trees did God grow in the garden of Eden? Genesis 2:8-9. What instructions did God give Adam regarding these particular trees? Verses 15-17.

God gave Adam and Eve a choice, represented by two trees in the garden. They could choose to rely on God and His POWER, eventually gaining eternal life, or they could rely on themselves for knowledge, WITHOUT power or help from God, to carry on their temporary existence until it ended in death.

If man had chosen *God's way* in the garden of Eden, and submitted to God, then he would have received God's power and taken on God's nature. After a lifetime of allowing God's Holy Spirit to work in conjunction with his human spirit, he would have developed God's own character! This was, in fact, God's *purpose* in creating man—and the means by which He would be able to restore His government to Earth!

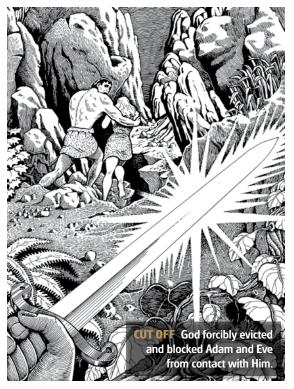
**4.** Did Adam and Eve choose God's way in the garden of Eden? Genesis 3:1-6. What did God do in response to their decision? Verses 23-24; Isaiah 59:2.

The first two humans essentially told God they wanted independence from Him and His way. But by doing so, they actually fell prey to Satan! They believed him instead of God. They chose a lifestyle *apart* from God. Thus, instead of becoming independent, they were kidnapped by him!

**5.** Since the time of Adam and Eve's sin, does the "god of this world" influence and deceive the inhabitants of the world? Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9.

Satan, as the "prince of the power of the air" and deceiver of the whole world, has held sway over mankind nearly 6,000 years since Adam and Eve. The first parents passed their anti-God lifestyle on to their children; then they taught it to their children, and so on. All the while, man was HELD CAPTIVE in a world SWAYED and DECEIVED by Satan.

When you look at the world today—and throughout millennia of history, doesn't the Bible's history make logical *sense*? Doesn't this look like a world *created by God*—but *ruled by Satan*?



This is *NOT* God's world. This is *Satan*'s world. The suffering, the crime, the disease—all of it has been caused by Satan. God has allowed this in order to fulfill His purpose. After Adam rebelled, God gave man what He wanted. But He also used this negative decision to teach man, the hard way, that

But the loving, merciful Creator God, who wants every human being eventually to be born into His Family (which is His overall purpose for creating human life), will END man's suffering.

humans are helpless without God.

#### The Last Days

1. Did Christ warn that the existence of all human life would be threatened in the last days? Matthew 24:21-22. Did Christ say He would intervene? Verse 22.

Just when man is about to annihilate himself using all the mega-destructive weapons of modern warfare, God will finally intervene on a worldwide scale, remove Satan from his throne, and usher in a time of peace and harmony, where He rules with His saints on His throne (Revelation 3:21).

2. How long is this time of peace? Revelation 20:4. For 1,000 years, humanity will live free from Satan's deception, under the rule of Jesus Christ, the "King of kings," and those saints called out of Satan's world today. Living a life of obedience to his Creator, mankind will experience the rich blessings of that way, a life free from suffering. This world WILL be God's world soon. Prepare NOW to be part of it!



BIBLE

people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.



#### How stable is nucleararmed Pakistan?

PAKISTAN'S TWO LEADING opposition movements laid aside their differences throughout the second half of August and rallied together. For what purpose? To violently attempt to overthrow Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government.

Politician Imran Khan and outspoken cleric Tahir ul-Qadri have accused Sharif of corruption and rigging last year's election. In mid-August, they led tens of thousands of protesters into Islamabad to demand that Sharif step down. The unrest largely incapacitated the capital city for several days at the end of August, as roads closed, businesses lost revenue, and troops and police were deployed to protect government facilities.

In early September, protesters overtook and ravaged the state television headquarters until the army secured the building. Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar declared the demonstrations a "rebellion against state institutions; ... a rebellion against the state of Pakistan."

The unrest has subsided, but it has still unnerved this country where power often transfers by military coups instead of elections. It has also concerned the international community, in large part because Pakistan possesses more than 100 nuclear weapons.

Pakistan's nuclear warheads are controlled by its military, which is mostly pro-Western. But a collapse of the government could jeopardize the security of these weapons of mass destruction. They could even fall under the control of some of Pakistan's many Islamist extremist groups. Large numbers of Pakistanis—not only within the population but also in the military and intelligence forces—harbor support for al Oaeda. Osama bin Laden himself built his compound a few hundred yards from the Pakistan Military Academy and lived there for almost a decade.



The precarious status of Pakistan's nuclear weapons was evident in 2007 and 2008, when Pakistani terrorists carried out attacks at a nuclear missile storage facility, a nuclear airbase and one of the military's primary armories.

The *Trumpet* has warned that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal could fall under the control of radical Islamism. In January 2008, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "Pakistan also has the nuclear bomb and could be taken over by radical Islam, with plenty of help from Iran." This nation, the world's seventh-strongest military power, could become a "proxy of the Iranian mullahs," he warned.

