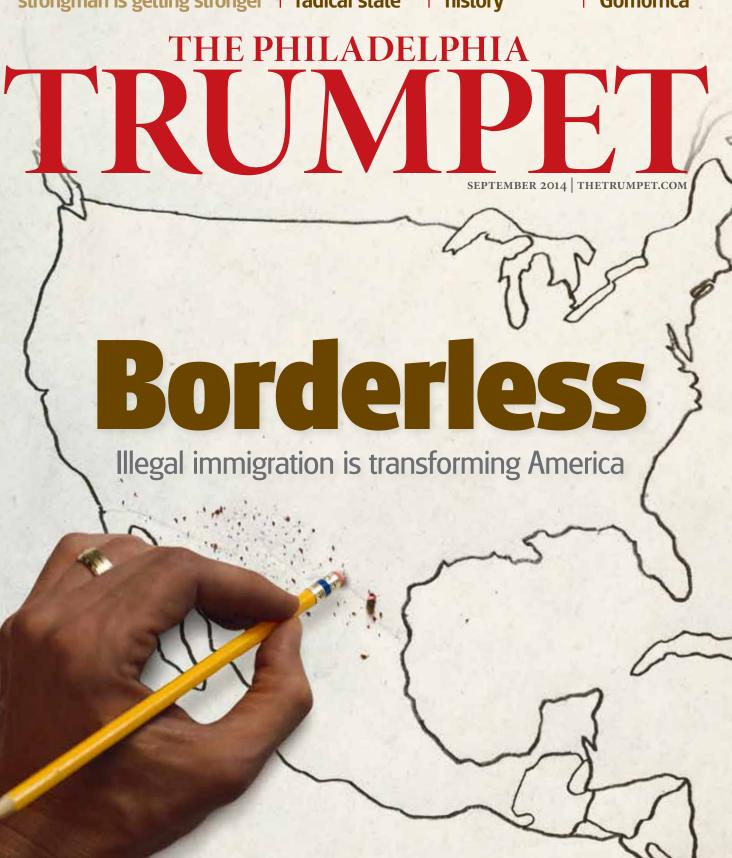
KING PUTIN With nobody | The world's stopping him, Russia's strongman is getting stronger radical state

newest, most

Education that transcends history

The United States of Gomorrica



TRUMPET

SEPTEMBER 2014

Vol. 25, No. 8

Circ. 317,863

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Photo: Students attend class at Herbert W.

Armstrong College in Edmond, Oklahoma. (TRUMPET)

Cover Photo: America's own government is erasing its southern border. (TRUMPET)





Education That Transcends America, History and Time Itself!

Modern education is plagued by failures it will not admit.

There is an inspiring and hope-filled alternative! BY GERALD FLURRY

EOPLE TODAY ALMOST TOTALLY CONDEMN THE IDEA OF empire. They think of it as evil and sinister. The greatest leader of the 20th century thought differently.

Winston Churchill had a glorious vision of empire.

Winston Churchill had a glorious vision of empire. Naturally, the British Empire had some negative aspects. But overwhelmingly, Churchill considered the empire as a civilizing voice in the world. Through the British Empire, he desired to bring more freedom, peace and prosperity to the world by helping those who were not so able to help themselves.

Author and historian Kirk Emmert wrote a book titled *Winston S. Churchill on Empire*. In the foreword of that book, Harry V. Jaffa wrote that in Churchill's view, the British Empire acted to "lift human life away from barbarism and savagery towards civilization and human excellence." In many instances, that is exactly what the British Empire did. It was, as Churchill believed, a powerful civilizing force that benefited all of humanity!

It is hard to find anybody who understands what Churchill truly believed about empire. Even Churchill's best biographer, Martin Gilbert, did not fully understand it. Sadly, Churchill's vision of empire has disappeared in our world.

Many historians have praised Churchill, stating that he was responsible for winning World War II. He himself, however, didn't feel his life was all that successful. In a conversation at the end of his life, he told a friend that he felt like a failure. Why? Because the British Empire was collapsing. Yes, he led the Allies to victory in World War II, but he saw that as a hollow victory. He had worked all his life to exalt the British Empire. Instead, just the opposite was taking place: His beloved empire was collapsing before his eyes.

Why? Churchill's countrymen did not share his view of empire. Those who surrounded him and came after him no longer believed in the British Empire's capacity to serve and to help the world. Britain's educational establishment had also come to hold an extremely critical view of empire.

How was Churchill viewed by the educated in Britain? In 1933, Adolf Hitler rose to power and Churchill started warning Britain, and the world, about what was coming. At that same time, a famous debate took place at Oxford University approving the motion "that this house will in no circumstances fight for its king and country."

This act by the students of the most prestigious education institution in Britain deeply offended Churchill. In a speech on Feb. 17, 1933, he called it an "abject, squalid, shameless avowal"

and "a very disquieting and disgusting symptom." Continuing in the speech, Churchill stated, "My mind turns across the narrow waters of Channel and the North Sea, where great nations stand determined to defend their national glories or national existence with their lives. I think of Germany, with its splendid clear-eyed youths marching forward on all the roads of the Reich singing their ancient songs, demanding to be conscripted into an army; eagerly seeking the most terrible weapons of war; burning to suffer and die for their fatherland." The German youth were burning to suffer and die for the fatherland, and yet at Oxford the youth of Britain were pledging not to fight for king or country.

Churchill knew the empire was literally hanging by a thread! (Our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves that the empire was a gift from God. This is what Churchill did not know, but should have known. All of our literature is free.) He was trying to stir the people to save their own country. History proves that he was correct! Yet most of the educated elites, the university faculties and even the media, both in Britain and America, were against that warning message about losing the empire and even their own country.

As Churchill said a number of times, "Mankind is unteachable." Since that time, the foolish view of the highly educated has only grown more toxic and more unhinged from reality! Politically correct modern education vociferously condemns Churchill and the empire he loved—while presenting itself like the arbiter of all that is moral and good in the world. That education system has produced most of the world's leaders. Yet here is the truth they refuse to face: The world's number one problem today—even more than during World War II—is that of human survival! And that fact proves that something is dreadfully wrong with education! After all, it was education that produced this predicament. It takes educated people to make nuclear bombs.

Transcending Britain

In the foreword to Emmert's book, Jaffa made this fascinating statement: "The glory of the British Empire was its service to a cause that transcended Britain, that transcended history, that transcended time itself."

While Churchill was disillusioned with the British education system's failure to build the empire, I believe we have an educational system that Winston Churchill would have appreciated. At Herbert W. Armstrong College, we offer an education that transcends America

I believe we have an educational system that Winston Churchill would have appreciated. At Herbert W. Armstrong College, we offer an education that transcends America or Britain, that transcends history, and that transcends even time itself.



OR BRITAIN, THAT TRANSCENDS HISTORY, AND THAT TRANSCENDS EVEN TIME ITSELF.

Our institution lives by the motto that Herbert W. Armstrong, the namesake for our college, used at Ambassador College, which he founded: The Word of God is the foundation of all knowledge. The Bible teaches us a lot about education. But most of humanity is not very interested in that type of education.

We certainly believe our Armstrong education transcends America. First and foremost, our college is a character-building institution. We teach our students to practice the *way of give* as a way of LIFE. We also have a television program that offers educational materials to anyone in the world who requests them online, or in print form. It is all completely free because it is supported by a group of people who have character and want to GIVE as a way of life.

Mr. Armstrong always believed in reaching out to the *largest audience possible* with the education he offered. We strive to follow in that tradition. We keep reaching out as far as we can.

We have also recently inspected many beautiful estates in Britain for a second college campus so that we can more easily expand this education beyond America. You could ask: Why aren't we content to stay here? Because our education transcends America.

Viewing a number of the old British estates, you really sense the greatness and grandeur of the British Empire. We fully believe and practice the biblical principle that a beautiful environment is more conducive to effective study. Most of the properties we toured were truly breathtaking in their architecture and maintained grounds—a witness to greatness of days gone by.

In the old days, Churchill called those who didn't support the

British Empire "little Englanders." These people wanted to do away with the empire—to renounce it and live an inward life. These people didn't look past the small

island of England. Churchill dedicated his life to looking beyond the borders of the isle. That is why even though he saved England from destruction, he still felt like he had failed to accomplish enough. Though he warned, he could not save the British Empire from its demise.

Transcending History

This is recent history, yet how much have we learned from it? If your empire is about to be destroyed, it seems logical to try and learn from that history. However, I find that America and Britain really have not learned from it.

Nineteenth-century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli also believed in the building of empire. He stated, "I have endeavored to develop and strengthen our empire, believing that combination of achievement and responsibility elevates the character and condition of a people." Disraeli saw the need to develop character in order to strengthen the empire! Such nobility of thought is lost on today's politicians. Current political leaders do not even talk about character when they run for office because the people no longer care about it—to their own repugnant shame!

Formerly, that was not the case in Britain. A lot of effort and character went into building the British Empire. The individual's character developed the national greatness. That is why character development is the most important thing we teach at Armstrong College. If you don't know how to live a life of high character, then no matter how much money you make, what real quality of life is even possible?

Looking at the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction we have to ask, where will that end? If something didn't happen to stop it, a nuclear war would *stop history itself* and erase all human life off the planet!

Thankfully, there will be a Being that stops it before that time,



as Jesus Christ prophesied in Matthew 24:21-22. The Bible is also *full* of prophecies of what will happen after that time. It promises that in the thousand years that follow, true education—the very education we are working hard to provide at Armstrong College today—is going to shape history. It is an education that transcends history.

Transcending Time

Finally, the education we offer transcends time itself. Isaiah 57:15 states that God "inhabits eternity." This means that God lives apart from time. He *created time*, and the education He provides to those who will be taught by Him transcends time as He does.

Hebrews 2:8 states that God "hast put all things in subjection under [man's] feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him." The expression "all things" is referring to *all* that God has made in the material universe! (see the Moffatt translation, for example). That is one of many scriptures in the Bible that show that God has *transcendent* and *universe-scale* plans for mankind that stretch out into eternity! What potential God has given to you. His message to man is filled with hope because it transcends time and space.

Many of the great men from history saturated their minds in the Bible. It has been said William Shakespeare referred to the Bible more than all the other poets combined. Shakespeare, also from Britain, was another firm supporter of empire. In his play *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, he wrote, "Why, then the world's mine oyster"!—a famous phrase that lives on in our language today. Much of Shakespeare's writings include similar references to his expansive thinking. He wrote about Denmark, Egypt and Italy. "There was not room enough for him in the island of Britain," Hermann Sinsheimer wrote. Shakespeare's mission was "to

enrich from outside sources, from every corner of space and time, a nation that is just struggling into her proper, uninsular shape. Between the lines and between the characters one may read the legend: Our island is too small; our kingdom is the world!" (Shylock: The History of a Character).

That is empire thinking! But that has to be backed by EMPIRE EDUCATION, or the goal will never be achieved. Churchill felt like a failure at the end of his life because he could not inspire the *next generation* to be empire builders.

As part of the education we offer at Herbert W. Armstrong College, we send students to volunteer on archaeological excavations in Jerusalem. We have helped Dr. Eilat Mazar to dig back through the millennia of history to uncover David's palace, Solomon's wall and Nehemiah's wall. Excavations we participated in uncovered two seals of the biblical princes who threw the Prophet Jeremiah into prison and tried to get him killed. Digging those seals out of the ground is a solid indication that Jeremiah lived. And if Jeremiah lived, so too does God!

Projects like this reveal how the hope-filled education of the Bible transcends time! People might be skeptical of the Bible, but anyone can see the dreadful problems that we face in this world. Many scholarly people think that mankind's survival is uncertain. At our education institutions we teach young people to face the reality of this world's problems—and then we show them the remedy! We teach that God is going to solve those problems; that He is going to save most of humanity, including all those who have already died, in spite of ourselves! We teach this hope to all of our young people. Most importantly, we teach our students that this hope must be given to others.

As we strive to fulfill these noble educational aims, we are working to prepare a new generation of empire builders—men and women who will lift human life away from barbarism and savagery toward civilization and excellence, men and women who will help God raise up a shining new empire that will encompass the globe and bring freedom, peace and prosperity to all nations.

AND THAT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. Then we will help God expand His empire or civilization throughout the entire universe! (Isaiah 9:6-7). God is inviting *you* to be a *leader* in that magnificent plan!





An Islamist group just declared itself a caliphate and challenged the rest of the Muslim world to join or be considered an enemy. Here is the stunning story of how it gained such power behind the scenes, how this move alters the Middle East, and what to expect next. BY ANTHONY CHIBARIRWE

OSUL WAS THE LAST URBAN city the United States secured during the Iraq War in 2008. That effort was measured in the blood of thousands of American soldiers and billions of taxpayer dollars.

But it was blood and treasure spent in vain.

On June 10, militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (1818) steamrolled into Mosul. 1818 terrorists took over the airport, television facilities and police stations, sending over a third of the city's 1.4 million population to flight. They also seized military bases stocked with American-supplied hardware.

Iraq's much larger army abandoned its positions and fled, discarding vast quantities of military equipment and weaponry, which ISIS also incorporated into its arsenal. The militants even seized low-grade nuclear material from a university. Not long after the takeover of Mosul, videos emerged of ISIS militants flaunting their weapons cache, which included a long-

range ballistic Scud missile—which, God willing, tweeted ISIS, would end up "heading

toward #Israel" for a spectacular end to the Islamic month of Ramadan.

Clearly, these radical Islamists' goals extend beyond Iraq and Syria. In fact, on June 29, the first day of Ramadan, they released a statement in Arabic, English, German, French and Russian dropping "Iraq and Syria" from their name, giving themselves the more universal title "the Islamic State," and declaring the considerable territory now under their control an Islamic "caliphate." They announced that "[t]he legality of all emirates, groups, states and organizations becomes null," and all Muslims must now pledge their allegiance to the Islamic State and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

One might be tempted to dismiss such grandiloquent claims. However, when ISIS overran Mosul in June, it looted cash and large quantities of gold bullion. According to Atheel al-Nujaifi, governor of the province where Mosul is located, the group heisted 500 billion dinars (US\$429 million) from the city's central bank and many other banks in the city. That money has made these radical Islamists arguably the wealthiest terrorist organization in

the world. It also has made them—flush with stolen cash and supplemental income from extortion, robbery, kidnapping, foreign donors, and newly seized oil fields and refineries—a clear and present danger to the existence of Iraq.

What does ISIS and its newly declared independent state mean for Iraq, the Middle East and America? Time will tell—but the means by which it got to where it is gives some important clues. And biblical prophecy supplies the long-term picture.

An Early Forecast

As early as September 1990, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned that a "king of the south" would rise up, as forecast in Daniel 11:40, from the region around Iraq. Soon after, he pinpointed who it would be. "The king of the south could rule Iraq or Iran or both countries. But it is looking more now like Iran may produce this king," Mr. Flurry wrote. "It looks very much like the endtime king of the south will rule THE RADICAL ISLAMISTS! Iran is a natural leader for many of them today. Iran also has a goal to lead this group" (*Trumpet*, July 1992).

Iran's rise as the leader of radical Islam is a crucial development in Middle East geopolitics. At one time, Iran was held in check by Saddam Hussein's Iraq; the balance of power prevented either nation from advancing. Yet in December 1994, Mr. Flurry wrote an article headlined, "Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?" In it, he pinpointed Iran as being the region's most powerful Islamic nation, and asked, "Can you imagine the power [the Iranians] would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world?"

After an American-led invasion deposed Hussein, eliminating Iran's primary opposition within its neighborhood, Mr. Flurry revisited the question with another article titled "Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?" in June 2003. In it, he emphasized two main factors: the unwitting aid America gave to Iran by weakening Iraq; and Iran's covert meddling in Iraq.

Over the eight years of the Iraq War, 4,487 American soldiers died; \$1.7 trillion was spent; and the doors swung open for Iran to exert a heavy influence in Iraqi politics. During this period, Iran increased its influence in Iraq by supporting Iraq's embattled Shiite government. At the same

OUA! BESHARA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

time, however, Iran *mastered its strategy of seeding chaos through funding radical ter-ror*—even terrorist organizations seemingly at odds with its ultimate goal of dominating the Middle East. Mr. Flurry's June 2003 article showed early evidence of this strategy in action, and the *Trumpet* has continued to document and accumulate this evidence over the past decade.

One of the tools of chaos Iran helped to forge is now taking on a life of its own—and may well force Iran to take its strategy to a new, deadlier level.

