

THE PHILADELPHIA **Trumpet**

Spiraling into trade war

Shocking Parkland shooting story you have not heard

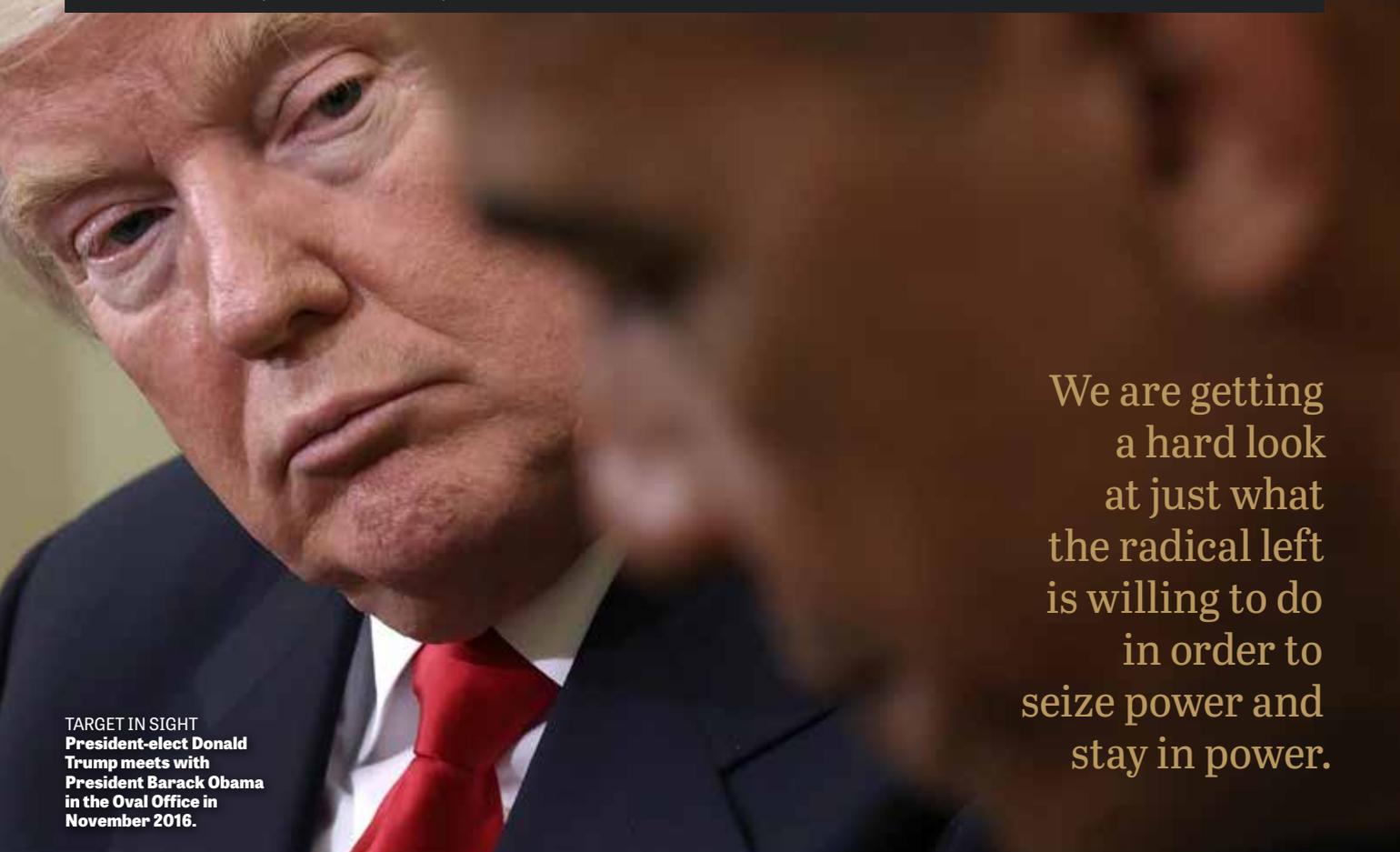
Why U.S. men are failing

China's great leap toward strongman rule

Is commercial baby food OK?

A photograph of the Statue of Liberty, the iconic symbol of the United States. The statue is shown from the chest up, holding the torch in her right hand. She is wearing her characteristic crown with seven spikes. The statue is painted in a golden-brown color. Several thick, light-colored ropes are wrapped around her right arm and hand, extending across the frame from the left. The background is a dark, cloudy sky. The overall mood is one of tension and struggle.

**Saving America
from the
radical
left**



TARGET IN SIGHT
President-elect Donald Trump meets with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office in November 2016.

We are getting a hard look at just what the radical left is willing to do in order to seize power and stay in power.

FEATURES

- 1 FROM THE EDITOR**
COVER STORY
Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily
- 4 1984 and the Liberal Left Mindset**
- 6 The Parkland Shooting: The Shocking Story You Have Not Heard**
- 10 Why American Men Are Failing**
- 13 Commercial Baby Food: A Formula for Health?**
- 14 Spiraling Into Trade War**

- 18 INFOGRAPHIC**
A Coming Global Trade War
- 20 China's Great Leap Toward Strongman Rule**
- 22 What Will Putin Do With Six More Years of Power?**
- 26 Italy: Game Over for Traditional Politics**

DEPARTMENTS

- 28 WORLDWATCH**
- 31 SOCIETYWATCH**
- 33 PRINCIPLES OF LIVING**
The Best Marriage Advice in the World
- 34 DISCUSSION BOARD**
- 35 COMMENTARY**
America's Children's Crusade
- 36 THEKEYOFDAVID TELEVISION LOG**

THE KEY OF DAVID

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry's weekly television program
theTrumpet.com/keyofdavid

TrumpetDaily

Trumpet executive editor Stephen Flurry's television program
theTrumpet.com/trumpet_daily

Trumpet

News and analysis updated daily
theTrumpet.com

TrumpetBrief

Regular news updates and alerts from our website to your inbox
theTrumpet.com/go/brief

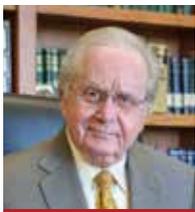
Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily

People do not realize just how close the nation is to collapse.

AMERICA'S GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER BEEN SO AWASH IN scandal. Fresh stories of allegations, accusations and investigations are coming so fast that many Americans are tuning out most of it.

But the drama unfolding in Washington today is something you cannot afford to ignore.

We are witnessing a government—and a nation—on the verge of collapse! In fact, all this shocking behavior from government officials and the national press shows that the nation *only narrowly* averted the destruction of the fundamental nature of the constitutional republic! And it will prove to be only a temporary deliverance.



GERALD FLURRY

Treason

On Oct. 21, 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice presented a vile, deceitful dossier to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court. The 35-page report was compiled by British former MI-6 intelligence agent Christopher Steele and paid for by Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. It was to be used as opposition research, to smear and slander her political opponent. The dossier accused Donald Trump of escapades with Russian prostitutes, among other things. *Not one bit* of the dossier was verified, yet United States law enforcement agencies used it to obtain approval to spy on Trump campaign staff member Carter Page. THAT OPENED THE DOOR FOR SPYING ON EVERYONE SURROUNDING MR. TRUMP.

On Jan. 5, 2017, outgoing President Barack Obama and his team held a crucial meeting with top federal law enforcement officials including then FBI director James Comey, National Security Agency director Michael Rogers, Central Intelligence Agency director John Brennan, and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. "The officials in the meeting would need to figure out how the investigation [of Carter Page and the Trump campaign] could continue despite the fact that its central focus, Trump, was about to be sworn in as president," wrote Andrew McCarthy for *National Review* on February 15.

Think about that! These officials, led by Obama, were trying to figure out how to continue an investigation on the next sitting president, who would be their own boss! And it was based on a deceitful premise—what was essentially political propaganda!

McCarthy continued: "Obama had incredibly claimed that he never intervened in cases under investigation by the

Justice Department and FBI. He was emphatic in an April 2016 interview with Fox's Chris Wallace: 'I do not talk to the attorney general about pending investigations. I do not talk to FBI directors about pending investigations. We have a strict line and always have maintained it.'"

That was an egregious LIE! President Obama was *deeply* involved in investigations. He had lobbied on national television for Hillary Clinton not to be indicted and possibly even sent to jail before the 2016 election. That was a signal to his law enforcement cronies to leave her alone. Later, Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Comey even changed the wording of a document to call the "investigation" into her criminal activity just a "matter," surely at the president's request.

This article continued, "Obama officials claimed to adhere to a book that forbade consultations between political leaders and investigators. But here they were consulting"—during that January 5 meeting. And what were they consulting about? How to keep the investigation of Donald Trump going even after he became president!

Mr. Trump was set to be briefed on the Steele dossier the next day, January 6. As McCarthy wrote, it is almost certain that Comey only described a *sliver* of that report to the president-elect—the embarrassing sexual allegations—so Mr. Trump would allow the investigation to continue and to clear his name. Comey must have left out the part about collusion between the Trump campaign and Russians because there

The drama unfolding in Washington is something you cannot afford to ignore. We are witnessing a government—and a nation—on the verge of collapse.

is no way Mr. Trump would have approved an investigation that considered him a criminal suspect! "The main purpose of counterintelligence operations is to keep the president informed; but when it came to the incoming president, *law enforcement leaders treated the Russia investigation like a criminal probe in which Trump was a suspect*," McCarthy wrote (emphasis his).

"Since Trump would have the power to shut down the investigation, the trick was to avoid making him feel threatened by it. Therefore, the strategy was to withhold information that

illustrated Trump's centrality to the investigation, assure him that he was not a suspect, and gently admonish him about the need to respect law enforcement's independence (on pain of being accused of obstruction)" (ibid).

Comey told Mr. Trump in private that he wasn't under investigation. Mr. Trump wanted Comey to relay that message to the public, but he wouldn't—*because it was a LIE!* So Mr. Trump fired him.

It is the president's *right* to receive a full briefing of all ongoing investigations! IF CORRUPT AGENTS CAN WITHHOLD VITAL INTELLIGENCE FROM THE PRESIDENT, AND EVEN SPY ON HIM, WHAT CAN THEY DO TO YOU?

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *treason* as "the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state" YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT GOVERNMENT TO KNOW THAT ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE A LAWFULLY ELECTED PRESIDENT FROM OFFICE USING UNVERIFIED PROPAGANDA IS TREASON OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL! Corrupt law enforcement officials, led by Barack Obama and with the help of Hillary Clinton, conspired to overthrow the government of the United States! IF THAT IS NOT TREASON, THEN WHAT IS?

Plain Lawbreaking

The entire Trump-Russia investigation is based on a HOAX. Robert Mueller's team has been searching for evidence of collusion for nearly a year and has found *nothing*.

But what *has* been revealed is a tremendous amount of *law-breaking* by bureaucrats in intelligence and law enforcement! The previous president filled America's law enforcement agencies with treasonous agents. He led what is known as the "deep state." Something diabolical was going on until Mr. Trump was elected—and it is *still* going on behind the scenes *during* his presidency.

And the media aided and abetted the whole process! The more stories that come out, the clearer this ugly reality becomes.

This is corruption on a deep level—so deep that most people won't even *believe* it!

Before the election, just about everyone believed Hillary Clinton would be the next president. If she had won, NONE OF THIS CORRUPTION WOULD HAVE COME TO LIGHT!

We are getting a hard look at just what the radical left is willing to do in order to seize power and stay in power. They have no respect for the rule of law! They believe they are *above* the law. It is no exaggeration to say that such contempt for the nation's founding principles is A THREAT TO THE REPUBLIC!

Leftist radicals hate the Constitution. Barack Obama has stated explicitly that it is an outdated document and criticized it for being "a charter of negative liberties." Liberals in academia, the media and in government don't believe governing officials should be restricted by the limitations imposed by the Constitution. AMERICA'S FOUNDERS IMPOSED THOSE RESTRICTIONS TO PREVENT TYRANNY!

Our Constitution makes America different from any nation in the world. The protections afforded by the Constitution have allowed God to bless this nation tremendously. They prevent a dictator from seizing control of the nation's unmatched resources—resources that God gave in order to fulfill

promises He made to the patriarch Abraham. I urge you to request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for the marvelous proof behind that statement. America is a modern descendant of the biblical nation of Israel.

You need to understand the real reasons WHY America has been the greatest nation in history. NO MAN can "make America great again"—certainly not if he is *ignorant* of the fact that it was GOD who made it great, and ignorant about WHY HE DID SO!

God has blessed America like no other nation. And the devil wants to destroy America like no other nation! As I prove in my free booklet *America Under Attack*, Satan is marshaling every tool and weapon he can to wreck this nation, and he is having alarming success!

THIS EVIL SPIRITUAL POWER IS INFLUENCING THE RADICAL LEFT! Most Republicans don't realize what they are dealing with: people who are *absolutely committed* to DESTROYING THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS LAND!

Liberals in academia, the media and in government don't believe governing officials should be restricted by the limitations imposed by the Constitution. America's founders imposed those restrictions to prevent tyranny!

The mindset behind the radical Democrats is exposed when you look at their handling of another issue: gun control. Every time there is a school shooting, even before any facts about the situation come out, they immediately begin pushing for gun bans. After the most recent shooting, they funded student groups and encouraged students to revolt against authorities. They don't just want to raise the buying age or to restrict the sale of a few types of guns; THEY WANT TO ELIMINATE ALL GUNS. They hate the Second Amendment and want to destroy the Constitution. They want a REVOLUTION!

Their aggressive attack on the rule of law is chopping at the pillars of our nation!

Had Hillary Clinton been elected, the destructive trends that unfolded during the Obama presidency would have continued unchecked, and they surely would have intensified. Many people—including me—believe it would have meant an END TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC!

This is all happening because America is forsaking God.

Donald Trump is a man with serious problems. But the radical left is relentlessly waging war *against the president* and leading this country to its destruction! And it was *only* Mr. Trump's election that prevented EVEN WORSE troubles from bringing this nation down even more quickly.

There is an event in the history of ancient Israel that closely parallels what is happening in America today.

King Jeroboam II

After the reigns of King David and King Solomon, 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel broke away from Judah and formed a separate kingdom called Israel. Their rebellion against the throne of David, inspired by their first king, Jeroboam, proved to be a catastrophic mistake. Israel *never had a righteous king again*, and as a result, it suffered continual curses and, some 200 years later, conquest and captivity.

This history is recorded in the book of 2 Kings, which is part of a section of Scripture called the former prophets: the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings. These books contain history—but they are called *prophets* because this history is also *prophecy*—mostly for the end time.

Notice what 2 Kings 14 records about one of Israel's *last kings* before its fall—a man by the same name as the *first* ruler of the northern kingdom: “In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah JEROBOAM the son of Joash



king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin” (verses 23-24).

King Jeroboam II was *not* a righteous man—he did evil, and committed the same sins against God and the throne of David that the first Jeroboam had. Nevertheless, the Bible records something remarkable: *God actually used this unrighteous king to help the nation!*

Notice this carefully: “He [Jeroboam II] restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah ...” (verse 25). Jonah is well known for his warning to Nineveh. But before that, Jonah prophesied that Israel would expand its power, regain cities that had been lost to Syria, and become quite prosperous. And this prophecy was fulfilled under Jeroboam II: Israel became more powerful than at any time since the days of Solomon!

Israel was still in a sinful state. Jeroboam II followed in the same rebellious traditions of the past. So it wasn't because of the repentance or righteousness of the Israelites and their king that it experienced this resurgence. Why, then, did God bless the nation in ways not seen since Solomon? “*For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for*

Israel. And the Lord said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but HE SAVED THEM BY THE HAND OF JEROBOAM the son of Joash” (verses 26-27).

Israel was in bitter affliction—on the verge of collapse! If God had not intervened, then the devil's plan to blot out the name of Israel would have prevailed!

But God granted mercy when Israel really didn't deserve it. Rather than sending Israel into captivity at that time, God used this king to *SAVE ISRAEL* and give them one more age of prosperity before Assyrian conquest.

God *SAVED ISRAEL*—“by the hand of” King Jeroboam II.

Despite the curses Israel was under, and *despite* Jeroboam's personal wickedness and the sins of the nation, Jeroboam ended up reigning for 41 long years! He was the longest-reigning king in the history of the Northern Kingdom. While most other kings died by intrigue or betrayal, Jeroboam's reign did not suffer from such violence and curses. The nation experienced a period of relative strength and stability, even prosperity.

This resurgence was not because of any personal greatness or leadership skill by Jeroboam. It was because *GOD* took pity on Israel in its affliction. It was because *GOD* did not want the name of Israel blotted out. It was because *GOD SAVED ISRAEL!*

And that resurgence *was temporary*. Not long after, Israel was conquered and its people dispersed in captivity to the Assyrians.

This prophetic history is especially relevant today.

A Modern Jeroboam

In a February 1978 article, the *Plain Truth* explained, “During the long and peaceful reign of Jeroboam II ... the house of Israel had been lulled into a false sense of security. National borders had been extended to their maximum, and the country was basking in comparative opulence and prosperity. Religious activity and ceremony was at a peak, and the people had come to believe that God was benignly smiling down upon them.

“Into this scene of national self-satisfaction stepped the Prophet Amos. His indicting message was something less than popular, and he was met with immediate opposition from the religious and political elements of his nation. He was even accused of conspiracy and disloyalty to the royal house.”

This confrontation between prophet and king is described in Amos 7. This is an *explicitly* prophetic book, and those ancient events are only a *type* of end-time events—as is so often the case with prophetic *duality* in the Bible.

In our April 2017 issue, I published an article titled “Who Is the Modern-Day Jeroboam?” In it I showed how America is *now* in the Amos 7 prophetic time frame—a time when God will deliver *one last warning* through His messenger (verse 8).

The U.S. is the most prominent and powerful of the nations descended from ancient Israel. And this prophecy shows that it will be ruled by a modern-day “Jeroboam.”

“Who is Jeroboam?” I wrote. “Who is this *specific man* that Amos prophesies will be ruling the superpower of Israel when the final warning ends?”

In 2016, I published a follow-up booklet to *America Under Attack*, called *Great Again*. (This was before Donald Trump released a book by the same title.) After coming to understand the specific application of the Amos 7 prophecy to our time now, I inserted “Who Is the Modern-Day Jeroboam?” as a new chapter

and republished *Great Again*. I encourage you to request a free copy of this booklet, or read it online (theTrumpet.com/go/ga). You need to see the proof of how events right now are setting up the specific fulfillment of this crucial prophecy in Amos!

It is fascinating to view this prophecy—which I have been proclaiming since right after the last presidential election—in the context of 2 Kings about King Jeroboam II. As *Great Again* makes clear, his name points right back to the sins of the original Jeroboam, and 2 Kings 14:24 explicitly states that he was guilty of the same sins. But there is the additional context of God actually using this man to SAVE THE NATION temporarily!

American Resurgence

For eight years under President Obama, the forces of the radical left were on the march, virtually unchecked. Even Republican leaders caved in, and that was after they had taken control of Congress and had a lot of power to stop the president!