During His time on Earth, Jesus Christ specifically warned of the age of nuclear proliferation we live in today. He also said that this time of peril would come immediately before He returns.

#### **IRAN QUIETLY ARMING IN HORMUZ**

ran's coastline along the Strait of Hormuz is now bristling with antiship missiles and attack vessels including submarines, according to a July 7 Pentagon report.

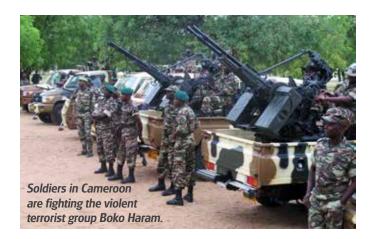
In the past, Iran has eagerly publicized its military buildups as part of its propaganda. Not so with this militarization, which has been quite secretive. Yet the move has huge implications for nations whose tankers sail through the strait—and for any nation that uses oil, since 40 percent of global seaborne oil transits through the Strait of Hormuz, right past Iranian subs.

The strait is narrow enough that a few sunken tankers and a handful of sea mines could close the sea-lane long enough to blow the cap off oil prices and bring global industry to a screeching halt.

> Tehran seems to be arming Hormuz as a means of retaliating against invasion. The Pentagon said the buildup was designed to "deter an attack, survive an initial strike, retaliate



against an aggressor and force a diplomatic solution." It is likely that this measure is part of Iran's larger calculus of building a nuclear bomb. The mullahs know that once they create a bomb, other nations may respond aggressively. If that happens, Iran will likely use its new bombs, its terrorist proxies, and its weapons in the strait.



#### Yet another Islamic caliphate

BOKO HARAM HAS declared a caliphate in northern Nigeria, according to a video obtained by Agence France Presse on August 24. Amnesty International claims the terrorist group has killed more than 4,000 people this year. In the previous four years, it killed 3,600. The United Nations estimates that

the group has forced 650,000 to flee their homes.

Boko Haram gained international notoriety when it kidnapped nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls in April and the world responded with the ineffectual #BringBackOur-Girls social media campaign.

Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram's leader, declared the caliphate after the group took control of Gwoza, the largest city the group has captured, with a population of more than 250,000. Many inhabitants of Gwoza have fled to the mountains, and in some devastated areas, the terrorists have forcibly prevented residents from burying dead bodies strewn out in the open.

This Islamist group is also expanding its operations in Cameroon. On July 24, militants killed scores of people and kidnapped the vice prime minister's wife.

Boko Haram has declared independence from Nigeria. It proclaims the rule of Islamism and a bold intent to hold its territory rather than retreating when convenient as it has in the past. Its declaration of a caliphate indicates the group now considers itself strong enough to stand its ground.

This group has links with al Qaeda and support from the Islamic State. Although its so-called state exists far from the oil fields in southern Nigeria, some analysts have said that if it goes international, the group could destabilize more of Nigeria, as well as Cameroon, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and even East Africa.

As the world grapples with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, it now has another growing power on its hands. Some observers interpret Boko Haram's latest video as a declaration of support for the Islamic State and a pledge to join it.

America's response to these Islamist takeovers in Africa has been mild. Europe is taking the threat far more seriously. The Europeans are already battling radical Islam across North Africa. Continue to watch Boko Haram: The group could open up another front in this war.

#### **VATICAN VS. ISLAMIC STATE—WHERE WILL THIS LEAD?**

P ope Francis has condemned the Islamic State with strong language, and some Catholic leaders are explicitly demanding military action against the violent group.

During an August 18 press conference, Pope Francis called for an international effort to "stop" the Islamic State in Iraq. When asked if he approved of America bombing the terrorist group, he replied, "In these cases where there is an unjust aggression, I can only say this: It is licit to stop the unjust aggressor. I underline the verb: Stop. I do not say bomb, make war, I say stop by some means. With what means can they be stopped? These have to be evaluated. To stop the unjust aggressor is licit."

Francis said that an alliance of nations should stop the Islamic State. "One nation alone cannot judge how to stop an unjust aggressor," he said. "After the Second World War there was the idea of the United Nations. It is there that this should be discussed. Is there an unjust aggressor? It would seem there is."

While these statements may not seem very dramatic, they mark a major change for

the usually pacifist pope. Many view Francis's comments as a tacit push for war. Other Catholic leaders have been more straightforward. Archbishop Giorgio Lingua, the pope's ambassador to Baghdad, told Vatican Radio that United States President Barack Obama's decision to bomb Islamic State militants was "something that had to be done." Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican envoy to the United Nations in Geneva, followed that up by telling Vatican Radio, "[M]ilitary action in this moment is probably necessary." In what could be a related response to the Vatican's efforts, Germany has agreed to send armaments to Kurdish forces that are fighting the terrorist group.

The Islamic State has taken aim at both Europe and America, but its turn toward Europe is most notable and geopolitically significant. When the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared the Islamic State a "caliphate" on June 29, he said, "Rush, O Muslims, to your state. Yes, it is your state. Rush, because Syria is not for the Syrians and Iraq is not for



the Iraqis. ... The land is for the Muslims, all the Muslims. ... This is my advice to you. If you hold to it you will conquer Rome and own the world, if Allah wills."