An Iranian Project

Iran has a long history of playing a complex double game with al Qaeda. In February, the U.S. Treasury released a report saying it had "announced the designation of a key Iran-based al Qaeda facilitator who supports al Qaeda's vital facilitation network in Iran, that operates there with the knowledge of Iranian authorities."

Among the specific terrorist groups that Iran supported in order to foment chaos in post-Saddam Iraq was an organization called al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). AQI's leader,

Iordanian-born Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, fled to Iran from Afghanistan when Operation Enduring Freedom began in 2001. A report from Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) leaked in 2005 said Iran's Revolutionary Guards' (IRGC) Quds Force "provided Al-Zarqawi with logistical support on the part of the state" (Cicero, Spring 2005). The advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran wrote on June 19 of this year that "Zarqawi initially operated under the protection of the IRGC and its elite Quds Brigade. ... According to intelligence officials, the time Zarqawi spent in Iran was crucial for rebuilding his network before relocating to Iraq." He received funding,

arms and logistical support to rebuild the al Qaeda network he oversaw. The leaked BKA report showed that Zarqawi possessed genuine Iranian passports for some of his numerous aliases—a strong indication of collusion at high levels.

Al Qaeda in Iraq was Sunni, and it held virulently anti-Shiite beliefs. A 2007 report by the Claremont Institute noted that Zarqawi possessed a loathing for Shiites, whom he considered heretical dogs. "Yet," it observed, "his hate did not stop him from accepting Iran's help, nor did it stop the mullahs from offering it."

Why would Shiite Iran support Sunni AQI, given the sharp ideological differences between them? When it comes to radical Islamists and their goals, expediency knows no moral qualms. The end always justifies the means. The goal for AQI, from the time it was founded in 2004, was simple. As Gen. Raymond Odierno expressed it succinctly in a 2010 Pentagon briefing, "They want complete failure of the government in Iraq. They want to establish a caliphate in Iraq." Iran fully understood this goal when it supported Zarqawi and his organization.

Later, AQI became known as ISIS. Its goals remain the same, if only on a grander scale. And America is treating this organization—now the self-declared Islamic State—as the region's new Saddam Hussein

that must be removed. However, in a bizarre and preposterous twist, the U.S. seeks to confront the problem—which, *unlike* Saddam Hussein, was substantially Iranian sponsored and created—by *actively seeking Iran's help*, and even by seeking to increase Iran's involvement and influence in Iraq!



The Trumpet's
May 2004 cover
story, "Conquest
Through Sabotage,"
documented the
means by which Iran
was undermining
Iraq's stability and
sovereignty, and
preparing itself to
dominate its former
enemy neighbor.

Iran-U.S. Relations

While Iran helped build and preserve ISIS, recent evidence indicates that Iran might now be moving to confront it.

Emboldened by its coup in Mosul, ISIS went on to seize significant chunks of territory in northern Iraq. It seized control of the Iraq-Syria border on June 25, giv-

ing it access to both nations for supplies and expansion. It then allied with the terrorist group al Nusra to share control of the border. ISIS now controls territory extending from northwestern Iraq up to northern Syria (map, next page).



uring Syria's "Arab Spring," ISIS drastically expanded its power and influence. It did this by supporting Syrian jihadist rebels and later by sending in its own fighters. But remarkably, this rise to prominence was also made possible in part by Iran and Syria—the very forces it was fighting.

Thus, the civil war in Syria is another example of how Iran is willing to fund groups that work against some of its interests in order to reach its overall goals.

Evidence shows Iran supported ISIS's endeavors in Syria, despite the fact that the group was fighting against long-time Iranian ally Bashar Assad. Reports also indicate that Assad too was complicit in ISIS's rising influence—even though ISIS was fighting to overthrow his regime. One proof of this came early this year, when an ISIS defector calling himself Murad told the *Telegraph* about his experience fighting in Assad's territory: "We were confident that the regime would not bomb us. We always slept soundly in our bases" (January 20).

Why would Iran and Syria support groups that work against its goals of dominating the Middle East?

Pinhas Inbari, an analyst at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, suggested that the underlying purpose of this alliance, howbeit temporary and fragile, was to compel the West to choose Assad as the lesser of two evils in Syria. Iran wanted the radical Islamist ISIS to become the face of the "Arab Spring" in Syria. It wanted these extreme radicals to be the ones plastered all over the Western media. And it worked. The radical face of ISIS helped make the Americans reluctant to arm the rebels in Syria—and it helped preserve Iran's junior partner in the Middle East, Bashar Assad.

It is not inconceivable that Iran is now using ISIS again in Iraq—this time to become the undisputed king of Iraq and to increase its clout as a global power.



Disturbing reports of ISIS'S brutality quickly emerged. A policeman was taken from his house in the middle of the night, and the abductors cut off his head with a knife. Masses of people were beheaded. People were executed, amputated and crucified. ISIS quickly became the most feared organization in the Middle East.

Then, on June 29, ISIS declared its territory a caliphate and renamed itself the Islamic State, indicating that these two nations are hoped to be only a small beginning of a future Islamic republic transcending national boundaries and ruled by a supreme, politico-religious leader, or

caliph—Abu Bakr al Baghdadi. The new Islamic State commanded all Muslims to pay obeisance to Baghdadi. In an Internet video posted on July 1, Baghdadi himself declared that his "caliphate" will demonstrate the "meaning of terrorism, and boots that will trample the idol of nationalism, destroy the idol of democracy and uncover its deviant nature." He called on Muslims to immigrate to the Islamic State and rallied Muslims across the globe to avenge all the wrongs committed against Islam, from China to Indonesia, Central African Republic to Myanmar—all the way to Europe. "This is my advice to you,"

he said. "If you hold to it, you will conquer Rome and own the world, if Allah wills."

The significance of that declaration becomes clear when viewed in context with biblical prophecy (sidebar, "Radical Islam's New Top Target: Rome"). Baghdadi's next immediate target, however, appears to be Iraq's capital, Baghdad.

But here is a startling truth. ISIS has become so unbelievably violent and brazen that *Iran* now looks tame by comparison. This fact is not lost on the Iranian mullahs.

On June 16, in a startling turn of events, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said America was "open to discussions if there is something constructive that can be contributed by Iran." The U.S. "would not rule out anything," he said. Because of ISIS'S dramatic rise, its radical nature and its threat to the Iraqi government that America installed, the U.S. is turning to its long-time mortal enemy—a nation that it has assured its allies it would contain—to intervene militarily in Iraq.

It is a win-win situation for Iran. If it sends in troops, it can literally conquer Iraq and install its own puppet government. If it instead chooses to hold off, Iraq descends into a destructive civil war that will leave it even more ripe for conquering and geopolitical domination.

Iran's point man in Iraq is Major General Ghasem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force, the special forces of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps, and considered a terrorist by the U.S.

Radical Islam's New Top Target: Rome

EATH TO AMERICA," RUNS THE USUAL REFRAIN OF RADIcal Islamists. They consider America to be the "great Satan," Israel the "little Satan." Their leaders fantasize about destroying New York and overrunning Jerusalem. But the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has a different focus for the next big target in global jihad.

When ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared on June 29 that the group had formed a "caliphate," there were none of these chants. He still hates the Jews, and America got a brief mention, but neither was his biggest long-term target.

"Rush, O Muslims, to your state," Baghdadi said. "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" (emphasis added).

Soon after, ISIS debuted its slick, sleek, professional-looking magazine, *Dabiq*. Once again, its focus was not

on taking down America, but demonstrated that ISIS's whole philosophy revolves around war with Europe and Rome.

According to the group's prophetic texts, Dabiq is the location of a pivotal battle in northern Syria between Islam and Europe. The magazine's first article describes how "the Romans" will land near Dabiq. An army of Muslims from Medina will defeat these Romans, the article says, "Then they will conquer Constantinople" (now Istanbul, the former capital of Turkey). The article says that in the ensuing struggle, Jesus will descend from heaven and lead the Islamic armies to victory. "According to the *hadith* [tradition], the area [of Dabiq] will play a historical role in the battles leading up to the conquests of Constantinople, then Rome," the article reads.

The rest of the magazine explains why Muslims must submit unconditionally to Baghdadi and rebel against other authority, and explains the necessity of founding a caliphate. The caliphate, it says, is just one step on the road to this confrontation with the armies of Europe. "May Allah protect this caliphate state and

This man has taken a lead role in efforts to mediate Baghdad's political crisis since ISIS overtook Mosul in June. "According to Shiite officials, the general has been organizing Iraq's military and Shiite militias to fight the insurgents while at the same time trying to organize Shiite factions on the formation of the next government," reported the Philadelphia Media Network on July 23. After meeting with Iraqi politicians during a 10-day trip in June, Soleimani returned to Tehran with a list of Shiite Iraqi candidates for the presidency, the Times of Israel reported. It is expected he will soon inform Iraqi Shiites of Iran's top choice of the post. Four years ago, using similar means, Iran successfully secured support for Nouri al-Maliki, Iraq's current prime minister; it could likely do so again for its new candidate of choice.

What an opportunity for Iran to exploit. And it is far from being a *coincidence* that this opportunity came via a RADICAL ISLAMIST organization Iran helped create.

Iran will take advantage of this situation when it thinks the timing is right. It knows the American people will not stand for military intervention in Iraq again. And President Obama doesn't want to be known as the president who lost Iraq to radical terrorists, especially after declaring the "end" of the Iraq War in 2011. He told the American people, "We're leaving behind a sovereign, stable and self-reliant Iraq." So America's leaders appear to view their last remaining option is to solicit help from a nation in the region with the military capability of defeating ISIS—Iran.

When this option surfaced, Western media jumped on the Iran-is-suddenly-our-friend bandwagon. As journalist Souad Mekhennet wrote for the *Washington Post*, ISIS is the best thing to happen to Iran-U.S. relations in years.

But nevertheless, the Iranians aren't in a hurry. They are content to let the situation deteriorate to the point where the West begs them to intervene.

And no wonder—Iran has lots more to gain in Iraq from all the chaos.

Nuclear Relations

Consider America's nuclear negotiations with Iran. America's official position is that negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program and negotiations with Iran to prop up Iraq will be handled as separate issues. But only the most naive believe that is possible.

Iranian officials have publicly stated that they believe the crisis in Iraq should make regional and global powers more accepting of Tehran's nuclear ambitions. "What Some Iranian officials already have said is that the crisis in Iraq should give them greater leverage on the nuclear matter," said William Tobey of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs in a June 19 testimony given at the House Armed Services Committee. Iran will not "kneel in submission" to the West, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif vowed on July 2, three weeks before the nuclear negotiations deadline. Two weeks after that, John Kerry said that he would be open to extending the nuclear talks with Iran again, something he had previously said was unacceptable.

Clearly it is the U.S., not Iran, that is in submission. Iran has little reason to acquiesce to American demands. Without Iran's help, oil-rich Iraq descends into utter chaos, taking what is left of American prestige and the global economy with it.

Because of the ISIS crisis and America's lack of will to fix its mess in Iraq, it is now in the astonishing position of turning for help to the terrorist-sponsoring rogue state that regards it as the Great Satan.

So expect the Iranian nuclear negotiations to go nowhere, and expect Iran to increase its control over Iraq and its government. Expect more chaos as Iran leverages its influence through radical Islamic terrorists. And expect the "king of the south" to emerge substantially empowered, awash with more oil, power and weapons than ever.



Since 1992, the *Trumpet* has told readers to watch Iran rise to dominate the Middle East. Now it is happening before your eyes. Visit thetrumpet.com/go/Iran to find out why we made that forecast.

continue guiding it until its legions fight the crusader armies who will gather near Dabiq," concludes its feature article.

Defeating Syrian President Bashar Assad, conquering Syria and capturing large portions of Iraq are, according to the article, merely the necessary buildup to this clash with Europe.

In both the *Dabiq* magazine and Baghdadi's speech, the enemies of ISIS are most frequently described as "crusaders." The magazine makes clear that it numbers the American troops in Iraq among the crusader forces; however, this is *Europe-focused* language—a departure from the less-specific terms like "infidels" or "unbelievers" usually heard in radical Islamic tirades. The Crusaders came from Europe, spurred by the pope in Rome.

Ultimately, ISIS could be a mere flash in the pan. In Mali, for example, radical Islamists made stunning conquests only to crumble once they gained the world's attention. But radical Islam will not leave the lands ISIS has taken, even if the group is defeated. This focus on Europe as an enemy will continue, and in adopting

it, ISIS is probably reflecting the beliefs already prevalent in the area. The language ISIS is using is not new; other preachers have made similar statements. After all, Rome is the center for Catholicism, Islam's largest competitor religion. ISIS is simply one of the first groups to rise to prominence with Europe as its top focus.

The Bible forecasts a final clash between a Vatican-led Europe and radical Islam led by Iran. Now we see a radical Islamic group declaring its will to fight Europe—"the Romans" and "crusaders." Radical Muslims see this clash as a major part of their version of the end of the world and the triumph of Islam, so they are training fighters to attack these crusading states. Such an attack could revolutionize Europe's view of Islam and the Middle East, the same way the 9/11 attack transformed America. This could bring the battle radical Islamists hope for. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

For more information on the coming clash between radical Islam and a united European superpower, read "The Crusades Are Critical History" (the Trumpet.com/go/5811).





Lessons from a failed socialist water program in Detroit apply well beyond the city limits. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

he United Nations says there is a humanitarian crisis in Detroit. It claims the city is violating its citizens' basic and fundamental "human right to water and other international human rights" by shutting off water to those who refuse to pay. "The households which suffered unjustified disconnections must be immediately reconnected," it states.

The *Guardian* newspaper sides with the UN report. Detroit cutting water service to households for non-payment is "economic shock therapy at its most ruthless and racist," said the paper (June 25).

Yes, Detroit is making global headlines. But for all the wrong reasons. Sadly, the lessons that should be learned are completely missed. And the policies that destroyed a magnificent city are promoted as solutions to national problems.



of Detroit's residents weren't paying their water bills.

What Happened?

In March, the city of Detroit revealed that a full *half* of its residents weren't paying their water bills. Of 300,000 accounts, almost 150,000 were delinquent.

It might seem odd that Detroit has among the costliest water rates in the country—despite its location adjacent to the greatest source of fresh water on Earth. But because so many people are not paying their fair share, the burden is shifted to paying customers. Rates are high because each paying customer is essentially paying for two people. Water rates are set to go up another 9 percent this year.

But the city's ability to pass on rate hikes reached the saturation point.

When water rates rise, fewer people can afford the water, so they stop paying. When enough people stop paying, politicians can raise rates all they want, but you can't get something from nothing. At 50 percent noncompliance, this is where Detroit is today.

Yet because the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is so heavily indebted (it owes over \$6 billion and cannot borrow more money), it needs to squeeze all it can from its few honest customers to keep the water flowing through thousands of miles of antiquated and leaky pipes. Otherwise the agency goes bankrupt, and the water goes off for everyone. And the agency *is* on the verge of bankruptcy—owing creditors an outrageous \$20,000 per water account! And that is if each of its 300,000 account holders actually pay their bills.

Not that DWSD's deadbeat customers, who currently owe \$120 million, will make much of a splash in the department's debt, but it needs to start somewhere.

So the city decided to do what logic, common sense, and economics demand—something it should have done decades ago—and what would have avoided this whole situation in the first place: Shut the water off.

What happened? Mass deaths to dehydration? Disease epidemics? Child welfare agents breaking down doors to take children away from parents who couldn't afford to provide water? No.

Media hysteria? Ridiculous United Nations reports focusing on spurious human rights violations in Detroit and ignoring actual human rights issues in places like Cambodia and Sudan? A resounding yes!

Humanitarian Disaster?

In May, Detroit sent out 46,000 cutoff notices to people who refused to pay their bills—some of them for eight years or more. What happened? Within 24 hours, 60 percent of people had paid their bills in full. Of those remaining, another 40 percent had paid within 48 hours. Consequences produce results.

Less than 10 percent of the accounts (4,531) actually ended up having their water cut off for any period. Of those addresses that did have their water cut, the large majority were vacant properties whose owners did not live there anymore. Of those people who did have their water cut off, about half eventually paid their bills on their own.

But even for those who legitimately couldn't pay, the city had welfare programs already in place to make sure they could have running water. These programs existed for years, but many people chose not to use them when they could, deciding instead just to not pay their bills at all. Seventeen thousand Detroit residents are now enrolled in such plans that base payments on each customer's financial situation and ability to pay.

