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What Bible prophecy says
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“UNCIVIL WAR”
August saw multiple protests and counterprotests from an Antifa rally in Berkeley, California, (top) to white supremacists rioting in Virginia (bottom two).
Charlottesville Violence—The Real Danger Is Invisible

Recent events in Virginia reveal an irreconcilable divide in America. A dark spiritual force is behind the unrest.

Violence and rioting in Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 12 resulted in three deaths and more than 30 people injured. President Donald Trump spoke out against the violence, saying, “We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides.” But the media strongly criticized the president, saying his failure to specifically call out the white supremacists, and his criticism of the groups that were protesting them, actually inflamed the situation. Charlottesville’s mayor blamed the president directly on national TV.

Anyone in the world can look at events like these and see that America is deeply divided. National division is a grave danger.

But there is a danger far greater—and it is invisible.

A House Divided

On June 16, 1858, Abraham Lincoln said in a speech, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” That was a direct quote from Jesus Christ that Lincoln applied to the very divided United States of America. That speech galvanized Republicans and became one of the best-known speeches of his career. Lincoln’s law partner at the time, William Herndon, believed that speech ultimately enabled Lincoln to win the presidency.

Lincoln foresaw great peril for America. He knew it would take a crisis for the nation to learn that “a house divided against itself cannot stand.”

That crisis came. The tension and division in America in the middle of the 19th century erupted into a protracted, bloody conflict lasting more than four years. The Civil War cost 620,000 American lives—more deaths than all other American wars combined.

The bitter division in America today is leading to another civil war that will be 10,000 times worse!

Here is the passage Lincoln quoted from: “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand” (Matthew 12:25).

America ignores this warning at its peril! Republicans and Democrats are divided like never before. Rather than trying to solve the nation’s problems, the radical left is stirring them up. Some people believe they are bringing down President Donald Trump, but are they instead bringing down America itself?

“And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:24-25). God emphasized this point by canonizing Christ’s statement in three separate Gospel accounts.

“But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth” (Luke 11:17). Christ knew their thoughts. He was not a normal man; He was God in the flesh! When the ultimate Authority warns of the same danger three separate times, we ought to listen!

Before the Civil War, evil people were spreading lies that even a child wouldn’t ordinarily believe! Is this same trend happening today? Were the media truthful in their coverage of the Charlottesville riots and the president’s response?

Conditions in America are now much worse than they were in Lincoln’s time.

Turn to God

During the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln told Americans to pray and fast. This is part of what he wrote in a proclamation he signed on March 30, 1863:

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!” (emphasis mine).

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book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy,* he issued strong correction to the American people because they had forgotten God and credited *themselves* for the nation’s greatness! This same message applies to us today, including religious people. If we don’t realize where our blessings come from, they *will* be taken away.

Lincoln’s proclamation also said, “And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?”

Could God be punishing America for our abominable sins today? Your Bible says that is exactly what He is doing!

“Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations” (Ezekiel 5:8). God stands AGAINST America! The entire WORLD will witness God’s hard punishment of this nation for its egregious sins!

“It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness,” Lincoln continued in his proclamation. Would our Congress today ever tell the people to repent? We have fallen off the moral cliff! We have all sinned (Romans 3:23).

President Lincoln’s 1863 proclamation for a day of national prayer and fasting was not just his doing. The House of Representatives and the Senate requested that he make that proclamation. Would our Congress today ever go before God and ask Him to heal the nation?

Just two months after President Lincoln’s proclamation, the Union Army suffered a terrible loss at Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg, Virginia. This was considered to be Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s greatest victory, preparing the way for his second invasion of the North and the Battle of Gettysburg.

The outcome of the war was seriously in doubt. Upon hearing of the Union defeat at Chancellorsville, Lincoln went into his room, locked the door, and prayed to God. According to biographer Wayne Whipple, Lincoln said, “I told Him this was His war, and our cause His cause, but that we couldn’t stand another Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville. And I then and there made a solemn vow to Almighty God that, if He would stand by our boys at Gettysburg, I would stand by Him” (The Story-life of Lincoln).

What happened after Congress and the president made a proclamation encouraging *prayer* and *fasting*, and after the president humbly prayed a solemn vow to Almighty God? The tide of the Civil War changed because of that momentous prayer!

From July 1 to 3, Union forces fought Confederate forces in Pennsylvania in the bloodiest clash of the entire war: the Battle of Gettysburg. About 51,000 men were killed or wounded, but the Union managed to defeat Lee. The next day, it won the siege of Vicksburg. This was the *turning point of the war.* This was the point at which the Union began to gain momentum, and it led to the evil of slavery being extinguished and the country being preserved!

**The Invisible Danger**

Today, America is deeply divided once again, and everyone can see it. However, the power behind this division cannot be seen.

Look at Christ’s “house divided” statement in context.

“Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you” (Matthew 12:22-28).

Christ was casting out *demons!* That was the context of this exchange. The Pharisees leveled an absolutely ignorant accusation against Him, that He was using satanic power to cast out satanic demons. Christ told them that Satan and the demons would not be so effective at deceiving and hurting human beings if they were DIVIDED in that way.

Jesus Christ, the soon-to-be-ruler of the coming Kingdom of God, came to these Jews, and they didn’t even know who He was! Even worse, some of them did know but refused to obey Him.

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things?” Christ said in verse 34. Satan *is* evil. He would never perform a good deed such as casting his demons out of a human being. Likewise, those Pharisees were evil, and they told *lies* about their Savior.

This is a condemning *prophecy* for the end time.

Christ said in verses 43-45, “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”

**Demons prey on empty minds!** A mind not filled with God’s truth is fertile ground for these perverted spirit beings.

Demons are the *hidden cause* of our society’s many incurable problems. They have far more power than humans do. The only way we can fight back is with God’s power.

But if we forsake God, God does forsake us. That is the point Christ was making when He described the demon returning to the man’s mind and bringing seven other demons with him.
Claims that United States President Donald Trump secretly cooperated with Russia to steal the 2016 United States presidential election have been making headlines for over a year. New allegations seem to come out every week, but none of them are backed up by proof against the president.

Is Vladimir Putin trying to strengthen the Trump presidency—or weaken it? BY ANDREW MIILLER

The REAL Russia Scandal
WikiLeaks published 19,252 e-mails hacked from the accounts of seven key Democratic National Committee staff members on July 22, 2016. These staff members are chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chief executive officer Amy Dacey, chief financial officer Brad Marshall, communications director Luis Miranda, press secretary Mark Paustenbach, broadcast media director Pablo Manriquez and finance director Jordan Kaplan.

The e-mails revealed that under Schultz’s leadership, key officials within the Democratic Party worked to sabotage the presidential campaign of Sen. Bernie Sanders so Hillary Clinton would win the party nomination. Many Sanders supporters were outraged. Schultz apologized and resigned in disgrace.

On Oct. 7, 2016, the Obama administration accused the Kremlin of attempting to interfere in the 2016 elections by orchestrating this hack. Ever since, Democratic Party officials have been vainly attempting to prove that the Trump campaign secretly cooperated with the Russians to steal the 2016 presidential election from Clinton.

While President Donald Trump admitted that Russia likely conducted the hack against the DNC, no evidence has been produced supporting the claim that the Trump campaign collaborated with the Russians. The case has now become so heated, and many media organizations have become so biased, it is difficult to get reliable information.

But history and Bible prophecy reveal that all of this is a distraction from the real Russia scandal. Russia poses a real danger to the United States, but not for the reasons the major media are reporting.

**Subverting America**

Russia has sought to undermine the United States for most of the last century; this is a historical fact. Starting in the 1920s, the Soviet Comintern approved a fund for propaganda designed to lure disaffected African-Americans from the party of Abraham Lincoln to the party of Vladimir Lenin. In cooperation with Marxist revolutionaries like Lovett Fort-Whiteman and Claude McKay, Kremlin officials sought to literally divide America by carving out a Soviet-controlled “Negro Republic” in the Southern United States.

After the Great Depression ended, however, communism’s popularity declined among African-Americans. This forced the Kremlin to give up its plan for a “Negro Republic” and shift to a different strategy.

During World War II, the United States entered a “Strange Alliance” with the world’s most powerful Communist state, the Soviet Union. President Franklin Roosevelt released Communist Party USA leader Earl Browder from prison in 1943 to promote “national unity” between American Communists and the general public.

Browder tried to implement a policy of cooperation with the U.S. Democratic Party.

“Earl Browder concluded that the American-Soviet alliance of World War II would continue after the defeat of Nazi Germany,” wrote Harvey Klehr for the New York Times. “For this reason, in 1944, he boldly engineered the transformation of the CPUSA into a pressure group designed to work within the Democratic Party” (July 3).

Soviet leaders were not yet ready for Browder’s outreach program toward the Democrats. He was sacked as head of the Communist Party USA in 1945 on charges of ideological dissent. Not until 1968 did Soviet leaders offer to fund and support a Democratic Party presidential candidate. That year, Soviet diplomat Anatoly Dobrynin was instructed to offer Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey any form of aid he might need in his campaign against the anti-Communist Republican candidate Richard Nixon. But Humphrey politely declined monetary support, saying it was “more than enough for him to have Moscow’s good wishes.”

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, however, documents from the Soviet archives revealed that the Communist Party USA had been receiving millions of dollars a year from the Kremlin from the 1950s through the 1980s. These funds kept the Communist Party USA alive as an agent of the Soviet Union. Still, most Soviet activity in America went not toward traditional espionage but toward infiltrating American education.

According to Soviet defector and former KGB intelligence agent Yuri Bezmenov, the ideological subversion of foreign nations was so important to the Soviet KGB that most of its resources were allocated to it. “Only about 15 percent of time, money and manpower is spent on espionage as such,” he explained in an interview with G. Edward Griffin in the 1980s. “The other 85 percent is a slow process which we call either ideological subversion or ‘active measures.’”

Current Russian President Vladimir Putin was a KGB agent from 1975 to 1991. He told his biographers that his attraction to the KGB went beyond a desire to spread the ideals of Marxism. He was attracted to the actual dirty work of espionage. “I was most amazed by how a small force, a single person, really, can accomplish something an entire army cannot,” Putin said. “A single intelligence officer could rule over the fates of thousands of people.”

Americans would be naive to assume that the KGB disappeared along with the Soviet Union. They would likewise be naive to think that a former KGB agent in the Kremlin is not a dangerous enemy. “This man is not just an authoritarian leader,” wrote editor in chief Gerald Flurry in our March 2017 Trumpet issue. “He is an evil, ruthless, vindictive agent with Soviet-style methods of psychological warfare, assassination and war! As one Russian journalist put it, Putin ‘is a supersize model of the KGB.’”

**Anti-Fracking Campaign**

After the Soviet Union’s collapse, life in Russia changed dramatically. Eastern
Orthodox Christianity replaced atheism. Crony capitalism replaced Marxist socialism. Yet KGB agents retained their influence. Actually, former KGB operatives working in Russia’s new Federal Security Service have more power than they did in Soviet times. It used to be said that the KGB was a state within a state. Today the KGB has become the state.

A political class of former KGB agents now govern enormous state-controlled industries like Rosneft, Russia’s largest state-run oil company, and Gazprom, the largest of Russia’s state-run gas companies. These men intimidate former Soviet states by threatening to cut off their energy supplies in the middle of winter. They weaponize state resources to intimidate and destabilize their rivals.

But what if former Soviet states and other European countries had another option for importing energy?

One of the greatest fears these men of the KGB political class have is that the U.S. will break Eastern Europe’s dependence on Russia by exporting natural gas to nations like Poland.

Speaking at a think tank in London in 2014, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen warned that Russia was using a disinformation campaign to undermine alternative energy sources such as shale gas. “I have met allies who can report that Russia, as part of their sophisticated information and disinformation operations, engaged actively with so-called nongovernmental organizations—environmental organizations working against shale gas—to maintain European dependence on imported Russian gas,” he said.

The state-run Russian media outlet RT ran at least 62 different anti-fracking television stories and news reports in 2015. And a U.S. Senate report found that the Sea Change Foundation funneled more than $43 million to anti-fracking organizations like the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council. According to the Environmental Policy Alliance and Newsweek magazine, a Bermuda-based shell corporation with direct ties to Vladimir Putin and Russian oil interests heavily funds the Sea Change Foundation. The firm is currently under investigation for offshore money laundering.

President Trump delivered a speech in Warsaw, Poland, in July that Putin and other Russian leaders certainly took note of. “We are committed to securing your access to alternate sources of energy,” President Trump said, “so Poland and its neighbors are never again held hostage to a single supplier of energy.” It is exactly this sort of cooperation, enabling East European nations to wriggle out of Russian economic and political pressure, that has motivated Russia’s disinformation and destabilization efforts.

“Kremlin Hacking Strategy

In Soviet times, the Kremlin developed the subversion of a nation into a multistep science. First, intelligence operatives spent 15 to 20 years demoralizing a nation by pumping Communist ideology into the heads of at least one generation of students. Once the sizable numbers of youth were converted, these operatives moved on to stage two: destabilization. They spent two to five years destabilizing the nation by encouraging civil unrest and domestic division. If destabilization proved successful, the nation would plunge into chaos and civil war. The Soviets then stabilized the situation themselves—using the Red Army.

Many developing nations across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America fell due to this multistep process during the Cold War. And according to Bezmenov, the demoralization process in the U.S. was completed before the Soviet Union fell. But the Soviets were never able to proceed to the destabilization step.

Vladimir Putin would have been well trained in this multistep process during his Cold War years in the KGB. While the Russian president does not seem to be a Soviet ideologue committed to the conversion of other nations to Marxist-Leninism, he can use the KGB subversion tactics to accomplish other goals.

The Kremlin’s current priorities include keeping former Soviet states dependent on Russian gas exports and keeping NATO allies pitted against each other. To accomplish these goals, the Russian government has used cyberattacks against Estonia, Georgia and Ukraine. It has backed nativist political parties throughout the European Union. And it has signed major pipeline deals with Germany, France and Italy that put pressure on Eastern Europe.

