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Lessons from the
Detroit debacle

**The mystery
of Britain's
royal throne**

**Iran's battle
for control
of Africa**

Is your
child being
bullied?

The new
'gender
spectrum'

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Is this our fault?

It's the oldest, most famous throne in history.

The Bible prophesies that the world's **only hope** revolves around that throne.

It's still a *mystery* to most people. However, that mystery is about to be removed forever—and you are going to experience the transition!

ROYAL FAMILY Prince William and his wife, Kate, hold their newborn son, Prince George.



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The Mystery of the Royal British Throne

THE LONDON EVENING STANDARD PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE on July 23 titled, “Will William and Kate Call for the Rabbi?” It said, “Queen Victoria, convinced that the British royal family was descended from King David, had all her male offspring circumcised. The tradition continued through Edward VII, the Duke of Windsor and Prince Charles, who was circumcised by Jacob Snowman GP at Buckingham Palace in 1948.

His brothers Andrew and Edward also underwent the same procedure.”

Sadly, this article only scratched the surface of what Queen Victoria believed about the throne from which she ruled.

Any student of the Bible knows that circumcision is taught in the Bible. The ancient Israelites practiced it to demonstrate their belief in God.

Queen Victoria believed “the British royal family was descended from King David.” Did she know that God made a



FROM THE EDITOR
GERALD FLURRY

covenant with David that his throne would continue forever? Probably so. *Did she also know that she was actually sitting on God's throne* (which we prove in our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*)—the very throne from which Christ is about to rule this Earth after He returns? Perhaps she did.

Did the Queen know that God promised in the Bible to punish the rulers on that throne if they forsook their part in God's covenant with David? Her belief in circumcision would seem to indicate that she did. The author of the article had no interest in digging further into this mind-staggering subject, which would explain the true meaning behind Prince George's birth.

Most journalists and scholars are not interested in deeply understanding the truth about that throne—to their own shame!

Much of the true history of that throne has been impugned, ridiculed and blotted out—except for a little remnant of believers. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Philadelphia Church of God have thundered that message to this world for nearly 70 years!

Over 6 million people have read Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Only a few have believed and committed themselves to that truth.

My booklets *The Key of David* and *Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible* build on what Mr. Armstrong taught. (If you would like to request any of this reading material, all of our literature is free.)

God's Covenant With David

You can't understand the royal throne of Britain without discussing some of the many scriptures about it in the Bible.

The royal families are a part of God's covenant with David because they sit on David's throne. God gave them the honor, and with it came a heavy responsibility.

Here is God's promise to King David: “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I WILL STABLISH THE THRONE OF HIS KINGDOM FOR EVER” (2 Samuel 7:12-13). God told David that his son Solomon would build His house, the temple, and that David's throne would be established FOREVER.

THIS IS A UNIVERSE-SHAKING TRUTH! God said He would establish David's throne FOREVER! That is one of the most important promises that God makes in the Bible.

Queen Victoria probably knew that. But journalists and scholars don't seem to have much interest in proving if that throne even exists—or the supreme magnitude of its importance! And it's not all that difficult to prove.

That throne contains the *only hope* in this terrifyingly dangerous world! The very events you see unfolding before your eyes in this world are going to lead DIRECTLY to Christ's rule on David's throne forever!

It's time for mankind to wake up and see our magnificent future. “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and THE LORD GOD SHALL GIVE UNTO HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:32-33). *Jesus Christ is not going to return and sit on a non-existent throne!* He is going to rule from David's throne—the same throne Queen Elizabeth sits on today.

That throne contains the only hope in this terrifyingly dangerous world!

That throne continues to this day in England because of God's covenant with David. The king spoke of this covenant just before he died. “Now these are *the last words of David*: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel. Yea, does not my house stand so with God? FOR HE HAS MADE WITH ME AN EVERLASTING COVENANT, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?” (2 Samuel 23:1, 5; Revised Standard Version). God made an *everlasting* covenant with David. The throne of David will never cease, even throughout eternity! (Isaiah 9:6-7). Anybody who sits on that throne today is a part of that special throne covenant made with King David whether they know it or not. Or whether they like it or not.

They also have a serious responsibility whether they realize it or not. Queen Victoria had some understanding of that responsibility. See **THRONE** page 36 ►



DETROIT BANKRUPTCY

Nothing to See Here

The collapse of this great American city isn't just a case of not selling enough cars. It signals something far more ominous. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

DETROIT IS “JUST AN INNOCENT victim of market forces.” There is no bigger lesson here, said *New York Times* economist Paul Krugman. “For the most part, it’s just one of those things that happens now and then in an ever changing economy” (July 21).

What garbage. It is exactly this kind of mixed-up thinking that guarantees more cities will turn into Detroit.

On July 18, the city of Detroit filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. The filing, if approved, would make it the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, and probably the biggest municipal bankruptcy of any advanced nation ever.

But according to one of America’s leading papers, there is *no lesson* to be learned here! What do you think?

No Lesson?

The city has lost close to two thirds of its population. No lesson?

Last year, Detroit high schools had a dismal 65 percent graduation rate. In 2007, a study from *Education Week* found that only 25 percent of freshmen *really* ended up graduating on time. The children of Detroit

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have a better chance of going to prison than graduating on time. Almost *half* of Detroit adults are considered functionally illiterate. *No lesson?*

What about Detroit’s sky-high divorce rates? Detroit has become a city of single mothers and delinquent dads. It is a tale of welfare addiction, family breakdown and social disintegration. *No lesson?*

Krugman talks about *innocent victims*. Well, there are a lot of victims in Detroit. It is the most dangerous big city in America and one of the most dangerous in the world. The gang activity and crime rates make Cúcuta, Colombia, and Sao Luis, Brazil, blush. Detroit is the city of 11,000 unsolved homicides. Bodies lie in streets for hours due to morgue cutbacks. Victims are stuffed in trunks. Or left in the streets. Or dumped in abandoned buildings, which are then lit on fire. For the living, police response times average almost an hour.

Apparently, a population crash from 2 million to 700,000 is *just one of those things*. The white flight is historic and well documented. But there is also black flight. And the flight of the dead. That’s right: People are actually exhuming dead relatives to

move them out of the city because it is too dangerous to visit the cemeteries.

Move along, there are no lessons here. But take a drive by at your peril.

A Warning

Detroit’s plight is a gigantic, flashing warning sign for the nation.

Currently, the city owes money to more than 100,000 vendors, contractors and other lenders. The city emergency manager thinks the bill comes to around \$19 billion, but it might be more. Some of the city’s invoices haven’t been paid in years.

To put this enormous debt in context, consider that the average annual per capita income of a Detroit resident is a measly \$13,969—less than the average per capita income of a resident in Romania, Botswana or Belarus. Over the past 60 years, Detroit has gone from one of the most prosperous cities in the world, with the highest standard of living, to one of the world’s poorest.

During that whole time, the city was run by one political party, adhering to a specific economic philosophy. Politicians said they wanted to create a “fairer” city

150,000+
Abandoned buildings



OH WELL Detroit's decaying auto plants (left), steel mills (right) and homeless shanties are just time and chance, according to the *New York Times*.

by raising taxes on businesses and productive individuals and redistributing it. The effect was to drive business out and make everyone poor. Think that policy warrants further investigation? This *same economic philosophy* is currently being *nationalized*.

Detroitification is spreading.

But back to Detroit's debt. If the city taxed residents at 100 percent of their salaries—took every dime from each of its 700,000 remaining residents and made each of them slaves—it would still take two years of servitude to pay off the debt.

How did Detroit's leaders ever justify taking on so much debt? And where did all the money go? How were these leaders able to waste and steal so much? What is the connection to the big unions, both private and public? Surely there are more lessons America can learn from this.

Now Detroit has run out of money—both its own and other people's. With its credit rating trashed, no one is silly enough to lend to it anymore (except maybe the federal government, if President Obama decides to bail out the city). And with one of the highest tax rates in the country, one of the lowest per capita

incomes and sky-high poverty levels, the city has nothing left to take.

And fewer citizens are willing to give. Almost half of all property owners are refusing to pay their property taxes. The *Detroit News* reports that there were 77 city blocks where only *one* owner paid taxes last year.

It is hard to blame them.

In the words of Detroit's state-appointed emergency manager: "The city does not provide basic and essential services to the residents who remain.... The city is infested with urban blight."

America's First Third World City

Detroit is described variably as a post-apocalyptic ghost town, a post-industrial ruin, the city of flames, the city where the sirens never stop, America's first Third World city, Murder Town, Hell on Wheels. Veteran Detroit reporter Charlie LeDuff describes it as "an archaeological ruin... empty and forlorn and pathetic."

Earlier this year, it was announced that Detroit was closing another 45 schools. Once closed, the abandoned structures will be stripped of their copper wiring and

plumbing. Anything of value will be stolen. Before long, they will probably burn.

Detroit is shutting down its green spaces too. Only 53 of the city's 300-plus parks are still open to the public. Of those, 38 are on limited maintenance, which means periodically mowing the lawn. Detroit's most famous park, Belle Island, is literally sinking into the river due to lack of preservation. There are about 78,000 abandoned homes in Detroit, and another 80,000 or so additional abandoned buildings. Forty percent of the city's stoplights don't work.

Half of Detroit's 1,000-strong fire department are captains, battalion chiefs, drivers and other non-firefighters. Those who actually fight fires do so with ladders that don't work, fire hydrants that often malfunction, and trucks that routinely break down. Its fire stations operate on a schedule of rolling brownouts. Ambulance drivers risk their lives trying to help people; they face automatic gunfire all around them.

Detroit's police officers battle internal and external lawlessness. Its citizens battle to survive. Its leaders battle over the scraps that are left. And regardless of what union activists,

\$14K
Average salary

11,000
Unsolved homicides

corrupt politicians, or bankruptcy judges opine, regardless of what teachers, police officers, city clerks, or maintenance workers hope, and regardless of what bond holders, investors, or pensioners feel is just and fair, the simple truth is somebody just isn't going to get paid. The money simply isn't there.

A colleague from the Philippines who recently visited Detroit said that parts of

Want to fix Detroit? Then stop pretending it is just a random victim of a changing economy. It is not!

Detroit is a victim, but it is a victim of an *imploding national culture*, not some mysterious market forces.

How can you know? It really is simple. Consider Detroit's situation. It is located in one of the choicest parts of the most

Geographically, Detroit is a golden child. It was bequeathed virtually everything needed to make it a world-class industrial center.

Yet despite that—and despite becoming one of the most prosperous cities in world history—it still collapsed.

The Big Lesson

Now the same thing is happening to many American cities. Despite America's unparalleled agricultural, mineral, scientific and geographic resources, cities across the country are in various stages of Detroitification. Chicago, Baltimore, New York, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, Portland, Providence and Houston are all going the same way. And it doesn't stop with municipalities either. California, Illinois and Kentucky—many states are headed for bankruptcy too. Then there are the tens of trillions in federal government obligations that everyone pretends will be paid.

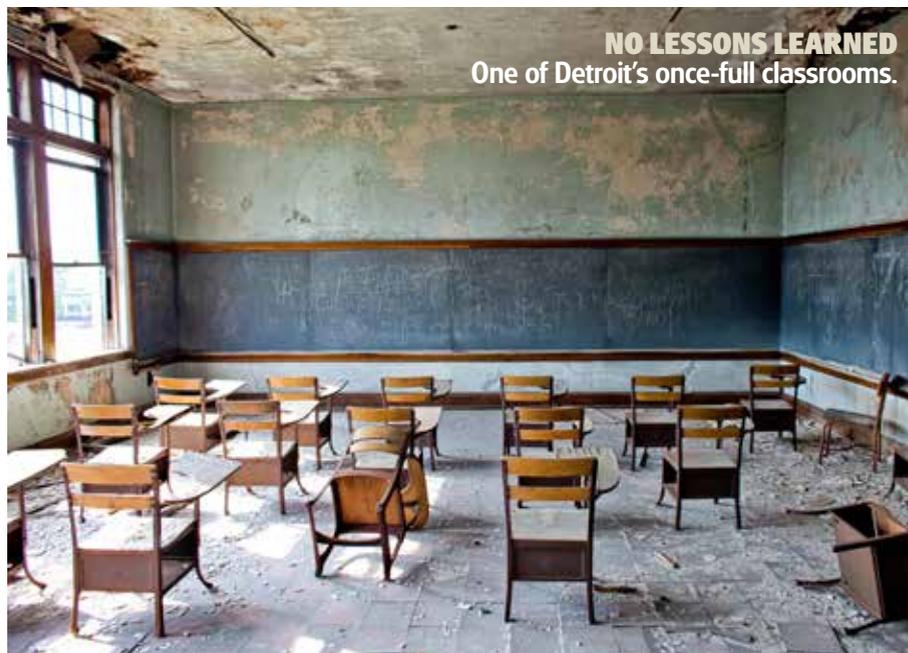
So, what is the big lesson that America should really take from Detroit?

Detroit's dramatic downfall can only be understood by identifying the source of its original prosperity.

Ingenuity, work ethic, economies of scale, access to capital, resources, mass transportation, low taxation, freedom, private ownership and a skilled labor pool were all important factors. These things, if re-implemented in Detroit, would help. But they are not the most important and essential factors leading to prosperity.

It is *God* that makes the difference. It was God who showered down the blessings on Detroit—and on America—that made it great. It was God—not random economic forces—who provided America with its formerly unrivaled level of prosperity, that set it apart from all the other nations in the world.

Yet now, because the conditions of retaining those blessings—things like keeping God's commandments—are being broken, those blessings are being removed. If you read your Bible, you know this is the case. Cities are collapsing in spite of all the blessings they used to have, and in many cases still have. Detroit is in effect a warning from God about what is in store for all America. ■



DETROIT is a victim of an imploding culture, not mysterious market forces.

the city he saw were just like the shanty towns back home, the difference being, "The abandoned buildings are a lot bigger."

Yet the *New York Times* takes no lessons.

It Had Everything

Why is it so hard to understand that the Detroit that used to symbolize American prowess is gone? Maybe it is the "Detroit Is Back" Super Bowl commercials, or Eminem telling us that the city has "been to hell and back," so *everything is okay now*. *We are on the verge of a revival. Go out and buy a Chrysler.*

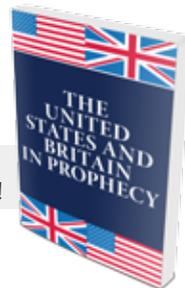
But take a closer look. GM and Chrysler may have been bailed out, and sales are up this year, but they are maxed out on debt again. Ford is no different. They are just one recession away from the next bailout. How

many of their vehicles are actually made in Detroit anymore—and how much is outsourced?

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blessed country in the world! Pull out a map and look at Detroit's location. Situated in the interior of North America—yet thanks to its location on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway, it still has waterway access to the whole world. Add on its position on the Detroit River, connecting lakes Huron and Erie, and that it also sits on the overland gateway to the heart of Canada. One hundred and thirty billion dollars' worth of international trade crosses its bridges each year. Detroit also lies within easy trucking and rail distance from the Ohio River, making it the beneficiary of Mississippi River trade and transport. Then there is its climate, fertility of soil, proximity to markets, economies of scale and skilled labor that all work in its favor.

Why was America so blessed? Why are the blessings being taken away? Request our free book *United States and Britain In Prophecy* for the answers!



Is Your Child Being Bullied?

BY DENNIS LEAP

"STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK MY bones, but words can never hurt me!" That was my usual response in grade school when a classmate called me names or made fun of me. Unfortunately, there were those times when a classmate used this same expression on me.

Herein lies the truth on bullying: Children are *bullied* and are *bullies*. I hated to be bullied; yet I was not afraid to bully others.

However, bullying has moved far beyond what I experienced in the 1950s—just part of being a kid—to a much darker side involving physical violence, mental and emotional harm, even suicide. Bullying is a serious dilemma plaguing children and teens from kindergarten through high school across the globe. Parents, school administrators and law enforcement officials grapple with the problem, yet bullying is spiraling out of control.

In 2012, school administrators reported that 282,000 high school students in America were physically attacked each month. This number may reflect only a quarter of the actual physically violent bullying incidents that took place. In school surveys, *90 percent* of 4th through 8th graders report being victims of bullying.

Parents' Involvement Needed

Based on 2012 reports, more than 13 million American school-age children will be bullied in the coming school year. Fifty-six percent of students attending school will witness some type of bullying incident. Each day, 160,000 kids will stay home from school due to fear of being bullied. One in 10 students who drops out of school will do so because of repeated bullying.

This is no small issue. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth, ages 10 to 24: About 4,400 young people kill themselves each year. A recent British study stated that at least half of suicides among young people are related to bullying. Over the last three decades, bullying incidents have risen dramatically. The suicide rate among 10-to-14-year-olds grew more than 50 percent in the same time period.

In the U.S., all states except Montana have anti-bullying legislation. There is a growing lobby to enact federal anti-bullying laws. Internationally, concerned groups want federal laws enacted in their countries. Japan is in the process of enacting zero-tolerance laws to get control of the problem there. Will more laws solve the bullying problem? Think about it. How often do laws stop crime?