"The majority of our customers [who] are in delinquency status, they just built a culture of, 'You're not making me pay—I am not going to pay,'" said DWSD deputy director, Darryl Latimer.

When the squeaky water faucets and non-flushing toilets illustrated that they were not just *entitled* to other people's services—and that if you don't work, you don't drink—people paid. Those who legitimately couldn't pay got the help they needed.

All those media sob stories carried by the *New York Times*, *Seattle Times*, *Huffington Post*, et al. about the poor single mother of multiple children, covered in tattoos and with dyed orange dreadlock hair, dressed totally inappropriately for *any* job, who is going back to school on government programs to study homeland security, but has all that threatened because her water was cut off because she can't afford to pay for it—and oh, the government is obviously racist and violating human rights to boot—look a little different after examining the facts.

Here is the reality in Detroit. People didn't pay because liberal-minded city do-gooders thought they were *showing love* to people by *not cutting their water off* when they did not pay. The city would just cover it. Other people would just pay a little more. *No harm done*.

But harm was done—to all involved: those who refused to pay, and those who were forced to pay for the deadbeats. And on top of that, the DWSD is now billions in debt to people it has little chance of repaying. How is that showing love?

The *entitlement mentality* in this once-great city formerly known for its entrepreneurial spirit became so ingrained that even *other government agencies* stopped paying their water bills. City-run golf

courses, a sports stadium, and the state fair grounds also reportedly owe the water department millions.

Human Rights

Detroit's crumbling city-owned electrical grid is evidence of this same destructive entitlement mentality. Last year, Kevin Orr, Detroit's emergency manager, said the city would shut down the utility after a string of high-profile power failures. The 100-year-old utility's massive debts, disintegrating transmission lines and old technology made the company, which was once valued in the hundreds of millions, less than worthless—despite having a monopoly to service government-owned commercial centers like Wayne State University, Detroit Public Schools, Joe Louis Arena, Cobo Hall and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Privately owned Detroit Edison will take over the customers.

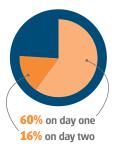
The Detroit Public Lighting agency is now a shell of its former self: peeling paint, dirty floors, empty offices. On a recent visit, Detroit reporter Charlie LeDuff described it this way: "It looked like a neutron bomb went off in 1959."

As LeDuff notes, the last time the grid was mapped, officials used a 1960s-style board with pins and colored string. In the last four decades, not a single dollar has been invested in upgrades. Nine employees are left to fix and maintain the 88,000 lights and 1,400 miles of electric line.

Why has Detroit Public Lighting collapsed—while privately owned Detroit Edison is thriving? Maybe it has something to do with the fact that, for one of these companies, customers who don't pay get their electricity turned off. For the other, having your neighbor pay for your "free" electricity became a human right. Guess which is which?

This type of thinking has so saturated what was once the 11th-biggest city in America that half of the entire city came to believe they were entitled to something they did nothing to earn. A city-wide culture of dependency resulted, with hundreds of thousands of people coming to rely on "free" water and sewer. Hence the massive shock and outrage when they were told it actually wasn't their right to have someone else pay to pump, filter, treat and deliver water so they could shower and water their lawns free. That it wasn't their right to have others pay for the wastewater to be carried away and treated again before being disposed of so disease and sickness doesn't spread. That someone else maintaining thousands of miles of water mains and almost 30,000 fire hydrants (which are routinely stolen for their scrap metal content) is not a human right you are born with. That someone else replacing broken water and sewer lines, and laying new lines is not a right you get—not to mention having other people provide electricity, Internet, gas, a roof over your head, public transportation, a phone and other modern amenities—simply by virtue of the fact that you breathe air.

In May, Detroit sent out 46,000 cutoff notices to people who refused to pay their bills—some of them for eight years or more. Within two days 76 percent of them had paid their bill.



\$6,000,000,000

Detroit Water

\$6 billion; its

and Sewerage

Department owes

owe \$120 million.

deadbeat customers

of the accounts

actually ended

up having their

water cut off for

any period.

The Detroit Mentality

The idea that the government is ruthlessly violating people's human rights in liberal Detroit is almost laughable. Detroit is a socialist mecca—a land of public unions, welfare opportunity and handouts. The city has almost 2,000 public assistance outlets providing cash assistance, food stamps, water, electricity, gas, rental and medical assistance to those who can show they need it. Union rights, minority rights, women's rights, LGBT rights—you can hardly find a city more concerned about fulfilling people's rights.

The only people not having their rights protected are the increasingly scarce Detroit upper-middleclass taxpayers who actually pays their taxes.

Detroit's high-minded mentality caused the city's collapse. The culture of entitlement and dependency caused its demise. Yes, there were other factors that contributed, like entrenched political corruption, criminal union pay and ridiculous pension packages. There was massive white flight from the city as automakers outsourced production. But what was the cause behind this? As the Big Three car manufacturers struggled with bankruptcy, why did Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Hyundai, Volkswagen, вмw, Daimler—practically every major vehicle manufacturer—not open a single factory in Detroit or elsewhere in Michigan, instead opting for other states like Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and the South? Why did GM and Ford open plants elsewhere?

In Detroit, the producers left when everyone became a taker.

For decades, the Detroit mentality has been "everyone needs to pay their fair share." What this really meant was sucking dry the producers and service suppliers, demanding that they subsidize the standard of living everyone took for granted. Detroit took and took and took from them until there wasn't even any water left. Economic reality disconnected the socialist water spigot.

And yet, even now, with Detroit collapsing, the same "social fairness" policies guaranteed to produce dependency and a culture of entitlement are implemented at the national level as supposed solutions to America's economic problems.

Detroit may be going through bankruptcy proceedings. Its debt load may be reduced. Its outlandish public servant pensions may be trimmed. Police and fire service will eventually be restored. But unless Detroit mentality is totally changed, unless the people of Detroit completely change their outlook on life and begin practicing a new way of life, the city will be back up the proverbial creek without a paddle.

There is only one way to fix Detroit—and America.

Another Way

"There are two main ways of life—two basic principles—two fundamental philosophies," explained

Herbert W. Armstrong in a February 1973 Plain Truth article. "One is the way of giving; the other of getting. One is love; the other lust. One believes it is more blessed to give than to receive. The other insists that acquiring, taking, accumulating, in the way of competition, leads to progress and happiness. The one way is God-centered; the other is self-centered. ... The one is the way of the divine nature; the other, the way of human nature."

This world—all civilization, not just Detroit—is based on the hostile, competitive, self-centered way. The way of get, as Mr. Armstrong characterized it. It is the way that is bankrupting cities and nations. Carried to the extreme, it threatens global extinction.

But there is hope for Detroit. Detroit actually has a brilliant future on the horizon! The World Tomorrow—the coming Kingdom of God, which this magazine proclaims—will bring universal prosperity, proper education, universal good health and universal peace to this desperate world. In the wonderful World Tomorrow, people will cease chasing the false values based on the way of get. People will learn the way to real happiness.

Jesus Christ is coming in full power to set up a new government on Earth! He is coming as the King of kings to rule all nations. He is coming to change human nature!

"I see a very bright future—just ahead!" wrote Mr. Armstrong. Jesus Christ "is coming to enforce the way of outgoing concern, or love, of giving, serving, sharing, helping, instead of grasping, taking and self-centeredness. He is coming to abolish war, competition, strife and violence. ... He is coming to clean up this filthy Earth. He is coming to restore the government of God as the all-powerful world government."

Look forward to the day that this whole world will be saved. God speed that day!



Order our free booklet The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like to read how the give way will transform this world.



HE

WORLD

The United States of Gomorrica

How Americans have transformed their morals—and why it matters to you. BY DENNIS LEAP

sat down in solitude and seriously thought about where the United States of America is headed? Have you given any thought to what America will be like in 5, 10 or 15 years? I believe I have something to tell you that will help motivate you to do just that.

When I was a boy in the 1950s, I was taught that the USA was *my* country, and that I had a personal responsibility to appreciate, love and protect it. I had some special training in this area. My parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles lived through the Great Depression—they were a tough lot with high morals.

Several of my uncles fought, endured and were victorious in World War II. I remember my mother's older brothers telling my brothers and me their personal war stories about fear, fighting and becoming courageous amid nearly insurmountable difficulties. They taught us the immense value of our American freedoms because of the heavy price that was paid to secure them. To the best of my ability, I tried hard to appreciate the fact that I lived in America.

Looking back on that time now, I know how special it was. America was robust and strong—the world's superpower. My neighborhood was full of happy families that actually associated and played together. I don't remember being afraid of being mugged, some intruder breaking into my house, neighborhood gang violence, or terrorist attacks on my city.

My oldest granddaughter is 12 years old. Her America is radically different than the one in which I grew up. In fact, it is headed for catastrophe. My little granddaughter has a lot more to fear than I ever did at her age. This should not be!

Can you be honest with yourself? The United States' political system has suffered a severed spinal cord and is severely handicapped. Our government no longer functions. Our economy is coughing up blood and is on the brink of collapse. What is even more frightful, our historic enemies, which lust for our destruction, are rising up and growing stronger daily.

There is a cause for every effect. Why has America (and our entire Western world) gotten so bad? Although a vast majority will likely not agree, it is time to identify the cause: the *pervasive* decline in our morals.

Are American Morals on the Rebound?

Some want you to believe that America is in the process of turning its morals around. "The United States remains beset by difficulties, political, economic and cultural. Some of the key social trends, however, are more positive. To study them provides hope that the country isn't, as one doomsayer declared in the 1990s,

slouching toward Gomorrah." That's what Bloomberg View's Al Hunt assured all Americans in "American Moral Values on the Rebound" (*New York Times*, Dec. 22, 2013). This was an obvious slam against Robert H. Bork's 1996 bestselling book, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline*.

With a gesture toward appearing sensible, Hunt does admit that the birth rate of Americans born to single mothers is troubling. Since 1965, that figure among blacks has tripled to 72 percent; the rate for whites has increased 10-fold to 29 percent, which is higher than the rates for blacks in 1965; the rate for Hispanics is

"It seems highly unlikely that a vigorous economy can be sustained in an enfeebled, hedonistic culture."

ROBERT BORK

currently 53 percent.

Yet, here is why Hunt is giddy: "Even so, an especially encouraging harbinger of change is the dramatic progress over the past two

The change between what American's thought was moral in 2001 and in 2014 HOWOSEXNALITY April 12 Sept. 1 Sept. 1 Sept. 2 Sept

Pornography

Who thinks pornography is morally acceptable?

19 percent of Americans over 55



49 percent of 18-to-34-yearold Americans



Teen Pregnancy

U.S. teen pregnancy and birth rate compared to other countries:

Canada x 2
France x 4
Germany x 8
Japan x 8

Nearly **1,000,000** teen girls get pregnant in the U.S. each year.

Almost **4 out of 10** U.S. women get pregnant at least once before age 20.

decades in reducing pregnancies and birthrates among teenagers. Although they remain higher than in most other countries, both rates have dropped about 40 percent in 20 years." While we can agree that reducing pregnancies and birthrates among teenagers is a good thing, let's be honest: These statistics do not mean there is a rebound in morality among American teens. Looking deeper into the facts makes my point.

What has lowered teen pregnancies and birthrates? "The magic combination of less sex and more contraception has contributed to this national success story," states Sarah Brown, the chief executive of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Experts like Brown say teens are waiting longer to have sex, having fewer partners, and using contraceptives more. "There is a growing social norm that teen pregnancy is not OK," Brown assures.

Think about what Brown is saying. Teens are waiting longer to have sex, are having sex with fewer partners and using more contraceptives. Where is the rebound in morality in that? And when was it ever widely accepted that teen pregnancy is OK?

The facts still staring Americans in the face are that the U.S. has the highest rates of teen pregnancy, birth and abortion in

the industrialized world. U.S. teen pregnancy and birth rates are nearly double those of Canada, four times those of France and Germany, and more than eight times those of Japan. Nearly 1 million teen girls get pregnant in the U.S. each year. Almost four out of 10 young women get pregnant at least once before they turn 20. Don't these facts show America leads the industrialized world in a *lack* of morality?

Americans Accepting of Immorality

In May this year, Gallup conducted its annual Values and Beliefs survey in the U.S. The polling group discovered that the American public has become more tolerant on a number of key moral issues. Respondents were asked, "Do you believe that, in general, the following are morally acceptable?" The table below shows the percentage of change between the years 2001 and 2014. Study the numbers.

- Divorce: 2001: 59%; 2014: 69%
- Sex between an unmarried man and woman: 2001: 59%; 2014: 66%
- Having a baby outside of marriage: 2002: 45%; 2014: 58%
- Homosexual relations: 2001: 40%; 2014: 58%
- Pornography: 2011: 30%; 2014: 31%

These survey results reveal the true state of America's moral health. It is not on the rebound—it is in serious decline. Gallup's results show a significant shift in acceptance of divorce (10 points), sex outside of marriage (7 points), having children outside of marriage (13 points) and homosexual relations (18 points). The *majority* of Americans view divorce, sex outside of marriage, having children outside of marriage and homosexual relations as morally acceptable. This is terrifying!

Even though the shift in the acceptance of pornography appears to be small, and those who think it is moral are not in the majority, Gallup discovered that there was a big difference among age groups in the acceptance of pornography. For example, only 19 percent of Americans over the age of 55 answered yes to the question about pornography—yet 49 percent of 18-to-34-year-olds, close to a majority, think pornography is *morally* acceptable!

As it turns out, Gallup discovered that Americans in the 18-to-34-year age group responded similarly on issue after issue. This means that as the older generation dies off, Americans will likely continue to become more socially liberal.

Gallup also discovered that moral tolerance among American Democrats has increased significantly on many issues, while Independents show a smaller shift in the same direction, and Republicans' views have changed little. For example, in 2003, 52 percent of Democrats said having a baby out of wedlock is morally acceptable (compared to 40 percent of Republicans and 61 percent of Independents). Yet this year, while Republicans and Independents were unchanged (40 and 60 percent, respectively), Democrats who say it is morally acceptable jumped to 72 percent—a 20-point increase!

Evil Is Now Called Good

In Slouching Towards Gomorrah, Judge Bork, who died in 2012, recorded his deep concerns that America was being led into serious moral decline by modern liberalism. Written over 18 years ago, much of this book is a prophetic-like look into our troubled 21st-century American culture. For example, one concept that modern liberalism has successfully promoted throughout American society that Bork discussed in his book is "defining deviancy up," meaning that "middleclass life"—with its higher standards of

moral behavior-"is portrayed as oppressive and shot through with pathologies." He quoted Charles Krauthammer as saying, "As part of the vast project of moral leveling, it is not enough for the deviant to be normalized. The normal must be found to be deviant." This is precisely what has happened to American moral values.

In the '50s, divorce, sex outside of marriage, having children out of wedlock.

homosexual and lesbian sexual relations and pornography were considered deviant. Gallup's May 2014 survey shows that the majority of Americans consider what was once deviant as morally acceptable. Do Americans now consider sexual

abstinence prior to marriage, heterosexual marriage and fidelity in marriage to be deviant?

Tragically, in many cases the answer is yes. In fact, modern liberals are waging a full frontal attack to destroy traditional marriage—one man wedded to one woman.

Looking into our time now, the Prophet Isaiah said, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). Isaiah was speaking specifically about America's moral health. When a majority of Americans believe that "anything goes" concerning sex, isn't that calling evil good? When a nation falls into that way of living, Isaiah warns that woe will follow.

Robert Bork viewed American society as sickly hedonistic, meaning that the majority of individuals are focused solely on personal pleasure. Bork also believed America's moral wretchedness would destroy its economy. "[I]t seems highly unlikely that a vigorous econ-

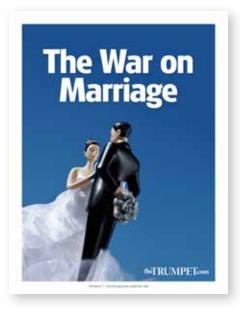
omy can be sustained in an enfeebled, hedonistic culture," he wrote. When we consider all the facts, could it be that Judge Bork was more right than Al Hunt wants us to believe?

"Analysis demonstrates that we continue slouching towards Gomorrah The imperative question is whether there is any possibility of avoiding the condition of Gomorrah," Bork wrote in the final chapter of his book. Human history shows that once a

society slips into such terminal degeneration, it does not come back. America has passed that point of no return. When you consider that 58 percent of Americans believe that homosexual relations are "morally acceptable," hasn't America

ARE YOU IN THE MORAL MINORITY?