The Kremlin has also employed a strategy of “disaggregation” against several nations. Disaggregation is the process of identifying social and economic splits in rival nations, exacerbating these splits with propaganda, then taking advantage of the civil unrest that results. This is a classic divide-and-conquer strategy.

The idea that Russia successfully “hacked” the U.S. election is a gross exaggeration. Sixty-three million Americans voted for Donald Trump either because they supported his platform or sincerely believed that the other candidate would be worse for the nation. Russian intelligence operatives undoubtedly noticed the intense social and economic division within the U.S. By hacking the Democratic National Convention and exposing some of the underhanded techniques the Clinton campaign used against Sanders, the Russians might have split the Democratic Party base. But the rationale behind the hack was
HURRICANE HARVEY: A CURSE

Hurricane Harvey devastated Southeast Texas, causing massive flooding that will take years to recover from.

How one of the worst flooding events in American history contains a warning—and the promise of something better  BY STEPHEN FLURRY
Harvey hit Texas on August 25 with the force of a Category 4 hurricane. The storm blasted ashore just north of Corpus Christi, Texas, and quickly lost strength, becoming a tropical storm. Over the next several days, however, the storm system remained over the area and dumped trillions of gallons of water on Southeast Texas. Total rainfall across the region ranged from 15 to 30 inches in most places. A few localized spots were submerged under 50 inches of rain, approaching what meteorological textbooks describe as a “once-in-a-thousand-year event.” Dozens of people died in the floodwaters.

Asked to compare this storm to 2005’s devastating Hurricane Katrina, Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Brock Long referred to Harvey as a “landmark event” that the United States “has not seen yet.” When asked if the agency was prepared to stay in Southeast Texas for months, Director Long said FEMA would be there for years.

The city of Houston was particularly hard-hit by this catastrophic deluge. One CNN meteorologist said, “I think people were used to flooding in Houston when they get two to three inches of rain, but nobody comprehended what two to three feet of rain could do. This is truly historic.” First responders were overwhelmed with thousands of calls for help. Houston’s mayor said some 911 calls were being ignored so operators might “give preference to life-threatening calls.”

The New York Times wrote that the “apocalyptic onslaught of pounding rains and rapidly rising floodwaters [has] brought the nation’s fourth-largest city to its knees” (emphasis added throughout).

Media outlets use biblical language to describe the catastrophe. But they did not actually open the Bible to see what it has to say. For more on Hurricane Harvey and the devastating aftermath, listen to “Hurricane Harvey and the Beginning of Sorrows” on the Trumpet Daily Radio Show (theTrumpet.com/16204).

To learn more about the many physical signs Jesus gave about His return, request a free copy of our booklet Why ‘Natural’ Disasters? For more on Hurricane Harvey and the devastating aftermath, listen to “Hurricane Harvey and the Beginning of Sorrows” on the Trumpet Daily Radio Show (theTrumpet.com/16204).
THE NORTH KOREAN crisis is boiling. As the nation makes rapid advances in its nuclear and missile programs, its leader is also making increasingly frequent, belligerent and specific threats to use those weapons against the United States and other targets. These developments—and U.S. President Donald Trump’s threats to retaliate—have many onlookers concerned that the North Korean situation could soon erupt into World War III.

On August 9, the National Interest published a piece titled “How North Korea Could Start World War III.”

A few days earlier, Catholic Online wrote, “North Korea may start World War III in days with attack on Guam.”

In April, the Independent wrote, “With or without Donald Trump’s help, Kim Jong-un could easily plunge the planet into its third world war inside a century.”

Meanwhile, the hacktivist organization Anonymous published a video warning that a “globally devastating” World War III will erupt over the North Korean situation.

These are only a small sampling of the numerous analysts, pundits and observers who speculate that nuclear North Korea’s aggression—and the reactions to it—could trigger a third world war.

Could These Predictions Be Right?
Are these analysts alarmists? Or will time prove them right? At the Trumpet, we examine such questions from a different vantage point than other publications. We view them through the lens of Bible prophecy.

One third of the Bible consists of prophecies, which are forecasts of the future. And a substantial portion of those prophecies describe details about World War III, what will trigger it, who the aggressors will be, what kinds of weapons they will use, and where decisive battles will occur. Prophecy also reveals how that war will end.

**Sticks and Stones**

Some 2,000 years ago, as they sat on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the disciples of Jesus Christ asked Him: “Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3).

“World” in this verse is a translation of the Greek word aiōn, which has a variety of meanings. In this context, it means “epoch” or “age.” The disciples were asking Christ when the age of man ruling over himself would end, and when the age of Christ ruling over humanity would begin. They wanted to know what events would lead up to that seismic transition.

Jesus gave them a surprisingly detailed answer. He explained that prior to His return, religious deception would victimize many (verses 4-5). He also said people would learn of “wars and rumours of wars,” fierce international tensions, and “famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes” (verses 6-7). These are all early warning indicators, but they do not mean the end of the age of man is imminent. Christ said, “[A]ll these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”

In verses 21-22, Christ speaks of an event to occur that does signal the end of the age of man and show that His return is at the door: “For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive ...” (New Living Translation).

At the time that Christ spoke these alarming words, a global war that could threaten to kill every living person was not yet technologically possible.

During that era of Roman rule, warfare entailed hand-to-hand combat with weighted pila, spears and swords. The nearest thing to a weapon of mass

**Does Bible Prophecy Say North Korea Could Trigger World War III?**

The Scriptures’ detailed description

By Jeremiah Jacques

Ed Jones/AFP/Getty Images, STR/AFP/Getty Images
Prophecy Say Korea Could Trigger World War III?

of the next world war may surprise you. BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

destruction was a catapult, or maybe a skilled archer atop a war elephant. Even after another millennium had gone by, Genghis Khan’s forces were armed with similar weaponry: recurved bows, crossbows, sabers and trebuchets. With these, the Mongols slaughtered some 40 million people, which was 1 in 10 human beings alive at the time. By the 1400s, the arrival of gunpowder had led to widespread use of cannons and muskets. These advancements increased human beings’ efficiency in snuffing out other human beings. Yet humankind still could not spark a conflict where “not a single person” could survive.

With the First World War came major advances in weaponry. Killing was more efficient than ever before thanks to improved artillery and rifles, machine guns, land mines, poison gas, grenades, flamethrowers, tanks, bomb-dropping aircraft and torpedo-firing submarines. That conflict killed 18 million people. In World War II, mankind took a quantum leap into the future of killing devices: Some 60 million people were wiped out by vastly improved artillery, proximity fuses, radar, fighter jets, Essex-class carriers, rockets—and, most ominously, the two atomic bombs that concluded the war are already being built.

Albert Einstein was presumably unfamiliar with these Bible passages, yet he understood that the advent of atomic weaponry would make the third world war unconscionably devastating. “It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity,” he said. “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”

World War III’s Key Players

A related passage in Daniel 11 provides additional details about who the aggressors in this devastating, civilization-threatening world war will be.

First, there is the “king of the south” mentioned in verse 40. This power bloc is described as “pushing,” enacting an aggressive and violent foreign policy. Today, experts around the globe consistently label the Islamic Republic of Iran as the world’s number one state sponsor of terrorism. Sponsoring such sadistic behavior is among the most provocative or “pushy” strategies a nation could adopt and helps to identify the “king of the south” as radical Islam, led by Iran. Verses 42-43 show that, at the time when the third world war erupts, this Middle Eastern power will be in some level of partnership with Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia. Also relevant is that the bulk of the radical Islamists in these and other territories that Iran influences lie largely to the south of Israel. (For thorough proof that the “king of the south” is modern Iran, please read Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s booklet The King of the South.)

Daniel 11 also mentions the “king of the north” as another power bloc in the final world war. This refers to a united European power that will be led by Germany and influenced by jeremiah jacques

In February, the chairman of the North Korean Supreme People’s Assembly, Choe Thae-bok, visited Iran for the Sixth International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Intifada and announced, “North Korea is seeking improved relations with Iran.” In August, North Korea’s number two official, Kim Yong Nam, made a 10-day visit to Iran to further improve those relations.

The relationship, founded on a volatile concoction of missile technology and a hatred of the West, has been growing since the 1980s, when Iran traded in oil with the North Koreans. More recently, these economic ties have developed into a military relationship. Many of Iran’s missiles are based on North Korean designs. On May 2, Iran attempted to launch a missile from a “midget” submarine in the Strait of Hormuz. North Korea is the only other nation that uses these submarines.

Fox News quoted Jeffrey Lewis of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey as saying, “In the past, we would see things in North Korea, and they would show up in Iran. In some recent years, we’ve seen some small things appear in Iran first and then show up in North Korea. So that raises the question of whether trade—which started off as North Korea to Iran—has started to reverse” (May 5).

Two nuclear experts warned in a paper published in February by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies that “Iran is steadily making progress towards a nuclear weapon and is doing so via North Korea.” “From the 1990s onward, dozens—perhaps hundreds—of North Korean scientists and technicians apparently worked in Iran in nuclear and ballistic facilities,” the authors wrote. They said the Syrian nuclear reactor destroyed by an Israeli air strike in 2007 was constructed by North Korea and heavily financed by Iran.

North Korean missiles reportedly can now hit a large portion of America. If similar missiles are launched from Iran, they could easily reach Europe and possibly even the American eastern seaboard.

Bible prophecy indicates that an Iranian attack—possibly even just the threat of one—will trigger a nuclear world war. The warheads and delivery systems for that war are already being built.
by the Vatican. A careful study of Revelation 17 makes this identity clear and provides many vital details about this powerful church-state combine, which is already forming today. Daniel 8:19-24 say the leader of this empire will appear at “the end” of this age, and that he will “destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.” (For proof that the “king of the north” will be a German-led European bloc, please read our free book The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy.)

Daniel 11:44 mentions a third power bloc that will factor heavily into this global war. It is located to “the east” and “the north” of where these other events take place. In Revelation 16:12, it is called “the kings of the east.” Revelation 9 says it will field an army of 200 million soldiers (verse 16). The Bible provides other details about this largest army assembled in history, including the fact that it will be led by one main country: Russia. A prophecy in Ezekiel 38 says: “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” (verses 1-2). Bible scholars normally agree “Gog” is Russia and “the land of Magog” includes China. (For proof of the modern identity of the “kings of the east,” read our free booklet Russia and China in Prophecy.)

The Trigger

Luke 21 records more details from that conversation on the Mount of Olives between Christ and His disciples. In verses 20-22, Christ describes an event that will happen just before the end of the world that threatens all human life: “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. ... For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.”

Matthew 24 also describes Jerusalem being surrounded by multiple armies, calling it “the abomination of desolation ... in the holy place” (verse 15).

The prophesied push by Iran against Jerusalem in Daniel 11:40 is closely connected to this time when the armies surround Jerusalem. Matthew 24 is the most important prophecy that Jesus Christ proclaimed at His first coming. Mark 13 and Luke 21 also have their version of this prophecy. I believe Matthew has the most complete prophecy.

“And as [Jesus] sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world [age]?” (Matthew 24:3).

In response, Christ interpreted the seven seals of Revelation 6-8. The first four of these seals are often referred to as the four horsemen of the apocalypse, explained in Revelation 6. (Request our booklet The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. All of our literature is free.)

In this chapter, Christ prophesied about a volcanic eruption of crises on Earth such as has never been experienced—and about the birth of a new age that will come from it.

The seven seals form the story flow of the book of Revelation. Here is the overview: The first seal reveals false religion; the second, war; the third, famine; the fourth, pestilence; the fifth, tribulation; the sixth, heavenly signs; and the seventh, seven trumpets.

If you understand these seals, they lead you step by step to the return of Jesus Christ: He returns at the last of those seven trumpet blasts. So the Second Coming concludes these seven seals. That makes this prophecy—even though it contains a lot of bad news—the most wonderful news imaginable!

Everything revolves around this prophecy. Herbert W. Armstrong called it the Pivotal New Testament Prophecy. It reveals more to you about what is happening now than any other chapter in the Bible!
Mr. Krauthammer also said that previous American leaders for 30 years have been kicking the can down the road. Now we have reached the end of the road!

It gets even worse. Kim Jong-un shares his nuclear power with Iran, the number one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world by far! And Iran has a religious leader that is even more “bizarre in the extreme ... a weird, utterly ruthless and highly erratic god-king.” He believes that a nuclear catastrophe would even hasten the coming of his messiah to rule the world!

That is a satanic counterfeit of the fifth seal, or the Great Tribulation, and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

These two men have changed the nuclear equation in this world. They relish the idea of a nuclear war!

This is not a fantasy! This is the real world!

‘Then Shall Be Great Tribulation’

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22).

Many nations have weapons of mass destruction—including nuclear bombs. The Prophet Daniel called this “the time of the end”—or as Moffatt translates it, “the crisis at the close”—the crisis of all crises!

This is all tied to the Great Tribulation, or the fifth seal. In this seal, Christ also gives us an insight into the conclusion of the seventh seal—His return. Christ has warned us repeatedly of the worst time of suffering in human history. He commands us to proclaim His message to this world.

How many traditional Christians heed His warning? How many Christian leaders do you hear even discuss Matthew 24? It is the most important prophetic message Christ gave! They talk about the person of Christ continually—but not His message.

One third of your Bible is prophecy. Yet traditional Christians virtually ignore it all! That is what the first seal—religious deception—is all about!

Winston Churchill wrote after World War II, “Mankind has never been in this position before. Without having improved appreciably in virtue or enjoying wiser guidance, it has got into its hands, for the first time, the tools by which it can unfailingly accomplish its own extermination.” We can now exterminate all human life. That is the great, ultimate achievement of man!

Doesn’t that prove there is something terribly wrong with man? Yet he still won’t turn to God!

Why aren’t the world’s Christians more concerned about this today? These are Christ’s words. A true Christian is one who follows Christ!

This prophecy is obviously about nuclear warfare, yet people say, So what. Will they have to experience it before they say more than “so what”? If we won’t listen to someone like Churchill, we surely ought to listen to Christ. Not one word of His will fail.