Parents, to protect your child from bullying—or becoming a bully—you must take action. Do you know what bullying is? It is not just kid's stuff anymore. Extreme cases involve assault and battery. Do you know if your child is being bullied? Most young people—intimidated and ashamed of being bullied—are reluctant to tell their parents. Do you know what is going on in your child's school? You must educate yourself. Your child's chances of being bullied or seeing another student bullied grow each day that school is in session.

Expect Bullying to Continue

Many administrators live in denial that bullying is a serious problem at their schools. School and law enforcement officials are *not* in agreement—and some are outright confused—about how to control bullying, let alone stop it.

Get to know your child's principal and assistant principal. Attend school board meetings. Some school administrators do not take bullying seriously.



Some school boards have viewed the problem as a “kids will be kids” matter, anticipating that bullies will outgrow the problem. Unfortunately, it has taken the tragic suicides of young students to reveal the monster that bullying has become.

Bully, a documentary released in 2012, reveals the menacing effects bullying has on young people and their families. The film chronicles the tragic history of Tyler Long and Ty Smalley, who, because of the chronic mockery and physical harassment they faced, committed suicide. The film also documents three other families’ difficulties with school officials and law enforce-

feminine-oriented thinking that will not stop peer-to-peer violence and ridicule. Sitting down for discussion over a cup of chai tea will not stop a bully. The film *Bully* shows clearly that handshakes and hugs aren’t workable solutions. Bullies must be taught that there are serious penalties for both physical and emotional bullying. Here is what you can do.

‘My child? A bully?!’

To stop bullying, you must start at home—in the family.

To protect your child and *other children* from bullying, you must first make sure

To protect your child and other children from bullying, you must first make sure that *your* child is not a bully.

ment as they try to solve the bully problem in their school districts. It is worth seeing.

More than anything, *Bully* shows the *vital importance* parental involvement plays in solving the bullying problem.

Some school administrators and teachers see that bullying has grown worse and are working hard to deal with the problem. “Bullying isn’t a new phenomenon. In recent years, however, the world has witnessed an increase in the frequency and intensity of bullying in our schools,” wrote former teacher Reba Wadsworth, co-author of *Bullying Hurts*. “The increased incidence of bullying in all its forms (physical aggression, verbal abuse, emotional bullying and cyber-bullying) has resulted in psychological and physical harm to the victims and in too many instances, the suicides of children and youth” (ibid).

How are experts like Ms. Wadsworth dealing with the problem? “Our profession is coming to understand that bullying is more complex than most of us have previously thought,” Wadsworth says. “There are no quick fixes, no set of rules or regulations that will magically turn this around. The research we have read suggests the need to build empathy throughout the community, to highlight and strengthen the bonds of common humanity, to feed and support kindness behavior, and to avoid feeding bullying behaviors through apathy, laughter and increased social status.”

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All of that may sound good on paper, but it reflects a lot of

that *your* child is not a bully. As a parent, you must face the reality that your child *could be* a bully. Experts who study bullying recognize that it is largely a learned behavior. Children can learn bullying at home. It is a tough reality to face, but true.

Siblings are often guilty of bullying each other. It takes a careful eye to catch and stop it. During our child-rearing years, my wife and I discovered that it is not always a matter of the oldest child bullying the youngest. One of my youngest daughters knew how to get the best of her older sister. When you see your children bullying each other, stop it immediately. Teach them how their actions are harming their brother or sister. Spell out how you will punish them if the problem persists, then follow through. When you don’t stop bullying at home, you could be helping your child to land in jail.

What about you parents—are you bullies? Do you incessantly tease your child or others? Do you point out your child’s weaknesses, foibles and physical imperfections in front of others? Do you regularly put others down? Do you play practical jokes on others at inappropriate times? Are you part of a clique that isolates others? These are actions of bullies. Remember, your example is one of your child’s most powerful teachers.

Bullying Is:

As a parent, you need to become an expert at detecting bullying—in your child, or against your child. Bullying comes in several forms.

Physical bullying can involve elbowing, hitting, kicking, knee bending (pushing or kicking the back of someone’s knee), pinching, pushing, slapping, tripping, and shoulder slamming in an embarrassing or hurtful way. There are also more violent forms of physical bullying, such as cramming someone into his or her locker, choking, restraining or forcing someone to do something he or she does not want to do. Boys tend to be the experts at physical bullying.

Verbal bullying involves teasing, name-calling, insults and put-downs, behind-the-back whispering, bigoted or racist remarks, threats or intimidation.

Relationship bullying happens when a child’s friends and peers refuse to talk to someone, gossip, spread nasty and malicious rumors, exclude someone from a group, destroy a friendship, destroy a reputation, use humiliation, use negative body language or facial expression to undermine someone’s confidence, and use threatening, taunting or pestering gestures as a means of intimidation. Girls are masters at the verbal and relationship bullying.

Cyber-bullying is essentially doing these same things, only using electronic media such as texting, e-mail, chat rooms, digital photography, voicemail, Web pages and social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook. Oftentimes, cyber bullying is even more vicious because of the anonymity or degree of separation that the Internet provides. Both boys and girls use cyber-bullying.

You should be actively involved with your child to know if he or she is doing any of these things. If so, you must discipline your child, then you must labor to teach him or her how these actions harm others. Teach your child to love, respect and help other children.

You must educate your children to be humble—to encourage and uplift others less fortunate, less talented or less intelligent than they are.

Since children will often *not* reveal when they are being bullied, all parents must know the signs that indicate their child is under attack. For example, if your child comes home from school with unusual bruising on the upper back and arms, he or she may be a victim of physical bullying. Or, if your child who has always loved to go to school no longer wants to, that could indicate he or she is being regularly bullied.

Suspect your child is being bullied? Here's what to do.

1. Don't ignore the problem.

Talk with your child about your suspicions. (You should already be talking with your child regularly.) Make sure you get the whole picture. Ask your child if he or she has been bullying other children. Your child could be getting bullied out of retaliation.

2. Don't encourage your child to fight back.

Becoming a bully doesn't end bullying. Jesus Christ taught those who live violently will die violently (Matthew 26:52).

3. Do teach your child to stand up for himself or herself and others being bullied.

Although God expects all humanity to be humble peacemakers (Matthew 5:5, 9), He does not want us to be weak sissies. Personal confidence disarms bullying. The film *Bully* shows that in most cases the young people willing to stand up for themselves and others are no longer bullied. Bullies continue to menace others only when they remain successful at instilling fear that

undermines personal confidence.

Do you know how to build confidence in your child? Strong personal confidence comes by contact with you. Your child needs to know that he or she has your full support.

It is critical that you teach your child to stand up for others who are bullied. This does not mean that your child should step into the middle of a fistfight. However, you should emphasize the importance of brave leadership—the ability to be courageous enough not to go along with a crowd that lives to bully (Proverbs 1:10-15). Also, instruct him or her to know when to seek help from school authorities.

4. Teach your child to resist threats and intimidation.

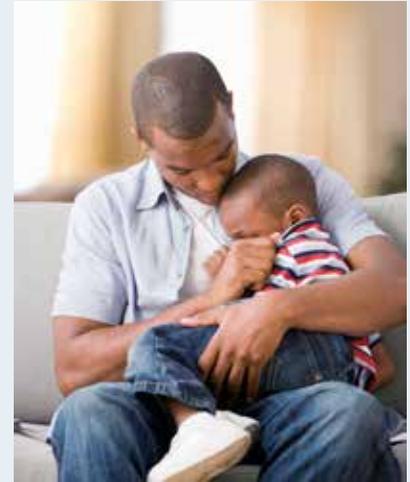
Be sure your child does not run from a bully. Your child's best weapon is to remain emotionally calm and stand his or her ground. Bullies can only maintain power over your child when he or she exhibits fear, frustration or emotional upset over the experience. Running away only encourages and empowers the bully,

Some bullies will threaten harm if their requests are not met. "Give me your lunch or I'll beat you up," is a common tactic, for example. Your child should *not* give up his or her lunch. If he or she does, the bully is sure to do it again.

5. When a bully continues to harass your child, you must step in and do something.

Start with the bully's parents. Don't wait. Take the first step and set up a meeting. Calmly discuss what is happening between your children. Be sure to remain open-minded that your child may be contributing to the problem. Most parents will be thankful you came to them directly and will work to resolve the problem.

Sadly, some will not. If you cannot resolve the problem at the parental level, and the bullying persists, then get help from either law enforcement or school authorities. If



your child is being bullied *off* school grounds, then legal and law enforcement should be contacted. If the bullying incidents take place on school grounds, take up the matter with school officials or authorities. If school authorities do not help you solve the problem, your best alternative may be to change schools. Some school districts are better at handling bullying problems than others. Some families have actually had the best success at solving a bullying problem by changing schools.

Consider the Satan Factor

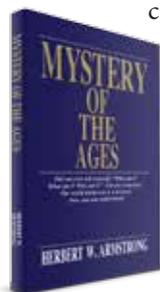
It is not popular to talk about Satan the devil today. Yet, the Bible shows that he is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). Satan rules a violent world filled with appalling evils (Galatians 1:4). This is not God's world. It is because of Satan's sway over the world we live in that, wherever there are groups of children, bullying will take place sooner or later. Satan is the reason the problem is growing worse and more violent.

One of the most important Bible prophecies for our day shows that Satan has been cast down and imprisoned on Earth (Revelation 12:9, 12). He only has a short time left to wreak havoc on human beings before Jesus Christ returns and kicks him off his throne (Revelation 20:1-2).

The devil is the chief bully of the universe, and he will do everything possible to make your child either

a bully or a victim of a bully. You must face the reality that your child is subject to Satan's evil broadcast (Ephesians 2:2). "People simply do not realize that there is an invisible spirit power injecting into their minds these hostile attitudes," Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*.

People in the world believe that bullying is a complex issue. Yet, bullying is not as hard to understand when you put Satan into the picture. Bullying is nothing more than arrogant hostility directed at another human being. Satan is the author of that hostility—he inspires it in children and can inspire it in your child if you allow it. Realize that when you are dealing with bullying, you are wrestling with Satan the devil (Ephesians 6:12).



To prevent your child from becoming a bully, you must teach him or her to control his or her aggression, arrogance, contempt for others, desire for dominance, hostility, jealousy, feelings of superiority and selfishness. These are the building blocks of bullying.

In addition, you and your child must build a strong relationship with God. God promises to protect and deliver the righteous from all their trials (Psalm 34:17). Set the example for your child and be sure your relationship with God is secure. Your children should know that you pray and study the Bible. Your children should know that you trust and rely on God for protection, and that you look to Him to fight your battles for you. Then they will do the same. ■

God is called Father for a reason. He wants a relationship with you and your children. To learn how to build one, request our free book ***Mystery of the Ages***.

It's the most important war in the world right now, yet it barely makes the headlines.

Iran's Battle for Africa

BY RICHARD PALMER



"NORTHERN AFRICA IS TURNING into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in our April issue.

This battle has received little media attention. Occasionally a major crisis, like Mali, gets headlines for a short while. But how often do you hear about Sudan, Niger or the Central African Republic?

"Iran has designs on being the strongest power throughout the region," Mr. Flurry wrote, "and is extending its reach throughout North Africa." Despite the lack of attention, this is one of the biggest new stories of the moment.

8

"Iran isn't the only one interested in Africa," Mr. Flurry continued. "Germany is making

strong inroads as well. Both of these powers are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can."

You need to understand Iran's power grab in Africa and where it is leading.

Fingerprints Throughout the Region

"Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism and Hezbollah's terrorist activity have reached a tempo unseen since the 1990s, with attacks plotted in Southeast Asia, Europe and Africa," wrote the U.S. State Department in its "Country Reports on Terrorism 2012," published in late May. News sources have noticed the same thing, with articles like "Out of Iran, Into Africa: Hezbollah's scramble for Africa" appearing in Israel's left-wing paper *Haaretz*.

But this goes far beyond Hezbollah. From the attack on the U.S. consulate in

Benghazi to rebel forces in central Africa, Iran's own fingerprints can be found in militias across the continent.

The Iranians are also orchestrating a huge flow of armaments into Africa. Conflict Armament Research last year published the results of a six-year investigation of the trade in ammunition from Iran in nine African countries. The organization noted that "until recently most international observers would have described Iran's role in this market as negligible to nonexistent." Not anymore. "Although a recent entrant, Iran's ammunition 'footprint' is widespread," it concluded.

Although this organization focused mainly on small-caliber ammunition, it also found "clear evidence of Iran's role in supplying a range of other ordnance to the continent, including mines, explosive light

ON GUARD Iranian soldiers are spreading throughout northern Africa.



Iran's Target

Rubin outlined three main goals in Iran's outreach to Africa: to win support in multinational institutions like the United Nations; to establish a string of naval bases to expand the nation's maritime presence; and to find sources for uranium.

He described how Iran has reached out to African nations that are non-permanent members of the UN Security Council or that serve on the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

For years, Iran has supplied South Africa with cheap oil. Quid pro quo, when the IAEA found in February 2008 that Iran was violating two Security Council resolutions as it continued to enrich uranium, South Africa prevented the Security Council from imposing further sanctions.

When Gabon became a temporary member of the Security Council, Iran courted the nation with a flurry of activity. And Gabon used its Council seat to support Iran's nuclear program.

But Mr. Flurry has spotlighted a larger goal of Iran's push: confronting Europe, especially European trade. In his April 2011 article "Libya and Ethiopia Reveal Iran's Military Strategy," Mr. Flurry explained how Iran is gaining influence along the Mediterranean and Red seas. Why? These two seas "comprise the most important trade route in the world!" he wrote. He warned that Iran will push at Europe "probably from its trade route power."

What kind of power does Iran have? Europe gets a great deal of its oil and gas from the Middle East and North Africa. Much of it comes through the Straits of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and through pipelines across Iraq. But pipelines from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco also carry natural gas into Europe. Several European companies want to support a project to build a gas pipeline from Nigeria to Algeria so Europe can get more of its natural gas from Africa.

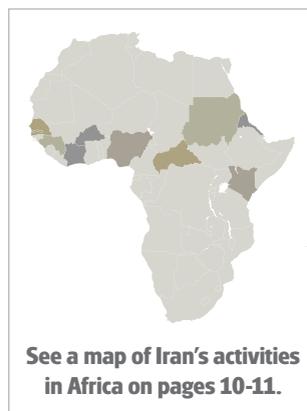
To disrupt this trade, Iran doesn't need to take over the governments of the countries along the route. Pipelines are easy to break. Narrow straits of water can be strewn with mines, making it too

expensive to insure ships to cross them. If Iran can gain enough power in these areas—a goal it is working toward—it can hold Europe to ransom.

Russia famously brought Ukraine back to heel during the winter of 2008-09 by cutting off its natural gas supplies. Iran could soon have the same power over Europe. In 2011, nearly 37 percent of the eurozone's oil imports came from or through Middle Eastern and African nations vulnerable

to Iranian disruption. At the same time, a quarter of eurozone gas imports came from or through these areas. With control of these areas, Iran could shut off more of Europe's natural gas than Russia.

When we examine southern European countries on their own, we see an even more disturbing picture. In Spain, 54 percent of crude oil and 77



See a map of Iran's activities in Africa on pages 10-11.

percent of gas imports are vulnerable to Iranian disruption. In Italy, it's 48 percent of oil and 46 percent of gas. (A few years ago, before Libya's oil and gas output plummeted, this dependency was even greater.)

Iran is expanding the reach of its terrorist activities and creating goodwill with African nations to further spread its ability to strike at Europe. It's a murky game that's run, in part, by Iran's secret service. Not all the facts are readily available. But Iran clearly has an extensive network—including rebel groups, rogue states and Islamists—throughout Africa. They are certainly capable of pushing back against Europe's expansion in the continent and threatening the West's access to Africa's wealth of raw materials.

Hezbollah

Hezbollah is one of Iran's most important tools in this battle. The Shiite terrorist group is active throughout the world, but especially in northwest Africa. Over a century ago, a large number of Shia Muslims from Lebanon migrated to the area. Hundreds of thousands now live there, providing an excellent recruiting ground for Hezbollah.

Today, northwest Africa is a vital fundraising hub. Hezbollah collects donations from its Shia

weapons, and larger conventional arms and ammunition."

Other observers point to Iran's efforts to woo African governments. In a paper titled "Africa: Iran's Final Frontier?" Michael Rubin, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, wrote, "Tehran sees many of Africa's 54 countries as easy picking" (April 17).

"This outreach takes many guises and is geared toward specific diplomatic and military purposes that could challenge U.S. aims across Africa," he wrote. "In comparison with recent American presidents, who made just three visits to Sub-Saharan Africa in the last decade, [former] Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad travels to Africa at least annually, with key Iranian ministers visiting even more frequently."

Iran's Influence in Africa

Sudan

1 “Sudan is the pivot of Iran-Africa relations,” Iranian Defense Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said during an official visit to the country in 2008. It was no exaggeration: No country is more important to Iran’s infiltration of Africa right now than Sudan. The relationship is long and deep, and it allows Iran to reach beyond its traditional Islamist terrorist groups to the more secular rebel groups of central Africa.