Donald Trump has proved himself willing to take a stand where others have not. It is quite something to behold him resisting these anti-American forces! He has inspired a few other leaders to challenge the radical left and help expose it for what it is.

When you compare what this president is doing to what his predecessor did, there has been a clear change in direction, one that will slow the speed at which America is being pulled apart. He is not trashing the Constitution as the previous president did. He has passed tax cuts that will help many American families. He has rolled back the universal health-care mandate and removed regulations that were hurting American businesses. The stock market has broken new records. We are seeing what I wrote in *Great Again*, that after President Trump took office, “Conditions in America may improve for a short time.”

The president also has a very strong relationship with religious leaders, and has strongly defended religious groups. He is speaking publicly about how good and strong and even righteous America is—although the truth is that America today is none of those things. He is inspiring confidence in a lot of people about this nation’s future.

What we are seeing is actually a modern-day fulfillment of what happened in ancient Israel under Jeroboam II. A bit of a resurgence, some renewed prosperity, a swell of religious activity—but not true religion—with the blessing of the “king.” (The Amos 7 prophecy gives more detail about this aspect of Jeroboam’s rule. I explain it in *Great Again*.) It is a

1984 and the Liberal Left Mindset

BY DENNIS LEAP

JUST AFTER DONALD TRUMP’S INAUGURATION, the *New York Times* printed a piece titled “Why 1984 Is a 2017 Must Read,” by Michiko Kakutani (Jan. 26, 2017). George Orwell’s classic dystopian novel, nearly 70 years old, had just hit Amazon’s bestseller list. Kakutani argued that it was because of the perceived dangers of totalitarianism under a President Trump. Actually, it was the left’s promotion of 1984 that made it a bestseller.

Kakutani compared questionable administration accounts of the size of inaugural crowds to “the Ministry of Truth’s efforts in 1984 at ‘reality control.’” 1984’s Ministry of Truth is actually a department of lies, controlling citizens’ minds and perceptions of reality by publishing false facts as news. “Not surprisingly, 1984 has found a nervous readership in today’s ‘post-truth’ era,” Kakutani continued—as if the previous eight years were the *truth era*.

I agree that 1984 is a must-read—not for what it tells you about President Trump—but what it reveals about the mindset of the liberal left. The practices Kakutani accused “right-wing demagogues” of are actually far more common among left-leaning

politicians and the left-supporting media: manipulating facts, redefining terms, rewriting history, bullying and intimidation. And their basic solution to every problem—*more government control*—is leading to authoritarianism in ways that America’s founders specifically worked to prevent.

Lust for Power

The liberal left supports open immigration. They applaud sanctuary cities resisting the federal government’s efforts to enforce immigration laws. They value the rights of illegal immigrants even when it puts major strain on social welfare programs, bankrupts communities and increases criminality.

Why would they prioritize illegals over American citizens? They say it is about *compassion*—but it shows no compassion for the American families it hurts, including victims of violent crimes committed by illegal immigrants. The real reason is *power*. More immigrants means more votes for them, and staying in power is all that matters.

One of the most chilling scenes in 1984 comes near the end when a high official from the Ministry of Truth, named O’Brien, is reeducating the book’s protagonist, Winston Smith,

using horrendous torture. The character Winston naively believed “the Party” took control of the government because people can’t govern themselves. O’Brien sets him straight. After giving him a painful shock to punish him for his wrong idea, he states, “The Party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power. Not wealth or luxury or long life or happiness; only power, pure power. ... Power is not a means; it is an end.”

This thinking is consistent with the actions of the left in America today.

For example, they use “climate change” to justify incredible expansion of government power, imposing economy-crushing regulation. Remember how President Obama made major decisions by executive order, far beyond any of his predecessors, taking powers not allowed by the U.S. Constitution. In his 2013 State of the Union address, he said: “I urge this Congress to pursue a bipartisan, market-based solution to climate change ... But if Congress won’t act soon to protect future generations, I will direct my Cabinet to come up with executive actions we can take, now and in the future ...”

It wasn’t just on climate change that President Obama used this tool. He

time of people being lulled into a false sense of security and a sense that God is with them. And meanwhile, the character of the leader is deeply flawed, and the sins of the people remain great and are growing worse.

It is critical that we realize WHY this resurgence! GOD HIMSELF is pushing back against the Satan-inspired forces that would have destroyed this nation! He is exposing those forces so we can see them clearly. And He is using a man to save the superpower of prophetic Israel, the United States—temporarily.

Yet like anciently, this is only a *temporary* resurgence. Look at what happened anciently, and you recognize that the short-term gain in the nation was followed by extremely strong correction!

A Warning Rejected

Today there is a “Prophet Amos” type on the scene, warning about God’s impending judgment! But most Americans won’t even *begin* to listen to God. Even those who are religious feel that things are good because of the favor they have with the “king.” They refuse to be corrected and to heed the warning.

Amos 7:10-12 tell us that the modern-day Jeroboam is going to kick God’s people out of this country because “the land is not able to bear all his [the Prophet Amos’s] words”!

Jeroboam II was the LAST KING OF ISRAEL to receive a direct warning from God’s prophets. He rejected God’s correction.

sidestepped Congress to give orders regulating the energy industry, delaying deportations of illegal immigrants, restricting gun sales, forcing lenders to loosen standards for refinancing mortgages, creating special protections for homosexuals, and many other issues. In his booklet *America Under Attack*, Gerald Flurry wrote, “People’s minds are getting conditioned to executive orders—which are primarily intended to circumvent Congress and the Constitution. That is the aim. *This is quickly moving us toward rule by a dictatorship or a tyranny*” (emphasis added).

“Rule by executive order” destroys the Constitution’s built-in protection against tyranny. Many left-leaning scholars and politicians believe the Constitution is outdated and must be discarded. Essentially, the left is calling for revolution against a system of government that paved the way for the U.S. to become a world superpower and the bastion of freedom. Many today—like Winston Smith—are naive about what is really taking place. For law-abiding people, it makes no sense to get rid of the U.S. Constitution. But the radical left—with socialist and even Communist ideals—sees things differently. As O’Brien says, “We know that no one

ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it.”

Controlling Minds

The tactics use by the state in 1984 to control people’s thoughts have an ominous familiarity today. In that same torture scene, O’Brien commands Winston, under duress of pain, to say that two plus two equals five. Winston is baffled. “How can I help but see what is in front of my eyes?” he asks desperately. “Two and two are four.”

“Sometimes, Winston,” O’Brien responds. “Sometimes they are five. Sometimes they are three. Sometimes they are all of them at once. You must try harder. It is not easy to become sane.”

Think of the coercion the left is using to force society to accept that if someone *feels* he or she is the opposite sex, then that is reality. They want us to simultaneously believe that all men are potential rapists, that there are no inherent differences between male and female, that we must eliminate social stereotypes that stifle our girls, and that the differences between male and female are actually so great that it is cruel not to allow a boy to dress like the daintiest Disney princess. Two plus two are five and four and three, all at once.

After his reign, there were six more evil, mostly short-lived kings—men who came to power through murder or other ignoble means. They allied with Syria to fight off a rising threat from Assyria, the NEXT dominant regional power (just as Amos had prophesied). In the end, they ended up paying tribute to Assyria, then ultimately being conquered and led away captive by the Assyrians.

A SIMILAR NIGHTMARE FATE AWAITS AMERICA! DOZENS OF BIBLICAL PROPHECIES WARN OF THIS TRUTH!

God will make America great again! But the Bible shows that He will do so only *after* hard correction.

Read *Great Again* to understand just how *urgent* this warning is. Read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to see what is about to happen to America. God is giving these warnings in an effort to *save people* from that fate. He is SAVING THIS NATION TEMPORARILY—extending mercy for a short while before the punishment is carried out. Use this opportunity to prove this truth, heed the warning, and accept God’s offer of protection to YOU! ■

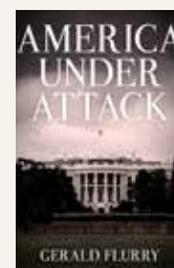


They say this is a matter of *tolerance*. But on this and so many other issues, *they* do not tolerate what they consider dissent. The left is not content with civilized disagreement. They will force their radical agenda until everyone becomes a full supporter and a true believer. Like Orwell’s Big Brother, they want to *control people’s thoughts*.

The left are calling for revolution. Since losing the 2016 presidential election, their efforts to reclaim power are getting more and more radical. Their lawlessness is ever more obvious.

It recalls O’Brien’s statement in 1984: “One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.”

Orwell understood what can happen when the wrong people seize power. Any country plagued by rebellion and revolution is easy pickings for a dictator. ■



To understand the spiritual dimension to this revolutionary movement in America, request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet *America Under Attack*.

AFTER A DEADLY MASS MURDER took place at a Florida high school on February 14, students across America have spoken out about the need for greater gun control. These young people have been convinced that if they apply pressure, lawmakers will ban more firearms, require more background checks, and prevent future school shootings.

These students have been sorely deceived.

You may think you have heard everything there is to hear about the Parkland shooting, but here is some important information that could change your view of that tragedy.

There is an extremely valuable lesson we can take from this. It is a principle we need to apply as a society, and that each of us must apply as individuals, in order to be protected from such tragedies.

This is not just another opinion. This is what the Bible specifically and repeatedly says about the matter. This is *God's view* on this subject.

The senseless murders Nikolas Cruz committed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School were pure evil. Anybody can recognize that.

The fundamental yet controversial question is, **HOW DO WE DEAL WITH EVIL?** What is our attitude toward it, and what actions do we take against it?

The tragedy in Parkland happened because we got the answer to that question dangerously and fatally *wrong*.

We make this mistake at our peril. *You* may be making this mistake without even realizing it.

'Education Not Incarceration'

This story begins several years ago in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

We start with a press release from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Feb. 15, 2012, with the headline, "Miami-Dade Schools Police Reduces Juvenile Delinquency by 60 Percent." "Miami-Dade Schools Police (M-DSPD) was recently commended by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice for dramatically decreasing school-related delinquency in Miami-Dade County public schools.

"M-DSPD has the distinction of decreasing school-related juvenile delinquency by an impressive 60



THE PARKLAND SHOOTING The Shocking Story

Understand the shameful truth of what led up to this tragedy, and you will better

percent for the last six months of 2011, which was the largest decline in any school district in the state."

The Miami-Dade Public School System has its own police force, including sheriff's deputies called "school resource officers." Its police chief is appointed by and reports to the school board and superintendent, not the municipal police.

Then chief of schools police, Charles Hurley, said in the press release: "Three years ago we set out to create and maintain a police department focused on redefining our role and reaffirming our values through prevention, intervention, enforcement and education. *Our mantra is education not incarceration*" (emphasis added throughout).

This press release says that administrators and school police took a "student-centered approach to law enforcement by engaging and helping students and their families."

This sounds good and noble. But what are the effects? Six years ago, when Miami-Dade Public Schools faced the question, *How do we deal with evil?*, their answer was to excuse criminal behavior among students.

Case Study: Trayvon Martin

One Miami-Dade School District student was a teenager named Trayvon Martin. He was exactly the kind of kid this education-not-incarceration program was intended to keep out of jail.



You Have Not Heard

see how you can protect yourself from being the next victim. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

A respected blog called Conservative Treehouse documents Martin's school career. This can all be verified by copies of the original documents, press releases, police reports, court transcripts and affidavits.

In October 2011, Trayvon was searched at his high school by school resource officer Darryl Dunn, who found a cache of ladies' jewelry, a man's watch, and a flathead screwdriver he described in his report as "a burglary tool."

An internal affairs investigation by the Miami-Dade Schools Police later revealed that these items had been stolen in a burglary a few blocks from Trayvon's high school.

But Officer Dunn never filed a criminal report or opened a criminal investigation on the matter. Conservative Treehouse reported, "Instead, and as a result of pressure from M-DSPD Chief Hurley to avoid criminal reports for black male students, Dunn wrote up the jewelry as 'found items,' and transferred them, along with the burglary tool, to the Miami-Dade Police property room where they sat on a shelf unassigned to anyone for investigation" (May 1, 2013).

The school system simply chose not to treat *burglary* as a CRIME.

School administrators and school police also covered up Trayvon's possessions of marijuana and falsified the incident reports. The school district also

implemented a policy "forbidding the sharing of Miami-Dade School Police reports to outside agencies without redaction. Officers had to send any and all requests through the public information officer" (ibid). This policy could have no purpose other than covering up their manipulation of the numbers.

They went to extraordinary lengths to *improve their statistics*.

Well—the statistics improved. All you have to do to achieve "an impressive 60 percent" decline in delinquency is to *stop considering burglary and marijuana possession as criminal acts*.

How did they deal with evil? Rather than *stopping* it, Miami-Dade administrators *accommodated* it.

How did this policy affect Trayvon's behavior? In his junior and senior years, his text messages indicate he was smoking marijuana, getting into fistfights, and considering buying a pistol. And just 11 days after Miami-Dade schools issued that press release—and *only three days* after he was caught with marijuana again and was simply *suspended from school* instead of being referred to police—he was wandering the streets with enough THC in him to impair his body and mind, he got into an altercation with someone trying to protect his neighborhood, and he was shot and killed!

That "student-centered approach to law enforcement" did keep Trayvon out of jail—but it certainly did not help his character or put his life on a better path. It may well have contributed to his appalling, premature death.

Redefining Criminality

The statistical decline in juvenile delinquency in Miami-Dade was hailed as a terrific success. The Broward County School District decided to follow suit. Broward, the seventh-largest school district in the country, had the highest number of school-related arrests in the state during the 2011–2012 school year. District officials wanted to improve their statistics like Miami-Dade had. (This would make them eligible for additional state and federal grant money.) So the school board and district superintendent made a deal with Broward County law enforcement officials and the NAACP to stop arresting students for crimes.

Why was the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, involved in an agreement with law enforcement and a school district? Because the real intent of the policy was to reduce arrests of *young black men*. A Nov. 5, 2013, Associated Press report cited Department of Education data showing that nationwide, over 70 percent of students involved in school-related arrests or law enforcement referrals are black or Hispanic.

The following language was included as the basis for the deal to stop arresting students: “Whereas, across the country, students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ students are disproportionately impacted by school-based arrests *for the same behavior as their peers*”

That is a dramatic condemnation: School administrators deciding whether or not to have students arrested for crimes based on race, sexual orientation or physical handicap. Of course, there is *no evidence* of schools disproportionately cracking down on misbehavior from *handicapped students*. The use of such language exposes the nakedly *political* nature of this agreement, based on an explicit accusation of outright racism and bigotry.

There’s more. This agreement was “one of the first comprehensive plans bringing together district officials, police and the state attorney’s office to create an alternative to the zero-tolerance policies prevalent in many schools. The move is designed to cut down on what has become known as the ‘school-to-prison pipeline,’ where students accused of offenses like disrupting class or loitering are suspended, arrested and charged with crimes” (ibid).

Farcically, this article also refers to an Obama-era “Justice Department lawsuit that claims there is a ‘school-to-prison pipeline’ in part of the state that locks up students for minor infractions like flatulence or vulgar language.” As if students who passed gas in class were GOING TO PRISON for it. As if the real problem isn’t the offenses committed by the young people, but rather bigoted and racist school officials overeager to criminalize students.

The plan, therefore, was to handle more student misbehavior *within the*

school. AP reported that for “non-violent misdemeanors”—including possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia—“administrators are instructed to try and resolve the situation without an arrest.” It describes the use of “graduated levels of school-based interventions. After a *fifth incident*, students are referred to law enforcement” (ibid). AP went on to state that in less than one academic year, Broward Superintendent Robert Runcie reported a decline in school-related arrests of 41 percent.

Another success story, brought to you by a simple change in policy: *Just stop arresting criminals*.

Is this going to make a school safer? Is it going to help the other students? Is it even going to help *these young criminals*?

Growing Deceit

Conservative Treehouse reported, “Initially the police were excusing misdemeanor behaviors. However, it didn’t take long until felonies, even violent felonies (armed robberies, assaults and worse) were being excused. The need to continue lowering the arrests year-over-year meant that increasingly more severe unlawful behavior had to be ignored. Over time even the most severe of unlawful conduct was being filtered by responding police. We found out about it when six cops blew the whistle on severe criminal conduct they were being instructed to hide. [It was these whistle-blowers who exposed the truth about Trayvon Martin.] The sheriff and police chiefs were telling street cops and school cops to ignore ever worsening criminal conduct. ... The police would take the stolen merchandise and intentionally falsify police records to record stolen merchandise *as if* they just found it on the side of the road. They put drugs and stolen merchandise in bags, and sent it to storage rooms in the police department. Never assigning the recovery to criminal conduct. Stolen merchandise was just sitting in storage rooms gathering dust. They couldn’t get the stuff back to the victim because that would mean the police would have to explain how they took custody of it. So they just hid it” (February 22).

That is a tremendous amount of DECEIT. Here is a general rule: If you think you are going to help people

through lying and deceit, *you are deceiving yourself*.

EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS POLICY HAS A FOUL STENCH. Think of these school district officials, the sheriff, the police chiefs, the school resource officers—they were not thinking about the *victims* of these thefts, robberies and assaults, or even about the welfare of the *students committing the crimes*.

They were thinking about *the statistics*—and about the political and financial benefits it would bring them to create the appearance of success in their progressive approach to juvenile crime. They wanted to rig the system to “prove” that high incarceration rates among young black men are caused by racist policing, or that catching and releasing a budding criminal was a more enlightened “student-centered approach.”

Crime at Broward schools did not vanish—it *flourished*. “From 2012 through 2018 it only got worse. In Broward and Miami-Dade it is almost impossible for a student to get arrested. The staff within the upper levels of [law enforcement officers] keep track of arrests, and when a certain number is reached, all else is excused. Well it didn’t take long for criminal gangs in Broward and Miami-Dade to realize the benefit of using students for their criminal activities. After all, the kids would be let go ... so organized crime became easier to get away with if they enlisted high school kids. As criminals became more adept at the timing within the offices of the officials, they timed their biggest crimes to happen after the monthly maximum arrest quota was made. The most serious of armed robberies etc were timed for later in the month or quarter. The really serious crimes were timed in the latter phases of the data collection periods. This way the student criminals were almost guaranteed to get away with it.”

This is the shocking, shameful environment under which Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School operated.

The job of these administrators was to *protect these kids*. Instead, they *sacrificed* them to *protect their twisted ideology*.

Ignoring Warnings

What happens when you don’t deal forcibly with evil? What happens when

you create a system more interested in statistics than in students?

The *Miami Herald* reported this on February 20 about one Broward County Public School District student: “At times, Nikolas Cruz’s behavior could be a school administrator’s nightmare: Teachers and other students said he kicked doors, cursed at teachers, fought with and threatened classmates, and brought a backpack with bullets to school. He collected a string of discipline for profanity, disobedience, insubordination and disruption.”

He told one therapist that he had a dream in which he murdered people and was drenched in human blood. A relative called the Broward Sheriff’s Office (BSO) urging officers to seize Cruz’s weapons. A tipster called the BSO saying he “could be a school shooter in the making.”