Such braggadocio is sure to have gained the Vatican's attention. "Rome" is a code word for the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church. As the butchering and pillaging in Iraq continues, and as the radical Islamic threat against Europe grows, the Vatican will marshal its considerable political power and increase its pressure for a violent response. Bible prophecy says that the Vatican, empowered by Germany, will lead a whirlwind response against radical Islam.



#### How Asian militaries may be catching up to the U.S.

s the U.S. continues making massive cuts in defense spending, Russia and China could be gaining an edge in advanced military technologies, according to an August 13 report by Langley's Intelligence Group.

Total shortfalls in the U.S. defense budget over the next five to 10 years could reach \$1 trillion, the National Defense Panel said July 31. "Today the Department [of Defense] is facing major readiness shortfalls that will ... create the possibility of a hollow force that loses its best people, underfunds procurement, and short-changes innovation," the panel stated.

The cuts are affecting servicemen, aircraft, watercraft and vehicles in all branches of the armed forces. The panel says cuts are also affecting advanced military technologies that have long given U.S. forces battlefield superiority. Langley's identified these as "robotics for specialized combat duties, the development of next-generation navigation and reconnaissance systems, unmanned mini-submarines and faster helicopters."

Meanwhile, two of America's most powerful adversaries,

Russia and China, are investing ever larger percentages of their growing gross domestic products into developing advanced military technologies.

In its report called "Looming U.S. Military Cuts Cede Tech Edge to Russia, China," Langley's wrote: "[S]hortfalls in defense spending will ripple across all branches of the

armed services. What is less obvious are the effects of spending cuts on the military's ability to maintain its technological edge. ... Russia and China are ramping up their considerable scientific expertise from the ground all the way up into space. ... [They are] looking for ways to use new technologies to blunt U.S. hegemony in areas of the world they deem of interest."

It's true that America spends 2½ times as much on its military as Russia and China combined. Ultimately, America's problem is less about spending too little on military, and more about a lack of vision regarding how to effectively develop and use its defense forces.

It is intense work being the world's leading military power. Great effort is required to constantly innovate and develop new technologies that adversaries will not expect. Working

But powers playing technology catch-up, like Russia and China, only have to copy technologies that have already proven effective. That's far easier, and far less expensive. The heart of the problem

is America's lack of will to use its might. National Defense Panel member James Talent said, "[T]he problem isn't just an administration that acts as if America is weak. The problem is also that America is weak, and becoming weaker, relative to the threats posed by its adversaries—which is the only measurement of military power that really matters. The world will get a lot messier until that changes."

#### **DROUGHT-INDUCED EARTHQUAKES?**

Residents of Napa Valley, California, were jolted in their sleep on August 24 by a powerful 6.0 earthquake at 3:20 a.m. The earthquake's epicenter near American Canyon was 6.6 miles deep between the Hayward Rodgers fault line and the Concord Green fault line. The shaking lasted for 10 to 20 seconds, leading to crushed gas and water lines, power outages, damaged roads, and fires.

This was the largest earthquake in the area since the 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, which killed more than 60 people, injured over 3,000 others, and buckled the Oakland Bay Bridge.

What caused the most recent earthquake? According to a study published by the science journal Nature in May, geologists believe the lack of water in the San Joaquin Valley is reducing the weight against the San Andreas fault. It is possible this activated a dormant fault line.



Considering California is experiencing a record drought, this conclusion has startling ramifications. How many more faults—both active and dormant—could be on the verge of releasing? Even if the drought doesn't provoke more earthquakes, falling groundwater levels are causing the ground to sink, becoming a problem for roads and buildings above.

California's drought is turning into a bigger curse than most people realize.

#### Asian military cooperation rising

ROM AUGUST 24 TO 29, more than 7,000 troops from Russia, China and three central Asian nations assembled for the largest joint military drill ever held by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (sco). According to the sco, the exercises were meant to prepare soldiers to protect the region from potential terrorist strikes. But as analyst Matthew Sussex said. "It is kind of rare to have an anti-terrorist mission which uses battle tanks."

Despite the American administration's self-proclaimed "pivot to Asia," the nations of the East view United States political and military power for what it is: an evermore-hollow shell. Asian leaders know that Americans are war-weary, their policymakers are disunited, and their president has a strategy of grabbing power domestically and relinquishing power internationally.

In response, many Asian countries are rebalancing and realigning themselves. The adjustment is most apparent in the increased military cooperation among them.

As the West has sought to isolate Moscow over the ongoing Ukraine crisis, Russia and China have entered into a new era of unprecedented military cooperation. In May, the two held their first-ever joint naval exercises near Japaneseadministered islands at the heart of a China-Japan territorial dispute. The location—not far from the coast of America's strongest Asian ally—was not arbitrary.

The new golden age of Russia-China military cooperation has also benefited from Moscow's sudden willingness to share cutting-edge military

technology. In late March, Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to sell China the S-400 Triumf, a new-generation antiaircraft weapons system that no other nation has access to.

Japan and India are also aware of America's eroding influence in Asia, and increasingly wary of China's rise. Both are impressed by the power and boldness of Putin's Russia, but also anxious about its ever steeper tilt toward Beijing.