In 1989, Sunni Islamists took over Sudan in a coup. The Sunni/Shia split did not prevent them from forming a close relationship with Iran quickly. In 1991, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani traveled to Sudan with over 150 officials, promising \$17 million in weapons and training, arranging for the delivery of \$300 million in Chinese weapons, and forging an enduring alliance. Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards soon poured into Sudan, setting up hundreds of training camps. Sudan went on to base its army on the Revolutionary Guards.

Since then, Iranian-Sudanese ties have remained strong. Conflict Armament Research reports that besides “large-scale supplies of weapons and ammunition from Iran to Sudan,” there is “growing evidence to suggest that the government of Sudan manufactures weapons of Iranian design, operates weapons production facilities with Iranian assistance and supplies Iranian-manufactured weapons to forces allied to it in the region.”

The Revolutionary Guards still operate out of Sudan, recent reports indicate. The *Telegraph* reported in September 2011 that members of the Guards’ elite Quds Force based in Sudan traveled to Libya after

Muammar Qadhafi’s fall to capture some of his advanced weaponry.

Beyond being a close ally, Sudan is also Iran’s link with a host of rebel groups and militias. Conflict Armament Research wrote that “a growing number of Iranian weapons are in service with Khartoum-backed militia forces in Darfur and South Sudan.” Iranian weapons have also been found, alongside Sudanese ones, with the Forces Républicaines Fédéralistes, a rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Sudan maintains close links with several rebel groups in the area, which it uses in proxy wars with its surrounding nations.

This includes the infamous Lord’s Resistant

Army. Sudan could easily use these links to help Iran reach beyond its relation-

ships with Islamist groups and ally

with the militias operating in

the heart of Africa. Sudan

has also supported rebel

groups in Chad. As insta-

bility spills over from

Libya, Sudan could

use these groups to try

to overthrow the West-

ern-aligned govern-

ment there.



Eritrea

2 Eritrea’s relationship with Iran is more complicated. Eritrea’s government is strictly secular, and radical Islam is outlawed. But the two countries have been brought together by their support for the same military groups.

Ethiopia and Eritrea fought a war from 1998 to 2001. Since then the two have continued a proxy war, with Eritrea backing anti-Ethiopia militias, including al Shabaab. As these militias tend to be Islamist, and Ethiopia is an American ally, this puts Eritrea on the side of Iran, against the U.S.

Paradoxically, Eritrea also has an improving relationship with Israel. Its alliance with Iran is based on pragmatism rather than ideological compatibility. But Iran still benefits. Beyond channeling weapons to terrorist groups allied with Iran, Eritrea allows Iran to dock at its port of Assab. Stratfor reported that Eritrea made a deal with Iran in 2008 for Iran to station troops there in exchange for money and military support.

Eritrea’s location at the entrance to the Red Sea makes it strategically important. An Iranian presence there allows Tehran to threaten Red Sea shipping and open a key gateway for Iranian arms traffic into Africa.

Kenya

3 Iran has good trade ties with Kenya, as well as a limited military relationship. “[I]t is clear that the government of Kenya imported very large quantities of Iranian ammunition—probably in the range of millions of rounds,” probably between 2003 and 2006. Conflict Armament Research concluded. After sampling ammunition used by the Kenya Police and Kenya Police Reserves, it found 70 percent to have originated in Iran.

Iranian terrorists also operate within Kenya. In early May, two Iranians were sentenced to life imprisonment after being caught with explosives and accused of planning bombings in Nairobi and Mombasa.

Central African Republic

4 Since Islamists took over the country in March 2013, the Central African Republic (CAR) has held great potential for Iran as an ally. Seleka (meaning “union”) rebels deposed the French-supported government and gave the presidency to Michel Djotodia.

Release International, an organization that monitors religious persecution of Christians, reported that the rebels “are targeting pastors and other Christian workers, and attacking and looting Christian places of worship and homes. ... There have also been reports of Christians being tied up, beaten and forced to hand over money to save their lives.”

Djotodia has already traveled to Sudan to meet President Omar al-Bashir. Afterward, Sudan announced that the two countries would revive a joint defense force to secure their border and pledged support and training for the CAR’s army.

If the relationship grows, the CAR would be a valuable transit point, allowing Iran to move men and munitions from Sudan to West Africa.

Nigeria

5 Nigeria is another potential powder keg for Iran. In northern Nigeria, the al Qaeda-affiliated group Boko Haram is spreading chaos. Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in three of Nigeria's 36 states on May 15 after a series of attacks by the group. Government officials report that 19,000 farmers have fled their homes due to attacks and threats from Boko Haram. Borno state agriculture commissioner Usman Zannah warns that the region is now expecting serious food shortages.

Hezbollah is also strong in Nigeria. After the previously mentioned Hezbollah operatives were arrested in May, Nigerian authorities warned, for the first time, that Hezbollah and Boko could be cooperating. Nigeria also hosts its own homegrown version of Hezbollah. After the 1979 Iranian revolution, members of Nigeria's Muslim Student Society traveled to Iran, where they were trained to repeat the revolution in Nigeria, according to Dawit Giorgis, a visiting fellow at the Washington-based

think tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies. These students formed the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), which "flourished with cash, training and support from Iran," he wrote in an article for CNN (June 14).

"The IMN has provided Hezbollah-style military training to hundreds of Nigerians in camps throughout northern Nigeria," he wrote. "And although the group has yet to launch an attack, it is surely not unreasonable to expect an attempt at some point. As Muhammad Kabir Isa, a

senior researcher at Nigeria's Ahmadu Bello University, told the BBC: 'When you embark on military drills, you are drilling with some sort of anticipation. Some sort of expectation.'"

Giorgis also warned that the leader of the IMN "has reportedly worked to ensure that his members are recruited into the army, the police force and the state security establishment."

Iran has plenty of resources in Nigeria. It is just waiting to mobilize them. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and its largest producer of crude oil. Destabilizing it would hurt Europe. To do this, Iran doesn't need to launch a coup or take over the country. It merely needs to create an environment that is too risky for Western oil companies.

Gambia and Senegal

6 Iran has been beaten badly in Gambia and Senegal. At the start of 2010, relations between Iran and these two nations were great. Gambia's president, Yahya Jammeh, had long been a friend of Iran, defending its nuclear program. Senegal, too, had supported Iran's nuclear program, after Iran had supported its oil industry and promised to build an \$80 million car assembly plant.

But all this came to an abrupt end after Iran was caught smuggling weapons on a ship that stopped over in Nigeria in October 2010. The next month, Gambia cut all ties with Iran, ended all joint projects and gave Iranian diplomats 48 hours to leave. The next year, Senegal followed suit, accusing Iran of trying to send the weapons to Senegalese rebels.

What really happened? Iran may have been trying to have its cake and eat it too—cultivating close relations with the two countries' leaders while at the same time selling weapons to their enemies.

Alternatively, the arms could have been meant for government forces. Iran is under a UN arms embargo. Rather than admit to violating the embargo, Gambia may have decided to cut ties with Iran and deny all knowledge of the shipment.

Either way, the discovery of the shipment was a victory for whichever intelligence agency (presumably) tipped off the Nigerian authorities and cut short Iran's budding relationships. The incident perhaps sheds light on the intelligence battle going on between Iran and Western agencies in Africa.

Guinea

7 While little has been discussed publicly of Iran-Guinea ties, Guinean forces have been found using Iranian ammunition, probably in violation of the UN arms embargo, based on ammunition discovered by Amnesty International researchers.

Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso

8 Iran appears to be arming rebels in the north Ivory Coast via Burkina Faso. In 2009, UN monitors reported that over half a million rounds of ammunition had been smuggled to the rebels from Burkina Faso. Conflict Armament Research identified the ammunition as Iranian. Sudanese ammunition was discovered alongside it, indicating that it had traveled to Burkina Faso via Sudan—further evidence that Sudan is a central hub for Iran's

North African efforts. Conflict Armament Research also found evidence that Iran had sent two shipments of weapons to the forces of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo, either before or after he was ousted from office.

With shipments from Burkina Faso traveling to both Ivory Coast rebels and al Qaeda in the Islam Maghreb, it appears that Burkina Faso is a regional distribution center for Iranian weapons, with or without permission of the government.



'Let Boys Be Girls. Or Goys or Birls'

Society is coming to embrace the notion of 'gender fluidity.' **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

THE PUBLIC NOW ACCEPTS HOMOSEXUALITY and same-sex "marriage." But the fight is not over. The offensive to reshape society in even more radical ways pushes forward.

An effort is gaining ground to create a world where not just "sexual orientation," but *sex itself*, is a choice. Where boys can be girls and girls can be boys, or something in between. Where people are expected to ignore the biological reality of sex so that all people coexist androgynously, or according to whatever gender suits them at the moment. Where everyone pretends that gender confusion is normal, if not desirable, and anyone who doesn't play along can be punished and silenced.

This demonstrates unprecedented contempt for reality and common sense, let alone morality.

Boys in the Girls' Room

Think of the implications with respect to public bathrooms, sex-segregated activities, locker rooms, college student housing and countless other areas of human interaction.

Does the idea of a boy who thinks he's a girl showering next to your daughter in P.E. class make

you uncomfortable? Then you'd better brace yourself. This cause is winning critical legal battles—and it is starting with our youth.

In July, the California Senate passed a bill saying that throughout K-12 education, a student is "permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities [e.g. bathrooms, locker rooms] consistent with his or her gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records." "Gender identity" is the terminology these ultrasensitive, morally sophisticated lawmakers use to refer to the sex a person happens to identify with.

In June, a Colorado governing body ruled that a 6-year-old boy who thinks he's a girl has the right to use the girl's bathroom at his elementary school. The Colorado Division of Civil Rights said denying him that right "creates an environment rife with harassment" and is akin to racial segregation.

See where this is going? The public majority already agrees that denying same-sex couples the right to "marry" is exactly like prohibiting interracial marriage. Now, denying someone access to a public bathroom on the basis of biology is just like excluding blacks from white-only facilities.

These lawmakers and officials are determined to ensure that these children grow up in a world where sex confusion is welcomed, even encouraged.

What about the girl who feels awkward about having a boy walk in while she's using the bathroom? Sorry. *She* is the one who needs to adjust her thinking—not the boy.

This is actually being promoted within our children's education. Our sons and daughters are *learning* doubt about sexual matters. Teachers and administrators are implanting and fostering this confusion, and it is occupying more and more of our young people's thinking. Misguided radical social engineers enthusiastically treat this like it's the brave new front in civil rights and societal progress. And with coaching from these radicals, youths predisposed to question and reject authority are starting to view *their own sex at birth* as something "imposed" on them, and any social pressure to conform to it as a form of oppression.

Does that sound like an exaggeration?

Ze, Zim and Zer

"A new generation of young people is challenging our understanding of gender," intoned National Public Radio in a July 16 report. (Speak for yourself, NPR.) "They're calling for more fluid categories, beyond just male and female."

Beyond male and female. Within the politically correct cocoon of academia, students in many colleges and even high schools are so diligent to accommodate gender-confused people that they introduce themselves with their "PGPs"—preferred gender pronouns. As in, "My name is Stacey and my PGPs are *he, him and his*." As in, *Today, I would like to be identified as a male*. These youths insist not only that whether their "emotional gender identity" aligns with biological reality is entirely a matter of choice, but also that everyone else needs to pretend this is perfectly sane.

These students "are going way beyond transgender," NPR reported. "They are arguing for a world beyond the gender binary." In other words, not only is gender a *choice*, it is a *spectrum*. Even pronouns like *he* and *she*, they view as confining and unnecessary.

Lynn Walker, a director at a housing organization that caters to many transgenders, told NPR, "We encountered high school students who said, *I want you to call me 'tractor,' and use pronouns like ze, zim and*

zer. *And in fact I reject the gender binary as an oppressive move by the dominant culture.*"

Behold the product of our public schools: Students who are convinced that MALE and FEMALE—*basic biology*—is tantamount to tyranny that must be overthrown.

This is America's up-and-coming generation of voters and lawmakers. This is a glimpse at where our world is headed.

We are looking at the next "logical" step in society's wholesale departure from the understanding of masculinity and femininity. Though the concept of your sex having a bearing on your role in society and within a family has dominated human relations for humankind's entire history, we are now throwing it out as if the facts are subjective. Today it is viewed with contempt. Now, it's not just *roles* we reject, but *biological absolutes*. Everything is relative. Anything is respectable. Nothing is deviant.

Play Along, or Else

At present, in many circles the world remains a fairly hostile place for gender-confused individuals. But society is changing—*fast*. On July 15, *Slate* featured a photo blog of a camp for "gender nonconforming" boys. There young boys dress like girls and women, apply make-up, and walk a fashion runway to the cheers of their parents. Such examples are increasingly appearing in the national spotlight—to the cheers of the mainstream press.

Those boys are part of a generation that is receiving the message that it's not *they* who must change, but *everyone else*. And they are gaining the advocacy of lawmakers who are determined to force the world to embrace their behavior.

On the surface, preventing society from badgering poor, gender-confused people may sound like a worthy goal. But this cure is far worse than the disease. Rather than helping people *overcome* thoughts and tendencies that lead to self-destructive, depressive, anti-social behavior, the transgender crusade encourages and inflames them—and demands that everyone else play along.

Hate crime laws increase penalties on criminals who are deemed to have been motivated by animus against a protected class. In 2009, the U.S. government expanded

protected classes to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity." Anti-discrimination laws based on sexual orientation and/or "identity" exist in 21 states and more than 140 cities and counties. Illegal discrimination includes anything *perceived* as different treatment because of behavior *perceived* as not stereotypically male or female.

Ripple effects from these laws are enormous, and already spreading. Universities nationwide are hosting gender-neutral student housing, bathrooms and locker rooms. Transgender law advocates are pushing for health insurance plans to include hormones and sex-reassignment surgery. In June, the Social Security Administration changed its policy for those who want to switch gender on their Social Security card, removing the requirement of sex-reassignment surgery. After victories in California and Colorado, efforts to open public toilet facilities and locker rooms to transgenders continue. Thus, to protect the right of a man who says he feels more comfortable as a woman, the law is preparing to trample on the right of women who feel more comfortable in public bathrooms devoid of perverted men.

That is the truth of the matter. These social engineers want you to think their cause is all about inclusion and tolerance. But if you disagree with them, they have *no tolerance for you*. The push for transgender rights is a religious mission, aimed at *converting the hearts of men*. Its missionaries want the nation to repent of its archaic attachment to the traditional family, and to become devotees to the cross-dressing, bisexual, homosexual cause. The only victory is complete victory. Until transgender crusaders achieve this utterly impossible goal—*every individual a true believer*—they will continue their battle, using every tool of coercion they can summon.

This Affects You

Today, the LGBT life is relentlessly promoted as happy and bright, free of shadows—and without consequences. Mainstream media and politicians ignore its darker side—the diseases, the guilty consciences, the family breakdown.

While a minority still condemns it, the typical "conservative" opinion has become

indifferent. *As long as it doesn't affect me, let them do what they want, people say.*

But how can anyone look at what is happening in society today and still claim that homosexual-related behavior doesn't affect those who disagree with it? When it fills our television screen and movie theaters—when it infiltrates our public school curricula, being taught even to elementary school children—when public discussion increasingly ridicules and bullies anyone who isn't vociferously supportive of it—when judges overturn publicly approved measures to safeguard traditional family—when public policy *punishes* people who voice their disapproval or act on their conscience based on biblical standards? How can anyone sincerely continue to insist that this is a strictly private matter—so just mind your own business and keep your mouth shut?

They cannot. This issue affects everyone.

Our society has transformed into an immoral "do your own thing" world that tolerates and accepts anything and everything. It is just as it was in Israel during the cursed and bloody period of the Judges, when "*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*" (Judges 17:6; 21:25). People pompously promote and push a way of life that ignores, insults, challenges and defies God in so many ways.

Our Creator made TWO SEXES—*male and female*—not a gender *spectrum* (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4). In Scripture God strongly differentiates between the two, in what He expects in *dress, hair length and appearance* (e.g. Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 11:14-15). (Deuteronomy 22:5 *specifically, directly* forbids precisely what parents, policymakers and the media are applauding in our youth. It is a law by which God intended to accentuate and preserve the differences between the sexes. Problems are proliferating in society today because we ignore this law!)

God also makes dramatic distinctions in the *roles* men and women should fulfill within family and society (e.g. Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:29-33; 1 Timothy 5:8). He created male and female *for a reason*. Do you know that reason? "Gender spectrum" talk reveals *complete ignorance* of it. But it is a wonderful subject to study—because it radiates with spiritual significance and beauty! ■



To learn more about God's design in sex, and why He made male and female, request a free copy of our booklet **Redefining Family**.



ARE YOU CAUSING CLIMATE CHANGE?

If so, will solar power, recycling and Priuses solve the problem? **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

BREVARD, N.C.

IN THE MORNING HOURS OF JULY 4th, I stand sipping coffee on the deck of a house near the top of a mountain in the Appalachian range, enjoying the view of a sizeable lake in the valley below. But there is a problem. The plain in that valley is supposed to be covered, not with water, but with a sea of corn stalks.