Administrators transferred him to a special school, then to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, then back out of Marjory, then between three other institutions. This serial school hopping was the only option the school district left itself after having resolved not to actually *discipline students*.

Many people knew how crazy this student was, but they were helpless to do anything.

Besides being handicapped by policies that prevented them from decisively confronting the threat of a student like Cruz, these schools were being patrolled by school resource officers who were routinely covering up student criminality in order to shield them from the police.

In 2014, guess who won the award for School Resource Officer of the Year given by the Broward County Crime Commission. Scot Peterson. They credited him with handling issues “with tact and judgment,” and said he was “active in mentoring and counseling students.” He was a faithful adherent to the motto of “education not incarceration”—accommodation, not confrontation.

Miami Herald reported, “Two years ago, according to a newly released time line of interactions with Cruz’s family, a deputy investigated a report that Cruz ‘planned to shoot up the school’—intelligence that was forwarded to the school’s resource officer, with no apparent result” (February 22).

Who was this resource officer? Scot Peterson. And why did Officer Peterson do nothing? Because he was demonstrating his award-winning “tact and judgment.” He was doing his part to keep this Hispanic student out of the “school-to-prison pipeline” and to minimize arrests—especially of minority students.

He was doing his job *exactly* the way the program directed him to do it.

And *this* was the sheriff’s deputy on duty the day that Nikolas Cruz took a semiautomatic rifle into Building 1200 and shot 34 people, leaving 17 lying dead. When shots sounded, the 2014 Parkland School Resource Officer of the Year came onto the scene in his bulletproof vest, sidearm in hand, ran to the side of the building, set up in a defensive position, then waited four minutes.

Until the gunfire stopped.



The failure to deal with Nikolas Cruz is just one illustration of a *whole culture* DANGEROUSLY TOLERANT OF EVIL.

and people until some stronger force intervenes to stop them.

Our society profoundly denies this plain fact. You see it in parents who do not bridle their children. You see it in judges who protect criminals rather than their victims. You see it in politicians who insist that our enemies will change if we just negotiate with them. If we won’t identify evil as something to be FOUGHT, we are helpless to resist it.

The failure to deal with Nikolas Cruz is just one illustration of a *whole culture* DANGEROUSLY TOLERANT OF EVIL.

Evil is real in our world. And whether we realize it or not, we are in a WAR against it. Many people want to accommodate it, negotiate with it, understand it, explain it. Those people will succumb to it.

Because we are not fighting evil with enough *force*, it is forcefully OVERCOMING US! Other forms of what happened in Florida will happen in our families, our marriages and our minds if we do not CONFRONT EVIL.

How Does God Deal With Evil?

The God of the Bible is a God of love. He is “The Lord, The Lord God, *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin ...*” (Exodus 34:6-7). But He also “WILL BY NO MEANS CLEAR THE GUILTY; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

He says in Exodus 23:7, “I WILL NOT justify the wicked.”

“The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence HIS SOUL HATETH. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest ...” (Psalm 11:5-6). “[T]he Lord revengeth, and is

We Are in a War

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH EVIL? The real lesson of the Parkland tragedy is this: IF YOU DO NOT CONFRONT EVIL, IT WILL END UP DESTROYING YOU.

The people behind this mass accommodation of evil have masterfully diverted blame away from themselves and pinned it on *guns*. But the 17 people who died in Parkland didn’t die because of too few gun laws. THEY DIED BECAUSE OF A DANGEROUS, WRONG-HEADED APPROACH TO DEALING WITH EVIL.

Evil spreads. Bad habits lead to addictions. Destructive cultural forces like vulgarity, violence and family breakdown multiply and worsen. Political tyrants keep conquering territory

Why American Men Are

The “father of all crises” has struck—and leaders pretend it doesn’t even exist. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

MEN ARE PRIVILEGED; WOMEN ARE oppressed. Boys have toxic masculinity; girls suffer because of it. Men are succeeding; women are downtrodden.

That’s the message being broadcast from the mainstream media. But is it true?

The facts paint a very different picture.

In fact, men are in TROUBLE! America has failed its young men, and now its young men are failing in body, mind and spirit. We are watching the fulfillment of a end-time prophecy in Isaiah 3 before our eyes.

An Honest Report

In March, Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson rattled off astonishing statistics about the ominous trends in the lives of young American men.

Young women are surpassing men in virtually EVERY AREA OF LIFE. Girls avoid drugs more than boys, play less video games, get better grades, perform better on IQ tests, and attend prestigious colleges at a higher rate than boys. The

grades and face more disciplinary action. One in five high school boys has been labeled with a hyperactivity disorder, compared to 1 in 11 girls. Fewer men enroll in college, fewer graduate from college, and fewer go to graduate school, earn doctorates, and enroll in law schools and medical schools.

Between 1979 and 2010, wages earned by high-school-educated, working-age men dropped by about 20 percent, whereas wages for high-school-educated, working-age women rose. In the workplace, there are fewer male managers than female managers, and more than 7 million working-age men in America don’t have a job. Almost half of these unemployed men take prescription or over-the-counter drugs every day, the highest rate in the world.

Feminists, journalists and politicians decry the “wage gap” whereby women workers earn 30 percent less than male workers. But, as Carlson said, this statistic is intentionally misleading, since

their parents than with a wife or even a “partner.”

Men are falling behind physically as well. Almost half of male applicants to the Army fail the basic training entry-level physical fitness exam. An astonishing 70 percent of American males are overweight or obese, compared to 59 percent of women. Average male testosterone levels have fallen by 1 percent every year since 1987. This means that the average 40-year-old man in 1987 had a 30 percent higher testosterone level than the average 40-year-old man today! Biologists say the American male sperm count has also fallen dramatically since the early 1970s—by almost 60 percent.

“American men are failing in body, in mind and in spirit. This is a crisis,” Carlson said. “Yet OUR LEADERS PRETEND IT’S NOT HAPPENING. And in fact, they tell us the opposite is true. ... Something *ominous* is happening to men in America. Everyone who pays attention knows that. What’s odd is how rarely you hear it publicly acknowledged.”

Anarchy in the Home

Today, one in every five American children is raised by a single mother—DOUBLE the rate in 1970. Millions of American children are growing up without fathers.

Chronic, widespread fatherlessness is leading to huge societal problems. OUT

THE FATHER WHO RULES HIS FAMILY WELL is really the first line of defense in any law-abiding community. But in far too many households, the father is absent.

average American woman is likely to live five years longer than the average American man. Men are twice as likely to die of drug overdoses and more than twice as likely to be addicted to alcohol. More than 90 percent of people in jail are men.

Men account for more than three quarters of all suicides in the U.S., and the frequency is *increasing*. Suicides among middle-aged American men rose 43 percent between 1997 and 2014.

Compared to girls, fewer boys graduate from high school. Boys get worse

it compares all American men to all American women working any possible job. Comparing men and women with similar experience, the gap barely exists, and sometimes it is the woman who is earning more. Carlson said that the average single woman in her 20s living in a metropolitan area now earns 8 percent more than her male counterpart.

Today, fewer men than women have drivers’ licenses or buy their own homes. Fewer young men are getting married, and more men than women live with

Failing

90%

INMATES ARE
MALE

70%

AMERICAN MALES WHO
ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE

20%

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LABELED WITH
A HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

1%

RATE TESTOSTERONE LEVELS HAVE
FALLEN BY EVERY YEAR SINCE 1987

7,000,000

NUMBER OF WORKING-AGE MEN IN
AMERICA WHO DON'T HAVE A JOB

1/2

MALE ARMY APPLICANTS WHO
FAIL THE BASIC TRAINING
ENTRY-LEVEL PHYSICAL FITNESS EXAM

OF THE 27 DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTERS in U.S. history, 26—including Parkland shooter, Nikolas Cruz—share one thing in common: They all grew up in households without their biological fathers!

What if those young men had been raised by strong, upright fathers? The *very first* form of government and authority a child comes into contact with is **IN THE HOME!** If there is no upstanding government in the home, how can children learn to respect the higher authorities in society?

The father who rules his family well is really the first line of defense in any law-abiding community. But in far too many households, the father is absent! In the Parkland, Florida, mass murder, not only was the perpetrator's father absent from his life, but even law enforcement officials were negligent in dealing with him. They wouldn't confront the violent teenager *before* or *while* he shot 31 of his former classmates at random—and then walked off to order a soda while 17 people lay dead.

It was a total breakdown of government from top to bottom—and it all started in the home.

“Unstable homes produce unstable individuals,” Peter Hasson wrote at the *Federalist.com* (July 14, 2015). That is the real *cause*. Dysfunctional families produce *dysfunctional* children! We see this reality in the current generation of young American men. Instead of taking “toxic” masculinity down another few notches, we need *more* truly masculine authority in American homes!

Systemic lawlessness, crime, immorality, dangerous leaders and young men who grow up to be school shooters result from the *lack of true biblical masculinity*.

In “The Desperate Cry of America’s Boys,” Fox News wrote: “[T]here is a **DIRECT CORRELATION** between boys who grow up with absent fathers and boys who drop out of school, who drink, who do drugs, who become delinquent and who wind up in prison.

“And who kill their classmates” (February 18; emphasis added throughout).

With the situation this dire, do our leaders finally face up to America’s masculinity crisis?

No. Instead they jam demented teenage minds and other masculinity failures into a political agenda and to blame shootings on gun laws. But as the *American Spectator* wrote, advocating gun control as the solution to violence amounts to “rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic. **IF A COUNTRY’S CULTURE IS SICK**, it doesn’t matter what legislation passes” (March 2).

Our national culture is sick! And as God prophesied in Isaiah 1:5-6, that sickness has metastasized from **HEAD TO TOE!**

Widespread, worsening, craven problems come from widespread, worsening, craven sins!

America thinks it can heal its symptoms by implementing more laws, more firearms restrictions, more “equality” legislation, more drug policies. Yet the more laws we legislate, the more *lawlessness* abounds.

America’s founders advocated less government and more morality. They said the republic would not even survive unless the American people would live by biblical moral principles.

How far we have fallen from that standard! Americans today largely hold no moral absolutes, no strict sense of right and wrong, no real authority figures.

When Men Fail, Everyone Suffers

Radical leftists look at our society and see *progress*. They see more and more government as *progress*. They see the legalization of homosexual “marriage” and drugs as *progress*. They see the

dissipation and disappearance of moral roles and moral virtues as *progress*. America's men are now broken, by almost any objective measure, and yet they see this as *progressive*.

The breaking of American men is breaking the American family. And the breaking of the American family is breaking American society.

And the "progressives" demand more. Men are not just irrelevant, they say, men are *toxic*. *Down with patriarchy! Down with traditional family! Down with men! It's time for women to rise!*

This is exactly the dangerous, upside-down condition that the Bible *prophesied!* Isaiah 3 clearly prophesies that

fruits! As Carlson said, "Ignoring the decline of men does not help anyone. ... When men fail, ALL OF US SUFFER" (op cit).

This is a crisis! Pretending it is not a crisis won't make it go away. Pretending that it is progress won't make it go away.

Without strong male leadership, our society cannot survive.

The God who prophesied this exact trend is the same God who created human beings, the same God who reveals the laws that cause human happiness.

In His Word, this God says that a successful leader should rule his own house *well*, having his children—including his boys—"in subjection with all gravity." Ruling his own home well is

society that evil is *real*, but we want to argue about where it comes from, and even about whether or not it is absolute. Evil is absolute. It comes from Satan, and we have left our society wide open to Satan's attacks because we have destroyed strong male authority. Satan accuses men of being privileged and claims women are oppressed; he says men should be more like women and women should be more like men—not because the destruction of masculinity and femininity will make women happier, but because the destruction of masculinity and femininity will destroy the nation!

The God Family Vision

God reveals in Revelation 12:9 that Satan has been cast down to Earth. He reveals in Ephesians 2:2 that Satan is a master broadcaster, and—if you are paying attention—you can see his deceptive influence everywhere! After millennia of motivating men to misuse authority, he is now destroying that authority, turning the family upside down, and erasing the father from the home, from society and from the nation. He will never stop attacking masculinity, because the physical father is a type of *God the Father*. That is why Satan cares so passionately about the roles of men and women: They point to the God Family, and he *hates* that!

What did Jesus Christ do when He walked this Earth? He was the only begotten Son of the Father, and He came to *declare the Father!* (John 1:18). He was extremely close to His Father—"in the bosom" of His Father. In his book *The God Family Vision*, my father writes, "That is where the Father wants you! He wants you in His bosom—to have the same relationship that He and Christ have. Jesus Christ set an example, showing us how to have that relationship with our Father."

God the Father wants that same intimate, father-son relationship with you. He is not an absent Father! He does not desert His children. He wants His sons to *succeed*, not fail.

Moral relativity, absent leadership and declining family values can only lead our nation further into the abyss. The only way to solve this problem is to get back to the basic principles of biblical morality—the Ten Commandments—and rebuild the family the way God established it in the beginning. ■

Without strong male leadership, OUR SOCIETY CANNOT SURVIVE.

the descendants of ancient Israel, which include the Americans, would have strong masculine leadership taken away, and women and children would reign.

"For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away ... The mighty man, and the man of war, ... the honourable man, and the counsellor And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. ... [T] he child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable. ... As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them" (Isaiah 3:1-5, 12).

Many ignore the fact that the Bible prophesied our current moral situation 2,700 years in advance. Many ignore the idea that the God who inspired such a prophecy should be listened to, much less obeyed.

Many argue that women and children exceeding men in high school, college, graduate school, the workplace, the housing market, the gym, the bank and elsewhere is *progress*.

Look at the

the basis for him learning to lead outside the home (1 Timothy 3:4-5). That is the main goal of a Christian father: to *rule the family well*, to subject his children to his authority, and to subject himself to his Creator's authority.

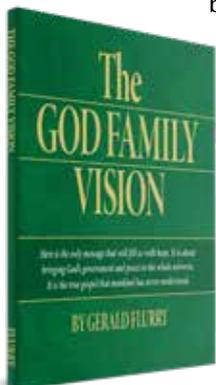
Those words—"rule," "subjection" and "authority"—clang in modern ears, not because they are as evil as our society has come to believe, but because our *society* is evil! America has REJECTED the laws of human happiness and success revealed by our Creator!

And we have replaced those laws with what? Relativism, "tolerance" and "freedom." The idea that God's laws are not absolute. The idea that *there are no absolutes*.

American men are committing suicide. So is American society.

Children need a father. Astoundingly, saying so has become controversial in 21st-century America, but it is truth. Boys must have a God-fearing father who *keeps them in check* and compels them to fight vices and acquire virtues.

The God of the Bible is real, and so is Satan. It is obvious from looking at our



GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR FATHER.

God wants children and wants His children to succeed.

To learn more about this wonderful truth, order

Gerald Flurry's free booklet ***The God Family Vision***.

THE POPULARITY OF COMMERCIAL baby food in recent decades has had a major impact on what we assume babies need. But not to take for granted what you feed your child in his or her earliest months and years.

Manufacturers spend millions marketing infant formula, baby food and beverages for toddlers, assuring parents their products are nutritious and healthy. But many ingredients in commercial baby food are not only ultraprocessed, but also contain contaminants.

Breastfeeding Is Healthier

For babies, breast milk is healthier than commercial formula or baby food. It contains more than 200 components that play a role in general development and growth, and it encourages the growth of helpful bacteria that can inhibit many parasites and unhealthy bacteria. In fact, breastfed infants typically have a level of lactobacillus 10 times greater than that of formula-fed infants. This leads to fewer illnesses and deaths during the first year than babies who are fed formula, according to tensteps.org.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokeswoman Angela Lemond said that breast milk is the “gold standard” liquid nutrition in a baby’s first year of life (CBS News).

Breast milk is living biological nutrition that researchers continue to associate with long-term health. As they analyze various factors associated with different diseases, they often find that children and adults who were breastfed as infants have experienced fewer health problems as they have grown.

Commercializing the Early Years

Breast milk is nutritious, but formula and baby food are profitable. Many store-bought baby foods now contain organic ingredients, but closer inspection proves they are still not as healthy as

COMMERCIAL BABY FOOD: A FORMULA FOR HEALTH?

Off-the-shelf options are convenient, but are they nourishing? **BY JORG MARDIAN**

we might think. Infant formulas are typically processed under high heat, leading to the formation of advanced glycation end (AGE) products. These sugar molecules attach to and damage proteins in the body.

Studies prove that infant formulas processed with high heat may have 100 times more AGE products than breast milk. Infants switched from breast milk to commercial formula within the first year of life have double the level of AGES found in people with diabetes (ScienceDaily 2011).

According to the Archives of Diseases in Childhood, a study comparing 479 commercially available baby foods found that 65 percent were sweetened. Babies soon learn to crave that artificial sweet taste. When they grow up, they continue to be heavy sugar consumers, which has led to epidemics of diabetes and obesity, even among young children.

Baby foods also include industrial vegetable oils, corn syrup, preservatives, emulsifiers and refined flours. Even natural flavors are usually made from complex compounds designed to create flavor addiction (The Alpha Parent).

Shockingly, many baby foods are not tested for heavy metals. Ellipse Analytics, an accredited laboratory in Denver, Colorado, and the nonprofit Clean Label Project tested 700 baby foods and early toddler foods for toxins, and 35 percent of the samples tested positive for lead (TMJ4.com).

The Environmental Defense Fund also found detectable levels of lead in approximately 20 percent of baby food samples tested over a decade. Current standards for amounts of lead baby food do not reflect the latest science about potential health risks. Research has shown that even low levels of lead in blood can affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement.

The Clean Label Project also tested 530 baby food products, and 65 percent of them tested positive for arsenic, 58 percent for cadmium and 10 percent for acrylamide, a chemical linked to cancer and brain damage.

In inorganic baby foods, traces of pesticides are also present. A test conducted by the Environmental Working Group, found up to 16 pesticides in eight leading baby food brands, including three probable human carcinogens, eight neurotoxins, five pesticides “that disrupt the normal functioning of the hormone system, and five categorized as oral toxicity category one, the most toxic designation” (OneGreenPlanet).

Lacking Nutrition

A 2009 *Guardian* article stated that some main baby food brands are less nutritious than a cheeseburger. They contain less than a fifth of a baby’s recommended daily supply of calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron and other crucial minerals (University of Greenwich 2012). In essence, many babies fed solely on store-bought formula milk and baby food are being raised on junk food.

It is less convenient to nourish your baby the healthy way, but the result of this effort frees his or her little growing body from industrial vegetable oils, corn syrup, preservatives, emulsifiers, refined flours, sugars, gram-negative bacteria, pesticides, carcinogens, neurotoxins, arsenic, cadmium, acrylamide and lead, and provides a better start to a healthy life. ■





Spiraling Into Trade War

Donald Trump is accused of starting a trade war. Actually, this war is entering its later, most dangerous stages. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

AMERICA IS UNDER ATTACK. ITS factories and manufacturing capacity are being destroyed. Millions of lives are being disrupted. And this attack will worsen—to the point that it will bring the nation to its knees.

But because this attack is invisible, few are paying attention. Politicians ignore it. The media paints a distorted picture of the war, so many believe America started it.