‘Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand’

Matthew 24:21-22 are talking about nuclear war so devastating that no flesh would survive if Christ didn’t intervene and stop it.

Would you say we are close to that time? Intelligence agencies and defense experts say North Korea could now have the power to destroy major cities in America. And the whole world knows that Iran could become a nuclear power extremely soon. This means that two madmen could be ready to attack America with nuclear weapons!

It is childish folly to think anybody but Christ could stop this nuclear madness.

Our only hope physically is to repent spiritually. If nations refuse, individuals can still repent and receive protection—plus they will become kings and priests under Christ forever. Those who have repented already are kings and priests in embryo (Revelation 1:6).

All this nuclear insanity is also a part of the sign of the Second Coming and the sign of the end of the age when Christ will save humanity from totally exterminating itself!

The real nuclear damage is not inflicted by these two madmen—but mainly by the “abomination of desolation” Christ described in Matthew 24:15. This abomination will be the major force that endangers the life of every person on Earth. But it will be too late to do much when you actually see the abomination unless you have already prepared yourself spiritually. God wants us to understand what Daniel and other prophets taught about the events that lead up to the abomination that makes desolate with its nuclear bombs! Then, step by step, we can trace all the prophecies and events that point to that sign until Christ returns.

Although we don’t know the day or the hour, we know when this is at the door (verses 36, 33). God says watch events (verse 42). The events date these prophecies. God says let those who read this understand, or they are in trouble—because we will have to “flee into the mountains” (verse 16). Be serious about your obedience to God. God says you must have enough faith that when you see all this, you RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

If God did not intervene, there wouldn’t be anybody alive on this planet. The good news is He will shorten the time span and save us alive. But He will let it go a long way so that people learn they can’t rule themselves. Men don’t know the way of peace. God knows—and if you keep His law of love, it will bring great joy and peace into your life!
Mr. Flurry explained this connection in his article “The Whirlwind Prophecy”: “Study Daniel’s prophecy more deeply, and you see Jerusalem right in the middle of it” (Trumpet, July 2013).

Mr. Flurry explained that the push by the “king of the south” against the “king of the north” could occur within the city of Jerusalem. “Does it have something to do with radical Islam attacking or controlling a site owned by the Catholics?” he asked. Some of Catholicism’s holiest sites are in Jerusalem, so it is not difficult to imagine how such an event could happen, and how forcefully the Europeans would react to it.

Whatever the details of that “push” turn out to be, the Bible makes plain that it connects to the armies surrounding Jerusalem, and that it will escalate into devastating world war.

So Bible prophecy is clear. It is not Pyongyang or Seoul or any other city that the armies of the world will encompass as they ignite the flames of World War III. It is Jerusalem.

Korea, Armageddon and Beyond

This does not mean that we should be unconcerned about the dangers posed by the regime of Kim Jong-un in North Korea. This nuclear-armed despot has tested intercontinental ballistic missiles believed to be capable of striking the American mainland. And there is nothing in Bible prophecy that says such a strike will not take place. Prophecy shows such a scenario will not be the spark that ignites the third world war.

The North Korean danger is graver than most realize, and Pyongyang could inflict major damage on the U.S. or other nations. It is also possible that the U.S. could hazard a preemptive strike. Any such scenario would contribute to the “wars and rumours of wars” that Christ warned would occur before the third world war breaks out. Beyond the direct threat, there is also ample evidence that North Korea is collaborating on nuclear weapons with Iran—the pushy Islamic nation that Bible prophecy says will trigger World War III.

Furthermore, North Korea will almost certainly be assimilated into the “kings of the east” power bloc, which is prophesied to play a major role in World War III. This bloc will be led by Russia, with China in a secondary leadership position. Many other Asian nations, likely including North Korea, will be aligned with it (see Ezekiel 38:5-6). This means that all the missiles and nuclear technology that the Kim dynasty has been developing over the years will contribute to the unprecedented devastation to occur during the prophesied third world war. Prophecies such as that recorded in Daniel 11:44 show, however, that this will occur toward the end of the conflict, not the beginning.

Altogether, this shows that even though North Korea will not be the spark that ignites the world, we should take its threats and actions seriously. As Trumpet editors Stephen Flurry and Joel Hilliker wrote on August 15: “If nothing else, the mere threat of a mentally unstable tyrant in North Korea using nuclear weapons should cause all of us to be asking some very hard questions. Rising current nuclear tension should provoke us to consider seriously the biblical prophecies of nuclear destruction. Those prophecies are drawing closer than ever to fulfillment!” (theTrumpet.com).

Bible prophecy gives a surprisingly detailed description of World War III and other end-time events, but it does not give every detail.

The Bible assures God’s people, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy,” and says our understanding becomes clearer as we draw closer to Jesus Christ’s return (2 Peter 1:19). God instructs us in Luke 21:36 to be vigilant regarding His prophecies, and to watch for evidence of those prophecies being fulfilled in the headlines each week: “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

The evidence matches what Jesus Christ prophesied and shows that World War III is rapidly approaching.

Yet, as we see that conflict approach, there is cause for great hope! In Matthew 24, Christ says that the global war at the end of this age will be so devastating that it could kill all human life. Then He adds a vital detail in verse 22: “But it will be shortened” (NLT).

World War III will be cut short! Before mankind fires its last weapons to annihilate itself, Jesus Christ will interrupt the conflict. Immediately after that time of unprecedented death and destruction, He will establish a new age of unprecedented peace and prosperity. Christ will rule Earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will usher in an epoch of worldwide peace for the peoples of the Korean Peninsula, the U.S., the Middle East, Europe, Russia and everywhere else. Regarding this future era of global harmony, Isaiah 2:4 says: “[N]ation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Knowing how close that radiant future is can give us perspective that fills us with hope.
The Coming Civil War

During and after World War II, the editor in chief of the Trumpet's predecessor, the Plain Truth, proclaimed the biblical truth that Russia would not attack America militarily before the return of Christ. Instead, Herbert W. Armstrong revealed, Russia would wage a psychological war of propaganda, infiltration, subversion and demoralization against America. Because of America's rejection of God, this warfare would weaken the nation to a point where it could be invaded by a revived Holy Roman Empire led by Germany. (For a detailed explanation of the prophecies that prove this, request our free booklet He Was Right.)

“What we fail to grasp, in the struggle with Russia, is this: We are not fighting a single nation in a military war, but a gigantic worldwide, plainclothes army, masquerading as a political party, seeking to conquer the world with an entirely new kind of warfare,” Mr. Armstrong wrote in 1956. “It's a kind of warfare we don't understand or know how to cope with. It uses every diabolical means to weaken us from within, sapping our strength, perverting our morals, sabotaging our educational system, wrecking our social structure, destroying our spiritual and religious life, weakening our industrial and economic power, demoralizing our armed forces, and finally, after such infiltration, overthrowing our government by force and violence!”

The communism espoused by the old Soviet Union now has deeper roots in the American educational system than it does in the Kremlin! And Russia continues to press toward its goal of spreading further civil unrest in America.

By offering Poland and other East European nations potential independence from Russian energy exports, the United States poses a direct challenge to Putin's dictatorship. So, the former KGB operative is working fervently to counter this challenge in the best way he knows how: destabilization and disaggregation.

The fact that 1 in 3 Clinton supporters view President Trump’s election victory as illegitimate seems to show that Russian disaggregation is having its desired effect. This ideological divide is wider than at any point in U.S. history since the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era ended in 1877. While the primary blame for this tragedy rests with the American people, Russian subversion has certainly exacerbated the crisis.

While the primary blame for the tragic ideological divide rests with the American people, Russian subversion has certainly exacerbated the crisis.

But don't blame the politicians or the race-baiters or the professional rioters. This situation exists in America only because of the sins of the nation—of all Americans! We can no longer ignore what we have reaped by giving ourselves over to sin. This is a reckoning!

Even mainstream political commentators are now talking about the possibility of a second civil war. History shows that when a nation falls into division and infighting, it quickly becomes consumed by internal crises that leave it vulnerable to attack by foreign enemies.

This is exactly what God prophesies will happen to America in the near future. Why? Because Americans have rebelled against His law. In Ezekiel 5, God reveals that there will be a time of violent rioting in the cities of America just before they suffer a foreign invasion. The dangerous level of ideological division in modern-day America is leading to the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Ultimately, America is hurting toward this calamity not because of Trump or Clinton or Putin, but because the American people as a whole have turned away from God. The popularization of pornography and premarital sex have led to the undermining of the matrimonial bond that unites families, leading to a deluge of abortions and divorces. Even those children who do grow up with married parents are seldom reared by a faithfully married, family-focused father and mother intent on fulfilling their respective biblical roles. Without strong families to train up children into good citizens, societies unravel and anarchy ensues.

There are dark days ahead, but we must never lose sight of the grand lesson God is trying to teach mankind. After we learn the hard way that mankind does not know the way to peace apart from God, the Bible prophesies that God will gather His people back to their land and teach them the way to true peace and prosperity.
A DEADLY SPARK
ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

How a terrorist attack almost set off the Jerusalem powder keg  BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL

JERUSALEM

TERRORIST ATTACKS OCCUR FREQUENTLY in Israel, so much so that they rarely make international headlines anymore. However, the terrorist attack on July 14 this year was different—far different. The type of victims was not unusual: Security personnel are often targeted by Palestinian terrorists. The weaponry wasn't out of the ordinary: Homemade submachine guns, pistols and knives are the normal tools of the trade. Even the number of people who were murdered (two) did not make this attack especially noteworthy. What made this attack different was the location.

The terrorists purposefully chose the third-holiest site of Islam and the holiest site to Judaism: the Temple Mount. This was a shockingly bold move by the Palestinians, and one that caught the Israeli security establishment completely unprepared.

So ill prepared were Israel’s police that they had to scramble to prevent a repeat. In the two days following the attack, the Israeli government closed down the 35-acre compound in order to search its mosques, shrines, tunnels and caverns for more weaponry. During the raid, police uncovered dozens of knives, slingshots, cudgels, spikes, inciting material, unexploded munitions and stun grenades. Then, in a move that seemed logical and innocuous, Israel set up metal detectors and cameras at the entrance to the Temple Mount so that terrorists could no longer smuggle such weapons onto the compound.

For the Palestinians, the new security measures were too much, with both the Muslim authority over the compound and the Palestinian Authority calling for “days of rage” against Israel and a boycott of the Temple Mount until the security measures were removed.

In the first two weeks that followed, most days saw riots break out after a prayer session conducted outside the compound. Then, on July 28, large-scale riots erupted across East Jerusalem and the West Bank, leading to the deaths of three rioters. For the Palestinians, there would be no compromise. Rioting would continue until all metal detectors and cameras were removed.

Two days later, the Israeli government capitulated and began removing everything it had set up to prevent another attack from taking place.

This violent reaction to standard and fairly delicate practices aimed at preserving human life at a holy site bears contemplation and reflection. This event offers a unique glimpse into how a pivotal event in biblical prophecy will take place—one that will affect your life!

The First Domino of End-time Events

The Philadelphia Trumpet consistently encourages readers to watch Jerusalem because events in this pivotal city reveal specifically where we are on the time line of end-time events prophesied in the Bible.

Many prophecies indicate we are in the end time. One specific prophecy in the book of Zechariah makes July's events at the Temple Mount extremely important! This prophecy states that half of Jerusalem will fall into Arab hands and that this event will be the first domino to fall in a sequence that leads all the way to the coming of the Messiah.

Based on this prophecy, Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has also forecast that before half of Jerusalem falls, an impasse will develop between the Arabs and Jews over the sovereignty of the Temple Mount. Palestinians will take up arms to seize the Temple Mount by force, and Israel will respond in kind. Furthermore, Mr. Flurry expects that this Arab takeover of the Temple Mount will likely be motivated by Iran. (Please request our free booklet...
The campaign for Jerusalem has effectively begun and will not stop until a Palestinian victory and the release of the holy sites from Israeli occupation.

Jerusalem in Prophecy for an in-depth study of this subject.)

With this in mind, consider how these factors came together in startling detail in Jerusalem.

Temple Mount Impasse

Militarily, Israel controls all of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount. But due to the extremely sensitive nature of this city—and this location in particular—Israel strictly limits Jews’ visitation to the site and permits the complex to be administered by the Waqf, a Jordanian Islamic organization. July’s attack proved that more security measures were needed.

While Israel viewed the metal detectors as a simple safety decision to protect citizens from violence, the Arab street and the Muslim world reacted with rage, claiming that Israel was attempting to restrict their access to the site, and to ultimately take over the Temple Mount.

This lie has been promulgated for almost a century: that Israel is constantly scheming to take over the Temple Mount, destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque, then build the third temple on the area so that the Jews’ Messiah can return. It is all patently false—the only restriction to religious access Israel makes to the Temple Mount is to block Jews from praying there—yet the lie remains the one rallying cry that unites the disunited Palestinians and the broader Muslim world.

Palestinian and regional leaders understand the unifying power of this lie and often use it to control the Arab street. This is what we saw during the violent protests in July.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas told supporters of his Fatah movement, “The campaign for Jerusalem has effectively begun and will not stop until a Palestinian victory and the release of the holy sites from Israeli occupation.” He later claimed that the metal detectors had been “falsely presented as a security measure,” hiding Israel’s attempt “to take control over al-Aqsa Mosque.”

Another Fatah statement praised the Palestinian demonstrators for their “intifada against the enemy,” their “acts for the protection of al-Aqsa, and their struggle against the Israeli plans, while sacrificing souls and blood.”

Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Fatah’s rival faction Hamas, castigated the rest of the Muslim world for being silent while Israel supposedly desecrated the Temple Mount (which Muslims call Al-Haram al-Sharif). “Where are you, nation of a billion, while prayer is being prevented at al-Aqsa? Where are the Arab summits while the mosque is being sullied by settlers? ... I say to the Zionist enemy that al-Aqsa and al-Quds [Jerusalem] are red lines.”