Like many great swaths of the eastern United States, western North Carolina is receiving too much rain this year. More than 47 inches have fallen on the nearby city of Asheville so far, which is 23 inches above normal and 10 inches above the previous record for the wettest year to date.

The deluge has caused floods, landslides, evacuations and storm damage. It's also delaying

planting for many crops in this rich agricultural region and destroying much of what had already grown.

"It's just catastrophic," said Kirby Johnson, who grows corn and other vegetables near Brevard to sell to supermarket chains. "I'm 53, and I've never seen anything like this."

Johnson's shock exemplifies what many agricultural workers across the eastern third of the U.S. are experiencing.

Atlanta is on pace to have its *wettest year in history*, as it surges toward a record set in 2009 by a "once-in-500-years flood." New Jersey and Delaware experienced their wettest Junes since at least 1895, when record keeping began. Farmers across several states have lost countless acres of wheat to pre-harvest sprouting, which happens when severe flooding delays harvest and the wheat kernels (still on the plants) absorb so much water that they come out of dormancy and begin sprouting roots down into the very plant they grew on.

Are the Wildfires Winning?

Meanwhile, people on the other side of the country are suffering the opposite problem. Severe drought conditions throughout the Southwestern states are destroying crops, making planting impossible and exhausting some key water sources. Utah suffered the driest of any June on record. Nebraska's Platte River is drying up. After three years of blistering drought, three quarters of Texas is now grappling with severe to exceptional drought conditions. Medina Lake, near hard-hit San Antonio, is down to 5 percent capacity. Lake Granbury, near Fort Worth, is the lowest it has ever been.

Much of the region from Texas to California is getting hotter and drier almost every year, and the cumulative effect of all those back-to-back sweltering summers has generated almost "perfect" conditions for one of the country's most savage enemies: wildfire.

GLOBAL WARMING The 19,500-acre Powerhouse wildfire burns homes in California in June.



Eight of America's nine worst years ever for wildfires have occurred since the year 2000. And now, more large fires are burning than at any time in the past 40 years. The total area burned each year is also expanding.

In mid-June, the nation was captivated by the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history. California officials recently warned that the Golden State could suffer its worst season for wildfires in 100 years. Nineteen of the country's elite firefighters were killed on June 30 as they battled a furious Arizona blaze.

That specific tragedy, and the general increase in abnormal conditions, prompted one of the nation's leading wildfire experts, John N. Maclean, to call for a major change in firefighting policy: "We have entered a new world of wildland fire, and it's going to get worse," he said. "It's hotter and drier; fire seasons begin earlier and last longer. Again and again, we hear firefighters say, as they

did after the Arizona deaths, 'These are the most extreme fire conditions we've ever seen.' ... The decisions about when to fight, and when not to, should be made by the firefighters.... [W]hen there are extreme conditions ... it would become a shout: *Stand down!*" (*High Country News*, July 12).

Pat Veasart, a small business consultant in one hard-hit drought area, voiced her frustration with the nation's weather imbalances to someone in a water-saturated region. "I'm so sorry for you with the flooding," she said. "Out in western Kansas we are so desperate for water that they had to invent a term for our drought that was worse than the worst one they already had. *I wish we could balance this and take away your excess.*"

How can it be that so many states are drowning in deluge while just as many others are languishing in drought? Why is the balance that Veasart and so many others crave—a balance the Bible calls "rain in due season"—so elusive?

God's words recorded in Amos 4:7 have never seemed more relevant: "I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered."

And America's erratic weather doesn't end with floods and droughts. This year the country has suffered record snowfalls, unprecedented high and low temperatures in several cities, record heat waves, and a spate of deadly tornadoes, one of which was the widest in world history. That tornado, in Moore, Oklahoma, killed 24 people, injured more than 270 and destroyed more than 1,000 homes and buildings. The overall economic loss exceeded \$3 billion. And the year is not over.

This is not normal, and *you need to be asking some big questions*. Are the actions of nations and individuals causing the increasing weather extremes? If so, which actions? Could the global warming crowd actually be right on this one?

Atlas Shrugged

The situation is similar in countries all over the globe as people struggle to understand weather that is increasingly chaotic and destructive.

This summer, parts of Hungary, Germany and Austria suffered their worst flooding in history, while the United Kingdom—where some roads are melting—is on pace

to have its driest July ever. Calgary, Alberta, suffered the worst flood in the city's history; it killed three people and forced 100,000 to evacuate. Singapore just had its first hailstorm in history. Monsoon flooding called "absolutely unprecedented" hit the Indian Himalayas in June, dumping 22.36 inches of rain in less than two days. Entire villages were washed away, and at least 5,700 people were killed. The same month, typhoons killed three people in China, and forced the evacuation of half a million people.

Throughout man's history, human beings have struggled with adverse weather events, but statistics show that the trend in recent decades toward extremes and disasters *is getting worse*. Part of the reason the damage and destruction are increasing is that the global population is growing, and recent decades have seen people around the world move en masse to large cities near water.

But there is also a concrete increase in the sheer number of large-scale, chaotic weather events. In the U.S., for example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency reported that from 1953 to 1989, there was an average of 23 major disasters per year. In the 1990s, that number doubled to 46 per year. From 2000 to 2009, it leaped up to 56 per year, including some of the most destructive weather events in mankind's history. Then, the year 2010 saw a staggering record of 81 major weather disasters strike. 2011 smashed that record with 99 major disasters at a total cost of \$60 billion! Last year, the total number of disasters fell to 47, but the intensity and impact of the events increased so dramatically that the country's total cost for weather disasters soared to \$110 billion.

Never in living memory have so many people suffered so many severe, deadly and erratic extremes in weather. And the big question is *WHY?* Is mankind's industry and pollution to blame for all of the extreme weather? Is there something larger at play?

What Controls the Weather?

The question of what controls the planet's weather has become a political and deeply divisive one. Most on the political left say the increasingly erratic conditions are entirely the result of mankind's destructive *industrial* activities. The breakdown, they say, is cosmic payback for man's environmental sinfulness. They also say it's the *most pressing* problem facing humanity, and they throw

all their weight behind efforts to reduce the carbon emissions of the world's industrialized nations. No matter what economic consequences may result, they argue, industry (especially American industry) must be curtailed so the planet can survive.

President Obama recently declared a unilateral U.S. war on global climate change, saying essentially that America must inflict a deep economic wound on itself in order to save the Earth. At its heart, this is a war on the U.S. coal industry, which would make it impossible to open new coal factories and would close most existing ones. But since India and China together are opening a new coal factory *every week*, U.S. efforts would greatly injure American industry even as global carbon emissions continue to rise.

For many on the political left, belief in global warming has become a religion. Anyone who dares voice skepticism about it is lambasted as a flat-Earth know-nothing. When believers are confronted with evidence that disproves their doctrines—like, for example, the landmark study published in March showing that global temperatures have been static for 15 years even though greenhouse-gas emissions have soared in that time—it only seems to strengthen their piety. The “persecution” only fortifies their resolve. The notion of man-made climate change has become not a science, but a faith—in many cases as radical and blind as any you may find among the Taliban.

Largely because of this ultra-orthodox leftist stance, many on the political right say the whole idea of man-made climate change is a hoax. “You’ve been offered a way out of the guilt for having contributed to the destruction of the planet,” Rush Limbaugh said on his radio show on April 1, “and that is if you will go out and buy a hybrid, or if you will oppose oil companies, or if you will oppose fracking; if you will oppose the Keystone pipeline, if you will oppose the growth of any fossil fuel industry, then you’re a good person. . . . It’s all a hoax. . . . Your time on Earth is barely the size of the head of a pin, if that big. So what possible impact could you be making?”

Despite the leftists’ noisy and frequent prayer calls, and despite some media sensationalism, the general public is not terribly concerned about the weather. A global shift from

agriculture-based economy to knowledge-based work is well underway. Unprecedented numbers of people live in climate-controlled homes and buildings, insulated from the elements. Technology removes us from all but the most severe weather extremes, so we are not worried about it. A Pew poll earlier this year showed that concerns about climate change lie at the very bottom of a list of Americans’ worries, ranking 21st out of 21 concerns.

What is the truth? Are Americans right in thinking erratic weather conditions are not something we need to be too worried about? Are those like Limbaugh correct in



ASHEN SNOW
Aftermath of California's
Mountain Fire in July.

saying mankind’s economic activity isn’t making an impact?

Take a look at the climate of the Middle East. Historically, much of this region was covered with lush forests and verdant vegetation. But in the early 1900s, the Ottoman Turks undertook massive tree-felling operations to build the Hejaz Railway from Damascus to Medina. The deserts that now dominate many parts of the region are the direct result of that project. Widespread deforestation begets desertification. Desertification alters regional climates. This is a clear example of climate change resulting from man’s actions.

Evidence shows that slash-and-burn techniques, converting forested areas into

concrete jungles, pollution from industrial production and exhaust from planes, trains and automobiles have contributed to weather variation. It is also likely that developing irrigation systems, building lakes and dams, draining aquifers and swamps, and engaging in massive-scale monoculture farming contribute to climatic variation. It is clear that some of the weather calamity we are suffering is mankind reaping the results of environmental mismanagement, poor stewardship, errors and greed.

However, it is not scientifically possible to attribute the sheer scale of the increase in erratic weather to human behaviors.

He Has His Way in the Whirlwind

Scientific observation of physical evidence can only tell a small part of the story. To understand the rest, we have to turn to a source that most people would never think to consult for such matters: God’s revealed Word, the Holy Bible.

The earliest chapters of the Bible depict God creating the continents and oceans, the atmosphere and climate, the intricately woven ecosystems of Earth and the laws that govern it all. Unlike modern meteorologists who struggle even to predict short-term weather, the Bible accurately forecasts long-term trends and even pinpoints the primary cause of weather disasters.

“The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm,” the Prophet Nahum wrote. “He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers. . . . [T]he earth is burned at his presence. . . . But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof. . . .” (Nahum 1:3-5, 8).

In the above passage and scores of others, the Bible makes plain that *there is a crucial spiritual dimension to weather*. Modern people generally view themselves as too sophisticated to believe such a fact, but the fact is not dependent on belief. Nature is not only the creation of God’s mind, but God also “has His way”

out of every facet of our lives. By shaking up the weather, God is trying to get through to His creation so we will see this. He is trying to make us think about cause and effect, and about what happens when people reject the law of the God who gave them life. He is showing mankind that we are breaking laws which, if kept, would cause joy, peace, happiness and “rain in due season.”

Modern meteorologists fail to recognize this pivotal dimension in weather because they, like the majority of mankind, are deceived about the realities of life (Revelation 12:9). This failure prevents them from

pornography, cohabitation, abortion, etc. are economically hurting nations, but the Bible says they absolutely are. Mankind’s actions *are leading to the increase* in unstable weather because these lawless actions cause our Creator to punish us—for our long-term benefit. And weather is a primary tool He uses to accomplish this punishment.

In the United States, on this July 4 holiday, Americans celebrate our nation’s history and freedom. One recurring theme, written on parade banners, sung in songs, and spoken between fireworks’ bursts, is the phrase, “God bless America.” But even

a cursory glance at the weather trends shows that God is not blessing America anymore. Just the opposite—He is cursing it.

The Future Forecast

The Bible foretold the increase in floods, droughts and other disasters the world is now experiencing. It also says that today’s conditions will soon seem mild by comparison to the completely berserk weather ahead (Ezekiel 5:16; Revelation 8:4-12). God will soon unleash utterly unprecedented forces of nature upon the rebellious world in order to humble the people and bring the nations to their knees in repentance (Isaiah 45:22-25).

After that period of intense punishment and the resulting repentance, God promises He will “heal the land” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14). Under God’s government of love, all men will keep God’s law and abide by His commandments. Then, God promises that instead of the twin curses of drought and flooding, He “will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase” (Ezekiel 34:26-27). At this time, even the scorched deserts of the Earth will “rejoice, and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). ■

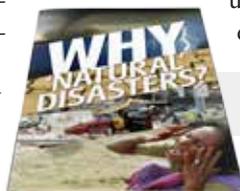
in weather phenomena for the purpose of communicating with mankind.

What is the message? What is He communicating through the exacerbating floods, droughts and other disasters? Study Leviticus 26:19-20; 2 Chronicles 6:26-27 and especially Job 37:11-13. If you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, then the message is inescapably clear: God intervenes through weather to deliver *blessings* for obedience and *punishment* for sinfulness.

Look at modern systems of education, politics, military, industry, entertainment and even religion. Look at the widespread, unprecedented embrace of sins like greed-driven commerce, homosexuality and pornography. We have shoved God

seeing the direct correlation between wrong ways of living and catastrophic weather.

Devotees of the man-made global warming church are wrong. They say man’s industry is entirely responsible for erratic weather, while they fight to accelerate the cultural shifts that are destroying families. Mankind’s industry and pollution are having *some* effect on unstable weather patterns, but the primary cause—by a wide margin—is man’s increasing and prideful lawlessness. You may not think the unprecedented proliferation of immorality,



Would a just God punish? Why would a loving God cause weather disasters? Order *Why 'Natural' Disasters?* for the important answer!

GROUND ZERO Aftermath of May’s tornado in Moore, Oklahoma.



UNWELCOME RAIN Flooding in Gaza in 2010.



FLOOD RUSH Massive flooding hit China in July.



2011

**EAST AFRICAN DROUGHT
COSTLIEST**
WEATHER-RELATED NATURAL
DISASTER ON RECORD FOR
SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA AND KENYA

2012

**LARGEST SINGLE DROUGHT
DISASTER DECLARATION IN HISTORY**
1,016 COUNTIES
IN 26 U.S. STATES

SEPT. 16, 2012

**ARCTIC
SEA ICE EXTENT**
FELL TO ALL TIME LOW 1.32
MILLION SQUARE MILES



DRIEST
NEBRASKA YEAR SINCE
RECORD KEEPING
STARTED

2012

2011

9.9°F
HIGHEST DEC. 25
SOUTH POLE
TEMPERATURE

**FAMINE KILLED
30K CHILDREN**
UNDER THE AGE OF 5
IN SOMALIA ALONE

2011

DRIEST
ONE-YEAR PERIOD
IN TEXAS HISTORY

2011

**HOTTEST
U.S. YEAR
ON RECORD**

2012



30

**ALL-TIME WEATHER
RECORDS IN 30 MONTHS**

Most chapters of history include extraordinary weather events. But extreme weather in recent years has smashed dozens of major all-time records. Do you think this is normal?

MARCH 2013

ALL-TIME RECORD SNOWFALL
1,100+ FLIGHTS
CANCELLED AT CHICAGO'S O'HARE AIRPORT

JAN. 13, 2012

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, RECORD SNOWFALL
81.3 INCHES



OCT. 2012

SPANNING 943 MILES
HURRICANE SANDY LARGEST IN KNOWN HISTORY
SURGE HEIGHT 13.88 FEET



NOV.-DEC. 2012

SUPER TYPHOON BOPHA
\$1.04 BILLION
1901 PEOPLE DEAD OR MISSING
700,000+ HOMELESS

JUNE 2013

SWITZERLAND
130 MPH
UNPRECEDENTED
STORM WINDS

2011

CAMBODIA
**KILLER
FLOODING**
DEATH TOLL 250, DAMAGE \$521m

JUNE 2013

100K
EVACUATED FROM
CALGARY FLOODING



JUNE 25, 2013

**SINGAPORE'S
FIRST
HAILSTORM**
IN HISTORY



2011

SRI LANKA
**SEVERE
FLOODING**
KILLED 43, DAMAGE \$500m



MAY 2011

**THE LOWER
MISSISSIPPI'S
GREATEST
FLOOD IN HISTORY**

JUNE 30, 2012

DEATH VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

129°F



THE HOTTEST JUNE TEMPERATURE EVER RECORDED ON EARTH



RECORD 165 ACRES

2012

PER FIRE CHARRING 9.2 MILLION ACRES IN THE U.S.

WORST U.S. FIRE SEASON

SUMMER 2013

COLORADO'S DEADLIEST WILDFIRE

JUNE 2013

358 TORNADOES IN 72 HOURS

LARGEST AND MOST DAMAGING TORNADO OUTBREAK

MAY 20, 2013

IN KNOWN WORLD HISTORY

551



RECORD NUMBER OF TORNADO FATALITIES IN ONE SEASON



MOORE, OKLAHOMA

2.5 MILES

WIDEST TORNADO IN HISTORY

MAY 20, 2013

KILLED 24 PEOPLE IN MOORE, OKLA.; INJURED MORE THAN 270 OTHERS



COLOMBIA—HEAVY RAINS

KILLED 116 PEOPLE

COST RECORD \$6 BILLION

2011

THAILAND—HEAVY MONSOONS
657 LIVES, DAMAGED 4 MILLION STRUCTURES, COSTING THAILAND \$45 BILLION (18% OF GDP)

2011

FLASH FLOOD

2011

KILLING 902, BRAZIL'S DEADLIEST NATURAL DISASTER

CENTRAL EUROPEAN FLOODING
\$16 BILLION
IN DAMAGE

JUNE 2013



VILLAGES WASHED AWAY

IN RECORD MONSOON FLOODING. 22.36 INCHES OF RAIN IN TWO DAYS; 5,700 PEOPLE WERE KILLED

JUNE 2013



\$30 BILLION

OF DAMAGE IN AUSTRALIA'S MOST EXPENSIVE NATURAL DISASTER IN HISTORY

2011

RAIN CAUSES



Why the News Gets It Wrong

And how to find a news source you can really rely on.