This invisible battle is a trade war. This is not dusty economics. Trade wars can cause mass unemployment, concentrated in specific jobs or regions—which can escalate into a political crisis. They can destroy a nation's capacity to fight, crippling its ability to produce arms and weapons. In their most

extreme form, trade wars can kill—by cutting off foreign food supplies.

An ongoing trade war has already changed the world—and changed your life. Yet too few understand this quiet world war.

Free-Trade Saints?

More people would understand if the story were reported better. The latest news is that United States President Donald Trump announced tariffs (taxes on imported goods) on steel and aluminum beginning March 23. So far, he has exempted Canada, Mexico and Australia.

Europe has lashed out in response, threatening tariffs on any stereotypically American product they can think of, like Harley Davidson motorbikes,

Kentucky bourbon and Levi's jeans.

The consensus is that America is about to launch a war that could escalate dangerously. America puts up some tariffs, Europe and China retaliate, America retaliates against their retaliation—and soon, trade barriers are up everywhere, stopping trade and sending prices soaring. This leads to skyrocketing unemployment, economic depression and political upheaval.

Such a future is plausible. But is it caused by America senselessly upsetting global trade?

No. In fact, *America is the most pro-trade advanced economy*. America imposes only *half* the level of tariffs that China does. The European Union slaps 10 percent tariffs on U.S.-made

cars and foodstuffs—while the U.S. imposes only tiny tariffs in exchange.

The EU and China have been attacking the United States economically *for years*. America is the victim of a trade beatdown. Donald Trump is only “starting a trade war” in the sense that he is fighting back.

The EU and China have been fighting a trade war in the same way Russia fought its war in Ukraine. It used soldiers with no insignia on their uniforms and invaded without “really” invading. Europe and China have avoided actions that seem like an outright declaration of war. This way, they have been able to boost their economies at the expense of America’s. Just as in Crimea, everyone knows who is to blame. But as in Crimea, America has done nothing.

The costs of this inaction have been catastrophic.

Subsidies Strike

What are the weapons of a trade war? A major one is government subsidies. Governments often want to help their nations’ manufacturers sell more abroad. So they hand the manufacturers money. A government may give a manufacturer \$20 per gadget it sells abroad. The manufacturer can sell that gadget for \$20 less and still make the same profit. Foreign consumers will buy more of these cheaper gadgets from the manufacturer—and less from their foreign competitors.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) heavily limits subsidies, but China has skirted this for years. In China, the government and big business are intertwined. The ruling Chinese Communist Party helps many companies sell goods much more cheaply than they would otherwise. This is a well-known fact, but not quite overt enough to trigger much of an American response. Occasionally the U.S. will take China to the WTO over a specific subsidy. But the bulk pass unchallenged.

Yet Chinese subsidies have *devastated* American manufacturing.

The London School of Economics’ *CentrePiece* magazine estimated that in 2013 China spent up to 1.5 percent of its economic output on subsidies for export-focused businesses. This is a huge figure of around \$100 billion. Before 2008, foreign-owned firms in China paid only *half*

the standard corporation tax if they sold at least 70 percent of their goods outside of China. China also offers special economic zones that lower tax rates further. Favored companies also receive cheap loans, cheap utilities and other benefits.

CentrePiece wrote that “the subsidies have been instrumental in concentrating a tremendous amount of manufacturing activity in China” (Summer 2013).

Chinese-owned firms are also showered in subsidies. “Government subsidies to produce technologically advanced products and undercut foreign manufacturers have buttressed China’s trade prowess,” Usha C.V. Haley and George T. Haley wrote in the *Harvard Business Review* in 2013. “Since 2000, the value of Chinese exports more than quadrupled” (April 25, 2013).

They studied a range of industries, including solar, steel, glass, paper and auto parts. China’s production of all of these exploded because Chinese companies sold their products for less than foreign competitors did. “We found that Chinese companies could do this only because of subsidies they received from China’s central and provincial governments. The subsidies took the form of free or low-cost loans; artificially cheap raw materials, components, energy and land; and support for [research and development] and technology acquisitions.

“Since 2001, when China joined the World Trade Organization, subsidies have annually financed over 20 percent of the expansion of the country’s manufacturing capacity. ... Huge Chinese subsidies have led to massive excess global capacity, increased exports, and depressed worldwide prices, and have hollowed out other countries’ industrial bases” (ibid).

Property Theft

Chinese firms can sell to the U.S. easily. They are subject to the same rules and taxes as American firms, plus some trivial import duties. If an American firm wants to sell in China, it is much harder.

For some industries, including energy, communications and car manufacturing, the Chinese government bans foreign firms. They can only sell to Chinese consumers if they form a joint venture with a Chinese company. This means

that Boeing, Ford and General Motors must work with Chinese firms, sharing market information, research and development, and other resources—until the Chinese firm takes those resources for itself and leaves the foreign firm out.

In other industries, the government won’t allow a foreign company in until it has scrutinized that company’s technology. The American Chamber of Commerce in China wrote in April last year, “Chinese government authorities jeopardize the value of trade secrets by demanding unnecessary disclosure of confidential information for product approvals.”

“China does not play by the rules, and it has gotten away with it for too long,” wrote James Andrew Lewis, senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies last summer. “The goals of Chinese policy are easily summarized: They wish to extract technologies from Western companies, use subsidies and nontariff barriers to competition to build national champions, and then create a protected domestic market for these champions to give them an advantage as they venture out in the world” (Aug. 2, 2017).

Former National Security Agency director general Keith Alexander has called it “the greatest transfer of wealth in history.”

Businesses now know that giving up some intellectual properties is the price of doing business in China. They either pay it or forgo a market of over a billion. But when they pay that price, China uses that expertise to build up Chinese firms that, with government help, outcompete the American company that gave them the knowledge.

The Massive Way China Cheats

These are aggressive economic attacks, but they are not China’s worst. Some economics background is crucial to understand the full depth of China’s subtle war. You will be stunned at what China (and Europe) are doing to the global economy. They know that if it is even slightly complicated, most people won’t bother to understand it, let alone do anything about it.

According to one estimate, this next economic tactic costs the U.S. economy half a trillion dollars *a year*.

The current global system is designed for natural exchange rates that change according to supply and demand. If the demand for the dollar rises, the price of the dollar goes up compared to other currencies. If the demand falls, then the value of the dollar drops. This is called a “free floating” exchange rate.

The U.S. imports a lot more than it exports. It has to pay for its imports using the currencies of the countries they come from. It sells dollars to buy foreign currency. Selling lots of anything, including dollars, drives its price down. So the price of the dollar falls.

Imagine that one dollar is worth one euro. A car costing €10,000 in Europe would naturally cost \$10,000 in the U.S. Now imagine that the U.S. has sold so many dollars that the value of the dollar has fallen 20 percent compared to the euro. That €10,000 car now costs \$12,500.

Since European cars have become more expensive for Americans to buy, they buy fewer of them. Meanwhile, an American car that costs \$10,000 now only costs €8,000 in Europe, so Europeans buy more of them.

When currencies are free to adjust to supply and demand, the system automatically balances itself. America imports more than it exports. This weakens the dollar. American exports become cheaper for consumers who use other currencies. So they buy more U.S. goods. America then starts importing less and exporting more, returning it to a balance.

In practice, however, it's not quite so neat. The dollar is the world's most commonly held currency and is used as a “reserve currency.” It is seen as a safe investment, so demand for dollars remains higher than it would normally be, keeping its value higher than it would be otherwise.

But China deliberately breaks this system. For years
t h e C h i n e s e

government has manipulated the yuan's value to keep it weak.

The weak yuan acts as an invisible subsidy on everything China exports and an invisible tariff on everything it imports. A Chinese smartphone that may ordinarily cost \$250 now costs only \$200 because of this currency manipulation. So Americans buy more Chinese goods. In the short term, American consumers get cheaper phones, but in the long term, American manufacturers lose out—and many relocate to China.

The result is a massive trade imbalance, with China exporting huge amounts to the U.S. and little going the other way.

China has signed up to play by the standard rules. It is a member of the International Monetary Fund, of which “avoiding manipulating exchange rates” is an entry condition.

America has failed to confront China on this. The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 requires that the U.S. Treasury identifies all currency manipulators “gaining unfair competitive advantage in international trade.” The Treasury labeled China as a manipulator from 1992 to 1994, but it has not done so since, despite almost all major economists agreeing that the Chinese government manipulates its currency. C. Fred Bergsten, senior fellow and director emeritus at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, wrote that “China was the champion currency manipulator of all time from 2003 through 2014.” Even Ben Bernanke, then chairman of the Federal Reserve, said in 2010 that China was manipulating its currency. Still, the Treasury did nothing.

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that currency manipulation—led by China—increases the U.S. trade deficit by \$200 billion to \$500 billion a year. These are huge figures, far exceeding the annual benefits of

the dollar being the world's dominant reserve currency. The EPI estimates that if China stopped this practice, the size of the American economy would increase between 2 percent and 4.9 percent and the number of jobs would increase by 2.3 million to 5.8 million. Crucially, 40 percent of these jobs would be in the manufacturing industry, which has been devastated in recent decades.

There is some debate on whether China is still a currency manipulator. Some argue that in recent years China has ended its manipulation as part of a bid to replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency. These economists may be right. Others argue that the loss of manufacturing to China doesn't matter; after all, cheaper smartphones mean the public can spend more on other things. But the fact that China has manipulated its economy for years is beyond dispute.

Germany: An Even Subtler Foe

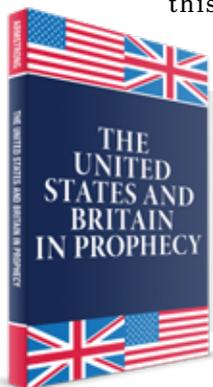
China's trade war is no secret. It has contained its economic assault just enough to avoid prompting a strong American response. Germany's trade war is even subtler.

Europe has manipulated the currency markets in Germany's favor. Like China's currency manipulation, the nature of the euro stops the normal self-correcting mechanism of floating exchange rates from working.

Before the euro existed, each European country had its own currency. Germany had a strong exporting economy, so its currency got stronger. Countries in Southern Europe (including France, for the sake of economics) imported a lot from Germany, making their currencies weaker. German goods became more expensive, Southern Europe's exports became cheaper, and they were able to remain fairly competitive.

The euro ended that. When Germany, Southern Europe and the rest of the countries in the eurozone all adopted the euro in 1999, they became locked into one exchange rate, doing away with the floating rates of their old, obsolete currencies. The result is that Germany exports more and more to Southern Europe, and there is no built-in mechanism to stop the flow.

But the euro did more than that. The euro is a less stable currency than the



WANT AMERICA GREAT AGAIN?

First you need to understand what made America great to begin with. Request Herbert W. Armstrong's free book ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy*** to learn the remarkable story of America's rise.

deutsche mark was and is thus much weaker. According to last summer's report from the IMF, the euro is 10 percent to 20 percent cheaper than a German currency would be. This means that a German car that would cost \$10,000 in a fair market actually costs \$8,000 to \$9,000. No wonder Germany is an exporting powerhouse: It has a built-in advantage.

The fact that the euro would be weaker than the deutsche mark, giving Germany an enormous exporting advantage, was clear from the start. In his 1995 book *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, Bernard Connolly writes that "a monetary union cannot survive without a political union, as the Bundesbank has said time without number. But there will *not* be a political union cohesive enough for everyone to put 'Union' interests above national interests. ... It follows that the single European currency will certainly be weaker than the deutsche mark"

Economists still argue whether this euro advantage was deliberate or an unforeseen side effect. But the effect is undeniable. Since the euro was introduced, Germany's trade surplus has exploded.

A Trade Alliance

The Bible prophesies of a trade alliance that matches these two powers that are already waging economic war on the United States. Isaiah 23 forecasts a "mart of nations" (verse 3). The chapter is full of references to ships, oceans and overseas trade. It is describing a trade alliance.

The alliance includes Tyre, an ancient economic power and a type of the economic power rising in Europe. It also includes China, using its ancient name, *Chittim*. (Request our free booklet *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* for biblical proof.)

Other scriptures forecast a trade war on the U.S. In Deuteronomy 28:52, God tells Israel that its enemies would "besiege thee in all thy gates"—cut its economy off from the outside world—the most extreme form of a trade war. Ezekiel 4-5 describe a siege of Jerusalem along with the other tribes of Israel. This siege, as outlined in Ezekiel 4 did not happen during his time. In fact, most of ancient Israel had already been conquered, deported and enslaved by the time Ezekiel wrote this.

Why give these prophecies? Because they are for the modern descendants of Israel, including America and Britain. (Request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to trace this history.)

Put these scriptures together, and it's clear that this mart of nations uses trade to oppose Britain and America. These nations cut America off completely, besieging it and bringing it down.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains in *Isaiah's End-Time Vision*: "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*."



SEE THE TRADE WAR INFOGRAPHIC ON PAGE 18

"That is where China and the giants of Asia enter the picture. ... [C]onsidering 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."

The powers mentioned in Isaiah 23 are already besieging America—albeit in a limited way compared to what is to come. All that is required for this prophecy to be fulfilled is for Europe and Asia to band together and begin aggressive economic warfare.

In singling out Germany and China, Donald Trump is confronting a major danger to the U.S. But there is also a great danger in his approach.

Peter Zeihan, a geopolitical analyst formerly of Stratfor, wrote on March 5 that "considering the global nature of most modern supply chains, any America-First-themed trade war is a trade war with the entire international system: rivals, but also allies, with every action rippling throughout the entire global order. A global recession is absolutely guaranteed and based on how fast and heavy Trump lowers the boom, this could well be the singular action that drops the world into the disorder that I often speak and write about."

"[D]o not underestimate just how fast this unraveling can happen," he warned. In the past, Zeihan said, he "noted that the global system was so fragile and counterintuitive and out-of-date that it was a waste of time to guess what specific action might cause it all to crash apart. An American-initiated trade war is perhaps one of the ways to destroy it most quickly and thoroughly."

A trade war against Europe and China at the same time could unite the two together and lead to the "mart of nations"—and to its attack on America.

Even a "victory" poses great dangers. As we explained in our February issue of the *Trumpet* (theTrumpet.com/16706), Germany's political system is fragile and its economy depends on trade with America. A trade war could lead to a dangerous political transformation.

America has a lot of economic strength, and it could hurt these nations. But it also has a lot of debt. China owns more than \$1 trillion of that debt. If it slows or stops its purchases of American debt, the Americans could not finance their out-of-control government spending, and the American economy, government and society would be imperiled.

For years Chinese leaders have murmured about using this economic "nuclear option" if they don't like the way the U.S. is heading.

A Sure Solution

Exactly how Mr. Trump's trade retaliation will play out is unclear. We don't yet know exactly who will be included in

A COMING GLOBAL TRADE WAR_

Economic analysts are warning about a trade war between the United States and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Bible prophecy shows that even close U.S. allies like the European Union and Japan will soon join China and Russia in a temporary economic alliance that will dominate global economic activity. Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 27 identify a great "mart of nations" that will literally besiege the United States and Britain—economically freezing them out of world trade!

POPULATION 
 GDP (PURCHASING POWER PARITY)* 
 GOLD RESERVES 
 ANNUAL TRADE SURPLUS/DEFICIT 
 TRADE COMPETITORS 
 BRICS NATIONS 
 ANGLO-AMERICA 

* A nation's GDP at PPP exchange rates is the sum value of all final goods and services produced within a nation in a given year valued at prices in the United States.



RUSSIA

143,989,754 
 \$4 TRILLION 
 1,829 TONNES 
 +\$103,233,838,100 

JAPAN

127,484,450 
 \$5.4 BILLION 
 765 TONNES 
 +\$38,008,392,690 

CHINA

1,409,517,397 
 \$23 TRILLION 
 1,843 TONNES 
 +\$509,716,483,740 

INDIA

1,342,512,706 
 \$9.4 TRILLION 
 558 TONNES 
 -\$96,377,879,770 

FORECASTS_

"This United Nations organization started the idea—planted it in men's minds—of uniting nations together. It paved the way for the prophesied resurrection of the Roman Empire—by a United States of Europe. Today there is talk of a South American 'common market,' and even a Southeast Asian 'common market.' Uniting nations together is in the air." **HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG, 1957**

"A top German banker ... predicts that the Moscow-Beijing economic axis will prevail against the United States. He also warns that economic damage for Germany and the European Union will be significant if they continue to follow U.S. policy in opposition to the BRICS alliance (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Germany has already joined the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Financial analysts ... are warning that Germany may already be planning to ditch the dollar and join the BRICS nations!" **GERALD FLURRY, 2016**

TRADE ALLIANCE MILESTONES_

1957 EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY FOUNDED	1967 ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS FOUNDED	1991 MERCOSUR FOUNDED	1993 EUROPEAN UNION FOUNDED	2006 BRIC ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION FOUNDED	2008 UNION OF SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS FOUNDED	2010 BRIC ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION ADDS SOUTH AFRICA	2015 ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK FOUNDED	2016 TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP FOUNDED	2017 EU-JAPAN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
--	---	-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	--	--	---	---	--

ANALYSIS_

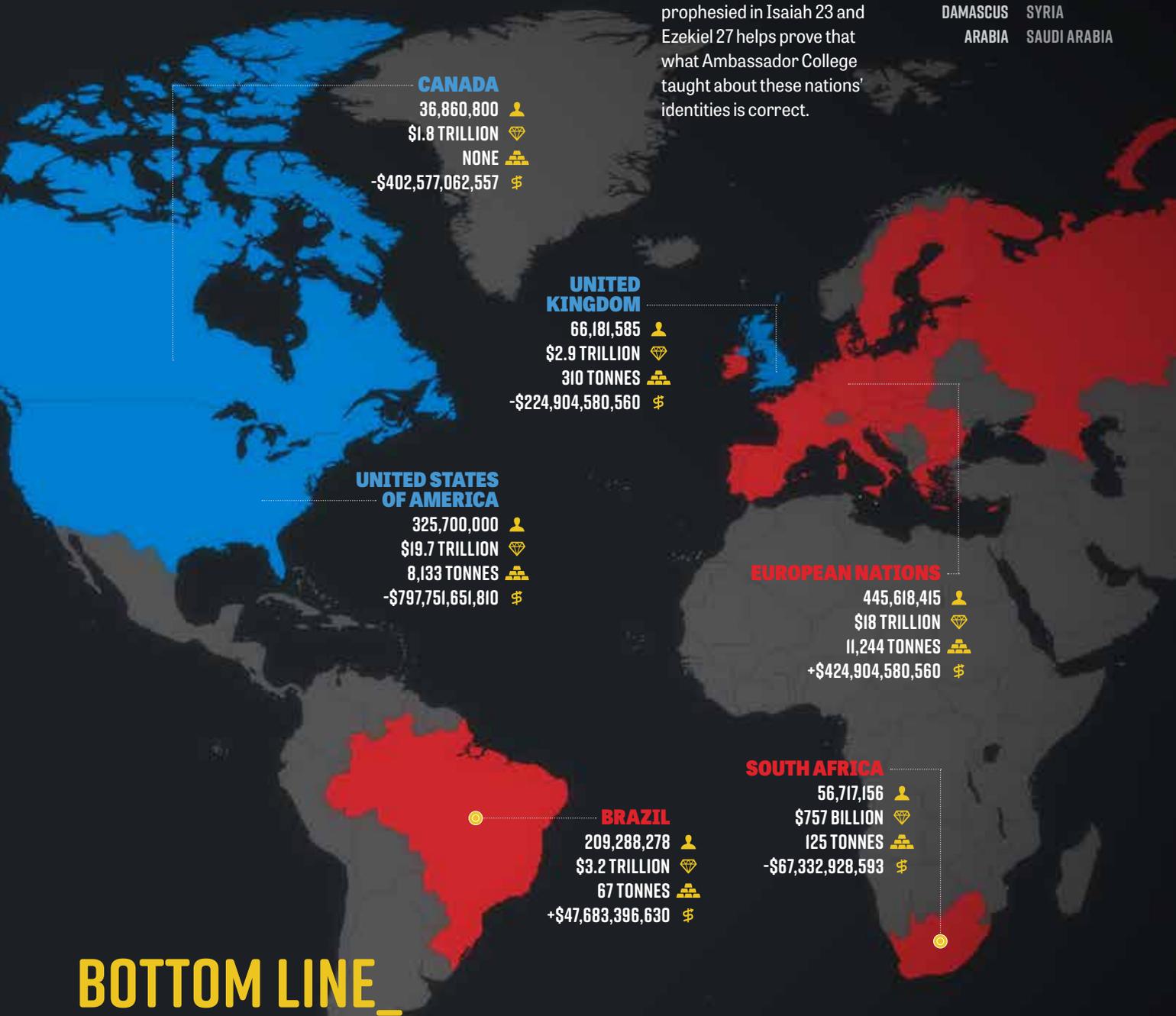
"So, the primordial interest of the United States over which for centuries we have fought wars—the First, Second and Cold War—has been the relationship between Germany and Russia—because united they are the only force that could threaten us—and to make sure that that doesn't happen."