In each of these cases, the narrative is consistent, clear and deceitful: Israel’s security measures are an attempt to take over the Temple Mount and refuse access to Muslims. Thus, Muslims believe that they must stand up and fight the Jews any way they can in order to protect their holy places.

And naturally, some do.

One such person was 19-year-old Omar al-Abed from the Arab village of Kobar. On the Sabbath eve during the protests, he entered a nearby Jewish village in the West Bank. He knocked on the front door of a residence. The family inside was in the middle of its Shabbat meal, but they opened the door to the stranger. Omar entered and pulled out a knife.

Minutes later, he had murdered the grandfather and two of his adult children and severely injured the grandmother. The carnage ended only when an off-duty soldier next door heard the screaming, grabbed his weapon, and shot and wounded the terrorist.

This attack took place far from Jerusalem, far from the Temple Mount, far from al-Aqsa. Yet according to Omar, this family that was eating a meal and which had opened its door to him was a legitimate target in this holy war.

“I am writing my last testament, and these are my last words,” Omar wrote on Facebook just two hours before his rampage, clearly intending to keep stabbing until someone killed him. It was a sacrifice he was willing to make—for al-Aqsa.

Jerusalem Post translated his post: “I am young, not even 20 years old. I had many dreams and aspirations. But what life is this in which our women and our young are murdered without any justification? They are desecrating the [al-Aqsa] Mosque, and we are sleeping. It’s an embarrassment that we are idly sitting by.”

Omar then spoke out against other Palestinians for not declaring war for Allah: “You, those who have a gun and who are worn out, you who only bring out your gun at weddings and celebrations, are you not ashamed of yourselves? Why are you not declaring war for God? Here they are closing al-Aqsa, and your gun is silent. All that I have is a sharpened knife, and it is answering the call of al-Aqsa. Shame on you, you who preach hatred. God will take revenge on you and will make it count. All of us are the sons of Palestine and the sons of al-Aqsa. You, sons of monkeys and pigs, if you do not open the gates of al-Aqsa I am sure that men will follow me and will hit you with an iron fist, I am warning you.”

Omar’s sharpened knife answered the call to save al-Aqsa, and three innocent people are dead.

Now Omar is being hailed as a martyr in Muslim circles around the world. And while he sits in prison on a life sentence, he and his family will receive a generous reward from the Palestinian government: a lifetime of financial compensation.

Omar is a powerful illustration of how Palestinians, especially youths, are motivated by the “al-Aqsa is in danger” lie. Of course, this was already known, given the Palestinian response to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s visit to the Temple Mount back in 2000: They used the visit as a pretense to launch the second intifada. That explosion of
murderous violence, often called the “al-Aqsa Intifada,” was fueled by the same narrative: Israel was trying to take over the Temple Mount. That narrative motivated Palestinians to blow themselves up on buses and in cafes throughout Israel. In the end, they murdered more than 1,000 Israelis, and thousands of Palestinians died as Israel defended itself. They died believing a narrative that was as false then as it is today.

In July 2017, Israel’s security measures sparked massive protests. This shows that the cause of “defending” al-Aqsa from a nonexistent threat remains a powerful motivation to Palestinians.

Opportunistic Muslim powers are poised to take advantage of this.

The Iranian Connection
While the July protests and riots were predominantly reported as a spontaneous grassroots uprising of the Palestinian people, there is growing evidence to suggest that Iran both instigated the Temple Mount attacks and encouraged the subsequent riots that led to the deaths of six Palestinian protesters and three Israeli civilians.

The first indication of Iranian involvement came from a speculative piece in Tablet magazine on July 27. Author Liel Leibovitz deduced that neither Fatah nor Hamas instigated the attack. Fatah’s leadership was caught unawares by it and only inserted itself into the fray after it realized that the Arab street was fully behind the ensuing riots, wanting to claim the leadership of a Palestinian cause that was already underway. Hamas can be discounted because it is in the habit of claiming responsibility for its attacks. It praised the Temple Mount attack, without taking credit for it.

Then Leibovitz wrote, “After you discount a host of other regional bystanders—like Jordan, where another weak regime depends on Israeli security cooperation for its very survival—you’re left with one conclusion, backed by no discernible evidence but eminently logical and hard to refute: The architect of the recent wave of violence is Iran.”

The key piece of circumstantial evidence is the location of the terrorists’ hometown. The three men—Mohammed Hamad Abd Latif Jabarin (19), Mohammed Ahmed Mafdal Jabarin (19) and Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Jabarin (29)—came from the large Arab town of Umm al-Fahm in northern Israel. This town is known to be a breeding ground for supporters of the Northern Front of the Islamic Movement, an organization outlawed in Israel back in 2015 for its connection to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as the constant preaching of hate against the State of Israel.

Its leader, Sheikh Raed Salah, recently spent a nine-month stint in prison for a 2007 sermon he preached in al-Aqsa, in which he expressed hope that “the streets of Jerusalem [would] be purified with the blood of the innocent, who shed it in order to separate from their souls the soldiers of the Israel occupation, also in the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque.” He further said that “our finest moment will be when we meet Allah as martyrs in al-Aqsa.”

The fact that the three terrorists retreated into the al-Aqsa compound instead of fleeing elsewhere indicates they wanted to answer Salah’s call to help “purify the area” with their “innocent blood.”

The 2007 prison sentence wasn’t the only time Salah has been incarcerated. From 2003 to 2005, he was imprisoned on charges of funding Hamas (which was funded and directed by Iran at the time) and for being in contact with an Iranian intelligence agent.

Liebovitz acknowledged he had no proof of an Iranian connection to the July attack. However, proof of Iran’s efforts to fan the flames of the riots surfaced just two days later, on July 29.

Palestinian media began reporting that Iran had provided aid to Palestinians protesting Israel’s security measures. “The aid reportedly included boxes of food and drink,” Times of Israel wrote, “which came with a flyer attached depicting the Dome of the Rock and a quote attributed to Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, reading, ‘With the help of God, Palestine will be freed. Jerusalem is ours’” (August 1).

The Palestinian Authority (PA), led by Mahmoud Abbas, apparently was aware of the Iranian infiltration into the West Bank to arrange what amounted to around a million dollars’ worth of support. However, Abbas didn’t warn the Israeli government about the Iranian penetration because he had cut off contact with the Israeli security establishment days earlier.

“It is clear to us that the regime in Tehran, by means of its long arms, is behind this catering operation,” a Palestinian official told Israel Hayom.

“The Iranian involvement also angered PA [officials],” Times of Israel continued, “with one unnamed official said to be close to Abbas telling the daily that it was a mistake to allow Iran to reach into the West Bank with its ‘tentacles’” (op cit).

“It is plainly obvious that the government in Tehran, by way of its long tentacles, was behind these efforts,’ the official said. ‘This involves millions of shekels, and it appears that the Iranians have found a way to cash in on this and to make it clear to the Palestinians that Iran is taking care of them,’” wrote Israel Hayom (August 1).

Are We Close to Jerusalem Falling?
While the Temple Mount crisis appears to be simmering down, it is important to take stock of what just happened:

There was a violent Arab-Israeli impasse over the sovereignty of the Temple Mount that was motivated in part by the Iranian regime.

These are the precise conditions the Trumpet forecast two decades ago that would lead to half of Jerusalem falling.

But that is not where the prophecy ends. That event will start the chain reaction that leads to the return of Jesus Christ.

Though there is currently a relative calm in Jerusalem, the battle over Temple Mount sovereignty, and Iran’s desire to claim leadership of the Palestinian struggle against Israel, remains. The stage is set for the dramatic fulfillment of biblical prophecy in Jerusalem—prophecies that culminate in the Second Coming of the Messiah!
How Homemakers Help the Economy

Some say America’s economy would grow by billions of dollars if moms would work outside the home. They’re measuring wrong.  **By Andrew Miller**

Stay-at-home moms have economists worried. According to government calculations, women make up 51 percent of America’s population, but they only constitute 46 percent of its workforce. The main reason for the discrepancy is that there are over 10 million stay-at-home mothers in the country, compared to 2 million stay-at-home fathers.

If women participated in the official workforce at the same rate as men, the nation’s gross domestic product would be 5 percent bigger than it is today. That’s a difference of $900 billion in goods and services. At least, that is the case made by Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen.

In May, during a speech at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, Yellen said that America is falling behind the advanced economies of Europe, partially due to America’s low rate of female labor-force participation. She cited a 2012 study by the global strategy consulting firm Strategy&, which makes a compelling case that GDP would indeed rise 5 percent if female employment were boosted to male levels.

But this study makes no attempt to measure the economic value of the work already being done by the women Yellen wants to pull into the official workforce. The equations that economists use to calculate GDP exclude the work that mothers do at home as nonmarket labor.

Late economist Paul Samuelson joked that GDP falls when a man marries his housekeeper. Since she is now supported by her husband rather than by an employer recognized by the Internal Revenue Service, her official contribution to the economy is now erased—even if she continues doing the same work.

Of course, homemaking is a much more involved and sophisticated art than just housekeeping. This makes it difficult to estimate its economic value. One study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis suggests that GDP would be 26 percent higher if it accounted for the housework and child care in private households.

The American Time Use Survey estimates that the average stay-at-home mother performs 18 hours of child care and 30 hours of housework each week.

In reality, the stay-at-home mother is already a full-time professional in a $4.7 trillion industry.

But government statisticians ignore this sector of the economy. Perhaps we should call it “nonmarket household production” to make it sound more official. Now Yellen and others are demanding that mothers switch off this engine of value creation and go get jobs in office buildings, factories, restaurants, etc.

According to a report by the McKinsey Global Institute, women contributed $6.9 trillion to official U.S. GDP in 2014, compared to $10.3 trillion from the men. The implication was that women account for only 40 percent of the country’s productivity. But women also do about two thirds of the nonmarket household production in America. So their real contribution to the labor market is closer to $9.7 trillion, compared to $11.7 trillion contributed by men.

Even this data represents an incomplete picture. A 2004 study in the *American Economic Review* found that the motivation and support a wife provides to her husband allows him to be more fully committed to his job, boosting his income by approximately 27 percent. Since half the men in America are married, about $1 trillion of their combined salaries could be attributable to the support they receive from their wives.

But the societal benefits of committed mothers become even more obvious when you factor in their effect on their children. Harvard School of Public Health researcher Jody Heymann found that for every hour a child is left unsupervised between 6 and 9 p.m., he is 16 percent more likely to score in the bottom quarter of a standardized math test. Other studies show that unsupervised children are more likely to use drugs or alcohol, have sex, and commit crimes. Despite this, according to an Urban Institute survey, 1 in 5 preteens (ages 6 to 12) are regularly left home alone after school while both of their parents are at work. Although the negative economic impact of uncared for children may not be immediate, it will definitely reduce the official and nonofficial productivity of the next generation.

God created the family to excel by taking advantage of specialization of labor between husband and wife. Any honest economist will tell you this model leads to greater productivity. Those who ignore the contributions homemakers provide to the economy and try to “guilt” them into getting jobs in cubicles are not trying to grow America’s economy. They are trying to revolutionize America’s culture to its great detriment. A strong family built on the biblical model—with a faithfully married, family-focused father and mother intent on fulfilling their respective roles—is an ideal that should be valued by any clear-thinking person, and certainly by any clear-thinking economist!
In addition to performing thousands of dollars of specialty cleaning and laundry services each year, a homemaker teaches her children the importance of cleanliness and responsibility.

**THE HOMEMAKER** has a three-fold impact on the economy. By tending to details at home...

1. She motivates her husband to be fully committed to his career.
2. She raises the future labor force.
3. Her at-home labor saves the family money.

- **2,544** TOTAL HOURS WORKED PER YEAR
- **11.66** AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE
- **29,673** AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY

**Sources:** American Time Use Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Housework**

**Nothing is really lost until your mom can’t find it.**

- **624**
- **11.46**
- **7,153**
- **-292**

In addition to performing thousands of dollars of specialty cleaning and laundry services each year, a homemaker teaches her children the importance of cleanliness and responsibility.

**Grocery Shopping**

**One day I’ll be thankful that my kid is strong willed, but that will not be today. Not in this grocery store.**

- **529**
- **12.23**
- **6,473**
- **-241**

By searching for coupons and deals, a homemaker can make her family’s grocery budget stretch much further than if she did not have time to devote to this activity.

**Driving Children**

**Top Five Educational Podcasts for Your Car Ride**

America’s 10.4 million stay-at-home mothers comprise about 4 percent of the U.S. population. Yet they do 8 percent of the nation’s nonmarket housework and 25 percent of the nation’s nonmarket child care.

- **51**
- **12.72**

By growing flowers, melons, tomatoes and other produce, homemakers improve the living environment for their families while simultaneously providing nutritious food.

**Food Preparation**

We keep a potato masher in a drawer because sometimes it’s fun to not be able to open that drawer.

- **88**
- **11.48**
- **12.23**
- **1,006**
- **6,473**
- **-241**

By preparing meals in her own kitchen, a homemaker provides her family with healthier food at a lower cost. She also teaches her children the value of nutrition.

**Lawn and Garden Care**

**How to Grow Lavender in Every Climate**

- **51**
- **12.72**

By growing flowers, melons, tomatoes and other produce, homemakers improve the living environment for their families while simultaneously providing nutritious food.
By driving their children to activities like soccer practice, swim team, dance class and music lessons, homemakers ensure the next generation grows up to have a well-rounded personality.

**Child Care**

**Quiz**

**What Type of Mom Will You Be?**

- 927
- 11.02
- 10,216.64

By teaching, training and playing with her children, a homemaker instills in them a sense of hope and purpose. She raises productive citizens who are much more likely to establish families themselves.

**Side Job**

**The Best Work-at-Home Jobs for Stay-at-Home Moms**

- 40
- 17.65
- 709
- +1,836

By engaging in a side job or moneymaking hobby such as blogging, photography, beekeeping or handcrafts, many homemakers generate additional income for themselves and their families.