BY RON FRASER

AFTER HIS OBITUARY WAS MISTAKENLY published, Mark Twain sent a cable from London stating, “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.”

Since mass media became just that—MASS media—courtesy of the plethora of electronic junk that we assemble about ourselves, the tendency for journalists to get a story wrong has certainly increased.

Google has contributed to lazy research practices in seeking background for a story. To add to that journalistic weakness, the propensity for every man and his dog to jump on a “breaking story” has increased exponentially with the tidal wave of communications gadgetry that the average Joe and Jill Public now have at their tendonitis-prone thumb tips.

The occasional trickery of deliberately faked journalism like that of Jayson Blair of the *New York Times* and Stephen Glass of the *New Republic* is one thing. There is also the tendency for a journalist, though he may be quite sincere, to simply be incapable of ridding his reporting of natural bias. Then there’s the false equivalency of a journalist or editor seeking to give “balance” to a piece by allowing equal weight to both sides of a story, irrespective of which side has the truth.

20 Add to this the reality that, to keep his job, the journalist must

subscribe to the overarching bias of the editorial policy of his employer, and you have a formula for confusion.

Recently we had an example of yet another contributor to the tendency for journalists to get it wrong—the mass impact of social media. This contributed to a recent infamous example of misreporting in the wake of the tragic Boston bombing.

Lightning-Fast Falsehood

Writing for *Quill*, the journal of the American Society of Professional Journalists, Monica Guzman of the *Seattle Times* described how easy it is in this age of social media for a journalist to get it wrong. How was it, she asked, that a poor missing kid, whose body was later found on April 23 in Providence, Rhode Island, was misreported by so many as the Boston bomber who created the havoc of April 15?

Tuned in via Twitter to the rash of messages transiting the ether over what was happening in Boston one week following the bombing tragedy, Guzman said she saw a tweet from “an influential user” who maintained that the bomber suspect had been found. When she asked two basic questions of the tweeter—*where* and *how*—the response came back that a lot of people had posted it.

Sharp woman that she is, Guzman mused, “What I call *repetition* he called

confirmation” (*Quill*, May/June; emphasis added).

What was it that moved so many to share *erroneous communication* so widely and rapidly that it was *accepted as fact* and reported to the public via the mass media?

Guzman says two things drove this act of mass misreporting. The first was “a hunger for the most current information.” That desire is an offshoot of our late 20th- and early 21st-century lust for instant gratification—we want it and we want it *now!* The catchcry of the baby boomers has since become an inbred mantra of the generations they produced.

The second thing that fed the April 23 rumor mill, Guzman observed, was a need to talk—to be first to spread the news, to be the one who “broke” the story to others. This stems from today’s social media frenzy of messaging about what I’m *doing now*, what I *just did*, what I *just saw*, or “have you heard?”

Particularly in times of budgetary constraint, free messages twittered on “breaking” new stories become fodder for the journalist. The tweeter becomes a primary source to the journalist, conveying first-hand observations, reactions and opinions from the vicinity of a “breaking” story.

The use of reports from social media sources, combined with the lust to be *first* with the information, drove a great part of

America's media industry into mass acceptance of a falsehood in April. As Guzman observed, "Public voices who took Boston scanner chatter as fact, passed on dangerous rumors or made gross assumptions" all driven by "emotion, drama, pride and the deep, wild rush to be first."

There's a powerful lesson here. It speaks to the very foundation of all that the *Trumpet* magazine stands for as compared to the mass media.

How We Are Different

Let's do a brief comparison.

The mass media is a profit-making enterprise. As we have witnessed over the past decade, many organs of the press went broke as electronic media increasingly took over from newspaper and magazine news publishing. The survivors are those that still turn—or continue to struggle to turn—a profit, too often maintaining sales by dumbing their editorial approach downward so as to cater to a rapidly descending public taste.

On the other hand, the *Trumpet* is not for sale. We are not a profit-making enterprise.

Our publications have no price on them. They are given away on request, *gratis* (Matthew 10:8). The *Trumpet* will never change its editorial policy of seeking and publishing the truth—no matter how unpopular the message, no matter how politically incorrect, no matter how much opposition it provokes. We will not dumb down our message to popularize it so as to cater to the public's taste. In fact, we probably have the world's most unpopular message to deliver.

Come to think of it, so did Jesus Christ.

Regarding journalistic efforts to predict the future outcome of an event, the best that the news media can do is *guess*. The facts might suggest that a certain outcome is inevitable—yet so many variables can lead to that guess proving wrong. Analytical journalistic pieces cannot predict with certainty the outcome of a major world event.

The *Trumpet* is different.

We are not averse to forecasting an outcome of any major world event, even though the facts would seem to point to an opposite result. The difference between the mass media *guess* and the *guaranteed outcome* to any current event on which we report is our understanding of the *revelation of Bible prophecy* for our times.

We possess and publish the "more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19)—the *God-guaranteed* outcome as declared by the One who states, "I am the Lord. I change not" (Malachi 3:6). The very One of whom Jesus Christ declared, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

The understanding of the final outcome of major world events that are unfolding today was all prophesied millennia ago, then documented and published in a book we call the Bible—*specifically* for our day today. Those prophecies contain an overarching message that, almost lost by the end of the 19th century, was restored in the early 20th century through one man that Book refers to as a latter-day Elijah (Matthew 17:10-11). His name was Herbert W. Armstrong.

It is that restored message from God to humankind that the *Trumpet* publishes today and that is broadcast by the *Key of David* television program. It's that *restored, divinely revealed knowledge* that gives the *Trumpet* more than just an edge over the mass media in reporting the news. We can tell you, with full *confidence*, the outcome of major world events. No organ of the press or mass media can!

So how does one really get to the truth on any matter these days when we are so attuned to the instantaneous nature of the "breaking" story via social media in particular?

A good start would be to treat any news report with a healthy skepticism unless the reporter produces hard, primary evidence of the story's reality.

With the plethora of news that inundates us from all angles, 24/7, this would seem an impossible task. Given the state of today's mass media confusion, is there *any* news source that you can really rely on?

One Reliable Source

Considering the comparisons made above, to an open mind the answer should be starkly obvious. It's the one that refuses—*point blank*—to be politically correct.

It's the one that insists on "*proving* all things," on *holding fast* to that which is good and

right! (1 Thessalonians 5:21). It's the one which has the capacity—proven over *seven decades* of its message being published to multiple millions worldwide—to demonstrate the prophesied outcome of major world events then track them till they become documented history!

The editorial policy of the *Trumpet* magazine remains consistent with that of our forerunner under Herbert Arm-

In predicting the future outcome of an event, the best that the news media can do is guess.

strong's administration, the *Plain Truth*. It embraces all those principles mentioned above, yet with *one added refining point*.

Herbert Armstrong's prophesied directive from God was to preach the good news of God's coming Kingdom on Earth "in all the world for a witness to all nations" as a sign of the imminence of Jesus Christ's return (Matthew 24:14).

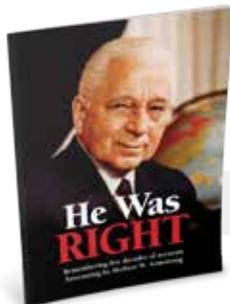
The leadership Herbert Armstrong put in place to continue that work following his death patently rejected that task (Amos 2:11-12).

Only one man at the time—our editor in chief Gerald Flurry, with his loyal assistant John Amos at his side—stooped to pick up the baton of leadership of that work when it was cast aside on Dec. 7, 1989. Through Gerald Flurry, the editorial policy of the original *Plain Truth* was revived, as prophesied (Revelation 10:11), in the pages of the *Trumpet* magazine.

Yet that commission came with one added responsibility—to *urgently warn* a lukewarm church and a rebellious house of Israel of a coming, prophesied, *Great Tribulation* which they face due to their rebellion against their God! (Matthew 24:21-23).

You won't get *that* message anywhere else! You won't find any other news source that has such a proven track record of really delivering on the *PLAIN TRUTH* about today's world news and its *guaranteed outcome*.

The *Trumpet* magazine is *THE* news source you can *completely rely on*—not only to publish the *real news* behind the news, but also to give you the *guaranteed, prophesied outcome!* ■



Prove us right! Request our free booklet **He Was Right** to better understand why the *Trumpet* is the only real news you can rely on.



INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ

The End of This Age Is Not the End of the World!

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

WITH PROBLEMS AND CRISES MULTIPLYING so rapidly in today's society, many people are concerned about THE END OF THE WORLD. Even mainstream commentators are using apocalyptic language to describe current conditions.

Is this overreaction—or *are* we in the last days? And if we are, what does that mean, exactly? What can we expect in the time ahead? Is there any *hope*?

The Bible reveals the answers to these questions—and more.

It is certainly true that the world around you is full of danger, and it is getting worse. It is as the Apostle Paul prophesied of our modern era: “Evil men and seducers shall wax *worse and worse*” (2 Timothy 3:13). The influence and spread of carnal-minded human nature, which leads to destruction and death (Proverbs 14:12), is increasing, resulting in growing levels of greed, immorality, violence and debauchery. Simultaneously, mankind has developed weapons that are capable of human annihilation!

Jesus Christ, the greatest newscaster who ever lived, knew the ultimate result of the terrible state of affairs men would bring on themselves in this end time. He predicted: “*Except* those days should be shortened, there should **NO FLESH BE SAVED** [ALIVE—Moffatt]” (Matthew 24:22).

Yet, your Bible shows there *is* hope for mankind! God Almighty has promised to intervene in world affairs. He will *not* allow the scientific genius of man to destroy all life on this planet. He has promised to send Jesus Christ again—this time to **SAVE** us from ourselves and bring us peace at last!

What Is the ‘End of the World’?

1. What did Jesus say about the “end of the world” and the sign that would point to His return? Matthew 24:3.

God inspired the New Testament to be originally recorded in the Greek language. The Greek word translated “world” in this verse is *aion*, meaning “age”—not the physical planet on which we live. The Revised Standard Version translates the expression as “the close of the age.” The disciples were asking Jesus not about the destruction of the terrestrial globe, but about the end of an “age” of human history.

2. Did Jesus prophesy that a time of great trouble would occur on Earth just before His return? Verse 21.

3. What did He declare would happen if these days of tribulation continued? Verse 22.

The Moffatt translation renders this verse more clearly as “not a soul would be saved alive.” This verse is not referring to spiritual salvation, but to being saved from *physical destruction*—from being *killed*.

4. Did Jesus prophesy that only the inhabitants of Jerusalem would be threatened by total destruction? Same verse.

The Revised Standard Version says “no human being would be saved . . .” Jesus was talking about *all* the inhabitants of the Earth, not just those in Jerusalem.

5. Who will intervene in world affairs to *cut short* this time of trouble, and thus prevent the annihilation of all humanity? Mark 13:20.

Jesus Christ will step in at the very moment humanity would otherwise destroy itself. By His direct intervention, He will **CUT SHORT** the days of man’s rule over man, which would otherwise lead to the destruction of all human life!

World Government to Bring Peace

1. Does God intervene in world affairs without first revealing His intentions to His prophets? Amos 3:7.

If you study the messages of the prophets, you see not only forewarning of the trouble to come, but also promises of what God will establish on Earth *after* Christ’s Second Coming.

2. Will God establish a kingdom to supplant the kingdoms of today’s world? Daniel 2:44. Is this coming kingdom a *literal*, world-ruling administration? Psalms 67:4. Will this government have a presence within a specific city here on Earth? Isaiah 2:1-3.

An all-powerful, world-ruling government is indeed coming that will solve all global problems fairly and righteously for all peoples. This will be a government ruled *not* by carnal men, but by the living, all-powerful Creator of the universe!

3. Will there be warfare then as there is now among nations, or will people learn the way to peace and productivity? Isaiah 2:4.

Mankind’s very Creator will establish His government to teach us the way to peace—to guide our inventive genius entirely into *peaceful* channels.

4. Will that government produce not only peace, but also material *prosperity* for “every man”? Micah 4:1-4.

5. Whom did Isaiah prophesy would rule over this government, and hence, over the Earth? Isaiah 11:1-4. Is David the “stem,” or son, of Jesse? Acts 13:22. Then is the “rod,” or shoot, Jesus Christ? Verse 23. Does the “branch” growing out of Jesse’s roots also refer to Christ? Jeremiah 23:5-6.

APOCALYPSE Imaginative ideas about the end of the world are common. But what does the Bible say?

This prophecy in Isaiah 11 predicted, centuries in advance, that Jesus Christ will personally and literally rule the Earth!

6. Before Jesus was born as a human being, what did an angel tell Mary about His destiny? Luke 1:30-33.

Jesus Christ will take over an *actual throne* and rule on this Earth.

7. Did God reveal to Daniel the time when the saints—Spirit-born Christians—will be given rulership over Earth *with Christ*? Daniel 7:18, 21-22, 27.

God's 7,000-Year Plan

God has set aside a period of 7,000 years to fulfill His plan for mankind. His little-understood plan for man began about 6,000 years ago. The *pattern* for this plan is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is the week of seven days.

Note that the *Earth* has existed for much longer than 6,000 years. In Genesis 1, *only* verse 1 refers to the original creation of the Earth. Then, verse 2 states that the Earth “was without form and void,” but the word *was* should be translated *became*. There is a *huge* time gap between verses 1 and 2. Verse 2 onward describes the *re-creation* or *refashioning* of the Earth, which God accomplished in six days. Then He rested on the seventh day.

1. To God, is a day like a thousand years? 2 Peter 3:8.

2. What day *specifically* foreshadows a time period of 1,000 years? In Hebrews 4:4, 11, the seventh day of the week pictures a *type* of the peaceful “rest” on Earth which will follow Christ’s return. This time of Christ’s rule on Earth will follow this present age of human *misrule* and senseless warfare. Is it specifically prophesied to be a thousand years? Revelation 20:4.

Since the last “day” of God’s plan is 1,000 years, then it logically follows that the preceding six “days”

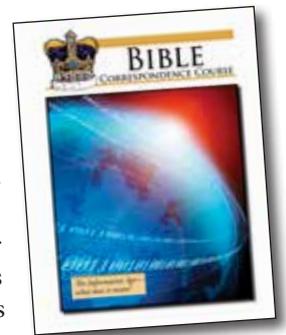
would amount to 6,000 years—a total of 7,000 years.

3. When the disciples asked Jesus if He would restore the government of God in their day, what was His reply? Acts 1:6-7.

The apostles did not understand the general time frame of God’s plan while Christ was on Earth with them, and for many years thereafter. At first, they thought God would establish His rule in their lifetimes. But before they died, they understood Christ would return at a much later date. Peter said, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise [of coming again] ... but is longsuffering ...” (2 Peter 3:9). God is patient. He has refrained from intervening in world affairs for 6,000 years. For these six millennia, mankind has been proving the inarguable truth that the ways of man, apart from God, bring nothing but SUFFERING and DEATH.

By tracing the genealogies of Adam’s progeny backward from Christ, as recorded in the Bible, we know that Adam was created roughly 4,000 years before Christ was born. And a little more than 2,000 years have elapsed since Christ’s birth—totaling about 6,000 years of human civilization to date.

How awe-inspiring and significant that in OUR PRESENT AGE—in the very time that the world is threatened with the extinction of all life—6,000 years have *almost elapsed*. How exciting that Jesus Himself said that when we would see all the events He foretold taking place, He would come again—this time to rescue humanity from annihilation, to set up the Kingdom of God, and to bring us lasting peace! ■



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 50,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

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

23



Egyptian protesters call for Morsi's ouster in July.

1 | EGYPT

Morsi's gone. What now?

THE COURSE OF A TRUE REVOLUTION never did run smooth. In Russia, when the tsar was deposed in March 1917, the revolution had only begun. It wasn't until November that the October Revolution saw the Bolsheviks, under Vladimir Lenin, take charge.

The French Revolution may have seemed over in October 1789 when revolutionaries captured the king and forced him back to Paris. Then it "ended" again three years later, when the king was executed. And again in 1793, when Maximilien Robespierre came to power. And then again the next year, when Robespierre was executed. And so on, until Napoleon steadied things for a while. Even in the American Revolution, the final Constitution wasn't adopted until 1787, several years after the first one proved unsuitable.

So it should be no surprise that Egypt's path isn't entirely straightforward. President Mohamed Morsi was arrested on July 3, and the chief justice of Egypt's constitutional court, Adly Mansour, was sworn in as interim president in the wake of protests larger than those that brought down Hosni Mubarak 2½ years before.

Mr. Mansour is expected to lead the country toward another election, in which the Muslim Brotherhood will be allowed to participate. Many in the West

are hoping for a secular liberal democracy to result. But a sober look at the facts shows that isn't where Egypt is heading.