Ideals cherished for generations are now fringe beliefs. Learn what's behind it and where it is taking the nation, read our free e-book The War on Marriage. Download it today by visiting



become "Gomorrica"? The Bible shows that catastrophe is looming on the horizon (2 Peter 2:6).

Take the time to examine your moral values. Are you concerned about the moral direction of the country? Or have you slipped into the belief that there are no moral absolutes? You need to understand the danger in such thinking—both to you personally and to your nation!

We have a booklet you need to read. It exposes the agenda behind this rapid shift in society's morals. It reveals where this trend is taking us, and what you can do as an individual to safeguard yourself and your family. It is called Redefining Family. It will help you make sense of this revolutionary trend, and show you the path toward a strong family

and a healthy moral and spiritual life.

RELATIVISM

Belief that people's actions are subject to perception and neither objectively right nor objectively wrong.

Sound familiar?

These philosophies permeate America's

modern, not-so-moral beliefs.

HISTORICISM

Belief that people's actions should be interpreted in their context and not according to universal truths.

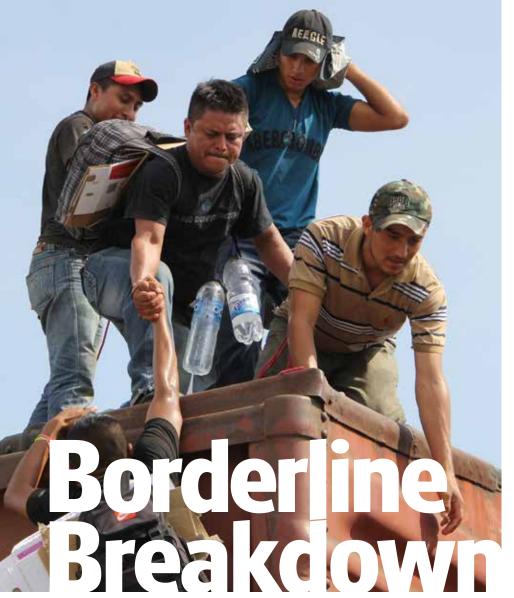
HEDONISM

Lifestyle that equates pleasure with good.

DEFINING DEVIANCY UP

Describing aberrations as normal, and describing normalcy as aberrant.





Open-door policies have led to a surge of illegal immigration into the United States. Where is this leading? BY STEPHEN FLURRY

MERICA HAS A PROBLEM at its southern border. Year after year, thousands of immigrants have crossed it illegally to seek economic opportunity, a better life, customers for drugs and/or victims for crime and terror. But something has changed; something is much different—and far worse.

Last year, the number of children who crossed the border illegally and unaccompanied suddenly quintupled. That new total will likely double again by the end of this year. And by the end of 2015, it may balloon

by more than 50 percent yet again. Right now, tens of thousands of these children are flooding over the border. They are occupying and overwhelming border law enforcement, cramming temporary shelters, overflowing the legal system and pouring into permanent residency in the United States.

With so many children in danger—exposed to the elements, to health risks, to common criminals, to kidnappers, to enslavers, to sex abusers, to drug smugglers and to human traffickers—this crisis demands a response. With thin border security dissipating further—allowing immigrants, criminals and even terrorists openings into the homeland—this crisis demands a response. And with the long-term risks of a demographic dominated by illegal immigration—this crisis demands a response.

PILING ON Immigrants clamber onto a train heading for the Mexico/U.S. border.

The burning question is: What will that government response be, and what does this mean for America's immediate future?

The Crisis at Hand

Before 2013, the number of unaccompanied minors illegally entering the United States each year averaged fewer than 8,000. Last year, that number leaped to 40,000. This year, it will likely reach 90,000. Next year, it is projected to rise as high as 142,000.

Historically, the vast majority of America's illegal immigrants have come from Mexico. Apprehended Mexicans can more or less be transported back home expeditiously. Children from other countries cannot. And for the first time, the majority of the children slipping across the border are coming from Central America—specifically, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Shelters for these children are overwhelmed, and the government has opened several military bases to accommodate the overflow. Overcrowded detention centers have also suffered the spread of infectious diseases including chicken pox, staph infections, scabies, and even rabies and swine flu.

Meanwhile, Border Patrol officers who intercept these illegals (many of whom just turn themselves in) must then process them, meaning that they do less patrolling and more babysitting. Some report that as many as 7 in 10 officers are no longer actually patrolling the border. This leaves an already out-of-control area wide open to cartels and other criminals to traffic more illegal immigrants; more slaves; more weapons; and more marijuana, cocaine, meth, heroin, LSD, and ecstasy, allowing them to spread their tentacles throughout the country. And, as the wry joke goes, the best way for terrorists to smuggle a nuclear weapon into the United States is to hide it in a bale of marijuana.

This escalating issue caused the White House to admit that the "influx of unaccompanied alien children (UAC) across the southwest border of the United States has resulted in an urgent humanitarian situation requiring a unified and coordinated federal response" (June 2).

That sounds good. But why has the situation been allowed to deteriorate to this

point? Something still isn't right here. That something is the federal response.

Not the Whole Problem

One factor contributing to this immigration emergency dates back to a law enacted during the Bush administration in 2008. This law mandates that illegal minors from countries other than Mexico or Canada must appear before a judge rather than being immediately deported. The law was designed to protect children from being sent back to nations plagued with violence. However, the real-world result is a huge backlog of cases that can take years to process. And now record numbers of non-Mexican immigrant children are streaming across the border. That means record numbers of children must stay and be processed. These children don't even need to dodge American authorities when they enter the country. When caught, they are often sent to live with relatives who already reside in America, and stay for years waiting for the courts, which are slow and reluctant to deport.

The percentage of illegal immigrants sent back to their home countries did drop after this law was enacted. However, it isn't the whole story. A law enacted six years ago does not explain what has driven Central American and Mexican children to begin streaming across the southern border in unprecedented numbers over the past two years.

Why the surge in illegal immigration among children? Why has the influx suddenly spiked under the Obama administration? Why hasn't the president reduced the flow of illegal immigrants?

The startling possibility is that he's not even trying.

Legislative Loopholes

On June 15, 2012, President Barack Obama announced a new initiative. Not to secure the border; not to crack down on cartels; not to modify any abused laws; not to improve enforcement of laws; not to benefit legal immigrants, but to "lift the shadow of deportation" from eligible illegal immigrants. His initiative was to give illegal immigrants the opportunity to live and work in America without fear of being deported.

The directive made certain immigrants eligible for work permits, Social Security cards, driver's licenses and similar benefits offered to citizens and legal immigrants. More than 500,000 immigrants benefitted from this executive action, known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

This past June, the administration laid out guidelines for these immigrants to defer deportation for yet another two years. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced, "Despite the acrimony and partisanship that now exists in Washington, almost all of us agree that a child who crossed our border illegally with a parent, or in search of a parent or a better life, was not making an adult choice to break our laws, and should be treated differently than adult law-breakers" (June 5).

This executive action only applies to immigrants who have been in America for longer than five years, but its timing closely correlates to the recent flood of child immigrants. Some children even now go to border agents and beg to be arrested. Their reasoning is that if President Obama won't deport the thousands of immigrant children already here, he surely

won't deport them either. And that reasoning is pretty sound.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, a Virginia Republican, called the immigration surge "an administration-made disaster." "Word has gotten out around the world about President Obama's lax immigration enforcement policies and it has encouraged more individuals to come to the United States illegally," he said.

Policy: The Problem, Not the Solution

The Obama administration has deflected accusations that its lenient immigration policies have caused this recent surge. The president blames the 2008 law and poor conditions in Central America. But Border Patrol agents who actually question hundreds of immigrants in person get a different answer.

Border agents in the Rio Grande valley of Texas, which currently receives the most illegal immigration traffic, wrote a report revealing that an incredible 95 percent of those interviewed said they came because they knew they would be allowed

The Southern **Border Problem** —in Mexico

The influx of unaccompanied minors crossing our southern border is primarily coming from Central America. That means that before these illegals get to America's open border, they have to cross Mexico's southern border first.



In July, CNN correspondent Gary Tuchman reported from the Guatemala-Mexico border, where many of the illegal immigrants entering the United States begin their journey. He showed just how easy it is for illegals to make it into Mexico. The border police at the Guatemala-Mexico border were not only friendly, he said, they encouraged immigrants to travel into Mexico!

On July 7 the presidents of Mexico and Guatemala held a joint press conference to announce an agreement made that will make it easier for those making the illegal journey to the United States from Central America to cross into Mexico. According to Examiner.com, "The Southern Border Program to Improve Passage, will provide for more border checkpoints along Mexico's border with Guatemala, and offer more protection and even emergency medical care to those making their way north. The illegal aliens will receive a so-called Regional Visitor's Card, according to El Universal" (July 9).

Of course, Mexico would never agree to an arrangement that called for immigrants to settle in Mexico City or Monterrey. But it's quite happy to send the immigrants on through, knowing they will ultimately become America's problem.

"The official announcement only confirms what many of us have known all along," the article continued: "The current chaos on the border which the Obama administration has sympathetically (and dishonestly) characterized as a 'humanitarian crisis,' only exists due to 15 collusion between the governments of Mexico, Guatemala and likely the United States."



to stay. "The main reason the subjects chose this particular time to migrate to the United States was to take advantage of the 'new' U.S. 'law' that grants a 'free pass' ... to female adult OTMS [non-Mexican immigrants] traveling with minors and UACS," the report states. "The information is apparently common knowledge in Central America and is spread by word of mouth, and international and local media."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection statistics back this up. For most of the last decade, the yearly number of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras who were apprehended while crossing into the United States was fewer than 4,000. But in fiscal year 2012, that number suddenly more than doubled to 10,146. Last fiscal year, it doubled to 20,805. By June of this year, it has nearly doubled again, to 39,133. Unaccompanied minors from Mexico rose from 13,974 in 2012 to 17,240 last year.

"Why do they come?" Charles Krauthammer asked. "The administration pretends it's because of violence and poverty. Nonsense. When has there not been violence and poverty in Central America? ... The new variable is Obama's unilateral (and lawless) June 2012 order essentially legalizing hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants who came here as children. Message received in Central America. True, this executive order doesn't apply to those who came after June 15, 2007. But the fact remains that children coming across now are overwhelmingly likely to stay" (July 10).

President Obama has made many statements about what he admits is now a "humanitarian crisis." But he denies that his policies

have caused it. He has called for a "unified and coordinated federal response," but that response has not been and is not likely to be what millions of American citizens are hoping for.

Lying

"The journey is unbelievably dangerous for these kids," Obama told a press conference on June 30. "The children who are fortunate enough to survive it will be taken care of while they go through the legal process, but in most cases that process will lead to them being sent back home."

Not true. In "most cases" the children are *not* deported. For example, based on statistics, here is what will actually happen to the 41,000 children who were not sent right back across the border over the past nine months: They will be processed and issued a "Notice to Appear" court order that gives a date to appear before an immigration judge. Then almost all of them will be released to live with relatives in the U.S. in the meantime. When their court date finally comes, nearly half of them won't even show up. And even among those who do, the majority will be granted amnesty and allowed to stay.

"U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data show 46 percent of minors who initially ask for asylum are approved by a case officer," Fox News reported on June 27. "Among those who are referred [to] an immigration judge, 74 percent of asylum claims are approved. That data, presented in House hearings ... seems to undermine the president's claim."

In Spanish, the government-issued "Notice to Appear" court orders are called *permisos*—meaning *permission* or *permit*.

That alone suggests what seems to be a universally accepted truth: An immigrant who is issued *permisos* will ultimately be allowed to stay.

Congressman Pat Meehan, a Pennsylvania Republican, said it bluntly at a June 24 congressional meeting: "We're dealing with children, and we get it. But we ought to not be leaving the American people with the false impression that somehow the system is going to work and actually lead to removals. Once those children are here, they're staying here."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry went a step further, suggesting President Obama has an ulterior motive for letting the current immigration crisis unfold. "I have to believe that when you don't respond in any way that you are either inept or you have some ulterior motive of which you are functioning from," he told ABC on July 6.

The president has not discouraged young illegal immigrants; instead, he has made it clear that young illegal immigrants will be treated differently in America—and they know it. Coming to America now means the possibility of free citizenship, free health care and welfare benefits. And so they come. By the tens of thousands.

Government Collusion

Fox News's Todd Starnes went to the southern border and spoke with immigration workers there. He wrote an exposé about the crisis that detailing not only the escalating problems in the border states, but the government's attempts to hide them.

"A government-contracted security force threatened to arrest doctors and nurses if they divulged any information about the contagion threat at a refugee camp housing illegal alien children at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas," he reported on July 2. Several of these workers spoke to Starnes in spite of the order to keep quiet. They told him that they were tending to children, many of whom had measles, scabies, chicken pox or strep throat. When they cared for the children, security agents confiscated their cell phones and other communication devices.

A psychiatric counselor and a former nurse at the camp "said their superiors tried to cover up the extent of the illnesses," Starnes wrote. One counselor kept a detailed journal. Federal agents found out about it and tried to confiscate

it from her, albeit unsuccessfully.

In an effort to alleviate overcrowding in Texas, some children are being sent to other states like California and Oklahoma. How are they being transported? A nurse told Starnes she "became especially alarmed because their files indicated the children had been transported to Lackland on domestic charter buses and airplanes." "[W]ere these kids transported to the camps before or after they were deloused?" Starnes asked. "Anyone who flies the friendly skies could be facing a public health concern."

One Border Patrol union representative in California told ABC 10 News that massive amounts of manpower are needed to process and secure these illegal immigrants, which means fewer officers are actually in the field patrolling the border. This man apparently had to defy a gag order in order to reveal what is really happening.

Fundamental Transformation

A June 9 *Washington Times* editorial identified the bigger picture of what this ongoing, solvable-yet-escalating immigration crisis means for the nation as a whole: "The children's surge is another consequence of the president making good on his vow to 'fundamentally transform' America."

"It is a direct consequence of the president's illegal actions," Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican, told Breitbart. "The parents think, *If I send my child [to the U.S.]*, my child will have amnesty" (June 6).

President Obama has requested \$3.7 billion to deal with this crisis. His administration says most of the money will go to the "care, feeding, and transportation costs of unaccompanied children and family groups," according to a July 10 statement to Congress by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson. This money will manage the ongoing crisis—and do nothing to solve the problem.

"Meanwhile, the one thing Obama could do—push hard to change the law forbidding the quick return of young immigrants from noncontiguous countries—is not on the table," Byron York wrote for the *Washington Examiner* on July 15.

It's not on the table because his administration *is not interested in fixing the problem*. It blames Republicans for the crisis, even as it refuses to enforce EXISTING laws on illegal immigration. The Obama administration *doesn't want* a secure border.



An insecure border isn't just an issue of sovereignty, demographics, crime, child suffering, drugs or cartel violence. It's also an issue of vulnerability to terrorists.

This 2,000-mile-long security breach—and the government's lenient response to it—is allowing drug cartels and gang members to sneak into the United States in the absence of Border Patrol officers who have been pulled away from their field duties. That's what Laredo Border Patrol Union spokesman Hector Garza said—and he apparently defied a gag order from the Obama administration in order to do so.

Of the thousands of immigrants from countries other than Mexico who cross the border each year, hundreds slip in from nations that are known state sponsors of terror. One local reporter in Atlanta unearthed federal records from a detention center near Phoenix, Arizona, that documented illegals from nations including Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan and Yemen.

"We have left the back door to the United States open," said former Arizona congressman J. D. Hayworth. "We have to understand that there are people who definitely mean to do us harm who have crossed that border."

A 2006 congressional report confirmed that members of Hezbollah have crossed into the United States via the southwest border. Military jackets had been found near the border bearing the words "martyr ... way to eternal life," as well as images of a plane crashing into the twin towers. According to the report, terrorists travel to South America, learn to speak Spanish, then come across the border, blending in with other illegals. A few known terrorists spotted in places like Atlanta were believed to have entered this way.

Robert Mueller, then director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified before Congress in 2005: "The FBI has received reports that individuals from countries with known al Qaeda connections have attempted to enter the U.S. illegally using alien smuggling rings and assuming Hispanic appearances."

Rep. John Culberson, a Texas Republican, questioned Mueller: "My concern is individuals from countries with known connections changing their identities, coming here under a false Hispanic identity or other identity for reasons to hurt the United States because they know that is a point of entry they can get in to the United States without much difficulty."