The answer for each, at least in the short term, may be to turn to each other.

On September 1, the two nations signed the first-ever India-Japan defense cooperation agreement. The deal marked a historical change in Asian geopolitics: the first time postwar Japan has entered such an agreement outside its three traditional alliance partners—the United

States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

In July, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe succeeded in changing Japan's interpretation of its post-World War II constitution, which had previously limited Japan's military to strict self-defense inside its immediate territory. The new interpretation allows for "collective self-defense," allowing Japan to use force to defend its allies under attack. It was this constitutional change that created the opportunity for Japan to enter broader defense agreements, such as this new landmark India-Japan deal.

In January, the Trumpet said Japan, spooked by the unreliability of American security promises and by China's increasingly belligerent behavior, may start leaning more toward India: "Maybe Tokyo would be able to persuade nations like South Korea, Taiwan or India to form an alliance with Japan to counter the China-Russia axis." The



new defense deal shows that Japan could already be working toward such an alliance.

As the thinness of the American paper tiger becomes increasingly evident, and as Russia and China become more powerful and more aggressive, Asian nations will increasingly work toward gluing their defense strategies together.

Some appear to be digging their heels in, working to build alliances that will protect them from the Moscow-Beijing axis. Others seem to be preparing themselves to be allied with or dominated by that axis. Bible prophecy says that regardless, almost all Asian powers will eventually join together as a gargantuan power bloc under Russia and China.

#### POLISH PRESIDENT GETS EU TOP JOB

Dolish President Donald Tusk will be the next president of the European Union Council, European leaders agreed on August 30. The appointment is a milestone in Poland's relationship with the EU, marking the first time a Polish leader has received one of Europe's top jobs. Poland is now firmly at the heart of the EU, on par with long-time members Italy, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands.

This is a remarkable development, considering Poland's past with Europe. However, it should come as no surprise to Trumpet readers.

Two decades ago, the Soviet Iron Curtain blocked Poland off from the rest of Europe. Yet even then, Herbert W. Armstrong forecast that Poland would break from Russia and become a core European nation.

"It now looks entirely feasible that Yugoslavia may be included in this revived Roman Empire," he wrote in the June 1980 Plain Truth, speaking of the developing European superstate. "Also THE POPE'S NATIVE POLAND and Romania, and possibly Hungary. Add Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and

France. There will be a union of 10 nations in the general

area of the medieval Roman Empire in the new united Europe" (emphasis added).

**Donald Tusk** 

European Cour Conseil Europé

Two months later, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Will Poland free itself from Soviet domination and join with Yugoslavia, Romania and possibly Czechoslovakia—and with Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Austria—in a resurrected medieval 'Holy Roman Empire' to dominate Europe and equal the USSR and the USA in world power?"

Today, all these countries are part of the EU, and Poland is now firmly integrated into this Western bloc, which is led by a Pole.

How did Mr. Armstrong make this remarkable forecast? To learn about its origins in biblical prophecy, read our article "Ukraine Crisis Reveals Europe's Eastern Leg" (theTrumpet. com/go/11424).



#### Food prices skyrocket; charities stepping in

HE AVERAGE PRICE OF ground beef has risen to an all-time high, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on August 19. Over the last five years, ground beef prices have risen a staggering 81 percent. In July, Americans paid \$3.88 per pound compared to \$2.15 in July 2009. Droughts in Oklahoma and Texas have contributed to the rising prices.

Meanwhile, severe drought in California—which produces nearly half of America's fresh fruits and vegetableshas caused price hikes in fruit produce, eggs and dairy. Since July 2013, the cost of fruits and vegetables has risen 2 percent, and dairy 4.3 percent.

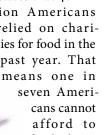
"[T]he direction of food prices is somewhat worrisome. Lower and middle income households are likely to be paying a larger percentage

of their paychecks for grocery bills," said Chris G. Christopher, director of consumer economics at тня Global Insight. "The rise of food prices makes it more difficult for many American households—especially those households that live paycheck to paycheck."

Feeding America's recent report, "Hunger in America 2014," states that 46 million Americans relied on charities for food in the past year. That means one in afford to feed themselves. Another

report stated that 25 percent of U.S. military personnel are relying on food charities.

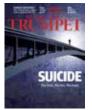
With food prices soaring and well-paying jobs increasingly scarce, America is in for more economic-and socialtrouble.

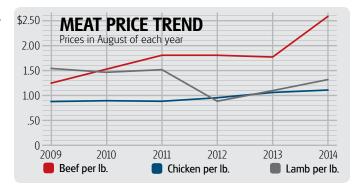


#### Every 40 seconds

NE PERSON COMMITS SUI-cide every 40 seconds, according to a statement released by the United Nations' World Health Organization (wно) on September 4. This equates to 2,160 individuals every day. The 800,000 people who commit suicide each year total more than the global yearly death toll from wars and natural disasters combined. Globally, suicide is the 15th leading cause of death for all age groups. This is a potent symbol of the hopelessness gripping so many people in our world. To learn about its causes—and its ultimate solution-read our

February 2013 cover story, "The Truth About Suicide," by visiting theTrumpet .com/go/10215.