In April, Pew published a report (including data from a 2011 poll) showing that there is no secular majority: 95 percent of Egypt's inhabitants are Muslim, and 74 percent of them want to make sharia the state law. Roughly 86 percent say those who convert from Islam to another religion should face the death penalty.

In other words, Egypt's recent protests weren't against Islamism, they were against Morsi, and perhaps also the Muslim Brotherhood. The grievances revolved around Morsi's failure to fix Egypt's economy, not his religion.

This is the major feature the Egyptian revolution has in common with the French and Russian revolutions: bread. Poverty, high food prices and unemployment were instrumental in getting these revolutions going and prolonging them.

The upheaval lasted until either the food shortages were fixed, or a government came to power that was so brutal that none dared resist, no matter how hungry they were.

Egypt can't solve its food problem without the help of an outside power. It currently imports around 40 percent of its food. It needs foreign cash to buy the

food. But since the revolution, Egypt's tourism industry has collapsed and its income has dried up. The nation has been burning through its foreign currency reserves quickly. In early 2011, the Central Bank of Egypt had \$36 billion worth. By the end of March this year, it was down to \$13.4 billion. At this rate, Egypt can't last another year. It would have already run out without Qatar's help. Qatar is helping it stay afloat, but even its funding isn't assured after this latest revolution. How long Qatar's help will last now that Morsi is gone is another big unknown.

Clearly, Egypt needs the help and money of an outside power. The International Monetary Fund has offered to step in, but its terms are so harsh that they would probably destroy any government that accepted them.

No matter who comes out on top in the latest coup, Egypt cannot stabilize until its finances and food supply are fixed (unless the army addresses the problem Communist-style and simply uses massive brute force to quell the protests—in spite of widespread starvation). Without that core problem addressed, the new government will be overthrown the same way the old one was.

These trends show that Egypt will continue as an Islamist state in turmoil and in desperate need of a foreign patron, a reasonably successful war to unify the country, or both. Biblical prophecy foretells its final destination more specifically: an alliance with Iran. Even now, Egypt is much closer to that destination than it was under Mubarak.

Egypt could take a number of paths to reach that point. If Iran found a way to bail out Egypt, it would be richly rewarded. Not only would doing so put Tehran right on the border with its archenemy Israel, but it would also give it control of the Suez Canal and smooth the way for it to influence radical Islam throughout Africa.

There may be other twists and turns as this journey unfolds. But you can be sure of the final outcome.

NUMBERS

24

20 Billion euros allocated to fix Europe's youth unemployment problem

28

Members of the European Union when Croatia joined on July 1

3

Percent of the Middle East that is Christian—a number that is falling

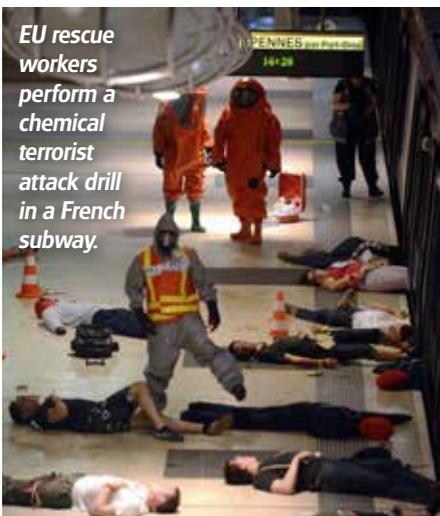


UN: Expect nuclear terrorism

At a conference on enhancing global nuclear security efforts on July 1, the director general of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Yukiya Amano, warned of the possibility of terrorist attacks involving radioactive material. Amano's chief concern was the potential use of a crude nuclear device—a "dirty bomb." Such a bomb may be less a weapon of "mass destruction" and more one of "mass disruption."

Experts believe dirty bombs are far likelier to be detonated than actual nuclear bombs because of the relative ease of obtaining radioactive materials. While there hasn't yet been a terrorist attack involving nuclear bombs or dirty bombs, Amano cautioned that "this must not lull us into a false sense of security. If a 'dirty bomb' is detonated in a major city, or sabotage occurs at a nuclear facility, the consequences could be devastating." Many experts say such an attack is only a matter of time; some are surprised it hasn't already happened.

The world remains vulnerable to nuclear terrorism, and the United States, Britain and Israel face the greatest risk.



EU rescue workers perform a chemical terrorist attack drill in a French subway.



A U.S. Air Force captain mentors Afghan trainees in a helicopter simulator in Kabul.

2 | AFGHANISTAN

The air force that can't fly

THE UNITED STATES IS OUTFITTING THE AFGHAN AIR FORCE with a new, highly trained air wing to transport its special operations forces after NATO goes home. But no matter how many aircraft are put at the Afghans' disposal, the planes will stay grounded until airmen are taught how to fly them. Estimates are that the air wing needs 806 people to be effective. As of January, it had only 180 personnel. Candidates for the program must go through an 18-to-20-month vetting process, then complete a slow, laborious training process. U.S. contractors and military personnel have also admitted that "the Afghan government will not be able "to independently perform maintenance and logistics support functions for at least 10 years," according to a report by the U.S. government's Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Still, the U.S. is determined to arm it with more aircraft. This shows just how desperate the U.S. is to get Afghanistan fighting on its own. Washington has been furiously selling the idea that Afghanistan is a "mission accomplished," but with Afghan forces lacking the skill to operate advanced equipment, America's impact in Afghanistan could be reversed quickly. The situation highlights how America has truly lost this war.

3 | SAUDI ARABIA 4 | SYRIA 5 | IRAN What's at stake

In the Middle East, Saudi Arabia is one of the most outspoken and proactive supporters of Syrian opposition forces. The Saudis fear Iran, which has been increasingly aggressive in establishing its presence across the region and throughout North Africa since the "Arab Spring." Were Saudi Arabia to allow Iran to have its way in Syria, it would risk facing a sweep of Iranian influence stretching all the way to the Mediterranean coast. To prevent the "Shia crescent" from forming a guillotine over their heads, the Saudis are trying to separate Syria from its neighboring Iranian proxies. The Saudis' goal aligns with that of Europe, which is significant from a prophetic perspective. Europe voted in May to lift the ban on arming Syrian rebels, a clear sign that it intends to play a greater role in Syria and in the fight against Iranian influence. Watch as this goal draws Europe and Saudi Arabia together in an alliance to counter Iran and the spread of its version of Islam.

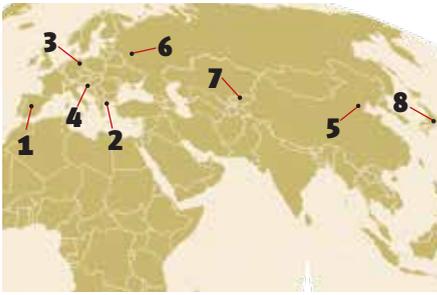
Will Vatican disregard mass exodus of Christians?

Across the Islamic world, an exodus of Christians is under way. Muslims have been driving Christians from the Middle East for centuries, and the fall of the region's dictators in recent years has ignited a new wave of persecution and displacement.

A century ago, Christians still made up 30 percent of the region's population; now that number is around 3 percent and falling. But from the Vatican's perspective, most alarming is the exodus of Christians from the Holy Land, which is due almost entirely to Muslim persecution. The history of the Crusades demonstrates that both Catholics and Muslims are savagely determined to control the Holy Land and surrounding regions. Bible prophecy informs us that Vatican-guided Europe will soon resurrect the specter of those gruesome Crusades once again.



Egypt Coptic Christians



1 | SPAIN 2 | GREECE

Youth unemployment—history repeating itself?

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on July 3 that money was not the main obstacle to solving Europe’s high youth unemployment. Chancellor Merkel was addressing labor officials from EU member countries who had gathered in Berlin to discuss how to end the high youth joblessness across the Continent. EU leaders have allocated over €20 billion (US\$26 billion) to tackle the problem, but Merkel said money alone could not fix it and that Europe’s economy must be reformed.

Youth in Spain and Greece suffer the highest unemployment, with rates over 50 percent. Germany’s rate is only 7.6 percent.

Merkel’s main political opposition, the Social Democratic Party, protested the conference in Berlin. Its chairman told German television that Europe’s politicians have failed its young people. He blamed the nation’s youth unemployment on Chancellor Merkel. Europe’s employment problems could affect Merkel’s chances for reelection in September. Her opponents are loudly blaming her austerity policies for the youth jobless crisis.

In the 1930s, German youth unemployment led to the rise of extremist parties before World War II. Is history repeating itself?



Protesters gather at a July 3 youth unemployment summit in Berlin.

Germany’s Constitutional Court hears the European Central Bank’s case on June 11.



3 | GERMANY

Court threatens euro again

GERMANY’S CONSTITUTIONAL COURT IN KARLSRUHE began hearing a court case on June 11 that alleges the European Central Bank has exceeded its mandate. The ECB has taken significant steps to prevent the eurozone from collapsing. The German court is expected to rule on the issue after German elections in September.

In August 2012, when the euro crisis looked like it could worsen, the ECB announced a program to help prop up indebted countries. If an indebted country first submitted to conditions set down by the European Union (actually Germany), the ECB would lend an unlimited amount of money to minimize its borrowing costs. (Implementing the plan and getting around EU rules is a little more complicated: The ECB can’t buy debt directly from a national government, for example.) Many Germans are understandably concerned by the ECB’s promise to essentially print money for governments that can’t pay their bills. The Bundesbank, Germany’s central bank, opposes the ECB in the court case. One court official told Spiegel Online that the “people at the ECB are really afraid” of the court’s decision.

Once again, the euro’s existence is threatened, and no one knows what its future will be. As the *Trumpet* has pointed out since the start of the crisis, the euro was designed to fail in order to force EU nations to unite. The deliberations in Karlsruhe are an important reminder that the drama in Europe is far from over.

For more information, request a free copy of **Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans.**



3 | GERMANY
4 | CROATIA
Balkans conquest continues

At midnight on July 1, Croatia became the 28th member of the European Union. It marked the first addition to the bloc since Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007. Serbia has also received the European Council’s support as it seeks EU membership. European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said “a new chapter is being opened in this region of Europe.” “I trust that all the Balkan countries will feel inspired by these momentous steps, leave aside divisions and concentrate on common interests, common values and common laws,” he said. Other Balkan candidates for membership include Montenegro and Macedonia. In late June, Kosovo also began its first steps toward EU membership. It was primarily U.S. military power that was used to break up Yugoslavia. In 1999, editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned that the German-led EU would be the ultimate victor of the Balkan wars.

5 | CHINA

You call that a supercomputer?

China has surpassed the U.S. in the field of supercomputer technology, building the world's fastest machine, according to the semiannual Top500 Supercomputers listing released on June 17. The Tianhe-2 was completed two years ahead of schedule and is about twice as fast as the American supercomputer that previously held the record. Supercomputers are instrumental in developing nuclear weapons, aerospace engines, vital chemicals and more. Beijing is leveraging speedy economic growth and sharp increases in research spending to join the global technology elite. Steady evidence of China's burgeoning power will influence weaker Asian nations to rally behind Beijing.



6 | RUSSIA Why is the Kremlin using typewriters?

Russia's Federal Guard Service (FSO), charged with protecting Kremlin communications, said on July 11 that it is transitioning from computers back to typewriters to create its documents. "After scandals with the distribution of secret documents by WikiLeaks, the exposés by Edward Snowden, reports about Dmitry Medvedev being listened in on during his visit to the G-20 summit in London, it has been decided to expand the practice of creating paper documents," an FSO source said. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said the vulnerability of America's computer systems may be the nation's "Achilles heel." The spate of leaks and cyberattacks the U.S. has suffered in recent years reveals that this is indeed among the country's most vulnerable points. Russian leaders see the urgent need to take action on this front. The U.S. appears much less concerned.



U.S. soldiers depart Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan.

6 | RUSSIA 7 | KYRGYZSTAN

Guess who's in charge here

KYRGYZSTAN'S PARLIAMENT VOTED 91 TO 5 ON JULY 17 TO kick the United States out of a key air force base in the city of Manas. The base has been a vital hub for the American and NATO militaries since 2001, mostly for logistics transport to nearby Afghanistan. Russia initially welcomed America's military actions in Afghanistan and encouraged Kyrgyzstan to host the Manas base. But as the U.S. withdraws its combat forces from Afghanistan, Russia is trying to prevent Western influence from remaining.

Also in July, Russia initiated a program to send \$1 billion worth of weapons to Kyrgyzstan each year. A July 1 report by PONARS Eurasia connected the dots: "Russia is now aggressively entering into a classical client-state relationship with Kyrgyzstan and, to a lesser extent, Tajikistan, the region's smallest and poorest countries but also the ones where Russian influence has remained strong for 20 years. In exchange for supporting them materially and in their local rivalries, Moscow seeks closer ties and fealty to its foreign-policy directives."

Kyrgyzstan's decision to oust the U.S. from Manas shows that Moscow's plan is working: Russian weapons have purchased Kyrgyz obedience to the Kremlin's foreign-policy directives.

8 | JAPAN Faith in U.S. fading fast

A Japanese Defense Ministry white paper from July says escalating tensions with China and North Korea could end in war. The paper also says the Japanese military is the ultimate guarantor against invasion. China's increasing power and aggression is raising questions in Japan about the reliability of American security promises. North Korea's nuclear missile capability and its unpunished threats to preemptively strike the U.S. and its allies has raised even more questions about U.S. reliability. The new defense white paper, which was accompanied by a substantial increase in Japan's defense spending, shows that Tokyo's confidence in America guaranteeing its safety is fading fast.



Japanese military helicopter

6 | RUSSIA

Stocking up on warships

The Russian Navy will receive 36 warships in 2013, reports on July 8 said, marking the largest increase in the country's history. Russian warships are undertaking missions in all oceans of the world; more than 60 combat ships are now at sea.

5 | CHINA
6 | RUSSIA

Trade soars

China and Russia are on course to meet their goal of \$100 billion in bilateral trade volume in 2014, a year faster than planned. Sergey Tsyplakov, trade representative of the Russian Federation in China, stated on June 14 this goal is "completely within reach" by 2015 "and is expected to be realized in 2014 despite the downturn in the first quarter." With \$88.16 billion trade volume between the two in 2012, China is Russia's largest trading partner, and economic cooperation between the Asian giants is steadily growing.



Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega concludes a framework agreement with a Chinese representative on June 14.

1 | NICARAGUA 2 | PANAMA

Another Central American canal?

IN WHAT IS EITHER THE BIGGEST MEGA-project Latin America has seen in over a century, or a massive political ploy, Nicaragua signed a \$40 billion deal on June 14 that allows a Chinese company to dig a canal through the country and connect the Pacific Ocean with the Atlantic.

The United States built the famous Panama Canal in 1914, a transoceanic waterway that has operated for 99 years and services more than 13,000 vessels a year. In 1999, the U.S. gave up its rights to the canal, and a Chinese firm signed an exclusive 25-year lease with Panama allowing it to operate the canal's entry and exit points with an option to renew for 25 more years. The first term ends in about a decade. The anticipated time of completion for the Nicaraguan canal is *11 years or less*.

Could Panama be resisting Beijing, somehow preventing the renewal from going the way the Chinese want? Some

in Beijing say Panama is still too heavily influenced by America. What better way, then, for Beijing to pressure the Panamanians than with a threat to build a bigger, better canal just to the north?

Legitimate or not, the canal news will have one consequence Beijing may not expect. As in China, geographic constraints prompt Europe to reach beyond its borders to obtain resources needed to fuel its rise. The religion and languages shared by Europe and Latin America bind the two together as sister continents. But China has become the fastest-growing investor in Latin America.

As China's footprint in Latin America grows, Europe will strive to bolster its own presence there. At present, the lack of cohesion among European nations hampers this, but China's deepening inroads into places like Nicaragua will act as a catalyst for EU unity.



4 | BRAZIL How to stop a protest

In late June, Brazil saw its largest protests in a generation, with a total turnout estimated at 2 million people. The mass demonstrations saw Rio de Janeiro and dozens of other cities clouded with teargas and echoing with percussion grenades. The mayhem was ignited by public anger about a government decision to increase bus fares, but it spread rapidly to include an array of grievances. "Halt evictions," "Stop corruption. Change Brazil," protesters' placards read. The demonstrations prompted President



Pope Francis visits Brazil.

Dilma Rousseff to announce some modest political and public health systems reforms. However, tension remains high.

Then, with fortuitous timing, Pope Francis landed in Rio on July 22, where he began the Catholic Church's World Youth Day. Of all institutions in Brazil, the church alone has the capacity to unite Brazil's people. In its present discontent, Brazil is ripe for a revival of Catholicism. What adds to this prospect is that Francis is from neighboring Argentina.

Bible prophecy indicates that the Roman Catholic religion is the force that will bind regional kingships in Europe together in the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire (Revelation 13, 17). The *Trumpet* has long predicted that Latin America, sharing both language and religion with Europe, it will be attached to that empire. The empire needs Latin America's raw materials to drive its economy forward. The pope's tremendous popularity in Brazil, on display in this recent visit, portends the Vatican's growing influence in Brazil.