Mueller later responded, "I am not certain how many instances there might have been. ... It is a tremendous concern to us, and I know it is of tremendous concern to Homeland Security, and we are working together to identify those smuggling organizations and to take them out of business."

The terrorist threat is real, according to Rep. Matt Salmon, an Arizona Republican. "It is a serious threat," Salmon told World News Group on June 10. "There are many, many reasons for us to keep that border secure."

Liberal "progressives" envision a world without borders. They want open borders. They don't want to send anyone home—certainly not children. They want amnesty for all illegal aliens. They want the federal government to handle the situation indeed, not by locking the

door, but by taking it off its hinges! This is what they have vowed to do from the very beginning—to fundamentally TRANSFORM the United States of America.

And so, the all-out assault on America's southern border will

See **BORDERLINE** page 33 ➤



The Road to Residency

This chart shows why so many unaccompanied minors head for America. Here is their pathway from south of the U.S. border to their almost certain residency in the United States.

How old are unaccompanied minors?

Unaccompanied minors under the age of 2 detained at the border.

Minors under age 14 Minors ages 15-17



Strained resources

The influx of unaccompanied illegal minors impacts more than just the border states.

Confirmed illegal alien relocation sites in the U.S.

Billion dollars spent on temporary shelter and food for illegal immigrants in 2014

Thousand pairs of men's underwear ordered by the HHS in 2014

WELCOME O AMERICA!



EL SALVADOR

GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

MEXICO

Minors are targeted and offered assistance to get to America.

They are prepped on key phrases to tell U.S. authorities.

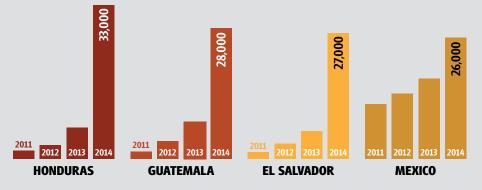
Southern U.S. Border

Minors turn themselves in to U.S. authorities. They claim they are fleeing violence. UNITED STAT
U.S. law allows

U.S. law allows minors to be held maximum of 72

The law prohib immediate depo unaccompanied countries other tha Mexican minors are

Only 1,400 minors



SOUTHERN

MEXICO

BORDER

Minors

head for U.S.

from Central

America cross

into Mexico and

Origin of unaccompanied alien minors 2011-2014

Almost 100 percent of illegal unaccompanied minors originate from these four countries.

Minors from Mexico are deported. Minors who make it from other Latin American countries largely remain indefinitely in the U.S.

(2014 estimate based on statistics from the first six months of the year)

On the border

How do border security agents spend their time?



70 percent of border patrol agents care for minors instead of patrolling the border. Tasks include making baby formula, changing diapers, cooking food, cleaning and decontaminating cells, and assisting minors as they bathe.

1,954

Miles of patrolled border between the U.S. and Mexico



for a

hours.

its the rtation <u>of</u>

minors from

n Mexico.

deported.



In the Courts

The judicial system is overwhelmed.

360

Thousand cases back-logged in federal immigration court system



87 percent of cases involving minors filed in the last five years remain unprocessed.



46 percent of unaccompanied minors will not appear at their court hearing.

that this while

Minors not from Mexico
are sent to overwhelmed
Department of Health and
Human Services processing
facilities—old schools,
churches, community centers
and military bases that are
used to house the influx.
Minors are given a court date
and legal representation.

HHS facilities are not secure. Many minors walk away freely.

85 percent of minors are released to relatives in the U.S. Most of the rest are released to the custody of "sponsors" while they wait for court dates. The average wait time is three to five years. The immigration/deportation status and background of their relatives or "sponsors"

46 percent of these minors never show up for their court date. These simply disperse into the populace.

Of those who show up at court, about half are allowed to stay.

A few are deported, but no data exists on where the rest go. Still in U.S.?

88,000 unaccompanied minors will enter the U.S. this year.

At current rates, fewer than 4,400 of them will eventually be deported.

from Central America were deported in 2013—about 5 percent of those who appeared in court.





are not checked.

Diseases migrate too

The number of reported diseases brought to the U.S. by unaccompanied minors is a growing threat.



DILEMMA Transportation of minors to processing facilities exposes the public to once-eradicated diseases. **EXAMPLE** A bus convoy of 140 illegal minors brought to Murieta, California, contained 40 cases of active scabies and head lice.

DILEMMA Processing facilities are overcrowded. Diseases spread among detainees.

EXAMPLE Swine flu, chicken pox, staph infections, scabies, tuberculosis, rabies, leprosy and syphilis have all been detected.





The Russian president's provocations are getting bolder, but nobody is standing up to him. He is fulfilling an extremely important role in global events—and it was specifically foretold in the Bible! **BY GERALD FLURRY**

ALAYSIA AIRLINES FLIGHT MH17 WAS SHOT DOWN by a surface-to-air missile in eastern Ukraine on July 17. The tragedy killed 298 people in what was either a disgusting mistake made by some of Russian President Vladimir Putin's zealots, or an intentional act of terrorism. Either way, Putin created the conditions that led to the disaster and bears responsibility.

The outcry from the West was loud, but toothless. And Putin didn't back down or show even a hint of remorse. He was utterly unfazed by Western protests over the tragedy. Instead, he and his government offered the most outlandish explanations for the downed civilian plane that you can imagine!

At the crash site, things were even worse. "[T]here are indications that vital evidence has not been preserved in place," said Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai two days after the attack. He said officials were "deeply concerned that the crash site has not yet been properly secured." Report after report confirmed that it was pro-Russia forces in Ukraine, which Putin covertly commands, who were tampering with evidence and obstructing investigation. It all seemed designed to give Putin time to cover his tracks.

Still the West did nothing! America enacted some very weak economic sanctions against some Russian companies. If there

was any doubt that this response was too feeble to cause Putin and his followers any concern, proof came quickly. Within just a few days, pro-Russia forces shot down two Ukrainian fighter jets—just 16 miles from the crash site of the MH17!

Putin knows the West is weak! He doesn't fear other nations. He is totally undeterred in his quest to destabilize Ukraine. He is single-handedly preventing that former Soviet republic from aligning itself with Europe. This year he redrew the map of Europe by making Crimea—what was a semi-autonomous part of Ukraine—officially part of Russia. He is steadily rebuilding the Soviet Empire.

Under President Putin's reign, nuclear-armed Russia is transforming its military machine into a modern, technological, 21st-century force. Through heavy-handed tactics, Putin has not only brought Russia back into play as a world power, he has also secured his position at the nation's helm by getting a choke hold on Russian media and emasculating Russian parliament.

The question that is becoming more relevant every day is this: Who is Vladimir Putin, and why is he having such a deep impact on global affairs?

This world has a lot of authoritarian rulers. But Vladimir Putin is one we need to keep a particularly close eye on. His track record, his nationality and his ideology indicate that *he has already fulfilled a linchpin Bible prophecy* that was recorded millennia ago.

A Prophesied 'Prince'

Back around A.D. 90, the Apostle John recorded an amazing prophecy: "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand; and I heard the number of

them" (Revelation 9:16). That means an army of 200 million men! That is more people than were alive in the world when that prophecy was recorded. This is an end-time prophecy that we are certain to see fulfilled very soon.

The Bible gives some important details about this largest army ever assembled on Earth. It tells us which nations will contribute soldiers to it. It shows it will include the combined forces from

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

A BUK-2 surface-to-air missile launcher similar to the one used to shoot down Flight MH17



WRECKAGE A rescuer stands on the site of the crash of Malaysian airliner MH17. All 298 people on board the plane died.

several Asian nations. It refers to this Asian confederacy as the "kings of the east" (Revelation 16:12). It also reveals that it will have *one lead country*—and one individual at the head.

A prophecy in Ezekiel 38 gives us some of these important details. "And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and *prophesy against him*" (Ezekiel 38:1-2). These verses *begin* in the latter days (verses 8, 16) before the Great Tribulation, the Day of the Lord and Christ's Second Coming.

Scholars generally agree that "Gog" is Russia, and that "the land of Magog" includes China. The descendants of Meshech and Tubal have been found together throughout history. In Assyrian and Greek histories, Meshech appears as *Musku*, *Muski* or *Mushki*—all names related to the Russian spelling of Moscow, as you can read in the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. What about Tubal? On the eastern side of the Ural Mountains lies the city of Tobolsk, named after the Tobol River, derived from Tubal. Tobolsk was once the seat of Russian government over Siberia and was basically considered Russia's Asian capital.

One other Russian people is mentioned in Ezekiel 38:2. There is controversy over how the Hebrew word *rosh* should be translated in this verse. The King James Version uses the adjective "chief." But the correct rendering (used by the Moffatt, New King James and others) uses the word not as an adjective, but as a proper noun: *Rosh*. Thus, that verse should read, "the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal."

Rosh was the ancient name of Russia, once called Rus. Many

encyclopedias and commentaries (such as the *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary*) recognize this. So who is this "prince" of Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk? The use of all three names states that this is an individual ruler of *all* the peoples of Russia, from the west to the east. EZEKIEL'S COMMAND TO "PROPHESY AGAINST *HIM*" FURTHER INDICATES A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL.

When you study these scriptures alongside current events revealing modern Moscow's imperialist direction, you see that Vladimir Putin *could well become the leader* of that gigantic army of the East. At least we know he was prophesied to raise up a large part of that army! I strongly believe Vladimir Putin is going to lead the 200 million-man army. Just look at the power he already has.

Can you think of any other Russian politician who could become so powerful and have the will to lead Russia into the crisis of crises? I see nobody else on the horizon who could do that. And only a tiny few years remain for the *prince of Rosh* to appear!

Such a man doesn't appear overnight. It takes years for even a strong-willed leader to gain such control. Vladimir Putin already has the power—and the will to use it. I believe there is *not* enough time for a competitor to arise and challenge him. Over 80 percent of his people support his leadership.

This much is absolutely certain: The restoring of Russia's power by Vladimir Putin—the prince of Russia—was prophesied! He has already solidly allied Russia with China. The prophecy about the prince of Russia includes that *main* alliance.

Other nations are leaning toward an alliance with Russia. Several of them are prophesied to join.

The only question is whether or not Putin personally finishes the entire prophecy.

The ending of that mighty "kings of the east" powerhouse is also prophesied. It should fire the imagination and inspire every person who understands this article!

'God's Army'

Details about this massive army are revealed in passages such as Revelation 9:13-21, Revelation 16, Daniel 11, Jeremiah 50 and Joel 2. In verse 11 of Joel 2, this 200 million-man Asian force is actually called *God's* army. God is the one who is raising up this war machine! Why?

God is going to use this colossal Asian force to confront the military of united German-led Europe, which will also be on the scene at this time. It will obliterate Europe, but not the main European armies. These armies will meet to fight at Armageddon, but Christ will bring them to Jerusalem to fight Him and be defeated. This is God's punishment on the Europeans for their sins—especially for their brutal treatment of His people Israel, specifically the nations of America, Britain and the Jewish nation (e.g. Revelation 18:5-6; Jeremiah 50:29-31).

Current events show this army taking shape already. You can see it in Putin's growing authoritarianism, and also in his outreach to other Asian powers. Russia has supplied China with many military armaments over the last decade or so; it also helped the Chinese go nuclear. For many years the Russians have been allied with China, at least to some degree.

But there will also be other powers involved. Ezekiel's prophecy says the Russia-led army will include

"Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya ... Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people" (Ezekiel 38:5-6). *Gomer* refers to Japan, which wields some of the world's most advanced weaponry and technology. *Ethiopia* and *Libya* should be translated "Cush" and "Phut." Though some of Cush and Phut migrated to African nations, the rest settled in parts of India. The context of this passage shows that it refers to modern-day Indians (and perhaps Pakistanis) rather than Africans.

This is significant because India has a population of 1.2 billion people—plus an advanced nuclear arsenal! When you put

Think about the fact that God calls this Asian force His army. It shows who is really orchestrating these cataclysmic events. Is it Vladimir Putin? No, it is the Almighty God.

India and Japan together with Russia and China, it is easy to see how an army of 200 million soldiers could be formed. With other Asian nations joining in, you quickly reach combined populations of 2.5 to 4 billion people! Under extreme circumstances like those described in these end-time prophecies, it is not hard to imagine one in 10 or 20 people going to war.

We need to deeply think about the fact that God calls this Asian force *HIS* army. It shows who is really orchestrating all of these cataclysmic events, and who is really behind the overall picture. Is it Vladimir Putin? *No, it is the Almighty God!*

The Armageddon Armies

This immense war between European and Asian forces will end in the return of Jesus Christ! But here is something shocking: Even after most of Earth's population has been personally afflicted by nuclear war and complete destruction, the survivors will *still* be unwilling to turn to God! Revelation 11:15-18 show that, as Christ descends to Earth, the nations will be wrathful toward Him. What is left of the European and Asian armies will actually join forces to *fight against Christ* after He returns.

Revelation 17:12-14 and Daniel 8:25 prophesy that Christ will defeat these powers. The conclusion of that battle will mark the beginning of a peaceful and prosperous new age for the entire Earth!

"After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them" (Ezekiel 38:8). "AFTER MANY DAYS" (several years), Gog and his allies make another attack on Jerusalem. This occurs after Israel has been "brought back from the sword" and is ruled by Christ from Jerusalem.

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 discuss a time before and after the coming of the Messiah.

God's people must warn the world for the Creator because of this terrible, terrible future. He commands, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in

my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand" (Joel 2:1). This is a message for "every inhabitant on Earth," the *Anchor Bible* says. The alarm and the warning must go out! There is no time to lose.

Verse 2 shows that this prophecy is about Gog and his allies, and the worst catastrophe in mankind's history: "A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations."

Verse 3 says a "fire devoureth before them." What kind of fire? Look at the context: "[A]nd behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them." Not even a blade of grass is going to escape them. This is clearly talking about a NUCLEAR ATTACK!

A Garden of Eden lies before them, but after they have passed over it, only a barren wasteland remains. Can you imagine such a thing happening on this Earth? Well, if you look around and see the choices our nations are making, you would *expect* that to happen. Just look at how rapidly we are proliferating nuclear weapons! Russia, China, India and Pakistan all have nuclear bombs. The Pakistanis will probably be allied with Gog, and India almost certainly will.

Verse 6 says that "all faces shall gather blackness." This is a bleak and sorrowful time. "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining" (verse 10). This describes a *nuclear winter*. People won't even see the stars because of the nuclear fallout.

Envy Spawns an Uprising

If you study Ezekiel 38 and 39, you see that much of this prophecy takes place *after* Christ's Second Coming. These chapters make plain that the end-time "kings of the east" will also play a key role in a *second* end-time war! The first is just *before* the return of Jesus Christ. The second is a short number of years *after* it.

Ezekiel 38 makes plain that after Jesus Christ defeats the European and Asian armies in the battle at Jerusalem, He will allow the surviving Asian forces to return to their homelands. Ezekiel 38:4 states, "I [God] will turn thee back" in the first Jerusalem battle. (But in the second battle of Jerusalem, He destroys all of their armies, as we will see.) Then Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, will gather His scattered people, the end-time descendants of Israel, around Jerusalem. He will start His global restoration by blessing that area.

As the years go by, the Asian powers start to become envious of all the wealth they see in Jerusalem. They see a prosperous but *unarmed* area—and, in another burst of rebellion, decide they want to take it. So they muster their forces for one final attempt to overthrow Christ's rule in the Holy City. God allows them to come into the Holy Land. But their plan is doomed!

This second attack by a Gog-led army might involve a somewhat smaller number of soldiers than the earlier 200 millionman army. However, the populations of these Asian nations are so large that, even after their defeat in the battle at Jerusalem, it

may not take very long for them to replenish their numbers and to be back around 200 million.

But why will God allow this rebellion to happen? It is for a very clear reason!

The prophecy continues with God telling Ezekiel to "prophesy and say unto Gog ... thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army" (verses 14-15). Then verse 16 gets to the purpose behind this. It shows why God allows this attack: "[A]nd I will bring thee against my land, That the heathen may know me"

How is God going to use this situation to ensure that the rebellious peoples of the world finally know Him? By speaking the only language they understand: *the language of force*. The nations are going to KNOW because of the total victory God will have over Asia's burst of rebellion.

The nations of Israel also had to learn the hard way: "And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity ..." (Ezekiel 39:23; see also verses 27-28). Israel also had to get to know God by being conquered in a nuclear war. (Israel is much more than the little Middle East nation. If you don't know who Israel is, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

Who Will Be Buried?