**Elderly Care**

- 11
- 11.35
- 124
- ±0

By taking care of elderly parents and grandparents, homemakers promote intergenerational unity and often save their families thousands of dollars in elderly care costs.

**Other Shopping**

- 624
- 11.48
- 1,927
- -29

By spending extra time shopping for clothes, shoes and other family necessities, a homemaker saves her family money and teaches her children the value of thrift.

**Build a Home. Build a Nation.**

On the morning of December 8, 1941, tens of thousands of American and British civilians living in China woke up to learn that the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor had been bombed by Japanese forces. Their nations were suddenly at war with Imperial Japan. The Japanese had invaded China years earlier, and the troops stationed there wasted no time turning these Westerners—who were now part of the enemy—into prisoners of war. “They appeared the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked,” Mary Previte told the Trumpet. “We were now the prisoners of the great emperor of Japan, they said.”

Previte had just turned 9 years old when the Japanese stormed her boarding school. Her parents were working as missionaries in central China, while she and her siblings lived in Shandong province on the country’s east coast. There they attended the Chefoo School, which had been established to give British and American children living in China the chance to receive a Western-style education in English.

Before Pearl Harbor, Mary’s time at Chefoo had been peaceful. But after the attack and the subsequent declaration of war, the situation drastically changed. “[T]hey began going through the campus and the buildings and putting seals with Japanese writing, saying, This belongs to the great emperor of Japan,” she said.

For a year, the Japanese let Mary and her schoolmates and teachers continue living on the Chefoo campus. But it was located on a choice piece of seaside real estate that the Japanese soon determined would be useful for military purposes. “They wanted this beautiful school to be a Japanese naval base,” Previte said.

So in November of 1942, the soldiers herded up the Chefoo prisoners and relocated them to a concentration camp three miles across town. The camp consisted of four medium-sized houses, each of which had 60 to 70 students and teachers crowded into it. “We did not have even one inch between mattresses on the floor,” she said.

The camp was cramped, the people hungry, and the situation bleak. But one of Mary’s teachers made a decision that changed everything for her and the other children.

Structure, Gratitude, Merit Badges
“[S]he just decided she was going to start a Brownie group,” Previte said. This young teacher decided that in an effort to preserve the students’ childhoods during the war, she would work to keep them full of optimism and gratitude—and busy learning and earning merit badges.

Several other Chefoo teachers joined the effort: Previte remembers Miss Ailsa Carr, Miss Beatrice Stark and...
How to Survive as a POW

A seldom-discussed chapter of the Pacific War provides an example of the power of positive endeavor during times of crisis.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

Miss Broomhall, all between the ages of 20 and 25. For the boys, they set up a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout troop. For the older girls, they established a Girl Guide unit (known as Girl Scouts in the United States).

From the beginning, the teachers decided to operate these youth units as if they were the same as those in peacetime. Concentration camp or not, they were going to be orderly, cheerful, productive and polite.

“[W]e were to have nice manners like the princesses in Buckingham Palace,” Previte said. “You could be on a wooden bench, eating out of a soap dish or an empty tuna can, and you might be eating boiled animal brains or what the Chinese would feed their animals, and the teachers would come up behind you and say ‘Mary, do not talk with food in your mouth. There are not two sets of manners, one for the concentration camp and one for Buckingham Palace in England.’”

The Move to Weihsien
After around 10 months in the camp, the Japanese moved Mary and the other prisoners again. They shipped them by boat, train and truck to the Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center. At this larger concentration camp, the Chefoo captives joined some 1,200 other prisoners of war, mostly from Europe and Great Britain.

“There were men, women and children, old and young. People were born there, and people died there,” she said.

In Weihsien, there was a little more breathing room, but food remained scarce, and many prisoners were starving. Previte says they learned to eat certain weeds growing in the camp, such as pigweed, for calories.

Some prisoners also developed a system of bartering over the compound walls, which was hazardous because of the punishment dealt out to anyone engaging in it. But by this system, they occasionally obtained eggs. In such rare cases, the POWs learned not to let any part of them go to waste. Her teachers would grind the shells into powder and feed it to the children by the spoonful. The adults said “that was pure calcium for us, and for our bones,” she said.

Mary’s days were filled with arduous work—mopping floors, cooking, scrubbing clothes, swabbing latrines, pumping water, and carrying and burning trash.

The relocation to Weihsien, the unending scarcity of food and the laborious drudgery did not put an end to the youth organizations. By this time, Mary was 11 and had graduated from the Brownies to the Girl Guides.

She remembers that twice a day, the captives lined up for roll call, and the soldiers were often late to arrive to take count. Mary and the others in the youth troops did not let this time go to waste. While waiting, “we were practicing for our semaphore and Morse Code,” she said.

The practice paid off. Mary eventually earned a merit badge for getting the Morse Code down, and one for semaphore. She also remembers earning a badge for folk singing and another for learning to build a fire. “I don’t know where the teachers got the matches for us,” she said, “but somehow or another we would have a little tin can, and we would figure out how to make a little grate inside the can, and practice lighting a fire inside it.”

Adversity Becomes Opportunity
Earning merit badges for such activities as Morse Code and kindling fires is fairly standard around the world for members of these youth organizations. But for the children in the Weihsien camp, there were a few unique activities.

For example, in the summers the Weihsien prisoners suffered severe bed bug infestations. “They would get you at night,” she said, “and you would wake up in the morning and find a little trail of bites up your legs, arms and tummy.”

But in this trial, the teachers saw an opportunity for the children. “They said, ‘OK, we’ll make it an adventure,’” Mary remembers. Each child would let one fingernail grow longer than the others, and at a designated time each weekend, they would all wage meticulous war on the pests. “Every Saturday
would be “The Battle of the Bed Bugs,” she said. “You went through every crack and cranny. If you had a pillow, you would go through the seam, to kill any egg or any bug. That was the game!”

Bed bugs were not the only pests the prisoners had to battle. “Sanitation was horrible,” Previte said. “We didn’t have nice toilets to flush.” The poor hygiene conditions spawned multitudes of flies, which could potentially spread diseases.

The youth troop leaders again turned adversity into opportunity. “They said whoever gets the most flies will get a prize,” Previte explained. She remembers one occasion when her younger brother, John, won a weekly competition. “I don’t know how many thousands of flies he got in a little can,” she says, but he “got the prize!”

During the winters, the prisoners had to fight against a different enemy: the cold. Each room was furnished with a pot-bellied iron stove, but the Japanese did not give the prisoners coal. They only gave them access to coal dust, which pows had to transport from the soldiers’ barracks to the prisoners’ dorms.

“We little girls in that dormitory, 13 of us, would make a long line of girl, bucket, girl, bucket, girl, bucket,” she said. They found this bucket brigade to be the most efficient way to move the heavy dust into the dormitories. The process took hours, but Mary and the others passed the time faster by singing. “We would make a little tune,” she said, and then burst into the very melody that was the soundtrack to their toil: “Many hands make light work; many hands make light work!”

Mary’s teachers also created a game to see which pair of girls could get their stove the hottest. Mary became overwhelmed with emotion remembering that on one occasion, she and a friend won. “Can you believe this? I’m remembering from more than 70 years ago the pride that I felt when Marjorie Halver- son and I got the pot-bellied stove red hot with the fire we started,” she said.

Father, Mother and Teacher
Previte said that the champions of this story were the young Chefoo instructors who led the youth troops.

Even as Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaya fell to the Japanese, and even as Burma collapsed and the Philippines was invaded, the teachers kept the children from succumbing to dread. “I did not see my parents for 5½ years,” she said. “So think of this: A teacher becomes substitute parents, but they absolutely were not going to let us forget that God was taking care of us, and that they were going to take care of us.”

Even knowing the atrocities the Japanese had committed in the Nanking Massacre, and even as the Weihsien prisoners slowly starved as the years went by, the teachers kept the children focused on their education, on earning merit badges, on making the best of what they had.

“Did we lose weight?” she asked. “Absolutely. Were we undernourished? Absolutely. Yes, there were terrible conditions, but the teachers were protecting us with everything they could.”

Conveying Gratitude
Previte said it was only after she reached adulthood that she was able to understand the peril that she and the other children had faced during the war. It was only then that she could grasp the enormity of the Chefoo teachers’ achievement. She said for a child to endure those squalid conditions and still say, “Wow, we did great!” after successfully completing a given activity or earning a merit badge was “an absolutely amazing triumph.”

In 1985, decades after the American forces had liberated the Weihsien camp, she tracked down some of her teachers to thank them. She asked Ailsa Carr what it was like to bear that heavy burden, during a time when the Japanese war machine was devouring more and more of Asia and becoming more ruthless.

Mary’s former teacher told her that she knew the Japanese were digging mass graves outside the Weihsien compound walls. Carr added: “I would pray to God every night that He would let me be one of the first when they lined us up by the death trench and began shooting.”

“I said, ‘Miss Carr, I had no idea. I had no idea,’” Previte said.

Not many situations in life would be as hopeless as a rat-infested, bed-bug ridden, tragically overpopulated and starving concentration camp. And the desolation of life there could have easily overcome Mary Previte and the others of the Chefoo School.

But that did not happen.

Mary Previte is now 84 and living in New Jersey, where she served as a representative of the sixth legislative district from 1998 to 2006. It was some 75 years ago when her teachers established those youth units that shielded her from hopelessness. Speaking about it, she bursts with childlike joy and energy, sounding like she is 10 years old once again. “What a gift those teachers gave to us!” she said.

The teachers’ gift was that they enabled the children to entrust their anxieties to them. This helped them stay positive, productive and grateful through it all.

In 1 Peter 5:7, followers of Christ are instructed to do likewise toward God: “Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the fibers of adversity into opportunity. “They who subtle things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

When any of us is in the midst of a time of trial or crisis, with our anxieties entrusted to God, and with our minds set to remain grateful and positive, we too can survive—and grow.

Research assistance by Maree Tolis
We are witnessing a shift in the world order that happens only once in a generation. The global system of alliances is being shaken. Such turmoil usually indicates a massive shift in global power. These shifts often trigger major wars.

For most of the 19th century, Britain’s top enemy was Russia. Britain’s whole system of alliances was built to isolate and oppose Russian power. But at the turn of the century, other powers were rising, most notably Germany. This development triggered a complete shake-up. Russia veered from enemy to ally in 1907. World War I followed on the heels of this upheaval.

That shift in alliances did not cause World War I. But it was a symptom of some of the other long-term causes.

Grand alliances can also shift in the other direction. Rome and Carthage were allies for centuries. But once the relationship switched, it slid into an epic showdown over who would control the Mediterranean.

In ancient times, massive wars were more frequent (though less destructive) and so were these shifts in alliances. In recent times, things have been cozier. But a tectonic shift in alliances is beginning right now.

The alliance between the United States and Western Europe was the stabilizing bond of the post-World War II world order. The breakup of this alliance has been the subject of many articles, not least in this magazine. It is perhaps this development that most concerns world leaders.

This is not just a passing phase due to the presidency of Donald Trump. Tensions within the NATO alliance have been increasing for years. Even during the Cold War, France tried to steer between the two superpowers, and Germany tried to keep its options open. In spite of these tensions, the alliance held together for seven decades. Now, however, relations have plunged to an all-time low.

A new law forced on a reluctant President Trump by Congress means that America could soon impose sanctions on European energy companies that do business with Russia. European leaders are threatening to retaliate. We are now confronted with the serious possibility of Europe and the U.S. imposing sanctions on each other: a trade war within the NATO alliance.

Are the European Union and the U.S. no longer part of the same team? And if their alliance is doomed, what will replace it?

Europe Looks East

China sees these transatlantic ties weakening, and it senses an opportunity. If President Trump makes an unpopular trip to Europe, Chinese leaders follow with a visit of their own. If America makes a move that Europeans don’t like, China does the opposite.

President Trump denounces free trade? Chinese President Xi Jinping comes to Davos to personally denounce protectionism. Mr. Trump pulls out of the Paris climate-change accords? The EU and China publish a document calling the accords a “historic achievement” and sign their first-ever bilateral agreement on climate change.

Despite the rhetoric, America is actually far more open to free trade than China and has done much more to appease those who fear climate change. But the fact remains, every time China has the opportunity to pose as America’s replacement, it jumps at it.

Corey Cooper, a research associate in U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote, “China appears to be looking to exploit the growing rift in the transatlantic relationship to forge closer ties with Europe and to improve its own status on the world stage—a triangular strategy of diplomacy. … If Beijing and Brussels forge a closer relationship, it would inevitably be at the expense of the United States” (Real Clear World, July 26).

The European Union is already China’s largest trading partner. Many European leaders, including German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem, have already aggressively called for the EU to turn to China in order to counter President Trump. A Pew survey published in July found that majorities in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Spain all believe that China is the world’s leading economic power. The study’s only (kind of) European nation that believes America to be the leading economic power is Turkey.

The two also already have a massive trade relationship. China is the EU’s biggest source of imports and number two destination for exports. Trade between the two averages over €1 billion a day.

No wonder Andrei Lungu, president of the Romanian Institute for the Study
of the Asia-Pacific, concluded that “the stars are perfectly aligned for the EU-China partnership to reach its full potential and become the world’s G-2” (Diplomat, August 17).

“As an economic giant without a geopolitical or military footprint in the Asia-Pacific, the EU is in a perfect position to engage with China,” he noted.

“If the world’s foremost power has decided to go on vacation, somebody needs to take over its responsibilities,” he wrote. “The EU and China, the other two world economic powers, are the only ones that can.”

**Europe Looks Even Further East**

China is not the only eastern power that Europe is turning to, however. The EU and Japan announced on July 6 that they have agreed to the outlines of a new trade deal. Though they are still hammering out the details, these two powers are building a massive trading bloc, and it is in its final stages of construction.

Vox characterized the development this way: “Japan and Europe have a pointed message for the U.S.: We’re taking your place as global leaders in free trade” (July 6).

The Economist wrote that “now both want to show that they can fill the vacuum left by America’s withdrawal under Mr. Trump from its role as the world’s trade leader” (July 8).