#### LESS THAN 1 PERCENT OF ILLEGAL MINORS DEPORTED

ata released in August showed authorities apprehended 37,477 unaccompanied minors at America's southern border in the first seven months of 2014. At the same time. the nation's 227 immigration judges released more than 37.000 of these into the United States. The number of minors who were deported? A mere 280.

This is not what politicians have promised the public. For example, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said on July 7 that "most of the kids who go through this process" will be found to have no "legal basis to remain in this country." "Our message is absolutely don't send your children unaccompanied on trains or through a bunch of smugglers," President Barack Obama told ABC's Good Morning America on June 26. "That is our direct message to

> the families in Central America. Do not send your children to the borders. If they do make it, they'll get sent back."

But as of July, these non-Mexican illegal minors have a 0.7 percent chance of being sent home. These odds are certain to encourage more illegal minors to breach the U.S. bor-

The release of these illegal minors comes at a social and economic cost. The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) estimated that the state of Texas would spend \$12.1 billion on illegal aliens in 2013. This figure was released before this year's surge in illegal minors and other illegal aliens. According to FAIR, the estimated taxes paid by illegal aliens does not come close to paying for these outlays. Texas isn't the only state feeling the impact. Illegal minors have been sent and continue to be sent all over the country.

Robert Rector and Jason Richwine, Ph.D., conducted an independent study on the fiscal cost of illegal immigrants to the U.S.



taxpayer. They reported that as of 2010, all illegal immigrants in the country would cost taxpayers \$6.3 trillion in government benefits over a lifetime. That was four years ago, well before the numbers swelled to their current levels.

While the number of illegal minors that are sent home can be counted in the hundreds. the number that stay in America is tabulated in the tens of thousands. Next year, it will reach an estimated 142.000.



## The Number One Thing to Make You a Better Husband and Dad BY IOEL HILLIKER

AN WE WRESTLE FOR A FEW MINUTES?"

My 6-year-old son is ready for bed. I have other things I need to get to. But just that day, I had written in my journal, I need to wrestle with Noah more. Make this a priority. "Sure, buddy."

It's amazing to me how often I encounter this moment of decision: me—or family? Do what I need to do (or just want to do)—

or devote my time to my children or my wife? This moment is a critical one. And for a hus-

band and dad, it happens every day. What you do in that moment is more consequential than you probably realize.

Our natural tendency is to make the selfish choice. That is the number one thing that holds us back from being better husbands and fathers. What is more, it contradicts the role God gave us men to fill in the lives of our wives and children.

The love of God is the way of give. The spirit of God's law is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and to love your fellow man as much as you love yourself (Matthew 22:36-40). The spirit of sin is simply to *love self* first.

As husbands and fathers, we need to judge ourselves by this standard: Am I loving myself right now instead of my family? If you're honest, you may not like the verdict.

However, here is the awesome truth: The roles of husband and father are the exact instruments we need to overcome and to grow in this critical area of character! When we men fulfill these roles, we demolish our selfishness like a sledgehammer crushing rock.

Think: God created the roles of a husband and of a father. Why? To shape His character in us! The Bible likens Jesus Christ to a Husband and *God* to a Father. God wants you to realize that in your family, you fulfill a type of God and a type of Christ! (Learn more about this deep biblical truth in our free booklet God Is a Family.)

At the core of these roles is the *number one thing* that can help all of us men conquer our selfishness and be better husbands and fathers: SACRIFICE.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it," the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 5. A godly husband demonstrates his love for his wife through *sacrifice*. The absolute opposite of self-love.

How did you give yourself to your wife today? In what way did you truly sacrifice for her this week?

"For God [the Father] so *loved* the world, that he *gave* his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). A godly father demonstrates love for his children through sacrifice—giving them the best He

has to give (see also Romans 8:32; Matthew 7:11; James 1:17).

The Bible mandates the major aspects of a man's role: serving as his family's protector, provider, guide, educator, disciplinarian and love-giver. All these duties revolve around our noble obligation to *sacrifice*.

Ask yourself: What is preventing me from truly fulfilling the roles of husband and father in my family? Yes, we have priori-

> ties that demand our attention outside the home. We must be providers; we should be builders within the community. This absorbs our energies and time. But if we are balanced and do these things out of godly sacrificial love, they actually enhance our standing as husbands and fathers.

> Where the problem comes in is when we choose to put our self-indulgent interests first: me—not family! This deprives our families of the physical, emotional and spiritual benefits God wants to provide them through us as men. And it

squanders our opportunity to use our family responsibilities to forge godly character.

What are some practical ways you can emulate the Husband of all husbands today? How can you give your one and only precious wife the marriage experience God wants her to have? How can you imitate the Father of all fathers today? How can you provide your children the family experience that will turn their hearts to their spiritual Father? (Malachi 4:6).

Make a list. Maybe it's calling her to say you're thinking of her. Fixing what's broken. Expressing your appreciation. Picking up after yourself. Leading family Bible studies. Washing the dishes. Hanging that family portrait. Taking them out when you sense she's overwhelmed. Helping with homework. Teaching a skill. Being Big Fun Dad. Going for a family walk. Tackling a family project. Giving an unexpected gift. Snuggling. Planning a getaway. Wrestling with your boy. Do something off of that list every day.