During the Cold War era, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev famously said to America, "We will bury you!" But this Ezekiel prophecy shows that it will actually be the great army of Russia, China and other nations that will be buried! And it will be buried in a place and at a time they would never imagine.

In Ezekiel 39:11, God says, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of GRAVES IN ISRAEL"

This is where *God buries this massive army!* Only one sixth of the huge force will survive to return home this time (verse 2). The rest will be buried just east of the Dead Sea (verse 11). It will give new meaning to the name Dead Sea! And The Number of fallen is so huge that it will take seven months to bury all the bodies and to clean up the area! (verse 12). What an unbelievable spectacle!

God lets this bloody attack happen because it is the only way He can make some rebellious peoples finally believe that He is God! He allows it because it is the only way He can get the heathen to know Him! You can see in these verses that is what He says: *They get to know me*. That is what it takes to get through to the people He calls "the heathen" in Ezekiel 38. And everybody today, it seems, is acting like the heathen. They certainly are not obeying God.

Do you realize how astounding it is that modern conditions make the fulfillment of these key prophecies possible? God prophesied these things through His Prophet Ezekiel about 2,500 years ago. At that time, no one could even conceive of such widespread and rapid destruction. But now nuclear bombs and chemical weapons are capable of destroying all life on this planet. God knew these technological advancements would come about, and He told Ezekiel about it and gave him that understanding.

This Gog-led uprising against Jerusalem will be the last great rebellion on Earth for nearly a thousand years.

Zechariah 14:16-17 show that after this event, God is going to

begin to teach the whole world. He will cause all nations to come up to Jerusalem and keep the Feast of Tabernacles each year. That festival will be observed all over the world by these Gentile nations as well as Israel, and what an amazing time that will be! You need to understand that Feast of Tabernacles through our booklet Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which? (free upon request). It will show you God's master plan, and will inspire and move you as nothing else could.

God's Message

Joel 2:12 explains what all of this is about: "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning." That's God's message to the people of the world. He wants us to turn to Him. All of this is about getting the men and women of the Earth to turn to God. God is a God of love.

"[H]e is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil" (verse 13). This merciful, kind, gracious God wants us to turn to Him because of all the emptiness and suffering we are bringing on ourselves! Right now, He lets us go our own way because that's what we chose. All right, God says, You go ahead, and I'll let you see that you cannot rule yourself.

"Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?" (verse 14). How do you know what God will do for you? If you turn to Him, He will pour out all kinds of blessings on you! That's what He says.

God says to prophesy against this man in the latter days because this is going to be cataclysmic. The Asian power that is already rapidly solidifying will be like nothing this Earth has ever experienced.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly" (verse 15). This verse commands the very elect to make some noise and tell the people what God prophesies to us! How often do you hear a Bible-based message such as this from any religious body of this world? Never.

God says in Ezekiel 38 to prophesy against him in the latter days because this is going to be cataclysmic! The Asian power that is already rapidly solidifying will be like nothing this Earth has ever experienced.

We need to watch Vladimir Putin closely. He *is* the "prince of Rosh" that God inspired Ezekiel to write about 2,500 years ago! We need to watch what is happening in Russia and how Europe responds to it. Daniel 11:44 talks about "tidings out of the east" troubling Europe. Mr. Putin's tactics in Ukraine, Georgia, the Middle East and elsewhere are already deeply troubling to Europe. If you study Moscow's foreign policy under Putin's leadership, it is plain that the ultimate goal is to eventually conquer the whole world. Europe is certainly aware of this goal and is closely watching its neighbor to the east. Russia's resurgence—which we see happening in headlines every

day—shows that end-time Bible prophecies are rapidly being fulfilled!



Trumpet headquarters hosts international 'homecoming.'

BY PHILIP NICE

HE RING OF OLD FAMILIAR VOICES echoed in the atrium of the *Trumpet* offices in mid-June. The energetic buzz and punctuation of laughter marked a working homecoming of sorts as dozens of ministers returned from around the world to the Philadelphia Church of God campus for the 2014 PCG ministerial conference. The conference included 60 ministers, plus their wives, who drove and flew to the headquarters of the PCG (and of the *Trumpet*) from 15 American states and nine other countries.

Whether they were crossing the street or completing 8,000-mile, multiday journeys from the other side of the world, every minister expressed enthusiasm as he met other ministers from Europe, Africa Asia and beyond, as well as old friends and colleagues on the staff of the *Trumpet*, *The Key of David*, Herbert W. Armstrong College and PCG administration.

Most of the ministers' waking hours in Edmond revolved around an intensive five-day

Headquarters

Philadelphia Church of God headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma, administers:

- + The Philadelphia Trumpet
- + The Key of David
- + The Trumpet Daily
- + Booklet and periodical publishing
- + Foreign language translation
- + Latin America regional office
- + Herbert W. Armstrong College
- + Imperial Academy
- + Philadelphia Youth Camp
- + Armstrong International Cultural Foundation
- + Jerusalem archaeological activities

schedule of lectures by *Trumpet* editor in chief and PCG Pastor General Gerald Flurry and by 12 other ministers from the United States, Canada, England and Australia. Mr. Flurry anchored the daily lectures each morning in Armstrong Auditorium with his series of messages focusing on the prophetic book of Ezekiel and its connection to current developments in the United States, Britain and Israel.

120,781

Miles flown and driven last year by **4** Canadian ministers serving **20** congregations in **9** provinces

In addition to hearing more than 30 hours of lectures, ministers shared meals, receptions at Mr. Flurry's home, dinner with the headquarters staff, an evening social, and a musical performed by Imperial Academy students.

The conference, which occurs every 18 months, marks one of the year's biggest events for ministers and for headquarters.

"We've learned a lot," said Local Elder George Githembe, who serves members in Johannesburg, South Africa, and throughout the continent. "[T]he application of that truth will change our lives."

After the conference, ministers took the instruction and insight and began applying it in 147 congregations in 52 countries.

Some of the men travel extensively to bring spiritual support to scattered PCG members. Regional Director Alex Harrison travels three out of every four weeks,

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'The future is bright'

Regional Director Brad Macdonald (regional office: Northampton, England) on the future: "I travel via plane, train, ferry and automobile, visiting brethren and new contacts from the Irish countryside to the Austrian Alps to the steppes of the Mediterranean. The future is bright, and the region is primed and ready for growth, especially with *The Key of David* airing on CBS Reality and the immediate prospect of a new Armstrong College campus in England."

'It's good to be here'

Ministers at the Philippines national office and elsewhere visit hundreds of members and contacts scattered across the archipelago's **2,000** inhabited islands, taking multi-hour and multiday one-way routes via taxi, bus, van, tricycle, jeep, plane, and fast craft and other boats.

visiting members in six U.S. states and 16 Latin American countries as far away as Chile and Argentina. Regional Director John Macdonald oversees the Eastern Hemisphere, including congregations in Christchurch, New Zealand; Suva, Fiji; Harare, Zimbabwe; Cape Town, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

For members around the world and in media initiatives reaching into 206 countries the PCG attempts to fulfill the two-part biblical commission of the Church: to warn of the coming time of trouble before Christ's return; and to teach the Church God's wonderful way of life.

"Even though we're small, we have a tremendous reach," Mr. Flurry said, "and God has given us the tools to do the job."



MINCON Attending the conference were ministers from 10 countries serving members in 52 nations: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Philippines, St. Kitts & Nevis, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, United States (Blue = country with minister attending conference)





Warring in Israel resumes

THE ONGOING CONFLICT between Israelis and Palestinians grew violent and deadly once again following the parallel murders of three Jewish teenagers and one Palestinian teenager this summer.

The three Iewish teens were abducted on June 12 while hitchhiking home from religious schools in the West Bank. Israel blamed Hamas terrorists. Although Hamas denied culpability, it nonetheless cheered the abduction, blessing "the hands that captured them." Israel responded with an incursion into the West Bank that included house searches, raids and arrests. The teens' dead bodies were found on June 30 near the city of Hebron in the West Bank.

As the funerals for the teenagers took place on July 1, hundreds of Jews took to the streets. The protesters demanded retribution, chanting "Death to Arabs." The next morning, a Palestinian teen was abducted in East Jerusalem while waiting outside his home for his friends. The charred remains of his body were found later that day in a forest in Jerusalem.

Hamas responded, "We send our message to the Zionist entity and its leaders, which hold

direct responsibility, that our people will not let this crime pass, nor all the killings and destruction by your settlers. You will pay the price for these crimes." Like Hamas, the Israeli government denied guilt, but unlike Hamas, Netanyahu condemned the crime, saying that "vigilantes have no place in our democracy."

Hundreds of Palestinians protested the murder, flinging stones, hurling firebombs and rolling burning tires at Israeli security officials. They sprayed graffiti reading, "Death to Israel" and "Death to the Jews." Demonstrators torched three small shelters for a light-rail line, overturned trash containers and smashed traffic lights.

Israel responded by deploying tanks, artillery and busloads of military personnel to quell the unrest. Hamas intensified the almost daily barrage of rockets that it had been launching since Israel's Gaza incursion in June. As of July 22, Hamas had fired over 1,700 rockets into Israel, about 85 percent of them after the Palestinian teen's murder.

Israel launched rockets of its own into Gaza, and began a ground invasion to counter this offensive. One military official said that only "boots on the ground" could exterminate terrorism from Gaza. The conflict continued at the time of printing, with far more Palestinian than Israeli casualties. Netanyahu explained the cause for the skewed death toll: "We are using missile defense to protect our civilians, and they [Hamas] are using their civilians to protect their missiles."

A relative of the murdered Palestinian remarked that the hatred has increased instantly. "I've never seen such racism, even in the first and second intifada," he said. "We are entering a very dark time." Talk is rife that this latest conflict may be the beginning of the third intifada.

ISRAEL'S OUTSPOKEN NEW PRESIDENT

Former Speaker of the Israeli Knesset Reuven Rivlin was elected president of Israel on June 10. The 74-year-old Likud member won a runoff election inside the national legislature, and began his seven-year term July 24.

Israel's president generally maintains a ceremonial role, meeting foreign dignitaries on behalf of

the citizenry. He largely refrains from intruding into the nation's domestic politics and expressing personal opinions that would divide the public. Before being elected, Rivlin promised not to intervene in the decisions of the country's elected politicians. However, if his time in government is any indication,

the right-wing Rivlin will have trouble staying quiet. A long-time politician, Rivlin is renowned for acting independently on national issues, even if he has to part ways with his party's leadership. For example, the Likud member readily denounces the plan for a two-state solution, instead calling for one Israeli state where Arabs are given full and equal rights.

Also, in contrast to Israel's former president, Shimon Peres, who visited the Vatican on June 1 for a prayer meeting with Pope Francis and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, Rivlin has spoken out against the papacy's peace exploits. In 2009, while speaker of the Knesset, Rivlin refused to welcome Pope Benedict XVI at the Ben Gurion Airport because he "needed to act according to his conscience." In an interview with Spiegel Online

at the time, Rivlin spoke out against the papacy for not doing enough to stop the spread of Holocaust denial. "In order to do away with Holocaust denial, not only for the sake of the Jewish people but for the sake of the world, we are asking the pope to show us the Vatican's archive, which proves that the

Shoah [Holocaust] happened and that, to our dismay, the Holy See under Pope Pius XII stood in silence—not only sweeping the facts underneath the carpet, but also to a great extent, through his silence, giving legitimacy to the Shoah," he said.

As the Vatican involves itself more in the Middle East peace process, it's easy to see how the outspoken Reuven Rivlin inhabiting the presidential palace might cause some sparks to fly.



Pope: No one should work on Sunday

Not working on Sunday is "true freedom," Pope Francis said July 5 during an address about industry and labor in southern Italy.

"The issue of working Sundays ... affects not only believers, but it affects everyone, as an ethical choice," he said. "A work-free Sunday—with the exception of necessary services—says that our priority is not economics, but the human being [F]or believers it means a relationship with God and with the community.

See "Much More Than an Economic Plan": theTrumpet.com /go/11325. Perhaps it is time to ask whether it is a true freedom to work on Sundays."

Catholic leaders have called repeatedly for universal Sunday observance in Europe, even for non-Catholics and those who do not attend church on Sundays. Francis's predecessor, Benedict XVI, said that "without the Lord's day, we cannot live."

In recent months, the pope has promoted the Catholic economic system as a solution to Europe's economic troubles and high unemployment. So it is unsurprising to see him promote Sunday observance as the solution to social and family problems.

The *Trumpet* has warned for years that Sunday observance will be forced on Europe's citizens. For more information on the prophetic significance of this, read editor in chief Gerald Flurry's November 2005 article "The Pope Trumpets Sunday" (the Trumpet. com/go/1808).

The top destination for German weapons

GERMANY APPROVED THE export of over \$1 billion worth of arms to Algeria in 2013, making that country the largest buyer of German weapons that year, a June 11 government report revealed.

Meanwhile, German newspaper Handelsblatt reported June 18 that Rheinmettal will sign a \$3.7 billion contract to build a manufacturing plant for the Fuchs (Fox) armored personnel carrier in Algeria as part of an agreement Germany made in 2011 to sell \$13.6 billion in arms to the country. ThyssenKrupp expects to sell at least two frigates and a number of Daimler off-road vehicles and trucks as part of the deal.

Overall, Germany approved almost \$8 billion in arms deals to countries around the world in 2013, the highest value in 10 years. \$1.12 billion of this went

to Algeria. Qatar was in second place, with \$917 million worth of export licenses.

Algeria's rise up the league table of German arms exports



has been explosive. Before 2011, arms trade between the two nations was minimal.

The decision to allow Algeria to build 980 Fuchs 2 vehicles is unprecedented. "For the first time Germany is delivering not only armored personnel carriers to an authoritarian state but also a complete vehicle factory," *Handelsblatt* wrote.

"Radicalism is spilling out from Egypt and spreading over northern Africa," *Trum*pet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in his April 2013

> article "Watch Algeria!" "These radicals are now trying to take over Algeria, but they are beginning to face some opposition from Germany and the

European Union. Algeria has a strong supporter in Germany. That is going to make a big difference for these terrorist groups." This is exactly what we have seen. Germany is quietly confronting radical Islam through arms sales to friendly governments, with Algeria, Qatar and Saudi Arabia all high on its list of recipients.

DUTCH PARATROOPERS OFFICIALLY JOIN GERMAN ARMY

The Dutch 11th airmobile brigade officially joined the German Army on June 12 in a ceremony attended by Dutch and German defense ministers. Dutch Defense Minister Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert declared it a "historic moment" that lifts "German-Dutch cooperation ... to a new level."

Dutch soldiers will now serve as part of a German division of rapid-response troops under the command of a German major general, a Dutch deputy and a joint division staff. Both nations must agree before deploying the forces, and the Dutch troops will remain on their bases in the Netherlands. The division staff should be in place by 2016, with the unit fully operational in 2018.

This merger comes after the two nations signed an agreement in May 2013. The Dutch government freely admits its motivation is to pool equipment and training in order to cut costs. This sets a major precedent for how other European nations could integrate and cut costs without leaving their militaries weaker. As the economic crisis bites, more EU countries may "go Dutch."



The trade-off here is the loss of sovereignty. The 11th is the Netherlands' only airmobile brigade. Now, in order to rapidly deploy large numbers of troops, the Dutch need approval from the Germans.

"Germany is driving the integration of European defense," Deutsche Welle wrote when the deal was agreed upon a year ago. By forming these kinds of agreements with its neighbors, Germany hopes to build an integrated European army piece by piece, since its grand designs to create one more rapidly have thus far been blocked. For more about Germany's push for a European army, read "Under Construction" (the Trumpet.com/go/10771).



Why Britain is closer than ever to quitting the EU

■ EAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER IS ON his way to becoming president of the European Commission—which means Britain is on its way out. On June 27, the former Luxembourg prime minister won approval for the presidency from the vast majority of European Union leaders. But his rise to power has sparked a bitter, emotional argument between Britain and the rest of the EU. Iuncker stands for everything Britain hates about the Union. Every major political party in Britain opposes his candidacy.

Why are Brits against him? This is a man who won't let truth, democracy, principles or anything else get in the way of his dream to federalize Europe.

"I am for secret, dark debates," Juncker said three years ago. He not only has been caught lying and confessed to it, but also has actually said of leadership, "When the going gets tough, you have to lie."

"Monetary policy is a serious issue," he said at an eco-

nomic governance conference in 2011. "We should discuss

this in secret." He continued: "I'm ready to be insulted as being insufficiently democratic, but I want to be serious."