The combined economies of Japan and the EU are similar in size to those of the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA). If Japan and Europe create a free-trade zone, it will be one of the largest and most powerful in the world.

“I have no doubt the final rounds were accelerated to try to conclude the deal as quickly as possible and send a message that the EU and Japan are prepared to lead on trade even without the U.S.,” said Edward Alden from the Council on Foreign Relations. “The fact that it was concluded right before Trump’s first G-20 summit is a symbolic poke in the eye to the Americans.”

But this is more than a mere symbolic gesture. It means that European and Japanese manufacturers will gain an edge over American ones in some of the world’s largest markets. And the trade bloc will be so large that whatever rule it sets will end up setting the rules for the whole world. Vox quoted Caroline Freund of the Peterson Institute for International Economics saying that “they’ll get to be the rule-setters … setting the standard for global trade agreements.”

That is the role that the U.S. has played for decades and is about to lose.

This partnership was further enhanced on July 17, when Germany and Japan signed a defense cooperation pact. Japan is clearly trying to shift away from America. Europe is a good alternative source of high-tech weapons.

**China Looks East**

So which side will Europe pick: China or Japan? After all, surely the Europeans can’t partner with both of these seemingly irreconcilable enemies.

Or can they?

In recent months, Japan and China have themselves lurch toward closer cooperation. Perhaps the most notable sign of a thaw came on July 8 at the G-20 summit. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe met to discuss cooperation with President Xi for 40 minutes. After the meeting, Abe unexpectedly announced his intention to cooperate with the One Belt, One Road initiative—China’s massive project to boost the infrastructure needed for trade between China and Europe. Abe also said he hoped Japan, China and South Korea will hold a meeting at the “earliest possible” opportunity.

“The rise of nationalism in the U.S. will cause massive shifts in global trade alliances,” wrote former Goldman Sachs managing director Nomi Prins. “One of the main beneficiaries will be Japan” (Daily Reckoning, July 21).

Prins also wrote, “Japan is well positioned to benefit both from existing alliances with the U.S. and growing ones in the rest of the world, particularly with China and the EU.”

Japan’s trade ties with China have also been growing. By January 2017, China had become Japan’s second-largest trade destination—its total trade with China up 8.2 percent compared to the previous year.

Besides these economic incentives, Japan is facing the same pressures as Europe. Both fear unstable neighbors. Both fear they will no longer receive the support they are used to from the United States. Both are searching for an alternative. And for both, China emerges as a leading candidate.

Long-standing enmity is no bar to this kind of change. Britain had been in cold and sometimes hot war with Russia for almost a century when it became Russia’s ally in 1907. A recent Pew survey found that about the same number of Japanese regard America as a threat (62 percent) as those that regard China (64 percent). In Germany, the differences are far greater: Thirty-five percent said they see American power and influence as a threat to their country, compared to 21 percent who fear China’s power and influence.

When it comes to public opinion, there’s little to prevent a switch from America to China.

**A Grave Warning to America**

History and geography should warn Americans about the dangers of this new alliance.

A trade alliance between Japan, China and the EU would essentially be everyone versus the United States. It would contain every G-7 economy except the U.S., Canada and—once it quits the EU—the United Kingdom. Patrick Watson, senior economic analyst at Mauldin Economics, warned of exactly this future.

“Many countries are unhappy with current trade arrangements,” he wrote. “They want something else—and I think they’ll get it.” He continued: “Globalization 2.0 has some important investment implications. Instead of one big, worldwide ‘sort of free’-trade zone, we will have two trading blocks. They will be: the United States, and everyone else” (August 17).

He sees the “investment implications.” But this is about far more than investments. It is a radical shake-up in the world order.

“(O)ur constant concern in peacetime must be to see that no nation or alliance of nations is allowed to emerge as a dominating power in either of the two regions of the Old World from which our security could be threatened,”
wrote Prof. Nicholas Spykman, one of America’s greatest thinkers on international relations, in The Geography of the Peace. He was referring to Europe on the Atlantic side and East Asia on the Pacific. He’s warning that any alliance that includes Europe or East Asia will be able to challenge the U.S.

Now we are seeing the development of an alliance that includes Europe and East Asia.

“The United States must recognize, once again and permanently that the power constellation in Europe and Asia is of everlasting concern to her, both in time of war and in time of peace,” Spykman wrote.

This is compelling evidence that should stir concern and alarm among wary Americans and anyone who recognizes what a blessing America’s dominance has been to global stability. However, there is even more compelling evidence to consider.

The Bible has an even more specific warning, and it is close to being fulfilled.

Isaiah 23 discusses three ancient powers: Tyre, Tarshish and Chittim (verse 1). Isaiah 30:8 says that Isaiah wrote his book “for the time to come.” These are prophecies primarily for “the latter day,” which is our time now. Thus the three powers mentioned in Isaiah 23:1 must have modern significance for us today. Who do these three represent?

The answer powerfully confirms the Bible’s accuracy in foretelling world events.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry outlines the identity of these three powers in his booklet Isaiah’s End-Time Vision. He notes that the spiritual heart of the modern-day European power “is called Babylon in your Bible (Revelation 17:5; 18:1-3). But here in Isaiah, the Bible refers to Tyre (and its allies Zidon, etc.) as the commercial center of this European power.” Tyre was the great trading center of the Middle East. Many prophecies in the Bible refer to the rising European power as a commercial behemoth: Isaiah 23 compares it to Tyre.

Isaiah 23:1 goes on to discuss the “ships of Tarshish.” “Herbert W. Armstrong’s Ambassador College taught over 40 years ago that Tarshish is Japan in Bible prophecy for today,” writes Mr. Flurry. “So this verse is referring to the supertanker fleet of Japan. Even in 1980, you could see one of these tankers every 25 miles on the high seas.” The chapter goes on to talk about how the ships of Tarshish come from “the isle,” which refers to the islands of Japan.

The third power singled out here is Chittim. Mr. Flurry explains, “This biblical name refers to both the island of Cyprus and to the nation of China, whose progenitors first populated Cyprus and gave it its name.”

The three powers enumerated here refer exactly to the three powers we see working on a new trade relationship!

Isaiah 23:3 talks about these powers forming a “mart of nations.” The chapter describes “merchants” that “pass over the sea” (verse 2). It discusses “great waters,” or oceans (verse 3), as well as merchants and “traffickers” that are so rich that they are like “princes” and “the honourable of the earth.” Mr. Flurry explains: “With a German-led Europe (the king of the north) possessing great maritime power, North America will be surrounded on the east by Europe and the south by Latin America. The Bible contains many prophecies of the European power attacking America—and many other prophecies of America being besieged.

“That is where China and the giants of Asia enter the picture. When the Holy Roman Empire attacks North America, there will be no help or sympathy from Asia. In fact, considering that China has come to possess most of the world’s strategic sea gates (which, ironically, at one time were held by Britain and America), we believe there may be a brief alliance between the German-led Holy Roman Empire and certain Asian powers (Russia, China, Japan—the kings of the east). Should Europe, the resurrected Holy Roman Empire, find a way to take advantage—even for a moment—of key resources and strategic holdings of China, Russia and Japan, it would have more than enough power to besiege the Anglo-Saxon nations and enslave them.

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

Mr. Flurry first wrote about this “mart of nations” in 2010. Back then, China’s trade with Europe was a fraction of what it is today. There was little sign of this relationship—and no sign of Japan being included. We are not reading this meaning into the prophecy after the event; Mr. Flurry forecast it all in advance.

This alliance is rising as America’s power shrinks. America is isolated and vulnerable to this alliance.

The “trend of collusion” is here. How long before this economic superpower, this “mart of nations,” locks together? As Mr. Flurry wrote, this mart is deadly for America. The Bible is full of warnings about the immediate future, and not just for the United States. Matthew 24:22 warns that this mart will blockade the United States, which will trigger a war that will wipe out almost the entire population of the Earth.

But there is also great hope in proving the Bible’s reliability in forecasting end-time events. Matthew 24:22 tells us Christ will intervene, cutting the war short. The Bible contains great hope for everyone still alive and for those who have died. Once you have proved its reliability for yourself, you can be secure in relying on that hope.
Turkey is changing—and forcing the world to change with it. Past and present trends explain why, and Bible prophecy foretells its next move.  

By Richard Palmer

It has been said that Britain has lost an empire and not yet found a role. Though Turkey’s empire came crashing down during World War I, Turkey quickly found its role. After his nation no longer dominated the Middle East and North Africa, Kamal Ataturk refounded it as a secular state oriented toward the West. This has been Turkey’s role for decades. It joined NATO and became a key part of the West’s fight against communism.

Now all this is changing. Turkey is undergoing a massive transformation. Its role in the world, its allies, and even its identity are all up for grabs.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is bringing Islam back into politics. He is rejecting the West’s democratic norms. And he is drawing closer to Russia at the expense of Turkey’s Western allies.

Where is Turkey heading? Geographically, this nation is at the crossroads of the world. It has played a crucial role in world events before, and it will do so again. The fate of Turkey is important to the fate of the world.

But Turkey itself is at the crossroads. Is it a friend of Europe? Of America? Or of Russia, or even of Iran?

The New Ottoman Empire

Turkey’s geography alone makes it worth watching. In the east, it is a rugged, mountainous fortress that controls the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Whoever controls those rivers will always have a powerful role in the Middle East. Turkey controls the exit out of the Black Sea, giving it leverage over Russia’s trade and naval power. It also controls the shortest and most direct air and land routes from the Middle East into Europe.

Robert Kaplan writes in The Revenge of Geography, “In the early 21st century, Turkey boasted a vibrant and politically dominant Islamic movement, an immense military capability compared to almost any country in the Middle East
ships, which are capable of carrying helicopters, tanks, vehicles and landing barges—but not fighter jets.

Turkey’s navy is second only to Saudi Arabia’s in the Middle East. It has 18 frigates compared to Egypt’s eight; Iran has zero. Its light aircraft carrier is scheduled for completion in 2020. It could carry up to eight F-35B stealth fighter jets. In July, President Erdoğan announced a more ambitious goal: to build a full-size Turkish carrier.

The Turkish Armed Forces are also expanding in other ways. Despite significant economic pressures, Turkey increased its 2017 defense budget more than 10 percent over 2016.

Turkey is also starting to open up military bases abroad. As Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states crack down on Qatar, Turkey has refused to shut down its base there and has fast-tracked a bill allowing it to station 3,000 troops in Qatar. Last year, it finished building a base in Somalia, where it will help train local forces to fight the al-Shabaab terrorist group.

All this is a clear signal of Turkey’s intent to spread its influence abroad.

Turkey’s New Friends

Turkey’s recent relationship with Russia has been a rollercoaster. The two seemed on the brink of war in November 2015 after Turkey shot down a Russian fighter jet. Then in July 2016, they suddenly made up.

In fact, Russia appears to be Turkey’s new best friend. The Turks are buying important Russian-made weaponry like the S-400 missile defense system. They have clashed with their Western allies—most notably Germany, whom Erdoğan accuses of harboring “terrorists,” his label for anyone he does not like. Experts are fretting that NATO could lose Turkey to the Russians.

At the root of this is a more serious disagreement: Erdoğan believes Germany sympathized with or even supported the rebels who launched a coup against him last summer. That is not something he can ignore.

Germany is pressuring Turkey, discouraging tourism and threatening to block trade. In March, it rejected 12 applications for weapons exports to Turkey. Erdoğan encouraged Turkish citizens eligible to vote in Germany’s September federal election not to vote for Angela Merkel.

Yet we must look at the broader historical and present trends, and understand these nations’ long-term interests, to get a sense of what will happen in the future. There is a reason why, below the surface, important cooperation between Turkey and Germany continues.

German-Turkish Cooperation

Turkey has not backed out of its March 2016 deal to limit the flow of refugees into Europe—despite the fact that Germany hasn’t persuaded the rest of the European Union to hold up its end of the bargain. If Turkey really wanted to hurt Germany right now, reopening the dam of refugees would be the way.

At the same time, German companies play a huge role in the military buildup underpinning Turkey’s revival of its former empire. Rheinmetall is helping to develop Turkey’s next main battle tank through its stake in the Turkish-Qatari firm BMC. Also, submarine manufacturer ThyssenKrupp is developing plans with Turks to export a weapons system to Indonesia.

German companies are setting up local subsidiaries in Turkey, which not only facilitates Erdoğan’s wish to make Turkey’s defense industry more self-sufficient, but also helps these companies bypass Berlin’s stricter rules on weapons exports. “It’s a win-win situation for both sides,” wrote Handelsblatt Global (August 1).

The two also have a strong economic relationship. Germany is Turkey’s top trade partner and a major source of tourism.

Which way will Turkey go? Russia seems to have the upper hand, but Germany is confident it will win this tussle, for good reason.

Russo-Turkish Divergence

Russia and Turkey have been enemies for virtually the entire history of the Ottoman Empire—from about the mid-16th century. The enmity survived both the fall of the Ottoman and Russian empires and continued through the Cold War.

The reason is that Russia’s and Turkey’s fundamental interests clash. Russia is a huge land power, desperate for a clear route to the sea that does not freeze over in winter. One of the shortest routes goes right through Turkey. Meanwhile, it is almost impossible for Turkey to expand its power in any direction without doing so at Russia’s expense. For Turkey to push into the Balkans or the Caucasus, it must push Russia back.

This is why the two have been on opposing sides in about a dozen conflicts. In fact, conflicts between the two have been so common that historians have given up naming them. Most are simply called “The Russo-Turkish War,” with the dates in brackets to distinguish them from all the other Russo-Turkish wars.

Turkey has always been threatened by Russia, as Germany well knows. Germany’s Federal Academy for Security Policy wrote, “An all-embracing partnership with Russia” as an “alternative to NATO and Europe” is “unsustainable for Turkey from an interest-policy perspective.”

Some Turks see things the same way. “This is a temporary crisis which both parties wish to solve sooner than later. We think things will go back to normal after German elections,” an anonymous Turkish diplomat told Defense News.