GEORGE FRIEDMAN, 2015

ORIGINS_

Herbert W. Armstrong's Ambassador College conducted extensive research into the modern identity of biblical nations. The ongoing formation of the anti-American trade bloc prophesied in Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 27 helps prove that what Ambassador College taught about these nations' identities is correct.

BIBLICAL	MODERN
TYRE	EUROPEAN UNION
ASSYRIA	GERMANY
CHALDEA	ITALY
JAVAN	GREECE
CHITTIM	CHINA
TARSHISH	JAPAN
TUBAL, MESHECH	RUSSIA
EGYPT	EGYPT
DAMASCUS	SYRIA
ARABIA	SAUDI ARABIA



CANADA
 36,860,800
 \$1.8 TRILLION
 NONE
 -\$402,577,062,557

UNITED KINGDOM
 66,181,585
 \$2.9 TRILLION
 310 TONNES
 -\$224,904,580,560

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 325,700,000
 \$19.7 TRILLION
 8,133 TONNES
 -\$797,751,651,810

EUROPEAN NATIONS
 445,618,415
 \$18 TRILLION
 11,244 TONNES
 +\$424,904,580,560

SOUTH AFRICA
 56,717,156
 \$757 BILLION
 125 TONNES
 -\$67,332,928,593

BRAZIL
 209,288,278
 \$3.2 TRILLION
 67 TONNES
 +\$47,683,396,630

BOTTOM LINE_

The U.S. is ranked the world's second-largest economy based on purchasing power parity, but the combined economic output of the "mart of nations" is over twice that of the Anglo-American power bloc.

ANGLO-AMERICA	428,742,400	\$24.4 TRILLION	8,444 TONNES	-\$1,425,233,294,927
MART OF NATIONS	3,735,128,156	\$58.6 TRILLION	16,431 TONNES	+\$959,835,883,357
ANTI-AMERICAN ADVANTAGE	+\$3,306,385,741	+\$34.2 TRILLION	+7,987 TONNES	+\$2,385,069,178,284



China's Great Leap Toward Strongman Rule

Xi Jinping's power grab places the might of the world's most populous nation in the hands of one (ambitious) man. BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. He demonstrated an utter disregard for human life. His disastrous and cold-blooded leadership killed tens of millions of Chinese. The only force that brought an end to his rule was his death in 1976 at age 82.

There were no term limits for Chairman Mao, and few meaningful limits on his power. He was accountable to no one and scornful of all advice. The combination of his ruthlessness, incompetence and disdain for counsel made his rule incomparably tragic. Mao's name is etched in history as

THE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BEIJING on February 25 was a bombshell. China's ruling Communist Party said it would abolish a constitutional clause that limits presidential service to two terms. The move enables President Xi Jinping, already China's most powerful leader in decades, to rule the country indefinitely.

Two weeks later, China's largely ceremonial parliament approved the proposal with a vote of 2,959 to 2, with three abstentions, deleting the clause stating that the president and vice president "shall serve no more than two consecutive terms."

President Xi came to power in 2013. Before the constitutional change, he would have had to leave office in 2023, after his second five-year term ends. But now he can continue ruling the second-largest economy and the largest national population in the world for as long as he lives.

Regardless of the constitutional revision, Xi, 64, can retain his positions as leader of both the Communist Party and the military indefinitely. The constitutional term limits pertained strictly to the office of president, which is inherently less powerful than the

two other posts. But retaining the presidency, perhaps for life, consolidates his power completely and makes him what many Chinese refer to as "the paramount leader."

With Xi holding the trinity of top posts, his authority is unquestioned, unchecked and undivided.

This has alarming implications for the future of China and the world.

In the Absence of Power Limits

The presidential two-term limit was established in 1982 by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. It was put in place, along with other checks on presidential power, in an effort to prevent China from ever returning to the era of chaos it had suffered under Deng's predecessor, Mao Zedong.

Mao founded the People's Republic of China in 1949. He ruled the nation with almost godlike status for nearly three decades. He brought an end to generations of civil clashes and disorder that prevailed when foreign powers ruled, and he prepared China for its return to international relevance.

But Mao accomplished much of his agenda with endless purges and such catastrophic campaigns as the Great

the man responsible for the deaths of more people than any other individual.

His rule "ranks alongside the gulags and the Holocaust as one of the three greatest events of the 20th century," said historian Frank Dikötter. "It was like [Cambodian Communist dictator] Pol Pot's genocide multiplied 20 times over."

In light of this history, the people of China should be alarmed to see the removal of checks on the president's power. But it may be too late for the people of China to stop their nation's great leap into authoritarianism.

Squashing Internal Dissent

Some Chinese are voicing alarm about Xi's abolishment of term limits and his moves toward authoritarianism. Li Datong, a former editor for the state-run *China Youth Daily*, lived through the Maoist era. In a February 26 letter posted in a private group on China's WeChat phone messaging app, he wrote: "It was the highest and most effective legal restriction meant to prevent autocracy or putting individuals above the party and the state. Lifting the term limits of national leaders will be ridiculed by civilized nations all over the world and also sow the seeds of chaos for China."

But China's propaganda machine shifted into overdrive to counter such criticism. WeChat users who attempted to share Li's letter had their posts blocked. The government has completely blocked dozens of words and phrases on social media, including "disagree," "personality cult," "emigrate," "immortality," "my emperor," "lifelong" and "Xi Zedong," a fusion of Xi Jinping and Mao Zedong.

Within China, the critics of Xi's power grab do not appear to be numerous. And this heavy-handed Internet censorship may be enough to keep the criticism from spreading.

Even before the latest power grab, Xi had little patience for disagreement, and he often countered it with force.

During his first five years, instead of maintaining the "first among equals" style of leadership used by his recent predecessors, he adopted a strongman approach. He bypassed State Council authorities by forming policymaking party groups, many of which he chairs himself. He took personal control of writing policy on everything from China's economy and international relations to its environmental strategies and Internet regulations. He implemented painful military reforms that positioned him as unchallenged commander in chief of China's enormous People's Liberation Army.

Xi also waged an anticorruption campaign resulting in the punishment or imprisonment of a breathtaking 1.5 million Communist Party members, including numerous former political rivals and senior military officials.

These moves placed Xi at the center of what *Time's* Hannah Beech called "a personality cult not seen in the People's Republic since the days when frenzied Red Guards cheered Chairman Mao's launch of the Cultural Revolution" (March 31, 2016).

Most of China Supports Xi's Rise

Li Datong and other Chinese openly decry Xi's lurch toward indefinite one-man rule. But the Communist Party and most Chinese support the move.

In fact, Xi's rapid ascent and his move to scrap term limits could not have happened without the full consent and assistance of Communist Party leadership.

The Chinese elite and many ordinary citizens see that the global order is unraveling. They see the rise of extremist parties in Europe. They see the so-called stable democracies destabilizing. They see American power declining and leadership vacuums opening up. They see that the international stage is primed for conflict, and they see a chance for China to take advantage of the volatility and emerge as a superpower.

Chinese top leaders recognize that for their nation to become a superpower it needs a ruler whose hands are not bound by red tape and who is not limited by checks and balances. They need a strongman who is free of political encumbrances and capable of decisive actions. They need a new Mao.

These sentiments led Communist Party elite to allow Xi to rise so rapidly and so high. Now these same sentiments compel the Chinese people to support Xi as emperor for life.

The World Should Be Alarmed

Xi's abolition of term limits and leap toward autocracy also has major implications outside of China and for the global order.

Under Mao, China was a military lightweight. This meant that although his ambitions wrought havoc on hundreds of millions, they rarely spilled over China's borders in a significant way.

But in recent years, China's military has become a formidable force.

Under the streamlined leadership of a man who vowed last year to make China "stand taller and firmer in the world," such a military should be taken seriously.

Even before the constitutional revision, President Xi led China on a path of international belligerence, grabbing territory from its neighbors and exerting illegal control over vital international waters.

Now that Xi is positioned essentially as China's emperor for life, and since the Communist Party and most of the

country's population support him, the world should expect China to become even more aggressive on the international stage.

Xi, China and Bible Prophecy

The *Trumpet* watches Xi's tightening grip on power because Bible prophecy reveals that as America's influence on the global stage diminishes, two power blocs will emerge. One will be a European bloc functioning in the tradition of the Holy Roman Empire. The other will be an Asian entity called in Scripture "the kings of the east," headed by Russia, with China in a secondary leadership position. The Bible makes plain—in such chapters as Jeremiah 50, Daniel 11 and 12, Revelation 16 and Matthew 24—that a clash between this European power and this Russo-Chinese-led bloc will play a major role in the most violent conflict in human history.

The fact that Xi can now rule for as long as he lives is deeply significant. His ongoing rise and increasing control over China's military and foreign policy is vital to watch. It indicates how the Chinese president could join forces with his fellow strongman in Russia and how China will be brought on its prophesied collision course with Europe. The February 25 announcement about scrapping term limits also indicates how near this future clash could be.

Although this points to a dark time in the near term, that time will be closely followed by the brightest imaginable future!

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia'*: "This immense war between European and Asian forces will end in the return of Jesus Christ! ... The conclusion of that battle will mark the beginning of a peaceful and prosperous new age for the entire Earth!"

At that time, for the peoples of China and the whole world, an era of true stability and abundant, joyous living will begin. ■

CHINA'S FUTURE PROPHESED

To learn what Bible prophecy says is in store for China, request a free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



What Will Putin Do With Six More Years of Power?

The international stage is set for the strongman to lead Russia in an even more aggressive direction.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES



VLADIMIR PUTIN SURPRISED NO ONE by securing another term as Russia's president. The final tally shows that he crushed all his rivals with 77 percent of the March 18 vote. Yes, there is evidence that Putin rigged the election to a degree. After all, this *is* Russia, where even if a dictator's victory is sure, he still pulls a few levers behind the scenes, if only for the sake of political tradition. But experts agree that, even without the rigging, Putin would still have comfortably won 60 percent of the vote—placing him leagues above the second-place contender's 12 percent.

The bottom line is that 65-year-old Putin has six more years at the helm of the world's largest country and second-most powerful military. And the 144 million people of the nation largely support his ongoing dominance of Russia.

Putin's influence has become so foundational that a Kremlin without him as the ultimate authority is difficult for many Russians to imagine. Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of the Russian parliament, summarized this common sentiment in 2014 by saying, "If there is Putin, there is Russia. If there is no Putin, there is no Russia."

To understand what Putin's next presidential term will bring for Russia and the world, his first 18 years of leadership must be examined.

Reversing the 'Greatest Catastrophe'

Putin came into power eight years after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. The collapse reversed a development that had been in the works since the 17th century when the Russian Empire first emerged: the systemic integration and centralization of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Siberia and the Caucasus. Its core was Moscow. Its goal was to challenge European powers.

Though economically brittle, Russia was militarily powerful enough to contribute heavily to the defeats of Napoleon Bonaparte and Adolf Hitler. Russia, the dominant member of the Soviet Union, even held its ground for four decades against the mighty United States during the Cold War.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, the West rejoiced, proclaiming it a victory for liberty, a triumph for democracy, and evidence of the supremacy of capitalism over socialism. Most former Soviet nations were grateful for their

new independence and began to rebuild freer societies.

But Putin does not view this as a positive event, because it decimated Moscow's power in the world. He said in 2005, "[T]he demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century."

Vladimir Putin wishes the Soviet Union never fell. He wishes it were still here today. And he has been working to restore Russian power to its Soviet levels.

Winning Hearts and Minds

When Putin became president, Russia was in chaos. It was threatened internally and externally. But Putin aggressively consolidated the country socially, politically, militarily and economically.

During Putin's first eight years in the Kremlin, Russia's industry increased by 76 percent and investments grew by 125 percent, according to *Atlas for Business and Political Decision Makers*. Real incomes of Russian citizens grew by over 100 percent. The average salary increased eightfold, from \$80 per month to \$640. The middle class swelled from 8 million to more than 55 million, and the percentage of Russians living below the

poverty line fell from 30 percent to 14 percent. Under Putin, for the first time in their lives, many Russians owned cars and were able to vacation abroad.

Russian oil exports steadily climbed throughout those years; and in 2009, Russia overtook Saudi Arabia to become the world's number one energy exporter.

Gaps remained in Russia's energy grid, health care, infrastructure and industrial base. But the economic advancements were stark and Russians rallied around Putin as the country's "savior," its "white rider."

More recently, falling oil prices and Western sanctions have pounded the value of the ruble, and living standards have declined to a degree. Yet because of Putin's record of lifting millions from poverty and restoring Moscow's international relevance, the Russian people remain fiercely loyal to him.

Instead of seeing him as the cause of the current troubles, they continue to view him as the solution.

Bypassing Law

At the end of Putin's second presidential term in 2008, he faced a problem: The Russian Constitution says, "One person may not hold the position of Russian president for more than two terms in a row." So Putin left the presidency—but only in the letter of the law, not the spirit.

He stepped aside to become prime minister, handing the presidency to his loyal protégé, Dmitry Medvedev. But throughout Medvedev's term, Putin remained in charge. He remained Russia's ruler in all but official title, with Medvedev serving essentially as his puppet.

Just three months after that charade of power transition, Putin powerfully demonstrated to his people and to the world that he is willing to use force to re-create the geography of the Soviet Union.

Expanding the Empire

In August 2008, Russian forces invaded the former Soviet republic of Georgia, easily defeating all resistance. Moscow assumed control of 20 percent of Georgia's territory, and it remains in control to this day.

This was a major geopolitical event, sending reverberations around the globe.

Editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in the October 2008 *Trumpet* issue, "Russia's attack on Georgia in August marks the beginning of a dangerous new era in history. This was the first military strike of a rising Asian superpower—and there will be more!"

Mr. Flurry went on to specifically name which other former Soviet nation might be targeted next: "Will a crisis occur over Ukraine? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well."

Time proved that forecast accurate. In 2012, Putin returned to the presidency with a newly extended six-year presidential term. His rule over Russia was official once again. And in March of 2014, Russian forces stealthily invaded Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula

During Putin's first eight years, Russia's industry increased by 76 percent and investments grew by 125 percent. Real incomes of Russian citizens grew by over 100 percent.

and annexed it to Mother Russia. He had literally redrawn the borders of Europe—twice. Mr. Flurry wrote, "The fact that one man—*one man*—is responsible for this huge geopolitical shift is deeply significant."

Crimea is viewed within Russia as the nation's greatest victory in decades, and as a righting of historical wrongs. To reinforce this message, this year's presidential election was held on the fourth anniversary of the takeover.

"After [Putin] brought Crimea back, he became a hero to me," said Olga Matyunina, a 65-year-old retired economist, who cast her vote for Putin.

Since seizing Crimea, Putin has continued to destabilize eastern Ukraine, sending Russian forces to help pro-Russian rebels in a protracted conflict that has claimed 10,000 lives so far, with more deaths almost every day. He has forcefully prevented Georgia, Ukraine and other former Soviet countries from strengthening their relationships with Europe.

Putin pushed the U.S. out of his backyard in 2013 by pressuring Kyrgyzstan to evict American forces from Manas Air Base, the U.S.'s last remaining

military base in Central Asia.

Meanwhile, beyond the Soviet regions, Russia has helped the murderous regimes of Syrian President Bashar Assad and North Korean tyrant Kim Jong-un to retain power. And Putin has been instrumental in letting Iran continue its treacherous pursuit of nuclear weapons.

None of these moves would have been possible without formidable military might—and Vladimir Putin's will to use it.

Building a More Lethal Military

The outdated military that Putin had inherited from Boris Yeltsin was barely fit for its purpose. One of Putin's highest priorities has been transforming it into a modern and more lethal force.

Moscow now spends a higher percentage of its gross domestic product on its military than does America.

The efforts have paid massive dividends.

"The Russian military is now better equipped and more capable of conducting modern combat operations than at any point since the fall of the Soviet Union, which has caught analysts in the West by surprise," wrote the *Strategist's* Mitchell Yates in 2016.

And don't forget: Russia has a vast nuclear arsenal, larger by number even than that of the U.S. It has publicly stated that nuclear weapons remain vital to its defense strategy and that in certain circumstances it might launch preemptive nuclear strikes to defend its interests.

During his state-of-the-nation address in early March, Putin dazzled his people by unveiling an array of new advanced nuclear-capable weapons. In what was also an unofficial campaign speech, Putin sent a clear message to the people of Russia: Vote Putin, and you will help make the Russian military great again.

The March 18 election result shows that the message resonated with a great number of voters.

But for Russians who have not bought into Putin's dictatorial vision, he has had a different message.

Eliminating Internal Enemies

Throughout all his years of working to restore Russia's power on the global stage, Putin has worked ruthlessly to quash all opposition from fellow Russians.

He has crippled Russia's democracy, enfeebled its parliament, and seized control of some of Russia's most profitable firms. Putin's internal wars have slaughtered more than 150,000 Russians in the Islamic region of Chechnya.

With KGB-style methods, he has crushed or silenced all forms of independent journalism and turned the Russian media into a personal propaganda machine.

would be obligated to step down in 2024. But with such a tight grip on the levers of power, he could easily amend the Constitution, orchestrate another rendition of the "Medvedev shuffle," or devise some other method to retain power at the end of the current term.