Make another list of the things you do that swallow your time and draw you away from being that godly husband and father. Disappearing into your study. Not listening. Being distracted. Burying your nose in the iPad. Spending too much time on the computer. Getting impatient. Fondling your phone. Bringing work home. Entering television purgatory. Getting lost in sports. Contributing nothing. Study that list. Ask yourself: Is anything here worth putting in front of my family?

And the next time you encounter that moment of decision me, or family—make a different choice. Do the unselfish thing. Sacrifice. Just like the ultimate Husband and Father do for you.



To view this issue online, visit theTrumpet.com/go/Oct2014

#### TRUMPET DAILY SPOTLIGHT

If you aren't watching *The Trumpet Daily,* you are missing out on some terrific analysis you won't get anywhere else.



Britain, a Beheading and the Other Immigration Crisis *theTrumpet.com/go/12035* 

ISIS Decapitating, Raping in Iraq and Syria—U.S. Media Silent <a href="mailto:theTrumpet.com/go/12008">theTrumpet.com/go/12008</a>

Britain Turns Against Israel the Trumpet.com/go/12021

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#### A faith-building article

I was moved by Jeremiah Jacques's knack of bringing my focus to the realities happening in this world, and exposing what the Bible, God's Word, actually said about this world even thousands of years ago ("The Incredible Shrinking Planet," October, the Trumpet.com/go/12052). This was a faith-building article for me as it gave proof after irrefutable proof of what's happening on Earth. I wish this article could be translated into every language left on Earth so that every person alive could be made aware of what is being done on this planet by man and by God. Thank you so much for this inspiration-generating article.

lean Guv

This article truly is incredible! Wow! I enjoyed reading it from start to finish and appreciate all the time and effort in research that went into it. Starting from this hightech world all the way back to the Tower of Babel, with all the whys and wherefores in between, it was quite an experience. You nailed it with the Tower of Babel. This Bible story is *not* just an old Bible story that is read and then forgotten about. Mr. Jacques has shown without a doubt just how relevant and significant for this time of the end and for mankind's learning process. God's Word is definitely alive.

V. S. Baker—ARKANSAS

#### The severed relationship

Excellent article ("The Significance of Germany's Break From America," October, the Trumpet.com/go/12047). Someone once said, "the darkest part is before the dawn." Thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ who will come soon to straighten everything.

Efren Pulido—COLOMBIA

Add to that America still hasn't given back all the German gold. If the Germans can confirm there is no gold, it will just add more fuel for their wrath. **Roger Gutierrez Jr.—TEXAS** 

#### Everything is *not* awesome

We get similar messages in the UK and people want to believe it, despite seeing a very different picture around them ("Everything Is Awesome!," October, the Trumpet.com/go/12050). I guess people think if they keep telling themselves things will get better, then they will. Thank you for continuing to give us the reality of world affairs.

Georgina O'Dell—UNITED KINGDOM

I am not trying to be mean, but the people I meet in my day job, Americans mostly, are totally uninformed on world news. But just ask them about sports or movies.

Rick Breth—KANSAS

Articles like this make me wonder if our so-called leaders might actually believe their own lies.

Brian Canga—OHIO

To the world, America is rapidly becoming irrelevant. I guess to the current administration, it is awesome too. It seems to be what they want.

David Nunn—INDIANA

#### A law unto himself

Mr. Putin really is a law unto himself ("Putin Won't Just Survive, He'll Thrive," October, the Trumpet.com/go/12054). It's easy to see why the Russian people are behind him. The fact is he does actually lead without any concern for what others might think. Contrast that with the leaders in the West who are too frightened to make a decision without a Gallup poll. Majella Tesoriero—AUSTRALIA

Sanctions, whether physical sanctions on goods or financial ones, don't bite on the Russians it seems. I cannot think of a people tougher than them. Over the years I have read stories about some Russians not being paid for months, but still they show up at work every morning. Can you imagine that happening in the West? Hardly not. Russian society seems to manage even though much of the outer structure is torn down.

Kjetil-NORWAY

#### Russia's military rise

According to a Russian engineer in a former workplace, Russia was spending more than half of its national budget on defense during the Cold War ("Russian military to add aircraft, vessels," October, <a href="theTrumpet.com/go/12055">theTrumpet.com/go/12055</a>). Their military got the most and best of everything. This was based on his experience living in the country. Russia knows how to be lavish on its military.

Ken Sackey—NEW YORK

#### Who were the Druids?

Thank you for opening my eyes and to see how important it is to know our history and the history of false religion! ("Who Were the Druids?," October, the Trumpet.com/go/12058).

Gail Eisele—NORTH DAKOTA

The big picture, and where we fit.

#### BY RICHARD PALMER

OW DOES THE UNIVERSE LOOK TO GOD? THAT'S A QUEStion humans can never answer. No doubt our awesome Creator can zoom in to count the hairs on every individual's head, while simultaneously viewing the vastness of His entire creation. Humans can try to view hairs and even microscopic cells, but we can see only a fraction of the universe. As tiny as we are, it's impossible to get a sense of its large-scale structure.