Germany is getting aggressive, but only because it believes that, in the long run, Turkey will prefer a German partnership over one with Russia. It doesn’t feel the need to bend over backward to meet Turkey’s demands. It believes Turkey has no choice but to fall in line with German interests—that, although Turkey is angry with Germany right now, cooler heads will prevail in time.

Looking at history, the reason for this confidence is even more apparent.

Turkey’s Benefactor

In modern history, Turkey has relied on an outside power for support and to supply it with up-to-date weapons. During the Cold War, it was the United States. Now Russia is trying to fill this role. For most of the 19th century, Britain was Turkey’s ally, siding with it against Russia. But relations between the two broke down completely in 1882, when British troops occupied Egypt in response to anti-European riots. Egypt was, at least on paper, part of the Ottoman Empire.

In response, Turkey turned to Germany. “Bismarck’s dynamic new
Europe moves deeper into Africa

Germany and France are backing the creation of a new military force in Africa. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger are creating a 5,000-strong joint force to be known as “G-5 Sahel.” The force is scheduled to be fully operational by September.

An internal document of the European External Action Service shows that Germany and France intend to provide training and infrastructure, as well as supply weapons, ammunition and military vehicles to the force.

Meanwhile terrorist attacks and violence in the region are drawing Europe deeper into Africa. On August 13, at least 18 people were killed and 20 injured in a shooting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The same city suffered its bloodiest terrorist attack to date last year on January 15 when 30 people were murdered at a hotel. Yet increased security efforts have not prevented the spread of terrorism. After the recent attack, Burkina Faso accepted Germany’s offer to train its troops at German bases.

On August 14, terrorists killed seven in an attack on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Since the effort began in 2013, it has been the deadliest UN mission in the world.

The creation of a new military force in Africa is drawing Europe deeper into the continent. Italy’s parliament voted on August 2 to dispatch its navy to the coast of Libya in an effort to alleviate part of the ongoing refugee crisis.

“Northern Africa is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications,” wrote Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry in the April 2013 issue. He discussed the spread of Iranian-backed terror groups but also warned that “Iran isn’t the only one interested in Africa. Germany is making strong inroads as well. Both of these powers are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can. They will inevitably clash with each other.”

Germany’s shocking new bestseller

An obscure book printed by a tiny publishing house stormed its way up Germany’s bestsellers list, despite being shunned by the mainstream press.

Finis Germania, a 2015 collection of essays by historian Rolf Peter Sieferle, is flying off the shelves. Sieferle, who committed suicide last year, previously published well-respected works by prestigious publishers. But these essays strike a different tone and were only printed by a small publisher known for its far-right publications.

Christopher Caldwell wrote for the New York Times: “When the German literary establishment unanimously denounced Mr. Sieferle’s work as an extremist tract, readers did not nod in agreement. They pulled out their wallets and said, ‘That must be the book for me.’ This is a sign that distrust of authority in Germany has reached worrisome levels ...” (July 8).

The book argues that Germans are being unfairly punished for the Holocaust and are taught to hate their own nation. The nation is being immersed into Europe, leading to the “Finis Germania”—the end of Germany.

To learn more about the dangerous direction this kind of belief is taking Germany, read “Never Trust the German” (theTrumpet.com/15961).
Egypt’s failing economy is creating a volatile environment that experts say could explode into a revolution at any time. Out of desperation, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has imposed strict austerity measures, trimming long-standing food and fuel subsidies that 75 percent of Egyptians receive. Sisi has also floated the Egyptian pound, causing the currency to lose half its value and boosting inflation. These difficult measures are for Egypt’s long-term benefit, but Sisi is taking a gamble. He’s hoping benefits like new jobs and economic growth will kick in before the austerity sparks another social explosion like the Arab Spring of 2011.

Sisi has clamped down on the media, a move that appears to have helped suppress a revolt, thus far. But one politician said it is “stability on the tip of a volcano that is on the verge of an explosion. When it will explode, no one can predict. … [If] chaos unfolds in Egypt, it will be a threat not just to the Egyptians, but also to the whole region—and to the West.”

The 2011 Arab Spring in Egypt empowered the Muslim Brotherhood, and a future uprising could empower the radical Islamist group further, socially, politically and militarily.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has forecast for almost a decade that Egypt will fall under the influence of Islamists, such as those who lead the Muslim Brotherhood. In his booklet The King of the South, he states, “Daniel 11:42 implies that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south, or Iran. This prophecy indicates that there would be a far-reaching change in Egyptian politics!”

Iran, Iraq to boost military cooperation

On July 22, the defense ministers of Iran and Iraq promised to enhance military cooperation, border security, logistics and military drills and exercises between their nations. Iran already has significant control of Iraq’s security. An estimated 100,000 Iran-backed Shiite militias operate in Iraq under the command of Iran’s Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani. Pakistan’s Samaa TV reported that the defense ministers expect the cooperation to “lead to more serious, more active and more comprehensive cooperation between the two sides.”

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has warned about Iraq’s fall to Iran as far back as 1994, based on Bible prophecy. When the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, the Trumpet has warned that Iran would seize the opportunity to turn its newly weakened neighbor into a client state. Time is progressively vindicating that forecast. You can read about it in Mr. Flurry’s article “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” (theTrumpet.com/783).

Hezbollah backs ‘drug kingpin’ to lead Venezuela

The Arab community is reportedly supporting drug kingpin and Venezuelan Vice President Tareck El Aissami to become the next president of Venezuela.

Sabrina Martin wrote for the PanAm Post on August 9: “Sources within the Arab community close to [Venezuelan President] Nicolás Maduro’s regime are reportedly looking into making a change of face for the Chavismo movement, with Tareck El Aissami at the helm.” Martin also reported that El Aissami’s associates in Venezuela collaborated with Syria in producing a report broadcast on Hezbollah’s Al-Manar television network in Lebanon. The report called El Aissami “a strong man in the shadows and a close friend of the Lebanese resistance and the Syrian regime of Bashar Assad.”

El Aissami has been linked to the cocaine-trafficking outlet Cartel de los Soles. He has also been accused of issuing passports to hundreds of Hezbollah operatives between 2008 and 2012. Hezbollah now operates a multimillion-dollar narcotics business in Venezuela and one of the world’s most sophisticated money laundering networks to transfer funds between Latin America and the Middle East.

President Maduro appointed El Aissami to the second-highest office in Venezuela in January when his regime was facing challenges from parliament that could have ousted him from power. At that time, Joseph Humire, a Latin American security expert and author of Iran’s Strategic Penetration of Latin America, said, “I’m worried that [El Aissami’s] power will only grow stronger. Iran, in particular, benefits greatly from having El Aissami as [vice president] as he has been their man in Venezuela.”

President Maduro’s grip on power appears to be weakening, and Vice President El Aissami’s clout and support appears to be growing.

A growing number of military officers are breaking ranks with Maduro and taking up arms. On August 6, a group of men in military uniform invaded Fort Paramacay, took more than 90 AK-103 rifles, and announced an insurgency. Maduro’s armed forces managed to beat back the uprising, but hundreds of Venezuelans have since taken to the streets to protest the government. If the protesters fail to topple the socialist regime in Venezuela, the next best thing they could do is change the face of the Chavismo movement to that of Tareck El Aissami.

The unholy alliance between Iranian-sponsored Islamic terrorists, Latin American cartel agents and United States street gangs is perhaps America’s most serious domestic security threat. Provisions of the Iran nuclear deal that halted investigations into links between Venezuela and Hezbollah will likely ensure that the alliance will largely go unchecked and grow dangerously stronger.”

Arab Spring 2.0 coming to Egypt?
In mid-July, Vietnam ordered a government-affiliated international energy company to pull out of a gas drilling project in a Vietnamese section of the South China Sea. The decision came in response to pressure from China.

The decision came after Talisman Vietnam, a subsidiary of Spanish energy company Repsol, was given permission by Vietnam to drill in a gas reservoir in block 136-03 of the country’s exclusive economic zone. Repsol received permission to drill in the area under China’s exclusive economic zone.

When the request was denied, China withdrew from a border security meeting with Vietnam. When Vietnam continued to drill, China summoned Vietnam’s ambassador in Beijing to inform him that it was considering a military response.

Had Vietnamese leaders had faith in the United States’ assurance to uphold international law, it would have continued to ignore China’s ill-founded demands. But Repsol officials said that Vietnam’s politburo did not trust the U.S. to come to its assistance if it clashed with China. The Vietnamese government capitulated and ordered Talisman to pack up its drilling project and to clear out of the area. Repsol confirmed on August 2 that it had suspended drilling, after having invested some $27 million in the project.

Writing for Foreign Policy, Bill Hayton said the Trump administration could have easily upheld international law in this situation: “[I]t wouldn’t have taken much: a statement or two about the rules-based order and the importance of abiding by UNCLOS, some coincidental naval exercises during the weeks of the drilling, perhaps even some gunnery practice between Washington and Beijing. ‘Forward-deployed diplomacy,’ as it used to be called” (July 31).

But the United States provided no such support, so Vietnam caved. This surrender demonstrates the vast amount of influence the U.S. has lost in the South China Sea. It shows that whatever international law may say, in the South China Sea, China writes the rules.

Russia takes one more slice of Georgia

Russian soldiers in the Republic of Georgia quietly pushed the occupational border deeper into the part of the country controlled by the Georgian government in early July, effectively expanding the territory Moscow holds.

The expansion occurred in the Bershueti village in the Gori district, according to a July 4 report by Georgia’s Agenda.ge news website. Russian troops erected a new border demarcation that adds about 25 acres to the Russia-controlled region of South Ossetia.

Georgia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement saying, “This is a continuation of the illegal process of the so-called borderization, which not only restricts the fundamental rights of local residents but considerably damages the security situation on the ground and obstructs Georgia’s efforts to achieve peaceful resolution of the conflict.”

The Russians have repeatedly pushed their de facto border deeper into Georgia. Tbilisi-based analyst Irakli Bokuchava told the Trumpet on July 12 that if Georgia doesn’t stand up to Russia’s creeping occupation, Moscow will keep going.

“Non-resistance by Georgia only encourages Russia to steal more territories in South Ossetia,” he said. “The position of Georgia must be more severe.”

The move represents the latest step in Russian President Vladimir Putin’s quest to reconstruct the Soviet empire. For more information, request a free copy of our booklet Russia and China in Prophecy.
Australia’s defense wants women

Recruiters for the Australian Defense Force (ADF) are ignoring male applicants in favor of female applicants until August 2018 in an effort to increase the number of women in the military.

ADF leaders threatened to repost any recruiters who “ignore directives to exclusively target women for most new jobs,” the West Australian reported. “This week’s target list of army jobs is looking for recruits in 50 roles—but 35 of those are available to women only, including on the front line in the armored cavalry and as a combat engineer. There are currently no jobs available for men in the Infantry as a rifleman or as an artilleryman, but both jobs are highlighted as ‘recruit immediately’ if a female candidate comes forward.”

Black separatist shoots Florida police officers

Two police officers were shot to death during an apparent ambush in Kissimmee, Florida, on August 18. Sgt. Sam Howard and Officer Matthew Baxter were responding to reports of three suspicious people on the city’s north side when they were shot by Everett Miller, a 45-year-old veteran of the Marine Corps.

Miller was arrested several hours after the shooting and charged with the murder of the two officers. In the days prior to the shooting, Miller posted several Facebook updates expressing anger toward police officers, United States President Donald Trump, white people and the murder of Heather Heyer at a white supremacist rally on August 12.

Posting under the name Malik Mohammed Ali, Miller claimed to be part of the Moorish Nation, the same black separatist group that Gavin Long joined before murdering three Baton Rouge police officers on July 17, 2016.

Four other officers were shot in separate incidents on August 18: two in Jacksonville, Florida, and two in southwestern Pennsylvania. According to a 2016 year-end report by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, the number of police officers killed in ambushes reached a two-decade high last year.

From August through January 2018, Australia’s navy will open only one of its 18 jobs listed to men. The Air Force will exclude men from all seven of its openings. There is an exception for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander males.

Immediately following these revelations on August 11, the ADF released a statement saying, “All roles in the Australian Defense Force (ADF) are open for men and women to apply. … Men are not excluded from any roles. … There are no ADF positions which are open exclusively to women. … The entry standards for ADF recruitment have not been reduced.”

These statements are true, but the fact remains that even though men can feel free to apply, women will be recruited ahead of them based on the fact that they are female. Standards have not been lowered because women already have a lower standard (standards for Australian Air Force females are 4 push-ups and 20 sit-ups).

The ADF itself advertises its goal for “female participation rates of 15 percent for the Army and 25 percent for the Navy and Air Force by 2023.”

University libraries get rid of books

The University of California–Berkeley recently removed 135,000 books from its Moffitt Library to make room for open meeting spaces, glass writing boards and “nap pods,” an example of a major change taking place on university campuses nationwide.

Controversy erupted at the University of California–Santa Cruz when administrators removed 60 percent of the printed materials in the Science and Engineering Library. Faculty members were outraged that approximately 80,000 books valued at $2 to $6 million were hauled off campus or destroyed without their consultation. A proposal to remove 90 percent of written materials from the Cabot Science Library at Harvard was scaled back by the faculty.

One of the main justifications for removing books from libraries is that they are being replaced by digital resources accessible on computers and other devices. Some faculty members are uneasy with such large-scale digitization, but most students are embracing it. In 2014, students at the Haas School of Business at UC–Berkeley successfully petitioned to have 70,000 books moved into storage facilities.

“I’ve never actually needed to use a physical book,” UC–Berkeley graduate student Ted Xiao said. “I’ve never checked one out. I can’t honestly say I even know how.”
Germany, with its formidable military machine and no apparent designs on [Turkish Sultan] Abdul Hamid’s domains, seemed the most obvious of the European powers to turn to for protection and advice,” Peter Hopkirk wrote in On Secret Service East of Constantinople.