In 2005, when the people of France and the Netherlands voted on whether to accept the European Constitution, Juncker was similarly undemocratic: "If it's a yes, we will say 'On we go,'" he said, "and if it's a no, we will say, 'We continue."

Even British supporters of

the EU are concerned about Juncker's presidency. Telegraph columnist Iain Martin concluded that if Juncker is appointed, it "will be a historic disaster on a grand scale, which makes Britain's exit from the European Union very likely. And I speak as someone who has been for reform and staying in the EU if possible."

Though the outrage died down in the weeks after Juncker was selected, Britain's eventual departure has never looked so inevitable. It is clear that the EU and UK are simply heading down different paths.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi made it even more obvious as Italy took over the rotating presidency of the EU on July 1. Renzi's goals include pushing for a "United States of Europe," which he called "the only solution to solve the problems of our time."

Juncker's presidency also marks a power shift toward European federal institutions. In the past, the president was chosen by national leaders who negotiated for the position. This time, the European Parliament pushed hard to automatically appoint the leader of the pan-European party that got the most votes. Britain opposed this as another erosion of national power.

But it also demonstrates Germany's role. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's support is what got Juncker the job. "One glare from Merkel, and the Swedish and Dutch prime ministers switched sides," wrote Mats Persson, director of the think tank Open Europe, on the *Telegraph*'s blog site. "The great irony is obvious: While German commentators have been busy trying to drape 'democracy' in an EU flag, Europe has just become much more German. ... If Germany is attempting to hide its power in Europe, it's doing a terrible job" (June 30).

Many commentators now consider the "United States of Europe" a very possible and imminent reality. But one geopolitical forecaster reported it decades ago. With an understanding of Bible prophecy, Herbert W. Armstrong—who founded the Trumpet's predecessor, the Plain Truth-predicted that a superstate would emerge in Europe. He specified that this power, "a sort of soon-coming 'United States of Europe," would emerge from the European Common Market; that it would consist of 10 nations; be led by Germany; constitute a resurrection of the "Holy Roman Empire" influenced by the Vatican; and absolutely not include the United Kingdom. How correct

> he is proving to be. For more information, request a free copy of He Was Right.

Putin's soaring popularity

A STUNNING 83 PERCENT OF Russians now approve of STUNNING 83 PERCENT OF Putin's leadership, according to the latest survey published by the Moscow-based Levada Center. That's up 18 percent since the start of 2014, which shows that Putin's stratospheric popularity is a direct result of his actions in Ukraine.

"I support him," 27-yearold Olga Rogachova told the Trumpet on June 13. Rogachova has lived in Sevastopol, Crimea, for nearly her entire life. She has watched the Crimean Peninsula transition from being part of the Soviet Union to part of independent Ukraine, and then being grafted into Russia in March.



Like the majority of Russians, Rogachova welcomes Putin's annexation of Crimea. "It's where we belong," she said. "Russia was in need of a strong leader. [Putin] made our people remember we were once a great nation. ... He is truly the hope of the nation."

Many in the West believe Putin's behavior is fueled by a drive to garner more respect for Russia, by inflated fears of Russophobia, and by rose-colored views of Russia's Soviet Empire days. But more than 120 million Russians agree with their president.

SAVEENDRAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, GETTY IMAGESI

Does Putin have God on his side regarding Ukraine?

N PRINCIPLE, UKRAINE does not independently exist," Russian Orthodox Church leader Kirill 1 said on June 18. Ukraine is instead part of "the historical territory of Russia," the patriarch said in a report by Espreso TV.

Such a stance on Ukraine mirrors that of Russian President Vladimir Putin. In 2005, Putin said the demise of the Soviet Union was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." Ever since, his objective has been rebuilding Russia's influence in the former Soviet region—especially in Ukraine.

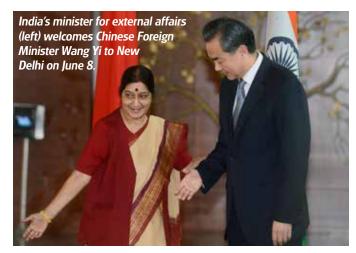
Although Putin never tried to hide what he calls "his deep Christian faith," he avoided overtly religious rhetoric up until 2012. That year, after tens of thousands of mostly liberal Russians protested his return to the presidency, Putin responded by leaning on the Russian Orthodox Church's conservative appeal. Since then, he has forged a close alliance with the church, which has helped him paint his opponents as godless liberals. And, as demonstrated by Kirill's June 18 statement, the church has given Putin's expansionist foreign policy a veneer of divine approval.

Putin has also leaned toward the church in order to paint Russia as a defender of traditional values in a world led by a morally broken United States and Europe. In December, he said, "Many Euro-Atlantic countries have moved away from their roots, including Christian values. ... This is the path to degradation." Kirill echoed those sentiments, saying Western powers are engaging in the "spiritual disarmament" of their people.

This is an exact reversal of the Cold War era, which many viewed as the "Christian" Americans against the "godless" USSR Communists.

Putin is tapping into the deep-rooted abhorrence many around the world feel toward the West's embrace of promiscuity, pornography, homosexuality, abortion and other immorality. Putin also invokes divinity regarding Russia's expansionism. "May God judge them," Putin said after annexing Crimea in March, in words directed at the "Bolsheviks" who gave the peninsula to Ukraine decades ago.

History teaches that there is no more potent force to sway populations toward a geopolitical aim than religion. Russia is working to harness this power in order to promote its expansionist agenda.



China, India ready for final settlement in border disputes

Beijing is prepared to settle its long-simmering border disputes with India, according to statements made by China's foreign minister on June 9. India and China have a history of border strife dating back to the 1950s, shortly after China annexed Tibet. The tensions culminated in the violent conflict of 1962, which resulted

in a humiliating defeat for the Indian Army. Although India-China relations normalized in the 1980s, disagreements over their border remained a source of tension. But based on the Chinese foreign minister's statements, it appears that a resolution is near. This opens up unprecedented Sino-Indian cooperation.

JAPAN TAKES HISTORIC STEP AWAY FROM PACIFISM

apan's cabinet reinterpreted the ban on the country's use of "collective self-defense" on July 1, marking the largest shift in defense policy

since 1954 when Japan reestablished its armed forces after losing World War II. This major shift away from 70 years of postwar pacifism is a historic win for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has pushed hard for the controversial change.

Japan can now use its large, cutting-edge military in ways unthinkable just a few years ago. If an American

ship is under fire, Japan can assist it. If a North Korean missile is aimed at an Australian ship, Japan can shoot it down. If the United Nations is involved in a "gray zone" activity, Japanese troops can participate.

The U.S. welcomed the cabinet's reinterpretation,

because North Korea is a loose cannon, China is increasingly belligerent, and the war-weary American public is tired of policing the world. Many in

Washington see Japan's more assertive military posture in Asia as positive.

But many of Japan's neighbors are concerned. They remember imperial Japan's wartime savagery, its subsequent historic revisionism and its failure to sufficiently apologize for the atrocities it committed against other Asians and against the Allies.

If Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the U.S. leaders who wrote Japan's pacifist constitution saw Tokyo abolishing its intent, they would react sharply against what Washington is doing: snubbing history, turning inward and dismantling the barriers against another world war.





America's shrinking GDP

THE UNITED STATES COmmerce Department released its most recent data on the gross domestic product June 25, revealing that America's economy shrank 2.9 percent over the first quarter of 2014.

The slump is the worst since 2009, when America was in the middle of the Great Recession. The recent data was also the biggest revision to a previous GDP estimate since 1976. The department had estimated in May that the economy had shrunk by only 1 percent. In March it estimated that the economy had actually grown by 0.1 percent.

Some economists blamed the long, harsh winter for the reason for the slump, but this new data indicates the economy has far deeper problems than chilly temperatures.

"You cannot dismiss the data as being entirely a fluke," said Cliff Waldman, senior economist for the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation. He said that this slump is "a warning sign" that America's economic recovery is more precarious than many economists admit.

Unemployment (which is still at 6.3 percent) and debt loads are two of the bigger problems behind the contraction in the economy. These factors hurt production and thus consumer spending, which only grew by 1 percent instead of the government's estimated 3 percent.

The latest GDP revision could be a sign that the 2008 Great Recession, which never really ended, is about to intensify.



Deadly spree

DOZENS OF AL SHABAAB Islamist extremists on two minibuses raced into the small Kenyan tourist resort town of Mpeketoni on June 14, igniting a terror campaign that lasted two days and killed 48 people.

In the assault, the Somalibased, al Qaeda-affiliated gunmen sprayed bullets on civilians and ignited explosives near buildings. They torched two hotels, a bank, a police station and surrounding vehicles.

Some of the slain were occupants at the Breeze View Hotel who were watching World Cup soccer matches on TV, an echo of al Shabaab's 2010 bombings in Kampala, Uganda, which killed 77 World Cup fans at a public viewing of the games.

The terrorists primarily targeted men, sparing women to watch the slaughter. Non-Muslims who couldn't answer questions about Koran trivia were also killed in scenes similar to last September's Westgate Mall attack that killed 67.

Al Shabaab claimed the attack was retaliation for the presence of Kenyan troops in Somalia. Kenya has been involved in Somalia since 2011 to help the United Nationsbacked government defeat the Islamists.

These religion-based mass murders are becoming more common, but they will not go unpunished for much longer. Bible prophecy and history show they will incite a European retaliation worse than the Crusades.

INDIA DEDICATES NEW MADE-IN-RUSSIA AIRCRAFT CARRIER

S ince its independence from Great Britain in 1947, India has had three successive aircraft carriers. The latest one—officially dedicated on June 14—came from a source quite different from the previous two, which reveals a dramatic shift in India's geopolitical tilt.

The country's first carrier—called INS Vikrant—was purchased from the British Royal

Navy in 1957 and started service in the Indian Navy in 1961. It carried British Hawker Sea Hawk fighter bombers and British Westland helicopters. After a distinguished service, it was decommissioned in January 1997.

The second, also purchased from the British and equipped with British-made armaments.

was the Viraat. It entered the Indian Navy in 1987 and is scheduled to serve till 2020. This is more than twice the sailing life of a carrier of this class.

The Indian Navy traditionally has been modeled after the Royal Navy, and it has cooperated closely with the British for over 60 years. But on June 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated India's latest warship aircraft carrier, the INS Vikramaditya. Unlike the previous two models, the Vikramaditya comes *from Russia*.

The new carrier will operate the Russian MiG-29K, the Indian-made hal Dhruv helicopter and some aging Sea Harriers. The ship is powered by four turbine engines, has a range of 8,000 nauti-



cal miles, and can carry 160 officers, 1,400 sailors and 30 aircraft.

India's decision to buy its latest carrier from Russia is just the latest indication of Delhi's tilt away from Britain and the West—and toward Eastern powers.



'Blessed Is He That Reads'

A daily habit you should develop BY STEPHEN FLURRY

LESSED IS HE THAT READETH, AND THEY THAT HEAR the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." That is what God promises in Revelation 1:3: blessings if you read and hear and keep the words of the Bible!

Christ said that through Bible study, we can really get to know God—if we live by His every word (Matthew 4:4). James 1:22 says, "[B]e ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving

your own selves." To receive these blessings, you have to do what these words of life say (John 6:63). To do them, you must first know them. And how do we obtain education? Through study!

Whatever their beliefs, most people recognize that something in man makes us far superior in thought to animals. Animals have brains remarkably similar to ours physically, but their capabilities are a tiny fraction in comparison. They function by instinct; we have to LEARN how to live properly and CHOOSE to do

so. Animals cannot develop moral and spiritual character; they cannot appreciate literature, music or art. God gave us a "human spirit" that bestows a potential for thought far greater than in animals. But that also means it absolutely must be educated!

Proverbs 3:13 says, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." Wisdom and understanding are out there, but we have to go get them! A man is not born with wisdom and understanding; he must become educated.

Over the past half century, the number of hours college students spend studying has declined sharply. One survey discovered that most college freshmen had spent less than six hours of study per week during their senior year of high school. Meanwhile, "[M]ost Americans, no matter what their age, spend at least 8½ hours a day looking at television, a computer monitor, or the screen of their mobile phone. Frequently, they use two or even all three of the devices simultaneously" (Nicholas G. Carr, The Shallows). In general people are reading print less, includ-

ing newspapers, magazines and books. Most young people only read printed words about seven minutes a day. This is no way to educate the human mind!

Another survey asked college students to identify the biggest obstacles to their academic success. Topping the list, ahead of family difficulties and stressful lives, was that they simply don't know how to study.

ARENWICKLUND/ISTOCKPHOTO

Little wonder, considering they no longer READ. They have grown up in the age of skimming—cursory reading, glancing at words and pictures on screens. They do their "thinking" with the TV on; they perform a quick Google search while texting their friends.

This education atrophy has predictably turned us into shallow thinkers. "Rarely have we paused to ponder, much less question, the media revolution that has been playing out all around us, in our homes, our workplaces, our schools," Carr writes. The media revolution has rewired our brains to think and react purely on superficial levels. We are losing our capacity for deep thought.

In The Art of Thinking, Earnest Dimnet wrote, "If, the moment a book or a newspaper raises a question demanding some supplementary information or reflection, we yawn, fidget, or hurriedly do something else, we abhor thinking. If, when trying to reflect, we at once feel a weariness, a drowsiness or a tendency to repeat mere words, we do not know what thought is. If we do know what it is, but, as Montaigne says, are too lazy to tackle a problem with more than 'a charge or two,' we are feeble thinkers." Does that sound like you? The more our eyes flit from screen to screen and we receive our information instantly and

> in bite-size pieces, the less accustomed we become to thinking deeply.

Thankfully, though, you can reverse this. You can re-rewire your brain back to the way it should be—if your desire is strong enough and you are willing to educate yourself. One excellent way to do this is to set aside time each day for study where you shut off the TV, take out your earbuds, silence and put away your phone, and delve deeply into the Bible.

Our approach to study reveals a lot about our character. Acts 17 praises

those in Berea who searched the Scriptures daily "with all readiness of mind." They had eager attitudes when it came to studying God's Word.

In a world filled with distractions that is becoming hostile to deep thought and quiet reflection, a man who eagerly studies is increasingly rare. But Romans 12:2 tells Christians to "be not conformed to this world." Philips translates this: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold." Verse 2 continues, "... but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

God's purpose for you is to reeducate, train and renew your mind. His ultimate divine purpose for mankind is for man to learn to think and act like God! That is why we need to develop the daily HABIT of diligent Bible study. Paul instructed, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to

> be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The Greek word for workman refers to one who exerts STRENUOUS EFFORT to study the right way. ■



If you are serious about plumbing the depths of God's inspired Word and conditioning your mind for diligent, distraction-free study, sign up for our free Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course.



FEEDBACK

31% The Rise of Asia
19% The War Over World War I
17% A Life That Gets Better With Age
17% Don't Just Sit There!

What 79 Million Europeans

8% (other articles)

8%

Positive

Negative Neutral

Exposing the pope

Thank you for exposing the real meaning of the pope's visit to Jerusalem and the Middle Eastern area ("The Dark Side of the Pope's Visit to Jerusalem," August). No one else has the courage or understanding to report these events and the historical facts showing the meaning behind what is going on in this world.

Patricia Malone—OKLAHOMA

Take backs

Well known is the saying a house divided will fall ("The Rise of Asia," August). Humans are divided at every level economically, religiously and politically. The First World War was about politics, the second was about economics, the third and final war will be a religious war.

Constellation—NEW ZEALAND

Russia only took back what had been her own for centuries—Crimea. *Milan Jovanovic*

I thank God for being able to catch up and read the *Plain Truth* magazines. What made the magazine so important and striking is how the warning was preached with such great details, and spoken in plain-truth simple language that all can understand. And now the *Trumpet* is trumpeting the *Plain Truth* details. The *Trumpet* has matured in getting these details out with

proof of how history repeats itself. The words are not as plain as far as vocabulary, but its powerful message has twice the power of the *Plain Truth,* and does provide a strong "prophesy again" message. *Michael Hutter*—**NEW YORK**

Debate over

Absolutely brilliant article ("The War Over World War I," August). I enjoyed it immensely. Your authors have a fantastic way of explaining very complicated issues so that any half-wit can understand. My father worked in Germany before World War II from 1933 to 1936, and saw how the country was preparing for war again while he was there. He saw how the German people in general were so cultured, intelligent, disciplined and advanced in so many ways in science and technology. They hugely admired Britain, especially its mighty empire and the way it controlled huge amounts of the world so efficiently and humanely. But, he said, underneath the above traits there was an extremely dark side to their nature. After the war, when all the war crimes they committed came to light, he was not surprised at all. It's just so sad how human beings can be so evil to other human beings. As he said, the Germans' real character comes to light when they feel they have a calling to dominate everything around them. So Europe beware. lohn

Academics and the so-called theorists can go on forever debating about who was right and who was wrong, but it was the German High Command that killed or murdered 50 or 60 million people. War footage alone proves this, and Germany and the Vatican are about to do it again.