3 | CUBA Rogue states thick as thieves

A secret shipment of missile components from Cuba on a North Korean ship was discovered on July 15. The seizure is raising new worries that the two Communist nations are covertly engaged in a ballistic missile trade. The shipment violates UN Security Council resolutions banning transit of military goods to or from North Korea. Richard Fisher, senior fellow at the International Assessment and Strategy Center, said the discovery should alarm Washington. "North Korea, a country soon to be in a position to export nuclear-warhead-armed ballistic missiles, now has a missile relationship with Cuba," he said. "So in Latin America there is the prospect that North Korea, already a major missile technology partner for Iran, may become a competitor or partner for Iran in aiding the proliferation of missile and potentially nuclear weapons technology among the leftist, anti-American grouping of Latin states for which

Cuba is a major leader." The combination of Cuba's proximity to the U.S. and North Korea's threats to preemptively strike America with nuclear missiles makes the two nations' cooperation potentially explosive.

A Pattern of Good Works

Does your example lead others to God?

WHEN GOD CALLED THE ISRAELITES OUT OF EGYPT, HE intended to lead them out of that worldly system into a *new* way of life. He wanted Israel to establish a *new pattern*—a godly lifestyle that submitted to God’s government and laws.

By Israel’s example, all other nations would be able to see firsthand the blessings that naturally result from following God’s laws. Israel, though, failed at this high calling. Rather than setting a righteous pattern for the rest of the world to follow, the Israelites followed after the world’s wicked pattern.



PRINCIPLES OF LIVING
STEPHEN FLURRY

Today, God has given His Church—spiritual Israel—the responsibility of setting the right example for this world. He expects us to succeed where ancient Israel failed. Our way of life should serve as an example the world can follow.

At Herbert W. Armstrong College, students receive an abundance of instruction based on that godly pattern: how to pray, the keys to understanding the Bible, the principles of proper nutrition, the art of true Christian fellowship and dating, good sportsmanship, and so on. The way of life students practice at Armstrong College PROVES God’s way is best.

In 1 Timothy 4:12, the Apostle Paul highlighted the importance of establishing a godly pattern of conduct. He told Timothy, “Let no one despise or think less of you because of your youth, but be an example [or pattern] for the believers, in *speech*, in *conduct*, in *love*, in *faith* and in *purity*” (Moffatt).

Timothy, though young, was expected to set the right example. Paul wanted the brethren to see a righteous pattern that they could follow.

In today’s world, this rarely happens. Most “leaders” just tell people how they should live without actually setting the example themselves. But true Christian leaders practice what they preach. Of course, everyone makes mistakes. But if a person is following God’s lifestyle, the example he sets will be one of constantly correcting bad habits and overcoming.

Verse 15 continues, “Practice and cultivate and meditate upon these duties, *throw yourself wholly into them*, so that your PROGRESS may be evident to everybody” (Moffatt). Meditate on God’s laws. Put those laws into practice. Give yourself wholly to the task. If you do, your progress will be evident before all!

Titus 2:6-8 also underscore the importance of EXAMPLE: “Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In ALL THINGS *shewing thyself a pattern of good works*: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be

condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.”

What a responsibility! We are here to practice a pattern of good works. That’s what true Christianity is all about. It’s a way of life—God’s way of living. God wants that righteous pattern on display for others to follow.

A Christian isn’t someone who merely learns *about* the Bible—it’s someone who LIVES it! Unless it changes our behavior, God’s Word serves no purpose.

Is your conduct blameless and above reproach? If someone started following your example today, even in the smallest ways, what kind of lifestyle would they live?

In Ezekiel 43, God showed His prophet a vision of His headquarters to be established in Jerusalem during the World Tomorrow. In verse 10, God says, “Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and LET THEM MEASURE THE PATTERN.”

“CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW THE EZEKIEL TEMPLE WILL ALTER THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD?” my father asks in *Ezekiel—the End-Time Prophet*. “How it will capture the imagination of all earthly inhabitants? ... The world will focus on the Ezekiel temple and have their thinking and way of life revolutionized! Then the whole world will be stirred and inspired to obey God.”

You could say we’ve been given a small foretaste of that headquarters vision with Armstrong Auditorium, here in Edmond, Oklahoma. This fabulous edifice, along with its exquisite concerts and musicals, has had a positive impact on the community in Oklahoma. Visiting Armstrong Auditorium for a concert uplifts the human spirit!

God told Ezekiel, “And IF THEY BE ASHAMED of all that they have done, show them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them” (verse 11). It still serves God’s pur-

If someone started following your example today, what kind of lifestyle would they live?

pose to establish that pattern—even if people reject God’s lifestyle. God says show them the FORM of the WORK of the building so they might be ashamed. A righteous example, in other words, serves as a visible warning to those who will not amend their ways.

Let them measure the pattern, God says. He can’t force repentance. But if people are willing, they can measure and prove everything about God’s way of life by simply examining the work of God’s true Church!

God’s work—of which you can be a part—is here to give this world hope! Even as this evil world falls apart, God tells His people to get out and build, both spiritually and physically.

Let your light shine so others might see, Jesus said. Show the world a righteous pattern, God told Ezekiel. Be an example in conduct, Paul admonished his young assistant Timothy.

In ALL THINGS, show yourself to be a *pattern* of good works!

supporters, and also makes money through the drug and “blood diamond” trades, extortion and, in some cases, legitimate businesses.

Iran also appears to be building up weapons caches throughout the area for Hezbollah to use, should Tehran want the organization to become more active. Nigerian authorities arrested four Hezbollah agents in northern Nigeria’s biggest city, Kano, between May 16 and 28. The operatives had thousands of rounds of ammunition and a small arsenal of weapons.

Just days earlier, on May 13, two men were sentenced to five years in prison for their involvement in a 2010 plot to ship 240 metric tonnes of heavy weapons and ammunition to Gambia. One of the men, Azim Aghajani, is believed to be a member of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards’ infamous Quds Force. Conflict Armament Research reports that this could have been the third such shipment.

In February, Nigerian authorities arrested three men they accused of being members of an Iranian-trained terrorist cell that planned to attack U.S. and Israeli targets.

It has become clear, *Haaretz* concluded, “that Nigeria, Africa’s most populous nation, has become a hotbed for Iranian/Hezbollah terrorist activities” (June 17).

But Nigeria isn’t Hezbollah’s only base of operations in Africa. In June, the U.S. Treasury Department identified four men—one in Sierra Leone, one in Senegal and two in the Ivory Coast—as Hezbollah leaders in their respective areas, responsible for transferring funds to the organization.

We have yet to see Hezbollah’s full capabilities in Africa. The terrorists have been caught smuggling and hoarding weapons, but not using them. These individuals remain an asset that Iran can call upon at will. Working in conjunction with other terrorist groups or rebel armies, Hezbollah could do more than carry out terrorist attacks. It has the potential to destabilize nations.

Al Qaeda Affiliate Groups

The relationship between Iran and al Qaeda is dangerously misunderstood. Too many take false comfort in the Sunni/Shia divide, arguing that these two could never work together because they come from different

branches of Islam. The war in Syria, at first glance, supports this view. Al Qaeda sends its men and resources to support the rebels, while Iran and Hezbollah prop up Syrian President Bashar Assad. But the truth is that the al Qaeda/Iran relationship is much more complicated.

The Sunni-Shia divide is real and significant. But Iran and al Qaeda’s hatred for the West is even more powerful. The two groups have fought in the past—but they have also patched things up and fought the West together. Moreover, al Qaeda is not a unified bloc, but rather a loose coalition of militants fighting under the same brand name. A local commander in North Africa doesn’t care who Iran is fighting in Syria, provided he gets the weapons he wants.

Al Qaeda and Iran maintain a cozy relationship, according to U.S. Treasury Department reports. In the summer of 2011, the Treasury announced that the U.S. had uncovered an al Qaeda network operating inside Iran under an agreement with the Iranian government. “Iran is a critical transit point for funding to support al Qaeda’s activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan,” it wrote.

“Al Qaeda’s core financial pipeline—which runs from Kuwait and Qatar, through Iran, to Pakistan—*depends upon an agreement between al Qaeda and the Iranian government* to allow this network to operate within its borders,” Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David S. Cohen said in his October 2011 written testimony (emphasis added throughout).

The next February, the Treasury reported that Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence and Security “has facilitated the movement of al Qaeda operatives in Iran and provided them with documents, identification cards, and passports.” The Treasury said that Iran had “also provided money and weapons to al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) ... and negotiated prisoner releases of AQI operatives.”

Then again in October 2012, Cohen unveiled new material that highlighted “Iran’s ongoing complicity in this network’s operation.” At this point, the Syrian conflict was well underway. Yet Iran and al Qaeda were still working together.

“Under the terms of the agreement between al Qaeda and Iran, al Qaeda must refrain from conducting any operations within Iranian territory and recruiting operatives inside Iran while keeping Iranian authorities informed of their

activities,” wrote the Treasury Department. “In return, the government of Iran gave the Iran-based al Qaeda network freedom of operation and uninhibited ability to travel for extremists and their families.”

What will be the fruits of this relationship? These kinds of links can often take years to fully uncover. Last November, a Washington District Court heard that Iran trained the al Qaeda operatives behind the 1998 embassy bombings in Kenya. Have more recent attacks in Africa been carried out as a joint venture between al Qaeda and Iran? It took 14 years for Iran’s involvement in the Kenya bombings to become public. It may take time before all the facts are known, but already there’s some good evidence that Iran had a hand in the Benghazi attack.

In May, Egyptian authorities arrested three militants armed with 22 pounds of explosives and bomb-making equipment. Egyptian Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim told journalists that the group had received instructions from an al Qaeda leader called Dawoud al Asadi—an alias for the leader of al Qaeda in Iran. To cement the connection even further, Ibrahim said that one of the three terrorists had received military training in Iran.

Ibrahim said that Asadi (aka Fadhli) told the terrorists to get in touch with a group known as “the Nasr City Cell”—an Egyptian-based group, which has now been rounded up, with strong connections to both al Qaeda and the Benghazi attack.

Al Qaeda in Iran was working with some of the planners of the Benghazi attack.

Under its agreement with Iran, al Qaeda had to keep the Iranian government up to date with its activities. Did Iran merely *know about* the Benghazi attack, or was it a key part of it? As with the attack on the embassies in Kenya, the proof might not emerge for years.

But in another part of Africa, there is, almost literally, a smoking gun. In September 2011, the Nigerien military captured weapons and ammunition from al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). It included ammunition that Conflict Armament Research identified as originating in Iran. In May 2012, the Nigeriens intercepted a shipment of weapons that also contained Iranian-manufactured ammunition.

To the east, in Somalia, al Shabaab also maintains strong links to Iran and is affiliated with al Qaeda.

Iran's patronage of al Shabaab's predecessor, the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), is clear. The United Nations monitoring group in Somalia discovered several instances of Iran supplying it with weapons, including surface-to-air missiles.

Around the same time, the ICU sent 720 of its best fighters to Lebanon to fight alongside Hezbollah. Some of the fighters stayed after the fighting for advanced training. In return, Hezbollah arranged for Iran and Syria to give the ICU some extra support.

Since then, the ICU has changed its name to al Shabaab and became the official Somalian wing of al Qaeda. But Iran's support has continued. In July, UN monitors reported that Iran could be using illegal fishing boats to ship weapons to al Shabaab.

The New Great Game

One hundred years ago, Britain and Russia fought what became known as "the Great Game" over control of Central Asia. The prizes included a land route to India, lucrative trade deals and access to any resources that could be discovered.

Today, some people speak of a new colonization of Africa. But that's not accurate. As Europe gets more involved, it isn't sending thousands of settlers to rule the continent. Instead, we are seeing a new "Great Game."

Europe needs access to Africa's resources. Iran wants to be able to cut off those resources, even for just a short time. So Germany arms friendly governments to fight Islamists. France, Germany's ally, stays closely involved in the politics of its former colonies, maintaining military bases and even backing coups.

death could give the Islamists a chance to take over.

That is why Germany has been hugely supportive of Algeria's military. It plans to sell Algeria \$10 billion of weapons over the next decade.

The last part of Daniel 11:40 describes a clash between the "king of the north" and the "king of the south" that begins the chain of events that leads to Christ's return. Right now, in Africa, both of these powers are preparing for that clash. In fact, they're already clashing in Mali and Algeria. The Great Game is played primarily by individuals out of the public eye. In how many other countries are Iranian and European agents vying for control?

In his article in April, Mr. Flurry called these clashes a "prelude to the fulfillment of this prophecy." This is what the "game"

PRACTICE, PRACTICE Iranian soldiers prepare a surface-to-air missile during war games last November.



PRIDE IN THEIR POWER Iranian special forces march in Tehran during 'Army Day' in April.



It also reported that the African Union's mission in Somalia had captured several "nearly new" rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers that "closely resemble Iranian-manufactured" launchers. Monitors are also investigating a ship seized in January in Yemen that was packed with weapons and fuel. The UN believes some of that cargo could have been bound for Somalia.

On their own, each of these incidents of cooperation between al Qaeda and Iran would be interesting, though not conclusive. Together they paint a pattern of broad cooperation across Africa and the Middle East.

Hezbollah and al Qaeda are undoubtedly the two most powerful terrorist groups in the world. By working together with Iran's support, they have nation-destroying potential.

Germany is also looking for allies as it prepares to confront Iran, and bases it can use to push Iran back.

Meanwhile, Iran looks for friends among nations the West has rejected or ignored. It funnels weapons to its terrorist allies as it tries to exploit weaknesses in the nations Europe supports.

In Mali, the "game" turned into war. How involved Iran was is unknown. The fall of Qadhafi in Libya sent a torrent of weapons into the area. The rise of al Qaeda in Mali suited Iran's agenda, but its assistance wasn't really needed.

Algeria could be the next flash point. There, 76-year-old President Abdel Aziz Bouteflika is Algeria's longest ever serving president. He suffered a mini-stroke in April and may not live much longer. His

in North Africa is all about. These two powers are preparing to fight—they are jockeying for position. Once the situation comes to blows, Iran wants to be able to cut off the resources Europe desperately needs, strangling its economy. Meanwhile, Germany wants to be able to quickly take control of the region.

"A GREAT PROPHECY OF YOUR BIBLE IS ABOUT TO BE FULFILLED!" wrote Mr. Flurry in April. "You need to watch what is happening in the Middle East and Africa!" Nowhere can you see the buildup to World War III more clearly than in North Africa. The media may ignore it, but the events in this region give a powerful warning to the world. In the silent war in Africa, we see a preview of the conflict that is about to ignite world war. ■

DISCUSSION BOARD

Perspective on the scandals

With all of these scandals raging it's easy to become worried and even angry ("Why All These Scandals?" August). The comment about an evil spirit working to destroy the nation really puts things into perspective. I'm sure that there are many people that will just laugh at that. Thank you for stripping away the whitewash, Mr. Flurry, and for providing the perspective that no one else in the world is.

John Mooney—MASSACHUSETTS

I think we need to be careful, all of us, to assume God put our politicians, government employees and other hired hands "over us" or to have "authority over us." We, the people, pay *all* of the bills. The taxpayers are the boss, the ultimate owners of this country. One of the reasons our country is in so much trouble is because we can't seem to realize our Constitution gave we, the people, the *powers* over our government and politicians. I get sick and tired when I hear preachers or others say to pray for those in government who have "authority" over us. The citizens are supposed to have authority over our hired hands who are fortunate enough to represent us for a temporary period of time. We had a lowly congressman come to our town and—not to be sacrilegious—it was as if Jesus Christ Himself had come to town the way hundreds of people fawned all over him and bowed down to him. We worship popularity these days instead of beliefs and values. I was so embarrassed by this hero worship of one of our hired hands in Washington. We also today in the U.S. seem to worship anything in a government uniform, no matter the conduct or morality of that person.

William Mark

You are correct that we should never worship or put our trust in a man, including a governing official (e.g. Psalm 118:8-9; 146:3). That we should pray for our officials, however, comes from the Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 2:1-2). And the fact that God claims ultimate authority to put leaders in power—even, in cases, as a curse to a



disobedient people—is affirmed throughout Scripture, as is our responsibility to be subject to them (Proverbs 8:15-16; Daniel 2:21; 4:32; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 2 Peter 2:13-17).

As a kid I didn't really appreciate the Constitution the way I should have. Now it doesn't exist anymore, and we are about to learn a priceless lesson for all time as to why it matters so much.

James Brady—NEW JERSEY

Exposing the hidden agenda

Never let a crisis go to waste—isn't that the same mindset of Adolf Hitler's minister of propaganda and enlightenment, Dr. Paul Joseph Göbbels? ("Never Let a Crisis Go to Waste," August). From what I have read, the Nazis created situations of crisis in order to promote their agenda. It's the same spirit behind it.