Many analysts are certain he will find a way. "I am absolutely convinced that Vladimir Vladimirovich [Putin] will not cede power in 2024 either," Alexei Venediktov, editor of Ekho Moskvy, said in November. "That means ... it's necessary to change the configuration of power and transfer the main power to an institution other than the presidential post."

The Russian Cycle: Where Now?

Russian history shows that the country operates on a four-phase cycle. First comes a national calamity, usually

Where is Russia in this cycle now?

In the 1990s, Russia suffered great national calamity after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Then, Putin emerged as the heroic white rider to resuscitate the dying bear. But Russia's changing landscape indicates that the white rider phase is now over.

"Russia's current white horse period is coming to an end," Stratfor wrote in 2007 as Putin prepared to install Medvedev as his puppet. "Putin's efforts to stabilize Russia have succeeded, but his dreams of Westernizing Russia are dead. The darkness is about to set in."

Stratfor then speculated that Putin himself could become the dark rider: "In particularly gloomy periods in Russia's past (which is saying something) the white rider himself actually has shed his idealism and become the dark rider."

These were sobering words back in 2007, and much more so now that Putin has confirmed all suspicions that he is a dictator bent on maintaining his power at all costs.

It is now clear that Putin has exchanged his white robes for black, and that Russia is once again in a dark rider phase.

History proves that once a dark rider becomes Russia's ruler, he pulls out all stops to achieve national security: crushing domestic challengers; subjugating economic life to Moscow; pouring resources into the military, which pushes against other nations' borders.

The history of Putin's rule so far indicates that his new term will lead Russia in an even more dangerous and aggressive direction. And when the history is placed alongside Bible prophecy, the indication becomes a certainty.

An Army of 200 Million

The Bible warns people in the end time to expect a great power to rise from the East. Scripture calls this power "the kings of the east" (Revelation 16:12). In Revelation 9:16, the Apostle John recorded a stunning prophecy about this Eastern power bloc: "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand."

This Asian military bloc will have *an army of 200 million men!*

The Bible provides many vital details about this largest army ever



LIKE-MINDED
Chinese President Xi Jinping
escorts Russian counterpart
Putin through a welcoming
ceremony in Beijing.

Evidence suggests that he has murdered more than 130 journalists inside Russia and numerous dissenting Russians exiled in foreign nations, such as the United Kingdom.

A list from human-rights group Memorial shows that 142 people are currently in Russian prisons for their political or religious beliefs. *Quartz* wrote, "In this, Putin's Russia is continuing Tsarist and Soviet traditions: Political dissenters are still being sent to Siberia or to work camps as in Stalinist days."

Russia's constitution still states that the president may serve no more than two consecutive terms, meaning Putin

the result of foreign invasion or poor planning by the government. Second, from out of the ruins emerges an idealistic "white rider" ushering in an era of what Russians deeply crave: national stability. Third, after the white rider succumbs to political frustration, he hands the reins of rulership over to a dark rider bent on internal control and external aggression, such as Ivan the Terrible and Josef Stalin. Finally, the dark rider ruthlessly quashes domestic opposition and expands Russia's unsecurable borders until the overextended empire collapses into stagnation and decline, and the cycle begins again.

assembled. Daniel 11:44, 12:1 and Matthew 24:21-22 make clear that this force will be one of the main players in a nuclear World War III.

A passage in Ezekiel tells which specific countries will contribute soldiers to this mega-army, and shows that it will be led by one nation—and one man.

The 'Prince of Russia'

"Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him" (Ezekiel 38:2).

Bible scholars generally agree that "Gog" refers to Russia and "the land of Magog" includes the vast area where modern-day China is located.

Meshech is a group of people whose name appears throughout history in several variations: Musku, Muski, Mushki. These are related to the modern Russian spelling of Moscow: *Москва*.

Tubal refers to another region of Russia. To the east of Russia's Ural Mountains lies the city of Tobolsk, a name derived from the ancient name *Tubal*. Tobolsk formerly functioned essentially as the capital of Russia's central and eastern Asian region.

Yet another name for all of Russia lies somewhat hidden in this passage. There is disagreement over how the Hebrew word *rosh* in this verse should be translated into English. The King James Version quoted above renders it as the adjective "chief." But the correct translation renders it not as an adjective, but a proper noun: *Rosh*.

Properly translated, the verse reads: "the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal."

Rosh was an ancient name for the people who became known as Rus—Russia. So the identity of this "prince" of Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk begins to take clear shape: The list of all three names confirms that this is one individual ruling over all the various peoples across Russia—from west to east.

The mention of Magog shows that this man's leadership extends beyond the borders of Russia and into China. Verses 5-6 mention ancient names for the peoples of such nations as India, Japan and the Koreas, saying these will also lend their military might to this bloc, led by Russia. Russia is already building a powerful alliance with China

and laying the groundwork for close relationships with many of these other nations. (Order your free copy of our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.)

When these Bible passages are examined alongside current events in Moscow, the identity of this "prince of Russia" becomes clear. In the September 2014 issue of the *Trumpet*, Mr. Flurry wrote: "I strongly believe Vladimir Putin is going to lead the 200 million-man army. Just look at the power he already has. Can you think of any other Russian politician who could become so powerful and have the will to lead Russia into the crisis of crises? I see nobody else on the horizon who could do that. ... I believe there is *not* enough time for a competitor to arise and challenge him. Over 80 percent of his people support his leadership.

"This much is absolutely certain: The restoring of Russia's power by Vladimir Putin—the prince of Russia—was prophesied!"

Putin has confirmed all suspicions that he is a dictator bent on maintaining his power at all costs.

Europe's Response

As Putin begins his fourth term, he does so with astonishing political, economic and military power—and proven determination to use it. Many Europeans—particularly in the eastern part of the Continent—are alarmed by Putin's increasing aggression.

In 2014, shortly after Russia annexed Crimea, Mr. Flurry explained the significance of this move in terms of Bible prophecy: "We have been prophesying for around 70 years that Eastern Europe would become a vital part of a new European superpower—a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. This prophecy

is *directly related to the Crimean crisis!* The *fear* you see in Europe because of events in Crimea is going to cause 10 leaders in Europe to unite in a sudden and dramatic way—and in *precise accordance* with the Bible's description of that European empire! ... Europe's new fear of Russia is going to play a major role in hastening the fulfillment of that prophecy!" (*Trumpet*, May-June 2014).

The Europeans have not forgotten what Putin has done to Georgia and Ukraine. They see Russia's increasingly provocative involvement in the Middle East and its bellicose nuclear threats. Many Europeans are fearful enough to more urgently seek European unification. Within a politically, economically and militarily unified European bloc, the Europeans can better stand up to the rising Russian threat.

A Sign of Great Hope

In his booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia'*, Mr. Flurry thoroughly examines the role that Putin plays in end-time Bible prophecy. He writes that the fact that this "prince of Russia" is on the scene proves that the most hope-filled event in mankind's history is now near. "Vladimir Putin is a sign, literally a *sign*, that Jesus Christ is about to return!" he writes. "This is one of the most inspiring messages in the Bible.

"What we are seeing in Russia ultimately leads to the transition from man ruling man to God ruling man! And it is almost here! It is just a few short years away. ... Russia's resurgence—which we see reported in headlines often—shows that end-time Bible prophecies are rapidly being fulfilled!"

In the near term, the fact that Putin has secured six more years at the helm of a resurgent Russia is a harbinger of terrible global tumult. But this development is intimately tied to the best imaginable news: Jesus Christ will return to Earth and usher in an age of peace for the peoples of Russia and all the world! ■

VLADIMIR PUTIN—A SIGN!

The Bible has much to say about Vladimir Putin's role.

To learn and prove the prophecies, request Gerald Flurry's free booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'*



ITALY: Game Over for Traditional Politics

Where Italy's election
earthquake will lead Europe
BY RICHARD PALMER



FIVE STAR MOVEMENT

LEADER **Luigi Di Maio**

2008
ELECTION **0%**

2013
ELECTION **25%**

2018
ELECTION **33%**

POLICY ►►

ITALY IS EUROPE'S LATEST COUNTRY to experience a political earthquake. Almost half of the vote in the general election on March 4 went to fringe parties. Germany struggled for nearly six months to form a coalition because fringe parties gained 22 percent of the vote in September's general election. In Italy, it is far worse. The fringe just became mainstream.

The party that received the most votes is the Five Star Movement. It was founded in 2009 by comedian Beppe Grillo. This party wants to kick out the elites and bring in a new political system. It has championed using online polls to make major decisions based on the will of its membership. It has leftist populist views and calls for a "citizenship income" that guarantees all citizens nearly \$1,000 a month as long as they are working or looking for work.

The other big winner is Lega (the League). Originally called Lega Nord (the Northern League), it was a fringe right-wing party campaigning for autonomy and even independence for northern Italy. But it has dropped the "Northern" and campaigned for anti-EU, anti-migrant policies—calling for mass deportations, etc. Lega is now Italy's largest right-wing party.

Combined, these parties received a sliver less than 50 percent of the vote. In most countries, both parties would have been considered too extreme to have a major role in government. Italy's political system gives a lot of power to smaller parties. Lega Nord was a minor member of previous national governments. But now Lega and the Five Star Movement are so popular with voters that it will be impossible to form a stable government without at least one of them. In fact, it will be difficult to form a stable government that isn't led by one of them.

This is the end game for traditional politics. Democracies have died this way before. Italy has one of the most dysfunctional political systems in Europe. It has had 65 governments in the 72 years since 1946, but it has never

been in a situation like this.

The *Telegraph's* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard called it a "revolutionary turn in Europe's postwar history." He wrote, "Populist parties of left and right command the political landscape of a major eurozone state for the first time, vowing openly to defy EU fiscal rules, banking codes and migrant policies" (March 5).

The immediate future is anybody's guess. The most common forecast is that Italy's government will suffer weeks, or even months, of paralysis, followed by fresh elections. Alternatively, the mainstream parties may compromise and join one of these two fringe parties to form a government. But even here there are no easy compromises available.

If the Five Star Movement and Lega join together to form Italy's next government, Germany will be facing a nightmare scenario. Although the two Italian fringe parties disagree on many issues, they have a similar approach to Europe. Both have talked about quitting the euro (although both dropped this aggressive position ahead of the election). Both campaigned on the idea of keeping the currency, but ignoring all the rules imposed by the eurozone. Both said they would increase Italy's already high debt levels, perhaps even introduce a parallel currency. In such a case, they would be openly breaking the eurozone's rules, daring Germany to do something about it.

"It is 'No' to Berlin, 'No' to Paris, and 'No' to Brussels: Italians are going to decide for Italy from now on," said Lega leader Matteo Salvini. He has called the euro a "crime against humanity."

If Lega (and the Five Star Movement) get what it wants, it risks piling almost all of Europe's separate crises into one towering inferno. The new German coalition government, so many months in the making, is split over the euro crisis. This kind of crisis in Italy could break the German coalition and further increase support for the right-wing Alternative für Deutschland. It could trigger another outbreak of the euro crisis and deepen the cracks in the eurozone.

The Five Star Movement was founded in 2009 by comedian Beppe Grillo. This populist movement campaigned against the political establishment, and its current leaders campaign for environmentalism and direct democracy. The party has started to adopt a harder stance against undocumented migrants. In less than a decade, it has grown from nonexistence to the single-largest political party in Italy.

A eurozone on the brink of civil war. A Germany that has barely managed to patch together a government after its longest coalition negotiations in history. Spain struggling to stay together as a country, its government possibly on the point of collapse. This is Europe today—a continent on the brink of a massive transformation. Business as usual simply cannot remain an option much longer.

The Bible forecasts this transformation. In Revelation 17, it describes a tightly knit union of 10 kings, united under one strong leader. Currently, Europe is a loose collection of 28 democracies under 28 heads of government and three European presidents. Although they have tried to tighten that collection into a stronger union and have taken significant steps, a solid federal Europe has remained elusive.

Why? Because uniting into a superstate is a enormous task. And Europeans will only give up large chunks of sovereignty in a dire crisis.

In the November 1965 *Plain Truth*, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about one “hard, stern FACT” that the nations of Europe must face. “That crucial fact is this: The nations of Europe are utterly UNABLE TO UNITE THEMSELVES by their own political maneuvering,” he wrote. “For more than 31 years, the *Plain Truth* has said Europe WILL UNITE! And also for more than 31 years we have said these countries CANNOT AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES.”

How can they unite? Here’s how Mr. Armstrong answered that question: “For years the *Plain Truth* has said these nations are going to have to realize their inability to unite themselves POLITICALLY—to choose a common political-military leader that ALL can trust. They are going to finally face the fact they must look to a supreme authority they can all trust! That supreme authority cannot be a politician, or a general (De Gaulle is both). The only possible answer is a religious leader! ...

“Watch for developments suddenly to speed toward European POLITICAL

and MILITARY union, through religious union! This new trend may not start this year—or next. But in very few years at most, it must start. And when it does, events will flash by with a lightning speed that will ASTOUND THE WORLD.”

Mr. Armstrong wrote that more than 50 years ago, and the Europeans have still not turned to religion to unite themselves. Until they do, they simply cannot unite. And if Europe cannot unite, its crises will keep getting worse.

Jean Monnet, one of the EU’s founding fathers, famously said that “Europe will be forged in crises, and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises.” The designers of the euro currency knew that it would never work—that a common currency without a common government would provoke continual crises. For more on this, read our article “Why the Euro Is Heading for an Earthshaking Crisis” (theTrumpet.com/12875).

Yet even these crises have been unable to force Europe to fully unite. The crises will continue until Europe is desperate enough for a solution that it will turn to a religious power. Revelation 17 makes clear that the 10-nation European superstate will be led by a church.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained in April 2006 how this would happen: “Throughout Europe’s history, what has helped it to overcome its division has been a unity of purpose between church and state. Charlemagne showed how strong Europe could be when he formed a partnership between Germany and the Roman Catholic Church to create the Holy Roman Empire. That empire has risen up repeatedly since that time.

“But this church-state union hasn’t always been a happy marriage. Usually the two have been drawn together because of a crisis—an emergency. ...

“Herbert W. Armstrong believed the same pattern would occur again in our time—that European nations would unite suddenly because of a crisis, and that the Roman Catholic Church would play a huge role in solving that emergency. In times of crisis, religion has a

way of pulling people together! ...

“Crises are developing that could lead to this ‘emergency’ that will cause Europe to look to a newly strengthened Germany and end up bringing church and state together—from the weakening of the U.S. economy to danger brewing in the Middle East.”

The journey ahead for Italy and Europe is chaotic and uncertain. But the Bible makes it clear that this is the final destination for Europeans: a union of church and state that forms one of the strongest powers in history.

For more on what the sum of Europe’s solutions to its crises will look like, read our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*. ■



Until recently, Lega was a regional party that wanted northern Italy to become an independent nation. Under Salvini’s leadership, the party became a nationwide movement. It wants to leave the eurozone, condemns immigration and denounces the Islamization of Europe. Lega ran as part of a four-party coalition in the 2018 general election, which cumulatively garnered 37 percent of the vote.

UNSTABLE UNION
Angela Merkel prepares to sign
the new coalition agreement.

Can another grand coalition solve Germany's problems?

Germany finally forged a government. After months of uncertainty, Europeans sighed with relief on March 4 when Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Christian Social Union (CSU) and Social Democratic Party (SPD) agreed to form another grand coalition. Members of the SPD approved the newly written coalition contract with 66 percent of the vote in a party referendum, and the government was sworn in March 14.

But Germany's political dilemma does not end with the formation of the coalition. All three parties in the coalition are suffering from internal divisions.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU is divided between conservatives and those who are more liberal. During her 12 years as chancellor, Merkel has moved the party closer to the center of the political spectrum, yet avoided a conservative uprising. The refugee crisis has dramatically changed this: Now, conservatives in the CDU are putting up strong opposition, and support for Merkel is diminishing.

The CDU's sister party is the CSU. Since World War II, the CSU has controlled Bavarian politics without the need for a coalition partner. But polls show that this may change at the next state election this autumn.

Meanwhile, because of an internal power struggle, the CSU has no clear leader.

The left-wing Social Democrats form Germany's oldest and what has been the second-largest party, but they have lost numerous supporters over the past few years and fared badly in last year's election. They are currently in the process of electing a new leader after Martin Schulz was

ousted during the drama of the coalition negotiations. The prospect of another grand coalition under Merkel and an ongoing internal power struggle has caused the SPD's popularity to sink further.

Now these three parties must solve not only the problems within their ranks but the serious problems facing Germany and Europe as a whole.

Meanwhile, the SPD's loss is another party's gain. According to a *Bild* poll published on February 19, the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party is now the number two party in Germany. The poll showed the AfD ahead of the SPD

for the first time ever, with 16 percent of respondents saying they support the AfD, compared to 15.5 percent for the SPD.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Germany found itself unable to form a stable government; one minority government after another failed. This negative cycle was broken only by the rise of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, led by Adolf Hitler. Significant parts of that history are now repeating themselves. The soaring popularity of the AfD shows that many Germans are rejecting mainstream parties and want their nation to go in a radical new direction.

In his booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*, editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains biblical prophecies of a strong leader taking advantage of this climate of uncertainty. "Daniel 11:21 prophesies that this strong leader will come into power 'by flatteries'—probably not by votes, but through a coalition government of some kind," he writes. "We need to watch Germany and Europe carefully. Although Bible prophecy gives us the outline of how it will unfold, we don't know the details." One way or another, the current political chaos will lead to the rise of a new strongman. ■

German bishops allow communion for Protestant spouses

The chairman of the Catholic Church's German Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, announced on February 22 that new guidelines are coming for non-Catholics to receive communion. Marx said that Protestant spouses of Roman Catholics could receive communion "under certain conditions."

The conference reportedly agreed that the Protestant spouse of a Roman Catholic

could receive communion after affirming a "longing to satisfy a hunger for the Eucharist" in an examination of conscience.

Lutherans in Germany have been hoping for intercommunion between Catholics and Protestants. Some claim that some Protestants already take communion with their Catholic spouses and the practice should be recognized officially.

Cardinal Gerhard Müller told *Die Tagespost* that unity between Catholics and

Protestants is "desirable and necessary," but warned that there must be no "protestantization of the Catholic Church."

The Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church in Germany (a confederation of Protestant churches) each have more than 20 million members in Germany: Together they represent almost two thirds of the population. When united,

they would form a dominant political bloc. The Bible prophesies these two churches will ultimately unify, but there will be no protestantization of the Catholic Church. ■



New NATO HQ to fall under German command

Defense ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) approved the creation of two new command centers during their meeting on February 14 and 15. One, focused on maritime security, will be located in the United States. The other will focus on rapid troop movement in Europe and will be in Germany.

The decision comes in response to increased tension between Europe and Russia. German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said on the sidelines of the NATO meeting in Brussels, "Germany has offered to be a framework nation, and others are very grateful for that." Germany's location "in the heart of Europe" and its "experience in logistics and support" both factored into the decision, she said.