Simon Henderson—NEW ZEALAND

Anti-Semitism rampant

Anti-Semitism is rampant on an individual basis in small towns and communities as well ("What 79 Million Europeans Think of Jews," August). I encounter it if someone learns of my "Jewish" days or beliefs. I wonder just how secure my physical family is.

Phylis Nixon—MAINE

RESPONSES FOR "DON'T JUST SIT THERE!"

"I have been more active lately and can feel the difference!"

"We need these reminders."

"Staying active is so important to our physical and mental health."

"Redeeming the time for the days are evil" is a verse I was just looking at, then I read this article. Thanks!"

"Great article! Motivation comes by doing."

"I am so busy all the time, I barely get to sit for the day and I'm always thinking I need some time for myself. But now I know I was designed for this; that's why every day I have the sufficient amount of energy to get me through it."

Discussion

Your list of neo-Nazi parties is incomplete. Don't forget the New Right and the Svoboda parties in Ukraine. They are part of the government with six ministers, I think.

Steve Carson—NORTH CAROLINA

Richard Palmer (author): They may be neo-Nazi, I've not investigated the New Right closely. However, Ukraine is not in the EU, hence its exclusion.

Steve Carson: Touché, Mr. Palmer. However, they are affecting European politics. The Maidan protests were led by those two parties. Svoboda's leader is named Oleh Tyahnybok. He said in a speech that "We should take up weapons and kill Russians, Germans and Jews." That pretty well sums up his feelings on Jews, eh?

Richard Palmer (author): You're right; they do affect the overall landscape of anti-Semitism in Europe. I'm glad you've made me think more about it. I think there's quite a different dynamic in Eastern Europe. In the West, the Holocaust caused at least a surface-level repentance about anti-Semitism, but that never really happened in the East. The Soviet Union emerged from World War II as one of the "good guys," and its history of anti-Semitism was overlooked. Meanwhile, some of those oppressed by the Soviets sided with Hitler for the same reason the Allies sided with Stalin: My enemy's enemy is my friend. Many of these people were anti-Semitic; many were not. For these groups there was no real repentance or introspection. After the war, they

all just claimed not to have gone along with all the killing-Jews activity. And to some, the Nazis remained "the good guys" for having opposed Stalin. So now, anti-Semitism in the East remains significantly higher than the West (34 percent harboring anti-Semitic attitudes according to the ADL, compared to 24 percent in the West). It also remains a feature of the Orthodox Church. The ADL's figures show that an Orthodox Christian in the East is more likely to be anti-Semitic than its Muslim neighbors.

ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS



"America Urges Mortal Enemy to Save Iraq"

theTrumpet.com/go/TD1477



"The Immigration Crisis, President Obama and the Truth" theTrumpet.com/go/TD1484



➤ BORDERLINE from page 17

continue. And it will contribute to not only the transformation of the nation and the erasing of its border security, but to its actual destruction!

"America is the house that is both falling apart and under new stress," Peggy Noonan wrote on July 10. "Those living within it, those most upset by what they're seeing, know America has big problems—unemployment, low workforce participation, a rickety physical infrastructure, an unsound culture, poor public education. And of course discord of all sorts—a lot of mad squirrels running around the attic. They know America can't pay its bills. They fear we're living on the fumes of greatness. They want us to be strong again. Watching our border collapse doesn't look like a harbinger of progress."

Connected to Prophecy

Some analysts recognize the dangerous situation playing out not only in the crisis at hand but also in the government's treacherous response to it. But there is a much deeper analysis that reveals a lot more about America's illegal immigration crisis. That analysis comes from the prophecies of the Bible!

In The United States and Britain in Prophecy, Herbert W. Armstrong identified the early American immigrants as being descendants of Abraham, specifically the tribe of Manasseh. Abraham's grandson, Jacob, passed his birthright promises on to the sons of his son Joseph (Genesis 48). Jacob said that the descendants of the one grandson, Ephraim, would become a company of nations in the latter days. He said that the other grandson, Manasseh, would become a single great nation.

Genesis 49:22 says Joseph is "a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose *branches run over the wall.*" Joseph's descendants, in other words, were to be a *colonizing* people in the latter days. That is exactly what they did, branching out from the British Isles all over the Earth, including North America.

In his book, Mr. Armstrong also explained that Ephraim's descendants are Great Britain, and Manasseh's descendants are the United States.

Many of America's earliest



Australia Fair: Young and free?

"A USTRALIANS ALL LET US rejoice, For we are young and free," proclaims Australia's national anthem. But when it comes to drug usage, Australia is a land of slaves.

The United Nations' annual drug report, released on June 26, places the country at the top of the charts of drug usage per capita. Australians rank first in ecstasy usage, third in methamphetamines, and fourth in cocaine. Aussies lead the global pack in using

recreational drugs. Young lower-class Australians in particular are gorging on party drugs.

Australians' use of prescribed drugs is also high. Australia ranked a close second behind the United States with 3.1 to 3.6 percent of 15-to-65-year-olds considered regular users. Pill-popping is especially prevalent in women.

Studies also show that more than 10 percent of the working population of Australia was using marijuana in 2010. Since that time, availability has increased, driving consumption rates even higher.

According to a National Council on Drugs report, one in eight deaths for Australians under age 25 is related to alcohol consumption. Twenty percent of Australians are drinking at levels that put them at risk of permanent harm from injury and disease. Sixty percent of all calls requesting police presence are alcohol related.

The report said that young Australians drink less frequently overall compared to some nations, but they binge drink far more. Nearly two thirds of the 19-to-25-year-olds said they drank specifically to become intoxicated.

With one in five young Australians ending up in a hospital because of alcohol-related incidents, and Australia now the global leader in drug usage, there is little cause for *rejoicing* at the sight of our "young and free" citizens.

Anglicans: Yes to female bishops

The Church of England voted on July 14 to allow women to become bishops. The legislation still needs the approval of Britain's Parliament, which it will likely get on November 17. This decision could divide Anglicans and push traditionalists toward Rome.

Many in the Church of England are thrilled by the prospect of women bishops, but a significant number worry that the legislation does not adequately cater for those who believe that women bishops are unbiblical. Director of the conservative Reform group, Susie Leafe, said she is "very disappointed" by the result. "There is still at least a quarter of the church for whom this package does not provide for their theological convictions," she said.

Some of those voting for the new measures admitted they were compromising their personal beliefs in order to conform to modern society. "I shall be voting in favor today," Adrian Vincent said. "By doing so, I am betraying what I believe, I am betraying those who trusted in me."

This result could send some who oppose female bishops to the Roman Catholic Church. The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, a branch of the Catholic Church set up by Pope Benedict xvI to make it easier for defecting Anglicans to return to Rome, is renewing its efforts to reach out to Church of England members in the wake of the vote.

There is little evidence of a mass exodus yet, but it is still in its early stages.

BERKELEY: THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF POT

On July 8, the city council of Berkeley, California, unanimously voted for an ordinance that requires dispensaries of medicinal marijuana to give 2 percent of their product to "very lowincome" people.

According to the council, "very low-income" means any individual with an annual income below \$32,000, or families of four making less than \$46,000.

The drafters of the ordinance also specified that the free marijuana "shall be the same quality on average as medical cannabis that is dispensed to other [paying] members."

The California Department of Public Health lists only 11 approved conditions that qualify an individual to receive medicinal marijuana. Among these are arthritis, anorexia and nausea.

But it also includes "any other chronic or persistent medical symptom that either



substantially limits a person's ability to conduct one or more of major life activities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or if not alleviated, may cause serious harm to the person's safety, physical or mental health." That loophole gives a medicinal marijuana card to almost any creative marijuana-seeker.

Just One Nuclear War

What will happen when someone finally pulls the trigger? BY CALLUM WOOD

UCLEAR BOMBS LEVEL CITIES IN A FLASH. THEY KILL tens of thousands of us in an instant. But what happens after that? Scientists have studied this grim question and simulated the effect a regional nuclear war would have on the atmosphere, sea and land. The answer: This cataclysm would affect everyone on the planet.

This hypothetical war, published in the March edition of *Earth's Future*, included 100 nuclear detonations. Each exploded with a yield equivalent to the weapon that incinerated Hiroshima: 15,000 tons of TNT.

The conflict involved not the world's largest nuclear power, the United States, not an increasingly belligerent Russia, not radical states like North Korea or (soon) Iran, not suicidal Islamist terrorist groups, but "simply" India and Pakistan. If these comparatively smaller nuclear-armed nations waged nuclear war against each other, millions of people would die instantly—or agonizingly slowly in the aftermath. But what would happen to *you?*

When you first heard news of the attack, the impact on the climate would have already begun. Researchers believe that the firestorm would throw 5.5 million tons of black carbon into the skies. This carbon would immediately begin absorbing the sun's heat, cooling the Earth. Simulations show the average global temperature would drop 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit. In North America, Asia, Europe or the Middle East, the upcoming summer would be 7.2 degrees cooler, and winter as much as 10.8 degrees colder.

Those on the coast would especially feel the changes. Lower atmospheric temperatures would cool the oceans. Colder climates would see sea ice, which would reflect the sun's rays and drive down temperatures even further. The upper 330 feet of the ocean would cool significantly. Scientists predict that the cooling would continue for 25 years.

Meanwhile, higher temperatures in the stratosphere because of the extra carbon would reduce rainfall and other precipitation by up to 10 percent. Droughts and wildfires would increase. Plant, animal and human life accustomed to hot, wet climates would be particularly devastated by the cold and dryness.

Ash in the atmosphere would also push temperatures on the ground lower. No matter where you live, your hometown would be significantly colder and drier. Nations would be scrambling to secure dwindling water supplies, increasing the threat of resource wars.

Lower temperatures and reduced rainfall would drastically hamper food production. Heavy frosts would decimate crops worldwide, and the growing season would shrink by 10 to 40 days each year. Even from a war waged on the other side of the world, food shortages would affect everyone, and the threat of global famine would be very real.



This was the third such simulation examining the environmental effects of a regional nuclear conflict, and the results have been consistent. This simulation accounted for just two nations detonating 100 Hiroshima-size bombs in a relatively limited area. This is anything but a worst-case scenario. Roughly 17,000 nuclear weapons exist today. The largest ever detonated, Russia's Tsar Bomba in 1961, had a blast yield somewhere between 50 and 58 *megatons*. That is 1,350 to 1,570 times larger than the combined power of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And it was designed for a yield of up to 100 megatons.

What would happen if Russia or other, more powerfully equipped nations went to war with weapons thousands of times deadlier than the ones that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

This is the horrific reality of our world. In the August-September 1954 *Plain Truth* magazine, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: "It's time to wake up to the fact that these are not normal times! After nearly 6,000 years of comparative quiet, the whole world suddenly erupted in world-shaking VIOLENCE beginning in 1914. But we have seen NOTHING, yet, compared to what is soon coming!

"Suddenly knowledge has increased. Scientific knowledge, technological development. Instantaneous communication, rapid transportation, frightening inventions have resulted. Man has learned at last the secret of the atom. Man has learned how to unleash powers and forces and energies of nature that can destroy human life from off this planet! ... The whole Earth is now shaking with convulsions, preparatory to the mightiest happenings of Earth's history!

"We are now in the very CRISIS AT THE CLOSE of this present evil and unhappy world!"

Sixty years later, no one can deny this reality. And the fact that man would achieve the capability of destroying himself by the millions was something Jesus Christ prophesied 2,000 years ago (Matthew 24:21-22). He said that unless these grim days were shortened, *no flesh* would live! Many other biblical prophecies corroborate Christ's forecast that these terrible weapons *will be used*.

Thankfully, however, God promises that these days *will* be cut short! He won't stand by and let His creation wipe itself out completely. Christ will intervene to save mankind from himself, and bring an end of man's misrule over man. Christ will usher in a time of peace (Isaiah 2:4), in which weapons—nuclear and otherwise—will be extinct.

➤ **BORDERLINE** from page 33

immigrants came from nations other than England. "A large part of Manasseh remained with Ephraim until the separation of New England," he wrote. "But our forefathers were to be sifted through many nations, as corn through a sieve, yet not a grain to fall to the earth or be lost (Amos 9:9)."

Ephraim and much of Manasseh filtered through many different nations before they eventually immigrated to England together. Many descendants of Manasseh, however, remained within the nations to which they had scattered. These descendants eventually came to America when people began immigrating to the new colony. Not every European immigrant was a descendant of Manasseh, but a great majority were.

The fact that the descendants of Manasseh mingled together with other Gentile immigrants is actually further proof of who the United States is in prophecy. This is what Israelite tribes typically did during the Old Testament era!

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Thus we have become known as the 'melting pot' of the world. Instead of refuting our Manasseh ancestry, this fact actually confirms it."

But America has reached a tipping point. It is no longer one nation, made up of one melted-together people. As Pat Buchanan wrote on July 14, "We no longer speak the same language, worship the same God, honor the same heroes or share the same holidays. ... Our politics have become poisonous. Our political parties are at each other's throats. Christianity is in decline. Traditional churches are sundering over moral issues like abortion and same-sex marriage. Islam is surging. Our society seems to be disintegrating."

This too was prophesied. The very blessings God bestowed on us because of Abraham's faithful obedience are now being withdrawn because of our many sins.

Deuteronomy 28:43-44 says, "The stranger [or foreigner] that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail."

Lax immigration policies and weak borders are helping to fulfill the Bible's prophecies! The flood of illegal immigrants highlights a fundamental disregard for law. It exposes and exacerbates the loss of a common culture. America's inability to protect its borders shows that the very things that define the United States as a nation are being chipped away.

God said this would happen! Even well-known commentators who disregard these prophecies or who reject America's biblical identity can see that we are on a disastrous course. America is splitting apart at the seams.

Buchanan asks, "If a country is a land of defined and defended borders, within which resides a people of a common ancestry, history, language, faith, culture and traditions, in what sense are we Americans one nation and one people today?" (ibid).

To paraphrase Ronald Reagan, once a nation loses control of its borders, it is no longer really a nation any more.

This situation is happening right now to the United States. And its own government is abetting it, to its own demise.

THE KEY OF DAVID

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**

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 El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun

Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30, Sun Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri; TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun

Monterey KMWB 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, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun 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 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 Ho' Ike 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 (Olelo) Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO Chan. 333 3:30 am, Sun The Discovery Channel

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 lowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun Kirksville KWOT 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 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/WGTO 9:30, Sun Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun

Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/

WGTO-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

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, AVAILABLE ON IN BRITAIN (8 A.M.) AND ACROSS EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA.

Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun 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 10:30, Sun Helena KMTF-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

Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, 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 WPXJ 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 Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri Utica WBU 9:30, Sun Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun

North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT

Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30. Sun Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Wilmington WBW 9:30, Sun North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun

Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun Steubenville WBWO 9:30. Sun Zanesville WBZV 9:30. Sun Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri

Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30. Sun Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri

Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri

Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun

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

South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30, Sun Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri

Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun 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 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 Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun

Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun

Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun

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

Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri

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

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

Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri Seattle KCPO 7:00, Sun Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; 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 WOOW-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

CANADA

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 KAYU 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; CHNU 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 lamaica WGN 9:00. Sun Puerto Rico WGN 8:00, Sun

Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun Mexico TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun; WGN 7:00. Sun

AUSTRALASIA

Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

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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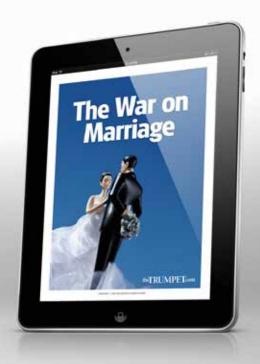
THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706548) is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and October-November issues) by
the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond,
OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, PO. BOX 3700, Edmond, OK 73083.
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has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by
the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia
Church of God and others. Contributions are welcomed, however, and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and
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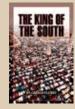
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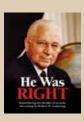












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