But physicists are trying. And some of their latest discoveries may give us a glimpse. One of these is *Laniakea*—a cluster of clusters of galaxies.

Trying to envision just one galaxy exhausts the human imagination. If you took just one second to look at each of the 300 billion or so stars in our Milky Way galaxy, it would take nearly 10,000 years to view them all.

But our galaxy is just a tiny part of a much larger structure. We used to think that structure was the Virgo Supercluster—a kind of cluster of clusters, containing many thousands of galaxies in a region of space 100 billion times larger than our Milky Way.

But now, it seems this supercluster is just the tip of the iceberg—only 1 percent of the true supercluster: Laniakea. The Virgo Supercluster is merely part of one of its branches.

Laniakea is a Hawaiian word meaning "immeasurable heaven." It's an apt name. In Laniakea, around 100,000 galaxies all flow together, drawn slowly together by the pull of gravity. The Milky Way is on the edge of this flow.

Laniakea, then, is big. But it is far, far from being the biggest known cosmic structure. That honor goes to something discovered last year, the Hercules-Corona Borealis Great Wall (Her-CrB GW). That's a rather cumbersome name for a truly awesome structure: a wall of galaxies that stretches one tenth of the way across the entire observable universe. At 10 billion light-years across, it is impossibly big—literally. Under the current big bang model there is no way something so huge can exist.

If clusters of galaxies were formed, as cosmologists assume, by mere random fluctuations after a big bang, then on a large enough scale the universe should look the same. When tossing a coin, you wouldn't be surprised to get three or four heads in a row. But do it 1,000 times and you'd expect the distribution of heads and tails to be almost identical. Finding this Great Wall is like getting 100 heads all in a row. It's a massive signal that there's something more than randomness and chance at work.

The second impossibility is its age. According to current theories, we are seeing what the Great Wall looked like when the universe was only 3.8 billion years old. In the current big bang

model, it is impossible for anything that big to form in such a "short" amount of time. Istvan Horvath, one of the scientists who discovered it, said he has "no idea" how it could have evolved.

This, then, may be the zoomed-out, God's-eye view of the universe. Individual galaxies are mere specks of dust, pinpricks of light, grouped into filaments that entangle together and become glowing strings. These reach out to form gigantic structures that frame great voids, holes in space millions of light-years across—in an unimaginably huge "cosmic web."

How big is this web? The *observable* universe is 93 billion light-years across. But we have no idea how much lies beyond what we can see from our vantage point.

What is it all for? Why did a Creator make this—and why so big? God didn't need a universe for Himself. He made it for *man*. God promises *this* as the inheritance of humanity. Hebrews 2:8 states that God has put "all things in subjection" under man. The Moffatt Bible translated "all things" as "the universe." The verse goes on to say that God has left "nothing that is not put under him."

In his book *The Incredible Human Potential*, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "In other words, for those willing to believe what God says, He says that He has decreed the entire universe—with all its galaxies, its countless suns and planets—*everything*—

How big is this web? The observable universe is 93 billion light-years across.
But we have no idea how much lies beyond what we can see from our vantage point.

will be put under man's subjection." Of course, as the verse goes on to say, the endless universe has "not yet" been put under us—but it will be.

Hebrews 2:8 is not an isolated scripture. The Bible plainly reveals that God's plan for mankind includes the whole universe. That cosmic web, if that is indeed the true structure of the universe, is our inheritance. No wonder the Apostle Paul wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Much of what the *Trumpet* warns about—race wars, child sexual abuse and nuclear war, for example—is deeply sobering. But this vision and hope puts all that suffering in context. The great God who created all this—is preparing man

for this inheritance.

"In this world full of terrorism, we need our universe dream," wrote the *Trumpet*'s editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, some years back. "We need to see the stupendous possibility and the eternal majesty.

See "Our Place in the Universe" page 18.

... Nothing can stimulate our imagination like comprehending our universe potential! Nothing" (February 2004).

Our free book *The Incredible Human Potential* can help you prove for yourself what the Bible says about this vision. And our free, full-color booklet *Our Awesome Universe Potential* will help bring this vision alive to you.

#### **Genuine hope for the children**

Take an honest look at the society that produced Rotherham's gang rapists—and then ignored their crimes. Our world is sick with decadence, and we



are paying a dear price. So are our children.
Another promise of "reform" won't heal
Rotherham's children. But there is a genuine
hope for the future. To find out what it is,
order Herbert W. Armstrong's free booklet

The Wonderful World Tomorrow—
What It Will Be Like.

#### > ROTHERHAM from page 15

are stopped. That is how a family wasteland turns into a nurturing home. That is how the life of a young girl switches tracks from suicidal abuse victim to sparkling, joyful darling. Yes, believe it or not, the suffering stops by *obeying God!* 

In His Word, God spells out the solution for the Rother-hams of the world: Family. *Right* family. Obedient family. Lawful family. Biblical family. Family that grows and functions the way it was designed—by its Designer—to function. That God-crafted institution is what begets, protects and nurtures children to adulthood.