Christi Miller—TEXAS

Wow! What a read! Thank you for writing this in-depth article that points to the source of all these scandals besetting modern Israel. Just like the conspirators of spiritual Israel (inside the WCG), the conspirators of physical Israel are following the same pattern of lies and deceit, and destruction is the end result. As the prophecies of spiritual Israel's fall have come to fruition, we can only look on as the world's most powerful nation is sucked into immorality and reaps the rewards for complete lawlessness. At the same time, we are refreshed, knowing God is already restoring His law, and righteous government in the minds of his saints. We look forward to the time just ahead of us when we will be able to restore peace to all the families and nations on this Earth.

Rohann Smith—SOUTH AFRICA

Go for broccoli

This is one of the most balanced articles on diets I have ever read ("Belly On, Belly Off," August). Facts, especially these biblical facts, are what we need the most on

this subject. The point you made about the American Heart Association charging for their stamp of approval was shocking! Thanks for all the research that went into this article. *JDG*

Daily bread

The article hit my heart and mind really hard ("Energize Your Bible Study," August). My Bible study has been on and off, and I can honestly sense I have not been receiving my daily bread. I completely let my daily life come before my heavenly Father and what He wants me to know. This article and God's words made me realize how selfish I have been and how I really was not seeing the big picture at hand. Another thing I have realized is that because my study and time with the Lord has lacked, so have other parts in my life. God's Word and the eagerness in

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wanting to learn and know more about our Lord is more important than we tend to realize. I thank you so much for bringing this to my attention. I pray the Lord continues to inspire and bless you with your work.

Colleen O'Brien

In need of a new term

I think the term “political correctness” becomes ineffective, insipid and trite nowadays to describe the poison that particularly the West is taking towards self-destruction and self-immolation (“Britain’s Utopium,” August). We need a more jolting and strong term to describe such malignancy. “Political correctness” may even be a term coined by the left? The left knows when you control how you define an issue, you already have won half of the battles. Why not replace “political correctness” by out-and-out

blatant censorship, which evokes more emotions, protests and opposition, thus waking up the generally lethargic public.

Edwin Manalo—PHILIPPINES

All one needs to do is look in the history books (if you can still even find any that haven’t been edited for political correctness), and see that Islam has always been a religion of blood, not peace. When the Moors conquered most of what is now Europe in the early 700s, they did it with blood, not by seeking peace agreements with the peoples they were attempting to conquer. Hiding one’s head in the sand and ignoring the truth doesn’t change anything. Many Islamists have proclaimed there will only be peace when the whole world is under Islamic rule. A great showdown is rapidly approaching where war and blood is the only

option left. We will never “all live happily together” until Christ returns and forces us to do so. May that day come quickly!

David Hallett—WASHINGTON

Us against us

Let’s look at the log. Traditional marriage hasn’t been taken from us by 20-year-olds or a gay conspiracy (“The Shrewd Strategy Behind Same-Sex ‘Marriage,’” August). We adults actually changed traditional marriage during the past 50 years through no-fault divorce laws and serial monogamy and remarriage. Current marriage, in essence, has turned into an on-ramp for health insurance and pension benefits. We opened the door. When it comes to traditional marriage, it is not us against them, it’s us against us. Why marriage, indeed!

Raisin



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SOCIETYWATCH



Monster High
Ghouls Rule Dolls

Dolls with fangs

Goth Barbie is now the best-selling doll in the world, after Barbie. The dolls of Monster High, made by Mattel, the world's biggest toy company, are bone-thin "beauties" all related to famous monsters freaks. Two of the biggest hits are Snow White zombie and the Little Mermaid zombie. The dolls, designed for girls ages 6 to 12, celebrate our "freaky flaws," says Cathy Cline, marketing director for Mattel's girls' brands. Monster High is one of the fastest-growing brands within the entire toy industry. Mattel says girls today are more into dark fashion—fishnets and fangs—than traditional Barbie.

Morning-after pills for all

The Obama administration announced June 10 it will allow the morning-after pill Plan B One-Step to be sold to girls and women of all ages without prescription or proof of identity. It was appealing a district court ruling that made the pill available to females

age 15 and up without prescription, but then dropped the appeal. Women's rights groups hail the move as "a huge breakthrough" in the fight for women's

health and equality. The decision, however, shows contempt for parental rights, limits parental influence in children's

lives, and makes a pill widely accessible that is a potential form of abortion—which is murder.

Most British children born out of wedlock

Fifty-four percent of children born to British-born mothers in 2012 were born to unmarried parents, according to Britain's Office of National Statistics. Overall, 47.5 percent of children born last year were born out of wedlock. The only reason a majority of children were born to married parents is that immigrant mothers are far likelier to be married. Britain's families have declined to the point that Britain is a world leader in broken homes.



President Obama
visits Senegalese
President Sall

Homosexual foreign policy

Beyond supporting homosexuality in America, the Obama administration has worked to promote homosexuality around the world. In June 2011, the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan held its first-ever Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender "pride celebration." Since then, the U.S. government has worked to promote homosexual rights elsewhere, making history in different nations, especially within Africa, which is largely against homosexual "marriage." In June 2012, the first-ever "gay pride" event in Kenya was held at the U.S. Embassy. In June this year, a similar event took place at the U.S. Embassy in the Ivory Coast—also the first time a "gay pride" event had been held in that nation. During his trip to Africa the same month, President Barack Obama pushed for Senegal to loosen its restrictions on same-sex "marriage."



Sequester cuts mean
fewer combat troops.

Sequester to shrink U.S. Army

On June 25, the Army announced it would cut the number of combat brigades from 45 to 33 by 2017 to meet budget-cutting goals. Army officials said one brigade would be cut from 10 bases across the U.S., along with two brigades in Germany. With this round of cuts, the Army is essentially trimming the fat of its forces: The 80,000 troops to be let go are largely from support or administrative units; Army combat units will be largely unaffected. However, if automatic budget reductions take effect next year, the Army warned that another 100,000 soldiers or more could be cut either from active duty, the National Guard or Army Reserve. This would cut deep into America's military muscle.

Multiplying Mr. Moms

The number of American dads who remain home to care for children while mothers work full-time has doubled since 2001. Today, 3.5 percent of men stay home to care for the children. One reason is finances: Women are obtaining more college degrees than men, and about 28 percent of married mothers in the U.S. now make more money than their husbands. This represents an inversion of the biblically proscribed roles of man as provider and woman as homemaker.



A Better Textbook for Mental Health

An alternative to the flawed psychology manual and its drug-laced ‘cures.’ **BY RON FRASER**

“DO YOU PREFER WORKING WITH PEOPLE OR THINGS?” the question read on a career choice test I took when I was young. My response was “people.”

My eventual career in human resources required at least some study in psychology, which is where I soon discovered that the whole field of human behaviorists was infected by an anti-God, evolutionary rationale. For more than a century, this pseudo-science has claimed to offer answers to the most fundamental of human questions.

It now stands largely revealed as a fraud. Take the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. First published in 1952, it is now in its fifth edition. It has become the global standard for describing, categorizing and treating mental illness. As the *Economist* claimed on May 18, it is regarded by professional psychologists as “holy writ.”

Yet the book “remains a flawed attempt to categorize mental illness. ... In the eyes of many critics it is a vehicle for misdiagnosis, overdiagnosis, the medicalization of normal behavior and the prescription of a large number of unnecessary drugs” (ibid).

Despite these flaws, “[i]nsurers use it to decide whether or not to cover ailments. And diagnoses based on it determine whether people get special services at school; whether they qualify for disability benefits; whether they are stigmatized in their careers; even whether they are able to adopt children. Doctors, patients, drug companies and insurers have all thus been waiting for the latest edition of what has become known as the psychiatric bible” (ibid).

Allen Frances, the lead psychiatrist for the fourth edition, declares in a piece he wrote for the *Huffington Post*, “The publication of DSM-5 is a sad moment for psychiatry and a risky one for patients. My recommendation for clinicians is simple. Don’t use DSM-5—there is nothing official about it, nothing especially helpful in it...” (May 16). He admits that the psychologist’s bible has “not stopped the rise in the number of allegedly recognizable and nameable mental conditions, many of which annex into psychiatry things that the man in the street would think normal, if not always desirable, behavior.”

One of the saddest situations has to do with psychologists’ diagnosis of child behavior. Following Dr. Benjamin Spock’s admission that his works on child rearing were quite wrong and had produced an undesirable result in the baby boomer generation, today’s psychologists are categorizing common child behaviors as “illnesses.”

ADHD, for example, has been a childhood “illness” for decades. And as the *Economist* notes, “Children may now, for example, be diagnosed with ‘disruptive mood dysregulation disorder’ [DMDD]—what used to be known as temper tantrums.” When I was a child, the schoolteacher quite correctly identified these “disorders” as resulting from poor parenting. Children who were well disciplined at home were well disciplined at school and were able to learn. And we used to have a way of dealing with “DMDD” that really worked: Proverbs 13:24.

More than one in 10 American children have been diagnosed with ADHD or DMDD and have been prescribed drugs to counter the “illness.”

Almost 40 years ago, when I began studying psychology as a student, I could not help but note that the names at the forefront of this field were Germanic. From Wilhelm Wundt, most often identified as the “father of psychology,” to Hermann von Helmholtz, Gustav Fechner and Ernst Weber, many early authors of psychology textbooks had a uniquely Teutonic tone and hailed from the school of German rationalists. That same school discounted biblical revelation and replaced that foundation with its own pseudo-science: the theory of evolution.

Then came Sigmund Freud, right when the industrialized modern world was kicking over the traces of traditional norms of behavior, the epoch known as the “gay ’90s”—with his perverse theories on dreams. And on the other side of the pond, American philosopher and psychologist William James exerted his influence on a generation of Harvard graduates. Freud and James influenced intellectual circles powerfully from the 1890s through to the mid-20th century.

From the 1950s on, America became the hotbed of psychological theory and experimentation. Now, 60 years after the first edition of DSM, ignorance has bred still greater ignorance, to the point that the fourth edition’s chief editor declares the fifth edition as useless.

Here is the irony. Our “experts” on human behavior rely on an admittedly false text, diagnosing false “disorders” and prescrib-

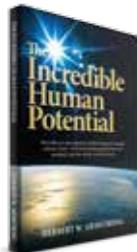
We have at our disposal a textbook written by our Maker. It contains the truth about human behavior and the purpose of human life.

ing false “cures.” Yet we have at our disposal a textbook written by *our Maker!* It contains the truth about human behavior and the purpose of human life!

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote a book based on this revealed knowledge called *The Incredible Human Potential*. It reveals the plain, simple truth: that your Creator desires for your life to be filled with success, free of “science falsely so called” (1 Timothy 6:20). It describes the truth about the enigmatic human brain and, even more importantly, the human *mind*.

If you sense that something is missing—if not terribly wrong—with psychology and psychiatry, you owe it to yourself to consider this eye-opening, Bible-based book. It shows that there is a pharmaceutical-free, clear, trustworthy, inspiring manual

out there that contains guaranteed diagnoses and cures for human behavior: the Word of God, our Maker’s own textbook for success in this life! ■



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► **THRONE** from page 1

God gave the rulers on that throne a clear warning in the Bible about how they would be corrected if they sinned. “I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men” (2 Samuel 7:14). God wanted to make the ruler His son (or daughter), and He would be their Father. The Hebrew word for “name” in verse 13 could also be translated *family*. The covenant was made so that this throne would be a part of God’s Family! It’s a God Family throne. God is going to use that throne to build Himself a family of sons and daughters. *You* have the potential to be born into God’s own Family—to become a son of God, which means becoming God! (Philippians 3:21; Revelation 1:10-14; Psalm 17:15; 2 Peter 1:4).

THAT IS A ZILLION TIMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHETHER OR NOT PRINCE GEORGE IS GOING TO BE CIRCUMCISED!

Also, Christ is going to marry the firstfruits—those saints called out and converted before His Second Coming (Revelation 19:7).

Would the Eternal God marry any beings less than created Gods—sons of God?

Men were created *not* after the animal kind, but after the God kind (Genesis 1:25-26). That means man has the potential to become created sons and daughters of God! The *firstfruits* are now being created spiritually into the image, or character and mind, of God.

All of those *firstfruits* who remain loyal *will share David’s throne with Christ*. Only God beings could be so honored.

NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE UNLESS HUMAN BEINGS ARE WILLING TO SEE THEIR OWN MIND-SPLITTING POTENTIAL!

God has given us a tangible throne on this Earth so we can better understand the depth of God’s hope and our potential.

But this world can’t seem to rise above trivia.

People refuse to understand even the *physical* signs. And where can you find a greater physical sign on this Earth than David’s throne? It leaves Britain and other nations without excuse, and God is going to hold them accountable.

If the rulers on that throne sin, God said He would chasten them with the stripes of men. Often that means God would cause them to be defeated in significant military battles or wars.

Still, David’s throne always continues. “But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David” (2 Samuel 7:15-17). That throne must continue. It was established forever.

What if the royal family of Britain fails to heed God’s extremely strong warning? God will send destroyers against the rulers sitting on David’s throne who forsake God’s covenant with David (Jeremiah 22:7-9). Jeremiah is very descriptive of their end.

That punishment will help cause the modern nations of Israel (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains which nations they are) and the world to know God. They will know that He does exactly what He prophesied in the Bible. Then

most people will decide to obey Him and the Earth will be filled with hope and joy forever! ■

THE KEY OF DAVID

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

CW Plus, Chan. 34, 9:30 ET/PT, Sun
Discovery, Chan. 278, 6:30 ET/PT, Sun
ION, Chan. 305, 6:00 ET, Fri
WGN, Chan. 307, 8:00 ET, Sun

Dish Network

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

Nationwide Cable

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

Alabama, Birmingham WPMH 5:00, Fri
Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun
Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun
Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun
Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun
Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun
Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri; KAZT 8:00, Sun
Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30, Sun
Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun
Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun
Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun
Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun
Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun
California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun
Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30, Sun
Los Angeles KPKN 6:00, Fri; TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun
Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT 9:30, Sun
Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri; TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
Salinas KION 9:30, Sun
San Diego TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
San Francisco KPXP 6:00, Fri
Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun
Sun City/Menifee TVCLT-Bilingual, 7:30 Sun
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Grand Junction KCJT 8:30, Sun
Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun
Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri
Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun
Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun
Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun
Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri
Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri
Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri
Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun
Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun
Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/ WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun
West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun
Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun
Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri
Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun
Macon WBMM 9:30, Sun
Savannah WGSB/WGCW-LP 9:30, Sun
Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed
Kauai Ho’Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue
Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akahu Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon
Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am Sat (Olelo) Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO Chan. 333 3:30 am, Sun The Discovery Channel
Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30, Sun
Pocatello KPIF 10:30, Sun
Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30, Sun
Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Chicago WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 12.1 9:30, Sun
Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun
Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri
Des Moines KFPM 5:00, Fri
Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun
Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun
Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30, Sun
Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30, Sun
El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
Lafayette KLWB 8:30, Sun
Lake Charles WBLC 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun
Presque Isle WBQP 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WBOT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKQ 9:30, Sun
Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/ WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGW 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun

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



Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun
Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
West Point WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
St. Joseph WBJO 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun
Helena KMTF-DT 10:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun
Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun
North Platte KNOP 10:30, Sun; KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBXI 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun
Elmira WBY 9:30, Sun
New York City TVCLT-Bilingual, 10:30 Sun
WPXN 6:00, Fri
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WBU 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WBW 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun

Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WLIQ-DT 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun
Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVII/KVII-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas TVCLT-Bilingual, 9:30 Sun
Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun
Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun

Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Pasco KEPR 6:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KPWX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPO 7:00, Sun
Spokane KGXP 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLXP 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WBPB 9:30, Sun
Weston WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WOOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WOOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30, Sun
Cheyenne KCHW 10:30, Sun
Riverton 10:30, Sun

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; CKPO 7:00, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun
Ontario, Ottawa CJOH 5:30, Sun
Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun
P.E.I., Charlottetown WUHF 8:30, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00, Sun
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon WUHF 8:30, Sun

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Regional satellite
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun
Bahamas Discovery Chan. 26, 6:30, Sun
 FOX W Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

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

AUSTRALASIA

New Zealand TVNZ, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV4 9:30 PHT, Sun

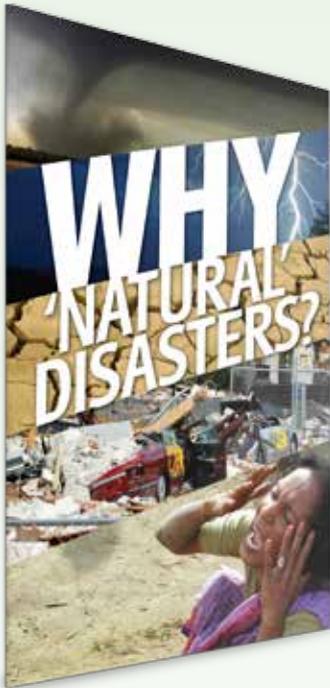
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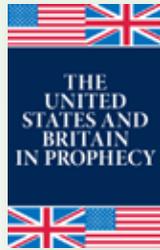
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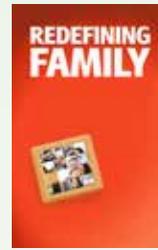
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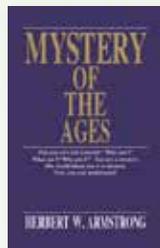
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