Prussian civil servants were sent to modernize the Ottoman administration. Gen. Kolmar von der Goltz led a team to modernize the military (and throw lucrative arms contracts Germany’s way). (This is why today’s military deals between the two create a sense of déjà vu.) Economic relations took off. After the Ottoman Empire began its genocide of Armenians in the mid-1890s, almost all European powers became antagonistic toward the Turks. Kaiser Wilhelm II, by contrast, drew even closer to them.

Germany began to sponsor the construction of the Berlin to Baghdad Railway—an attempt to link Germany to Asia in a way that the British Royal Navy could not sever.

Even then, Germany’s relations with Turkey had their ups and downs. After the Turkish government was overthrown in a coup in 1908, Germany found itself back to square one. But Turkey was key to Germany’s ambitions to push into the Middle East, so it persevered. Turkey cultivated one faction of the coup, and in 1913, that faction launched another coup. Its leader, Enver Pasha, was trained in Germany, and the German ambassador, if he did not plan it, was certainly kept aware of the plan in advance of its execution. The new government had “a distinctly German character,” wrote the British ambassador at the time.

Besides Turkey’s geography, Germany was also attracted to Turkey’s religious power. The sultan of Turkey was the caliph. Many Muslims outside Turkey believed the caliph had the authority to call for holy war—for jihad.

Wilhelm wanted to unleash Islam. “Germany sought to harness the forces of militant Islam to its cause with the help of its ally Turkey,” wrote Hopkirk. “By unleashing a holy war against them, Wilhelm and his hawkish advisers aimed to drive the British out of India, and the Russians from the Caucasus and Central Asia. It was a bold and adventurous strategy, for there were no precedents for a jihad in modern warfare.” Wilhelm himself made a lavish trip in 1898 around the Ottoman Empire, where he proclaimed himself and Germany the protector of all Muslims. German agents ensured that rumors traveled around the empire’s mosques that Wilhelm had converted to Islam.

There is no Kaiser Wilhelm in Germany today. But we again see a Germany that wants to get much more involved in the Middle East. As Angela Merkel said in May, “The times in which we can fully count on others are somewhat over.” That includes no longer counting on America to stabilize the Middle East.

“[W]e Europeans must really take our destiny into our own hands,” she said.

Even before May, Germany’s 2016 white paper on military reforms proclaimed Germany’s desire “to play a substantial role” in “the many trouble spots in Europe’s neighborhood and beyond.” When Germany wants to “play a substantial role” in the “many trouble spots” of the Middle East, Turkey is the traditional and obvious partner.

And as Wilhelm’s experiences show, Turkey’s turn toward Islam doesn’t necessarily block this cooperation. If anything, it increases Turkey’s reach into the Middle East and makes it a more valuable—though less politically palatable—allied. Turkey’s version of Islam is far more Europeanized than any of the other ones on offer, most notably Iran’s.

History and current affairs, then, tell us to expect Germany and Turkey to become partners. But there is more.

**Turkey at the Crossroads**

“Turkey is driving a wedge between those two great powers, Turkey and Iran” (June-July 1980). Now notice an interesting statement in Obadiah 14: “Neither shouldst thou [Turkey] have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape ....” The crossway is certainly a reference to Turkey’s crossroads position between Europe and Asia—more specifically, it refers to the giant bridge spanning the Bosporus, a literal crossway between European and Asiatic Turkey. The Bosporus Bridge was completed in 1973.

In World War I, Turkey was the bridge for Germany, helping it reach out to other Muslim nations. As Turkey returns to Islam, could it play that role again? It is both geographically and religiously a nation that Germany can use to expand its power.

Turkey is emerging today in exactly the role the Bible prophesied. The book of Obadiah is one of the most sobering in the Bible. It applies to more than just Turkey, but it has some troubling passages about what Turkey will help Europe do to Britain and America—as well as what will come back on Turkey. Thankfully, it ends by saying that “saviors shall come on mount Zion” and that “kingdom shall be the Lord’s.”

If this book can prove so accurate about Turkey’s fate, then the part about saviors and a coming Kingdom of God can be trusted too. The events of the next few years are part of the process that will lead to the kingdom being the Lord’s.
A Bit of Terrible Advice

One that parents everywhere are following

If you look for child-rearing instruction from experts out there, you’re going to encounter some terrible advice. I once received an e-mail with this type of instruction. This is what it said: “By now you probably know how powerless you can feel when your toddler decides to have a full-blown screaming fit in the middle of the produce section. It may be embarrassing, but rest assured that other parents feel your pain.”

I have seen these public fits and winced as I watched the parents “deal” with the problem by blissfully continuing to shop as if everything was perfectly normal. Turns out those parents might not be as ignorant as I thought: They may be scrupulously applying the very newest of new-fangled child-rearing “wisdom.”

The e-mail continued: “Whatever you do, don’t get angry. Instead, just take your child out of the store (even if it means leaving a cart full of food behind) and sit with him in the car or on a bench until he finishes crying. When the storm is over, your child will feel close to you and happy again, and will be over the feelings that had welled up into the outburst. You can also take some comfort in knowing that eventually your child will outgrow this behavior.”

That is terrible advice.

Another column in a respected national newspaper printed the plea of a mom who actually feared for her safety because of the violence of her son’s tantrums. Her son was 3. The “expert” columnist offered a range of possible causes, from too much sun to food allergies.

Have any of these experts ever heard the term “emotional maturity”?

Our emotions, to a large extent, do not naturally grow up along with our physical bodies! The world is full of emotionally childish adults. Emotions must be trained, even in the youngest children.

A child allowed to throw tantrums will become an adult subject to emotional manipulation from all directions. As Proverbs 25:28 says, “He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.” This can lead to serious consequences in many aspects of life: relationships, diet, fitness, productivity and overall well-being. Failing to train our children’s emotions and attitudes is setting them up for failure.

Tantrums don’t come from UV rays or pollen. They come from selfishness.

Herbert W. Armstrong’s classic article on this subject is called “There’s a Hidden Enemy in Your Home!”

“The time to start this emotional ‘growing up’ is the same time mental training is begun,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “It should be started in the home, within the first months of a child’s life.

“Parents, study your own children. Remember that training of the emotions involves control and right direction of feelings, tempers, impulses. It means control over anger, jealousy, hatred, fear, grief, resentment, selfishness, vanity” (Good News, March 1985; emphasis added).

Each item on that list is worth contemplation in light of our children’s behavior.

Children should be happy most of the time. “The prince of the power of the air,” as the Bible calls him, does his level best to keep them unhappy by bombarding their susceptible human spirits with selfish, rebellious attitudes. I know—from frustrating experience.

Through plenty of love, laughter, gentle reminders, and confrontation when necessary, we need to drive those attitudes right back out of our homes.

More importantly, we need to teach our children how to do the same themselves. In other words, we need to help them grow up emotionally.

Mr. Armstrong continued, “And since the right direction is the way of God’s law—and since that is the way of love, and love is the principle of giving instead of taking—it means the teaching of your children to use their own minds to understand their moods and guiding them in the direction of giving—of love toward others equal with love toward self.

“Yelling, loud talking, bursts of temper, rudeness—all these are lack of emotional ‘growing up.’ Emotional immaturity is simply letting human nature run away without any control from a right-thinking, reasoning mind. Teach your children to let their MINDS direct their natures properly and wisely.”

Now that’s some advice that will help our children actually outgrow bad behavior!

When our children obey, we can point out how happy they are because of it. When they’re frustrated, mopey, fearful, rebellious, selfish or angry, we can help them recognize this and show them the steps to turn these negative emotions into something positive and productive.

“You have a grave responsibility, if you have children,” Mr. Armstrong wrote, “in their emotional training as well as their physical health, mental education and spiritual guidance.”

That—is good advice!
I am so happy to have found your magazine. I am 82 years old, and when I was a young man, I had never learned more about religion from anyone other person than Herbert W. Armstrong. I am happy to see he is still alive in spirit. It means a lot to me.

Carl Salamun  CALIFORNIA

This Trumpet issue is the best one that I have read in a long time. They are all good, but I was really energized by this one, and I appreciate the magazine so much more than I thought possible.

John Burth  SOUTH CAROLINA

Right now, I am holding a Trumpet that I stole from the doctor’s office. I have had it for about two months, and I have tried to ignore it, but I am realizing that I am missing a lot of information. So now I am calling you. I liked the magazine—that is why it forced me to steal it.

Roland Lesema  CALIFORNIA

PT: Roland, no need to steal the Trumpet! Let us help you avoid a life of crime: We will gladly send you a free subscription.

I read a copy of your magazine in the doctor’s office, and it was the most intelligent thing I have read in 20 years. I got the impression it was church-affiliated, and I think I might convert. I tried to talk them into giving me their copy of the magazine but no dice.

Marilyn Fraider  INDIANA

PT: Marilyn, we are glad you exercised restraint, unlike Roland in California. To reward your personal integrity, we will happily give you a free subscription.

We have the Philadelphia Trumpet magazine in our local library, and I am happy to see this, so one by one people can pick it up. You have one of the most informative magazines. I used to be in the Roman Catholic Church, but I left it. That is one of the biggest cults in the world. I really wish the Trumpet came out every week like Time magazine. You are covering everything so well. Everything else right now is brainwashing.

Wanda Rossi  WISCONSIN

Thank you so much for keeping God’s people grounded. The Trumpet has taught so many, so much. You and all the staff must be commended and appreciated by so many subscribers!

Wayne Pittman  

PT: Wayne, you’re making us blush.

Be informed. Every day, anytime, anywhere. Visit theTrumpet.com.
The Will to Survive

How can you defend something you can’t even define? BY JOEL HILLIKER

The fundamental question of our time is whether the West has the will to survive. Do we have the confidence in our values to defend them at any cost?

That is a lightning-bolt statement. Yet many pundits rejected it—and thereby answered the question.

It was made by United States President Donald Trump in a speech in Warsaw, Poland, on July 6. “We write symphonies. We pursue innovation,” he said. “We celebrate our ancient heroes, embrace our timeless traditions and customs, and always seek to explore and discover brand-new frontiers. We reward brilliance. We strive for excellence and cherish inspiring works of art that honor God. We treasure the rule of law and protect the right to free speech and free expression.”

I found these words refreshing, considering how much Western civilization is denigrated today. Having embraced relativism and multiculturalism, orthodox thought now is that all other cultures are not just excellent, but superior—and Judeo-Christian culture is inherently impure and inferior.

This self-loathing is terribly destructive. Values that have underpinned our society for generations are being challenged. Our educational system indoctrinates students in hatred for the English-speaking peoples’ contribution to civilization.

President Trump’s favorable description of a culture worth defending triggered alarm bells for those who view Western civilization as inherently evil and racist. Jonathan Capehart of the Washington Post accused the president of blowing “the loudest of dog whistles ... that swells the chests of white dominated nations, instead of universal truths of the human race across all cultures.”

People worldwide can celebrate and praise their own cultures, but when America’s president does it, you are racist. If people recognize these as problems at all, they inevitably blame society.

What other society has ever treated itself with such contempt? How can we defend “our values” at any cost when we can’t even define them? Traditional family? We stopped defending that long ago. The rule of law? That is being undermined at every turn. Innovation—ancient heroes—timeless traditions and customs—exploring and discovering new frontiers? Wait—are you suggesting these are unique to white-dominated nations?

People bristle at the very notion of absolute value. No matter what you may suggest as one of “our values,” someone will challenge it. Someone will tell you that this positive thing is actually toxic, racist and destructive. Then he will insist that some terrible, evil thing is actually good.

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). Woe! You can’t have a civilization that confuses good with evil, that can’t discern between darkness and light or between sweet and bitter. You must be able to recognize what is actually good and evil. You must value reality and truth. Otherwise, what woe you will have! You will attack the good, exalt the bad, shoot out the light, walk in darkness, and fill your life with bitterness! You will be continually undermining your own civilization.

This is exactly what is happening in America. To answer “the fundamental question of our time,” when a culture comes to hate itself as much as its enemies do, it cannot survive.

If you are concerned about America’s future, you can learn the Bible’s forecast by requesting a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s book The United States and Britain in Prophecy.
You need to read my booklet *America Under Attack*. An invisible evil power is *destroying* this nation with great speed and fury! Charlottesville is proof of this satanic attack.

How many people even believe in the existence of demons? There are *millions* of these evil spirit beings! God has cast them out of the universe and confined them to Earth! (Revelation 12:9). This happened just a few decades ago.

Satan manipulates human moods, attitudes, feelings and emotions (Ephesians 2:2). He can easily stir up people to try to kill each other in violent riots. He targets America, Britain and the Jewish state in the Middle East above other nations because of their special history with God. God allows this so our rebellious people will learn a valuable lesson the hard way—*unless* they deeply repent as Abraham Lincoln advised.

The demons lost a war in heaven against the angels of God (Revelation 12:7-8). They failed in their attempt to kick God off the throne of the universe, so they are unfathomably *wrathful* in their “prison” here on Earth. They are taking it out on human beings who don’t obey God and therefore don’t have His protection.

At the Battle of Gettysburg, 51,000 soldiers were wounded or killed in just three days! Pennsylvania farmers stumbled across arms, legs and heads protruding from the ground! That tiny town turned into a *massive* grave, but most of the corpses were either slightly buried or not buried at all.

Why must we be punished so severely before we learn to submit to God? What an acutely painful way to learn the consequences of division and sin. Satan causes people to hate. God tells us to love our enemies, but we hate our enemies—and even our friends—who don’t agree with us politically!

God does provide a way of escape from the coming civil war, but only for a few loyal saints. “And to the woman we hate our enemies—and even our friends—who don’t agree with us politically!” (Revelation 12:14). The Great Tribulation is near! Only God’s Church will be protected.

The madness in Charlottesville is a forerunner to a time of lasting peace, joy and prosperity. Jesus Christ will soon return to put an end to hatred and lies forever! —

**Divided, America will fall**

America’s division is not by chance, it’s by purpose. To find out the cause (and the solution) behind America’s overwhelming troubles, read Gerald Flurry’s free booklet *America Under Attack*.
### CBS United Kingdom

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### Philadelphia Trumpet

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