The reason sin has spread from head to toe in Rotherham is that sin has spread head to toe throughout our entire society—and inside our individual lives. Fixing this depraved city isn't about sacking a politician or replacing a council or passing a new law. It's about *obeying* the laws that already exist—that have *always* existed: God's laws.

That doesn't happen in a news cycle or an election cycle. It happens when Britain's entire sinful, putrefying society is cauterized, purged and miraculously *healed* by God.

Tragically, that is not something man is interested in. Man would rather continue to succumb to his own self-inflicted decomposition. And God continues to allow us and our children to sin our way into self-inflicted septic shock.

But God—*the* Father—will intervene! He will step in and *save* His children, all His children, from their own lethal decisions. He will use these tragedies to show us how much we need His law and His loving authority! He will *heal* us, from head to toe.

Jesus Christ will return soon to remove the devil—the real cause of all this evil—and replace him as God of this world. He will correct the injustices and establish a just society based on the perfect law of God (e.g. Micah 4:1-2; Daniel 2:44).

In God's society, Rotherham will be unthinkable. Authorities will be lawful, loving, just and powerful. Violators will be constrained and eradicated—by overwhelming punishment and firm teaching to repent and change. Families will be whole, strong, and beautiful.

Peace. Safety. Opportunity. Beauty. Joy. Love. For little girls in God's lawful society, *that* will be "a usual part of growing up." Take hope. It's coming.

## THE KEY OF DAVI

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

#### **UNITED STATES**

#### **Nationwide Satellite**

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

#### Direct TV

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, Fri WGN, 8:00 ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00, Fri;

WVUA 1:00 p.m., Sun **Dothan** WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun **Mobile** WFGX 7:30, Sun

Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri; KAZT 8:00. Sun

Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30, Sun Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30, Sun Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri;

TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT

9:30, Sun

Monterey KION 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-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 KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun Sun City/Menifee TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri Grand Junction KCJT 8:30, Sun Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Pensacola WFGX 7:30, Sun Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

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

Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun Atlanta WPXA 6:00, Fri Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun Macon WBMN 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30, Sun Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30,

Sun; 8:30, Wed Kaui Hoʻlke Chan. 52 9:30, Tue Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon **Oahu** Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am Sat

Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30, Sun Pocatello KPIF 10:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30, Sun Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU

9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.2

9:30, Sun
Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun
Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri
Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30, Sun Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30, Sun

El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun Lafayette KADN 7:30, Sun; KLWB 8:30, Sun

Lake Charles WBLC 8:30, Sun New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30, Sun Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri WADL 10:00, Sun Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri Lansing WLAI-DT 9:30, Sun Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun Traverse City WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30, Sun

Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSD/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30, Sun Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun

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



Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun West Point 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-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun St. Joseph WBJO 8:30, Sun Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun

Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30, Sun Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun

Helena KMTF-DT 10:30. Sun Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun **Nebraska**, Lincoln-Hastings

KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL 8-30 Sun

Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30, Sun Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri Binghamton WBXI 9:30, Sun Buffalo WPXI 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun

Elmira WBE 9:30, Sun New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun

WPXN 6:00, Fri; WZME-TV 7:00, Sun; WZME-TV 8:00, Tue-Fri

Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun Svracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri Utica WBU 9:30, Sun

Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri Greensboro 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 WBW 9:30, Sun

North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun **Dickinson** KWMK 10:30, Sun

Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun Minot KWMK 10:30. Sun Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri

Cincinnati WSTR 8:30. Sun Lima WLIO-DT 9:30. Sun Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun Zanesville WBZV 9:30. Sun

Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 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; KLST 8:30, Fri: KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun

Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun

Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri Rhode Island, Providence WPXO 6:00, Fri

South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30. Sun

Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun

South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30. Sun

Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00. Fri Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT

8:30. Sun

Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30. Sun Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun; TVCLT-Bilingual, 9-30 Sun

Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun San Antonio KPXL 5:00. Fri Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun

Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri

Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun

Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri

Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun

Pasco KEPR 6:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun

Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00. Fri Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun

Yakima KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun

Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Parkersburg WBPB 9:30, Sun Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/

WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun

Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun

Wyoming, Casper 10:30, Sun Cheyenne KCHW 10:30, Sun Riverton 10:30, Sun

**BRITAIN AND EUROPE** Britain, Europe, the Middle East and Africa CBS Reality 8:00 B.S.T., Sun

#### Nationwide satellite

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

#### Nationwide cable

WGN 8:00 ET, Sun Discovery 6:30 ET/PT, Sun Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun

Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun

Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun Medicine Hat KAYLL 8:30 Sun Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun **British Columbia, Vancouver** 

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

Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun

Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun

Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNÚ 8:30 pm, Sun

P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00, Sun Saskatchewan, Saskatoon WUHF 8:30, Sun

#### CARIBBEAN

#### Regional satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun 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

#### **LATIN AMERICA** Regional satellite

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El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun Mexico TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun; WGN 7:00, Sun Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

#### AUSTRALASIA Australia

Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun: 10:00, Sat Perth WTV, 11:30, Sun/Wed New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun **Philippines** TV4 9:30 PHT, Sun

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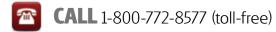
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