Many East European countries doubt that NATO can ensure their safety in the event of another armed conflict with Russia. The new command center is one of several steps NATO and the European Union are taking so the Continent can more quickly deploy troops to its eastern border.

The NATO headquarters in Germany fits perfectly into the pattern, apart from one irregularity: As Deutsche Welle noted, the new headquarters "will not be integrated into the current NATO command structure." Instead, it will be established under German sovereignty.

German-Foreign-Policy.com noted that this would allow Germany to use European troops and funds as it deemed necessary, even for missions

outside of the NATO framework. "In Washington, serious warnings are being raised against an independent German-European military policy aimed at weakening NATO," it reported. "The militarization of the EU is being supported as long as 'it is complementary to NATO,' a senior Pentagon official was quoted. However, Washington would intervene, if Berlin and the EU were to pull military resources away from NATO and use them for their own wars."

Many believe Germany and Europe will use the Continent's strengthening military to pursue the same goals as NATO, but this assumption is dangerous. Europe has submitted to the American-led bloc for 70 years because it lacked its own independent military power. Once it can rival the U.S., this



could quickly change.

The Bible warns of a rising European military that will oppose America. Based on prophecies such as those in Revelation 17, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in 1983: "[T]he Bible [prophecies] of this coming 'United States of Europe'—a new united super-power perhaps more powerful than either the Soviet Union or the United States!" (subscriber letter, July 24, 1983). ■

'Apocalypse' in Syria

The civil war in Syria has "entered a new phase of horror," according to an annual report by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, who called the situation an "apocalypse."

"This month, it is Eastern Ghouta which is ... hell on Earth," Zeid said on March 7, referring to the last rebel-held enclave near the Syrian capital of Damascus. "[N]ext month or the month after, it will be somewhere else where people face an apocalypse—an apocalypse intended, planned and executed by individuals within the [Syrian] government, apparently with the full backing of some of their foreign supporters."

The Ghouta crisis began on February 18 when the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad, with Russian aerial support, launched a new offensive in



Ghouta. A week later, the UN Security Council passed a resolution for a 30-day ceasefire across Syria. However, during that 30-day period, more than 1,000 people were killed, more than 4,800 were injured and nearly 400,000 residents were trapped with little access to food or medicine. One town council said residents were burying corpses in public parks because cemeteries were located in more dangerous war zones.

Zeid's report also said, "In addition to the staggering bloodshed in Eastern Ghouta, ... escalating violence in the province of Idlib is placing some 2 million people in danger. In Afrin, the offensive by Turkey is also threatening large numbers of civilians. People in government-controlled Damascus are suffering a new escalation of ground-based strikes. And the offensive against extremist groups has resulted

in large-scale loss of civilian life. ... It is urgent to reverse this catastrophic course and to refer Syria to the International Criminal Court."

Nearly half a million people have been killed in Syria since the civil war began in 2011.

"[T]here is something much more significant happening in Syria than just another civil war," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in his September 2012 article "How the Syrian Crisis Will End" (theTrumpet.com/9737). "What we are seeing right now in Syria is a major biblical prophecy in the process of being fulfilled! What happens in Syria will lead to mighty nations changing course and the foundations of this world being shaken! ... This nation is an important part of the balance of power in the Middle East, and Psalm 83 prophesies that there is about to be a dramatic, violent shift in Syria's alliances." ■

IN CRISIS
A Venezuelan woman feeds her grandchild soup provided by a nonprofit organization.

Venezuela's migrant crisis could exceed Syria's

“The economic and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela is perhaps the worst that the hemisphere has seen in modern history,” wrote the Brookings Institution’s Dany Bahar on February 9. The world’s next major refugee crisis is “not being driven by a violent war but by a socioeconomic disaster of magnitudes hardly seen before.”

Failed socialist economic policies have left almost 90 percent of the population in poverty, and food shortages have caused the average Venezuelan to lose 24 pounds since 2017. Clashes between

protesters and police over food scarcity have led to more than 150 Venezuelans killed, 2,000 injured and 5,400 incarcerated.

The Brookings Institution says that since the start of the crisis, 4 million Venezuelans have fled (more than 10 percent of the population),

An estimated 5 million Syrians who have fled their country’s ongoing civil war, and the lack of food in Venezuela is worsening so quickly that it may soon approach or exceed 5 million.

Mike Pompeo, then director of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, warned last year

that Venezuela’s government was distributing weapons to civilian militias and said that the turmoil there is an “incredibly real” risk and a “serious and ultimate threat to South America and Central America in addition to just in Venezuela.”

Foreign Policy wrote, “Venezuela has become a rabidly anti-American failed state that appears to be incubating the convergence of narco-trafficking and jihadism in America’s own backyard” (March 23, 2017).

In Deuteronomy 28:43, God warned the ancestors of the Anglo-Americans that disobedience to His laws would lead to curses, including the “sojourner who is among you” laying siege to “your towns throughout all your land, which the Lord your God has given you” (Deuteronomy 28:43 and 52; Revised Standard Version). *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry says the fall of America’s “high and fenced walls” refers to illegal immigrants streaming into the United States, which will contribute to a national collapse that will drastically affect people in every continent. ■



South African president pledges to take land from white farmers

South African government announced publicly at the 54th National Conference of the African National Congress in December that they will begin confiscating land owned by white people, and now South Africa’s new president, Cyril Ramaphosa, is promising to follow through.

“We will accelerate our land redistribution program not only to redress a grave historical injustice, but also to bring more producers into the agricultural sector and to make more land available for cultivation,” Ramaphosa said during his February 16 State of the Nation address before parliament. “We will pursue a comprehensive approach that ... will include the expropriation of land without compensation.”

Even if the government does not begin confiscating white-owned land, as Zimbabwe began doing in 2000 with disastrous results, the inflammatory rhetoric could move people to violence. According to the Transvaal Agricultural Union, 1,848 people were murdered in farm attacks between 1998 and 2016.

The Bible prophesies of a time of Great Tribulation that will afflict all the descendants of ancient Israel, including British and Dutch South Africans. Ezekiel 7:23-24 describe this time in grisly detail, saying that so many bloody crimes will occur in the end time that they will be like links in a chain, one following right after another. ■

‘Ethiopia has now reached a point of no return’

Amid government infighting and violent nationwide protests, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn resigned on February 15. The next day, the government declared a state of emergency, assuming the power to arrest and jail anti-government protesters—which has sparked even more protests.

“Never have the stakes in Ethiopia been so high,” wrote IOL News. “Political tensions are at a knife-edge, and the future stability of the country and its



HIGH STAKES
Thousands join a spontaneous protest against the Ethiopian government in October.

prospects for development hang in the balance. ... Ethiopia has now reached a point of no return” (February 26).

Some analysts expect a new opposition to emerge and possibly replace the current government in Ethiopia. Geopolitical Futures wrote on February 21 that Iran, which recently lost its influence over Sudan and Somalia to Saudi Arabia, may

replace them with Ethiopia in order to augment its control over the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. In his August 2012 *Key of David* program “Ethiopia in Prophecy,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said, “What Iran really wants is control over the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea ...” View that program and request your free copy of *Libya and Ethiopia in Prophecy*. ■

One of the world's richest cities now filthier than a Third World slum

San Francisco, California, is one of the world's richest cities, yet its streets are filthy. NBC Bay Area spent three days in February surveying downtown San Francisco, walking 20 miles across 153 city blocks. Reporters found trash on every block, 100 discarded drug needles, and 303 piles of human waste. Dr. Lee Riley, who coauthored a 2016 book on health in slums, said the contamination levels in some

parts of San Francisco might now be worse than certain slums in Brazil, Kenya and India.

San Francisco is now spending \$30 million of its \$60 million annual Public Works budget on cleaning the streets, including disposing of 12,000 needles per month. Public Works director Mohammed Nuru said, "It's not just about sweeping and washing down and cleaning. We have a social problem that we need to solve." ■

Number of stay-at-home dads increasing

American fathers are spending more time with their children than 50 years ago, according to a Pew Research report published January 8. But one of the primary reasons is that a small yet rapidly growing contingent of U.S. families are not only having the mother work, but also having the father stay at home.

U.S. Census data from 2014 reported that 1.9 million fathers are staying at home with children while their wives work and provide income. Only six men registered as "stay-at-home dads" in 1970.



Research indicates that 80 percent of these men would rather be working, while 20 percent are willingly abdicating their role as provider.

Those hundreds of thousands of men who have willingly traded roles with their wives are violating the Bible's instruction that women be "keepers at home," while men provide for their families (1 Timothy 5:8; Titus 2:5). ■

Should government force you to bake a cake?

Five years after Christian bakers Aaron and Melissa Klein declined to make a wedding cake for two homosexuals, the Oregon Court of Appeals upheld a \$135,000 fine against them on Dec. 28, 2017.

On Jan. 17, 2013, after Aaron Klein refused their request for a wedding cake, Rachel Cryer and Laurel Bowman complained that Sweetcakes by Melissa had discriminated against them. The women alleged they had suffered from depression, hysteria and embarrassment and claimed they felt "mentally raped."

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries found the Kleins in violation of the Oregon Equality Act of 2007, which outlaws discrimination in housing, employment and public places. The act includes

an exemption for religious organizations and schools, but the exemption does not extend to private business owners.

Jesus Christ prophesied that in the time just before His return to Earth, those who followed God's law would be persecuted for their beliefs. "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ... Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake" (Matthew 24:4-5, 9). The First Amendment protection Americans have enjoyed for over two centuries will erode to the point where true believers—and even those who simply prefer not to bake a cake—can once again be heavily persecuted. ■

Billionaires prepping for end of world

Many wealthy Americans are taking serious steps to prepare for "doomsday." On February 15, the *Guardian* reported that rich entrepreneurs like Paypal cofounder Peter Thiel are buying property in New Zealand. The billionaire says he is prepared to flee to his survivalist bunker at a moment's notice.

Steve Huffman, cofounder and CEO of Reddit, told the *New Yorker* that he has been hoarding food, gathering weapons, and even underwent laser eye surgery to "improve his odds of surviving a disaster." A Facebook product manager, Antonio Garcia Martinez, told the *New Yorker* that he had purchased property in America's remote Pacific Northwest and was toying with the idea of forming a militia to protect his post-apocalyptic hideaway.

These individuals are underestimating the scope of the times of trouble about to sweep the Earth. The Bible prophesies, "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). For more information, request *Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door.'* ■

► **SCHOOL SHOOTING** FROM PAGE 9

furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him” (Nahum 1:2-3, 6).

The New Testament says that God “will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil ...” (Romans 2:6-9). And Hebrews 12:29 says that “our God is a CONSUMING FIRE.”

In His laws for ancient Israel, God commanded punishments for crimes that protected not the perpetrators of evil but the past and potential future VICTIMS of it. His forceful, speedy punishments *deterred future criminals!*

His instruction to parents in raising their children applies the same principle: Whenever and wherever you see evil in a child, *confront* it and *drive it out!* That is what Trayvon Martin and Nikolas Cruz desperately needed.

Proverbs 13:24 says if you spare the rod, you *hate* your son, but if you love him, you will chasten him promptly. The parent who loves his child *springs into action* when he sees evil. “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Proverbs 29:15). The Parkland tragedy is bitter proof.

In Romans 13, the Apostle Paul says

that God puts the authorities of this world into positions of power in order to *terrorize criminals!* It says that the law enforcer “is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, *be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain:* for he is the minister of God, A REVENGER TO EXECUTE WRATH UPON HIM THAT DOETH EVIL” (verse 4).

Look what happens when law enforcement *doesn't do that job*—when it tries to *accommodate crime* rather than EXECUTING WRATH upon it!

Do You Hate Evil Enough?

What happened in Parkland was a result of trying to handle evil our own “more enlightened,” “more tolerant” way—rather than God’s way. People think they know the way to fairness, equality and righteousness. But if you are not looking to God’s definition of righteousness, it is *self-righteousness!* That is very dangerous. Look at the results!

“There is a way which *seemeth right* unto a man, BUT THE END THEREOF ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH” (Proverbs 14:12).

Are you willing to accept *God's view* on this subject? “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil” (Proverbs 3:7). “Ye that love the Lord, HATE EVIL” (Psalm 97:10). “Hate the evil, and love the good ...” (Amos 5:15). “ABHOR that which is evil; *cleave* to that which is good” (Romans 12:9).

As a society, WE SIMPLY DO NOT HATE EVIL ENOUGH!

A lot of people hate a lot of things, but we do not hate EVIL AS GOD DEFINES EVIL! We do not confront sin AS GOD DEFINES SIN!

God confronts evil. He saw how it all started: when the archangel Lucifer, whom God created, started harboring vain thoughts that ultimately drove him to try to usurp God’s throne (read Ezekiel 28:14-18). God responded with violent force, kicking His adversary, and all his

demons, out of heaven and casting them down to Earth. Read Revelation 12:7-12.

These schools want to avoid “exclusionary practices” like expulsion. God practices expulsion! He kicks evil out! (Romans 16:17; 2 John 10; 1 Corinthians 5:11).

The passage in Revelation 12 concludes with a chilling warning: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth ... for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (verse 12). Yes, the devil is right here among us—even, in some respects, within us. Do you recognize him?

Why would God curse us with Satan’s presence? Because He wants us to learn to confront evil. And He wants us to witness firsthand the devastating consequences of failing to do so. Anywhere we fail to confront evil—among nations, within communities and schools, in our families, within ourselves—it will spread.

God's Rule

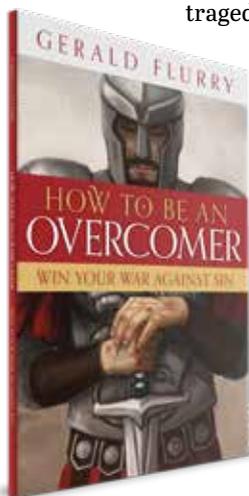
When God establishes His rule, He is going to put down evil! Rule with a rod of iron! That is the only way to deal with entrenched rebellion. You cannot reason—negotiate!—accommodate! It must be forcibly put down!

And because He is going to do that, He will turn Earth into a peaceful paradise!

The Bible is full of prophecies of the peace and prosperity this world will enjoy—very soon! But that is only possible because God will eliminate evil!

And that is what He expects us to be doing in our lives today.

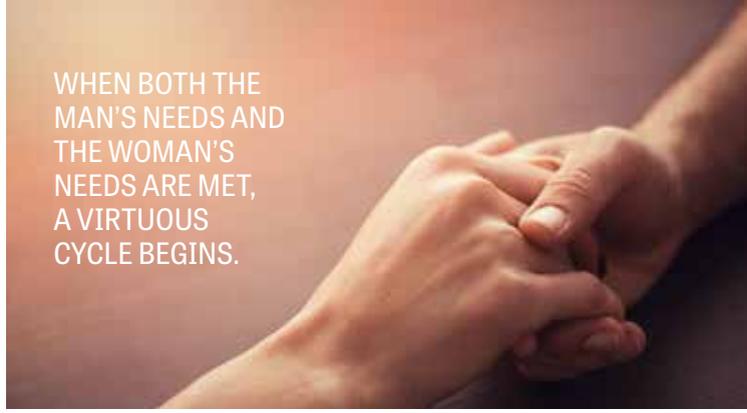
Learn this lesson. Understand this principle. Witness the problems in our society for *failing* to apply it—and be sure you are applying it in your own life! If you do, then you can enjoy the peace that comes as a result—just as surely as it will be experienced all over the Earth very soon! ■



CONFRONTING EVIL AND OVERCOMING SIN REQUIRES A WARRIOR MINDSET.

It demands wholehearted dedication to the three-pronged battle against Satan the devil, our evil society and our own sinful human nature. Gerald Flurry’s booklet *How to Be an Overcomer—Win Your War Against Sin* serves as a type of soldier’s field manual for the Christian fight. It shows you, from your own Bible, how to search out the sin in your life and destroy it. Request a free copy today of *How to Be an Overcomer*, and reap these blessings that come from confronting and conquering sin—and winning this war!

WHEN BOTH THE
MAN'S NEEDS AND
THE WOMAN'S
NEEDS ARE MET,
A VIRTUOUS
CYCLE BEGINS.



The Best Marriage Advice in the World

From the Maker of husbands and wives

WHY DID GOD CREATE HUMAN BEINGS MALE AND FEMALE? He made us in His own image and likeness, but unlike Himself, he split us into *two sexes* (Genesis 1:26-27). He carefully, intricately and brilliantly created us to complement each other physically, mentally and emotionally. Together in marriage, we two become “one flesh” (Genesis 2:23-24).

These differences *are* complementary—but they are differences. If you don’t understand them or you work against them or you try to ignore or erase them, they will cause unending perplexity, frustration and friction.



JOEL HILLIKER

The Creator of male and female sent along instructions for how to make His creation function marvelously. Ephesians 5:22-33 encapsulate these principles better than *bookshelves* full of self-help books with marriage advice.

But it takes a lot of depth to truly understand it, and it takes faith to apply it.

To women who want to understand men, the Apostle Paul says, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing” (verses 22-24).

A woman who applies this instruction will be fulfilling a man’s greatest need from her: **RESPECT**. God made the man to excel when admired and encouraged by the woman. God made him to be respected as the leader and to be bolstered and encouraged by her recognition of his achievements. He needs the loyalty and support of the woman. He needs to be understood for his masculine interests, drives and ambitions. He needs honest feedback and responsive support for his ideas, suggestions and requests. Her appreciation for the things he does gives him a kind of confidence that only she can provide.

Women, don’t view this need in men as a weakness—treat it as *God’s design*. Accept it, embrace it, and make yourself *expert* in meeting that need!

To men who want to understand women, Paul says, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself” (verses 25-28).

A man who applies this instruction will be fulfilling a woman’s greatest need from him: **LOVE**. A woman needs attention. She needs appreciation, approval and sincere compliments. She needs people and personal relationships. She needs to be loved, respected and treated with tenderness. She needs a shoulder to cry on without fear of rejection. Her opinions and wisdom count, and she needs to know that the man recognizes that. She needs to know a man appreciates her differences and tries to understand her emotional makeup. She needs him to be sensitive, protective and caring of her total welfare.

Don’t view this need as a weakness. Realize that it is *God’s design*. Accept it, embrace it, and make yourself **EXPERT** in meeting her need!

Ephesians 5 boils this all down to one marvelous verse: “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence [respect, venerate, treat with deference] her husband” (verse 33). This is a command, but it’s also an insight into the **DEEPEST NEEDS** of men and women: **WOMEN NEED LOVE—MEN NEED RESPECT**.

When both the man’s needs and the woman’s needs are met, a virtuous cycle begins. A woman who is *loved* finds it far easier to show respect. A man who is *respected* finds it far easier to show *love*.

When those needs are **NOT** met, the cycle turns vicious: If a woman **DOESN’T RECEIVE LOVE**, she tends to *withhold respect*. If a man **DOESN’T RECEIVE RESPECT**, he tends to *WITHHOLD LOVE*. This is the natural tendency, and when we give in to it, marriages become train wrecks.

Ephesians 5 does not say, *Husbands, love her as long as she respects you*, or, *Wives, reverence him as long as he shows love*. For this to work, husbands must **LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY**; wives must **RESPECT UNCONDITIONALLY**. A man must love his wife, even when she isn’t lovable. He must govern his thoughts and actions toward love. A wife must respect her husband even when he isn’t respectable. She must govern her thoughts so as not just to *show* reverence, but to **BE** reverent.

God’s ground rules for marriage are all about the way of **GIVE**. A man must **GIVE LOVE** to a woman. A woman must **GIVE REVERENCE AND SUBMISSION** to a man. A man must **GIVE GODLY LEADERSHIP** to a woman—leadership that earns her respect and that is a joy to submit to. And a woman must **BE A LOVABLE WOMAN**, TO **RECOGNIZE, ENCOURAGE AND RECEIVE A MAN’S LOVE**.

THIS ONE VERSE is the world’s best marriage advice! If a husband and wife apply it, they are *guaranteed* to solve and avoid countless misunderstandings and problems, and build a harmonious marriage filled with respect and love! ■

I'm an enthusiastic reader of the *Trumpet*. Fantastic magazine, where I always learn about religious history and get closer to the truth.

Rodolfo Jerez ONTARIO

Please, don't underestimate the importance this publication has for me. I'm always on the lookout for the arrival of your much-valued publication. I find your magazine very informative in religious as well as political matters. I would like to request *Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door.'* I have, as a child, gone through World War II in occupied Holland and that experience was bad enough in itself. World War III is indeed at the door and inescapable and will surpass World War II in destructive power! Man's entire history is one of war with peace at intervals in between. Whatever man has invented in weapons of war has sooner or later been put to use. May God bless the important educational work you are doing.

Elbertus-Egbert Klatter PANAMA

I have been receiving the *Trumpet* magazine for approximately two decades. I found it in my chiropractor's office in 1996. I used to read

the *Plain Truth* but stopped after becoming alarmed and bewildered by the changes in the late 1980s. I wasn't aware Mr. Armstrong had died till finding the *Trumpet*.

E-mail response

Just ordered *Jude* and *James*. I am looking forward to your teaching on two books so often neglected by the pastors I've been around. It is because of your daily *Trumpet Brief* I receive. I do read them and am grateful for the insight. In fact, there is nothing I've received, whether it be the magazine or the Bible correspondence course I'm taking, that is not first rate and so beautifully done. Thank you.

Carole Shawa CALIFORNIA

Re: Has Eilat Mazar Discovered Archaeological Evidence of Isaiah the Prophet?

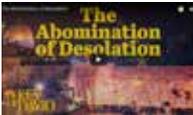
I was watching some videos on YouTube and stumbled on the Isaiah seal archaeological



discovery. Having studied history and international studies, it caught my interest, so I decided to watch the other suggested videos. "Why So Much Hatred for Israel" was very insightful and educational. He read from Romans 2:29 to enlighten us on who a Jew is in our current dispensation. Toward the tail end, he introduced me to the organization's website. He also counseled on the need to subscribe. I would like to receive a copy of that publication. Keep up the good work! I pray for God's grace and wisdom to guide you and your organization as you serve humanity.

Esuobong Harry Ndong NIGERIA

Be informed. Every day, anytime, anywhere. Visit theTrumpet.com.

<p>TOP ARTICLES</p>	<p>TOP VIDEOS</p>	<p>TOP PODCAST</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Has Eilat Mazar Discovered Archaeological Evidence of Isaiah the Prophet? theTrumpet.com/16947</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>The Abomination of Desolation BY GERALD FLURRY theTrumpet.com/17017</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Why the Parkland School Shooting—The Shocking Story You Have Not Heard theTrumpet.com/17029</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Archaeological Proof of Isaiah the Prophet? theTrumpet.com/16949</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Interview with Dr. Eilat Mazar About the Isaiah Bulla theTrumpet.com/16951</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Why the Parkland Shooting: The Shocking Story You Have Not Heard TRUMPET HOUR theTrumpet.com/17029</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Archaeological Proof of Isaiah the Prophet? theTrumpet.com/16949</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Interview with Dr. Eilat Mazar About the Isaiah Bulla theTrumpet.com/16951</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Why the Parkland Shooting: The Shocking Story You Have Not Heard TRUMPET HOUR theTrumpet.com/17029</p> </div>

America's Children's Crusade

Teenagers are loudly demanding policy changes, and adults are cheering them on. This isn't the heroic development many want. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

IT WAS A 19-YEAR-OLD WHO USED A SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLE inside a high school in Parkland, Florida, to murder 17 people and wound 17 others who served as the catalyst. And after the fourth-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, among the chorus calling for stricter gun-control laws, some of the loudest voices are coming from the teenage students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"We certainly do not understand why it should be harder to make plans with friends on weekends than to buy an automatic or semiautomatic weapon," said high school senior Emma González outside a Fort Lauderdale federal courthouse three days after the shooting. "To every politician who is taking donations from the NRA [National Rifle Association], shame on you," she said, demanding a ban on semiautomatic rifles.

Four days later, CNN put González and other grieving students in front of the cameras, under the lights and atop a literal stage, pitting them against an NRA representative and a Florida senator. The NRA representative was bombarded with shouts of "murderer" as she tried to defend her point of view to a crowd of irate teens. One high school senior said it was hard not to see the school shooter when he looked at Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

We all sympathize with the survivors of the Parkland mass murder. Their grief is real. Their lives are precious. We should work to prevent more school shootings. But should children be the ones to forge policy? Should a grieving child who falsely proclaims it is easier to buy a gun than make weekend plans be able to attack the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution? Is it morally right for high school students to scream "murderer" at a woman who had nothing to do with the Parkland massacre just because she works for an organization that defends the right of law-abiding citizens to own a firearm?

Apparently, many American leaders think the answer to these questions is *yes*. These children are leading the way, and we should follow.

CNN news commentator Anthony Kapel "Van" Jones, who had ties to the Marxist group STORM, wrote that these teens are leading a "children's crusade Jesus would be proud of." Former President Barack Obama gave his support. "Young people have helped lead all our great movements," he posted on Twitter on February 22. "How inspiring to see it again in so many smart, fearless students standing up for their right to be safe; marching and organizing to remake the world as it should be."

Major media outlets like CNN, *Time* magazine and the *New York Times* have covered, amplified and in some cases coached

these students. Planned Parenthood, MoveOn.org and other leftist groups are pouring money, resources and training into teenage activists calling for a federal ban on certain weapons. Bolstered by this support, González's rally in Fort Lauderdale has grown into a nationwide movement. Thousands of teens have joined the March for Our Lives movement, walking out of class to attend rallies for stricter gun control.

This "children's crusade" seems to believe that the root cause of murder is the National Rifle Association. Therefore, they can "remake the world as it should be" if they defund the NRA and ban semiautomatic weapons. Anyone who disagrees or even points out historical examples of tyrannical governments disarming citizens is labeled an accomplice to murder.

"The adult politicians have been playing around while my generation has been losing our lives," one Marjory Stoneman Douglas student told *Face the Nation* on February 18. "This can be changed and it will be changed. And anybody who tells you that it can't is buying into the facade of this being created by the people who have our blood on their hands." The media have been eager to publicize this kind of condemnatory, hyperbolic language while it fits their agenda, but it certainly will not lead to reasoned, workable solutions to these difficult issues.

Other students have resorted to looting stores and yelling profanities. While some of the problems these teens protest are legitimate, the same spirit of lawlessness that has overtaken the Me Too and Black Lives Matter movements has also engulfed this movement. This spirit of rebellion threatens



to unleash more chaos than it solves. Yet adults across the nation are getting in line behind their children.

The Prophet Isaiah foretold this situation over 2,700 years ago: "And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable. ... As for my people, children are their oppressors ..." (Isaiah 3:4-5, 12).

Many people fail to recognize that elevating the reasoning of children above the fundamental principles that created the greatest, freest single nation in history is perilous. This will lead to a condition where our paths are destroyed and our land is desolate. The only way to prevent catastrophes, whether school shootings or the disintegration of nations, is to *seek the Eternal while He may be found* and to *call upon Him while He is near* (Isaiah 55:6).

the tariffs. Perhaps by confronting Germany and China, Mr. Trump will buy some temporary relief for the U.S.

But in the long run, he cannot save the American economy.

To understand why, we need to understand why America became a manufacturing and resource superpower in the first place.

In 1950, the U.S. and Britain produced three quarters of the world's steel. Today that figure has fallen to just over 5 percent—with most of that coming from the U.S.

Some of that drop is due to trade wars. But there is a more fundamental cause.

America's massive industrial wealth was prophesied in the Bible. God said that Britain and America would receive "the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, ... And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof ..." (Deuteronomy 33:13, 15-16). God also promised to "bless all the work of thine hand"—America's cities and storehouses—its manufacturing efforts would be blessed (Deuteronomy 28:3, 8, 12).

Charles M. Schwab, a steel magnate and one of America's top industrialists, said in 1921, "Our United States has been endowed by God with everything to make it and keep it the foremost industrial and commercial nation of the world."

Such knowledge and such statements used to be common. But now America no longer acknowledges where this wealth came from.

God also warned against this forgetfulness, saying, "Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God ... And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:12-14, 17).

God warned ancient Israel not to forget who led them into the Promised Land. And God gives the same warning to their modern descendants, blessed with even more wealth and power.

God says that America's work in its cities and in agriculture will be cursed (Deuteronomy 28:16). Where once their labor was blessed, now it is cursed (verses 17 and 19).

America's besiegement by its enemies is one of these curses. China's and Germany's attacks on America are a foretaste of this curse from God.

This is why a trade war on Germany and China is not a lasting solution to America's economic problems. The trade attacks from these powers are part of the correction from God.

But you can receive God's blessings in your life, regardless of what the nation does. To learn the truth of why America is being attacked, to prove the biblical identity of modern America for yourself, and to learn what you can do, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. ■

THE KEY OF DAVID



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

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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 1711:30 ET, Tue/Thu

Direct TV

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

ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri

Dish Network

ION, Chan. 216, 6:00 ET, Fri

Nationwide Cable

CW Plus, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun

ION, 6:00 ET/PT, Fri

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00, Fri;

WVUA 8:30, Sun

Dothan WDFX 8:30, Sun

WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Montgomery-Salem WBMM-DT/WNCF-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri;

KASW 8:00, Sun

Yuma KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, El Dorado KNQE-DT 8:30, Sun

Fayetteville KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

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

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KHBS-DT/KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

El Centro KEYC-DT 8:30, Sun

Eureka KUVU-LP/KVIO-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KCAL 6:30, Sun; KPXN 6:00, Fri

Monterey KION 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;

KRCR 9:00, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri;

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara-Santa Maria KSBY-DT

9:30, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

Grand Junction KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Montrose KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/

WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri

West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun

Atlanta WPXA 6:00, Fri

Augusta-Aiken WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun

Macon WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSB-DT 9:30, Sun

Thomasville WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;

8:30, Wed

Kauai Ho'Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Mau/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat

Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO

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

Idaho Falls KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Pocatello KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30,

Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

Peoria WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun

Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun; WREX

10:30, Sun

Quincy WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WISE-DT 21:29:30, Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Terre Haute WBI 9:30, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPRX 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KFPM 8:00, Fri

Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

For a free subscription to the Philadelphia Trumpet in the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

STAFF

Publisher and Editor in Chief
Gerald Flurry

Executive Editor
Stephen Flurry

Managing Editor
Joel Hilliker

Contributing Editors
Brad Macdonald, Richard Palmer, Jeremiah Jacques, Dennis Leap

Associate Editor
Philip Nice

Designer
Steve Hercus

Contributors
Anthony Chibarirwe, Andrew Mueller, Brent Nagtegaal, David Vejlil, Callum Wood

Production Assistants
Deepika Azariah, Aubrey Mercado

Researcher
Carina Carbonell

Design Assistant
Reese Zoellner

Artists
Gary Dorning, Melissa Barreiro, Julia Goddard

Prepress
Wik Heerma

International Editions
Brad Macdonald

French, Italian
Deryle Hope

German
Hans Schmidl

Spanish
Carlos Heyer

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET
(ISSN 10706348), May-June 2018, Vol. 29, No. 5 is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Road, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083.

U.S. HOW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID: The Trumpet has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions are welcomed, however, and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers. © 2018 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

CONTACT US Please notify us of any change in your address; include your old mailing label and the new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit any letter for clarity or space. **WEBSITE** www.theTrumpet.com; **E-MAIL** letters@theTrumpet.com; subscription or literature requests request@theTrumpet.com **PHONE** United Kingdom: 0-800-756-6724; Australia: 1-800-22-333-0 **MAIL** Contributions, letters or requests may be sent to our office nearest you: **United States** P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083 **Canada** P.O. Box 400, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0. **Caribbean** P.O. Box 2237, Chaguanas, Trinidad, W.I. **Britain, Europe, Middle East** P.O. Box 16945, Henley-in-Arden, B95 8HH, United Kingdom **Africa** Postnet Box 219, Private bag X10010, Edenvale, 1610, South Africa **Australia, Pacific Isles, India, Sri Lanka** P.O. Box 293, Archerfield, QLD 4108, Australia **New Zealand** P.O. Box 6088, Glenview, Hamilton, 3246 **Philippines** P.O. Box 52143, Angeles City Post Office, 2009 Pampanga **Latin America** Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, U.S.

Kansas, Topeka KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun KTKA 9:00, Sun
Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KALB-DT 8:30, Sun Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun Lafayette KADN 6:30, Sun; KATC-DT 8:30, Sun; KLAF 6:30
Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun Baltimore WBFF/WUTB 7:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KWSW/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Columbus WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun Hattiesburg WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun Tupelo WCBT-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Hannibal WDEM-DT 8:30, Sun Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun Springfield KRBK 7:30, Sun St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTQV-DT 8:30, Sun Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun Helena KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KWBL 8:30, Sun Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri Binghamton WBNG-DT 8:30, Sun Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun New York City WPIX 6:00, Fri; WWOR, 8:00, Sun Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Asheville WYCW 9:00, Sun Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00, Sun Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun

North Dakota
Bismarck KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun Dickinson KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun Fargo KXJB 8:30, Sun Minot KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun Valley City KXJB 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun Youngstown WYTV 11:30, Sun Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri; KQCW 9:30, Sun
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun Medford-Klamath Falls KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun Philadelphia WACP 9:00, Sun WPPX 6:00, Fri Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Anderson WYCW 9:00, Sun Charleston WCBT-DT 9:30, Sun Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KEVN 6:30, Sun KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFLI 10:30, Sun Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30
Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Lubbock KJTV 8:00, Sun KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun San Angelo KDXE 8:30, Sun San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun Temple-Bryan KYLE 9:00, Sun Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVVN 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri Richmond WUPV 8:00, Sun Roanoke WPRR 6:00, Fri

Washington D.C. WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Pasco KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun Richland KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun Seattle-Tacoma KWPP 6:00, Fri Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun Yakima KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Bluefield WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri Clarksburg WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun Oak Hill WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun Parkersburg WCWP 9:30, Sun Weston WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun La Crosse WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun Madison WREX 10:30, Sun Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun Superior KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun Cheyenne KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun Riverton KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Nationwide cable
Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun
Atlantic Provinces
CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun
Alberta, Red Deer KAYU 8:30, Sun Calgary KAYU 8:30, Sun Edmonton KAYU 8:30, Sun Medicine Hat KAYU 8:30, Sun Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
New Brunswick, Moncton CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Saint John CKLT-DT 11, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax CJCH-DT 11, Sun
Sydney CJCB-TV 11, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown CKCW-DT 11, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVVN 10:30, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFQC 5:30, Sun;

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Bahamas FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun
Puerto Rico WSJX 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

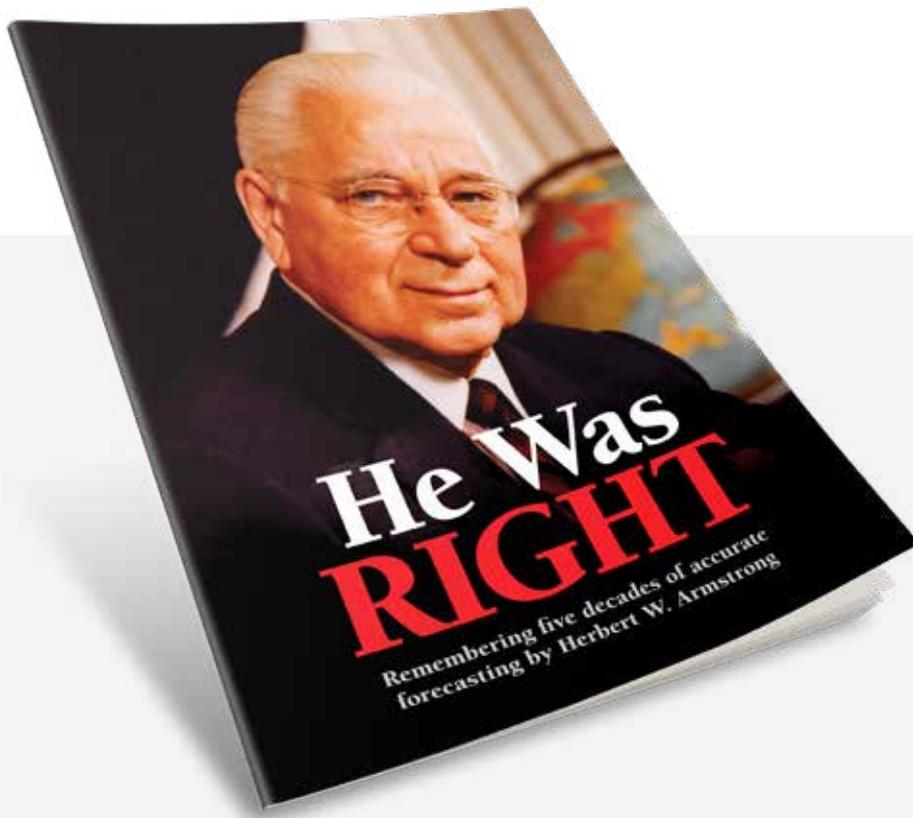
Regional satellite
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

AUSTRALASIA

Australia
Nationwide 9GEM 8:00, Sun Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV4 7:30 PHT, Sun

CBS United Kingdom

Station	Day	Time	sky	Freeview	freesat	
CBS Action	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 64	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 149	Ch. 197	Ch. 74	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135



OVER 80 YEARS OF ACCURATE FORECASTING

The *Trumpet* uses Bible prophecy to show where world events are leading. It follows in the footsteps of Herbert W. Armstrong and the *Plain Truth* magazine, founded in 1934. To read Mr. Armstrong's accurate forecasts and prove this 80-year track record, request ***He Was Right***.

To order print versions of our literature

Limit three pieces of literature per order

U.S. AND CANADA
1-800-772-8577

UNITED KINGDOM
0-800-756-6724

AUSTRALIA
1-800-22-333-0

E-MAIL
request@theTrumpet.com

ONLINE
www.theTrumpet.com/library

MAIL
P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083

Write to the regional office near you. Addresses inside back cover.

NO CHARGE • NO FOLLOW-UP • NO OBLIGATION