

NO SURPRISE
The Ukraine crisis
was prophesied

The tragedy of
watching Fallujah
return to al Qaeda

Peace is
possible in
your home!

What is
the true
gospel?

THE PHILADELPHIA
TRUMPET

MARCH 2014 | THETRUMPET.COM

A detailed illustration of Pope Francis, shown from the chest up, wearing his white papal attire and zucchetto. He is looking down with a gentle, caring expression at a glowing globe of the Earth that he is cradling with both hands. The globe shows the continents of North and South America. The background is a soft, warm, golden light.

The Savior?

**Pope Francis's plan to heal the
world's broken economies**

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Photo: A demonstrator clashes with police in central Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, on January 22.

Cover illustration: Pope Francis, by Gary Dorning/Trumpet





The Ukraine Crisis Was Prophesied!

Russia's president just pulled Ukraine away from Europe and back into Moscow's orbit. This set events in motion that will change the course of world history. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

ON NOV. 13, 2013, WE FILMED AN EPISODE OF THE *KEY OF David* television program that I developed around Ezekiel 38:1-2. Those scriptures say, "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him'" (New King James Version).

In that episode, which was broadcast on November 24, I showed that this is an end-time prophecy, and stressed my belief that this prophesied Eastern leader—which God inspired Ezekiel to write about 2,500 years ago—**IS IN POWER TODAY**. I said that Russian President Vladimir Putin was almost certainly going to be the "prince of Rosh" that this and other biblical passages say will rise up in this end time, revive Russian power, and "trouble" Europe (Daniel 11:44). This information also formed the basis of my cover story in last month's *Trumpet* edition.

Then, *in the days after that episode was filmed*, events took place in Russia and Europe that strengthened that explanation. **THE EVENTS SHOWED THAT THESE PROPHECIES ARE MARCHING RAPIDLY TOWARD COMPLETE FULFILLMENT!**

A History-Altering U-Turn

Ever since Europe's Eastern Partnership program began in 2009, Ukraine has been working to join it. The plan was for Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to make everything official on Nov. 29, 2013, by signing the deal with the EU. But on November 21, *just a week after that Key of David was filmed*, Yanukovich abruptly announced that he **WOULD NOT** sign the agreement.

Many pundits and analysts were shocked. They had thought Ukraine would make the deal and become part of the EU, or at least become allied with it in some fashion.

Why did the Ukrainian president make such a dramatic U-turn?

It emerged in late November that Mr. Yanukovich had secretly flown to Moscow early in the month to meet with President Putin. No journalists or analysts knew anything about this meeting until November 21 when Yanukovich announced the landmark withdrawal. At the time that I wrote and recorded that *Key of David* episode, the meeting was still a complete secret.

For years, Mr. Putin has threatened and bullied Ukraine. Ukraine is dependent on Russia for its natural gas needs, and three separate times during harsh winters, Moscow has shut off gas flows to Ukraine. In recent months, Putin has tightened the screws, stopping shipments of Ukrainian goods and pressuring the nation, which depends heavily on the Russian market.

This long-term strategy nudged Ukraine dangerously close to financial collapse.

At this secret meeting in early November, Putin apparently agreed to ease up on these crippling measures. He also offered Yanukovich some rich financial rewards that would help him hold on to his power—if the Ukrainian president would pull out of the EU deal.

Experts agree that it was **THESE TACTICS** that caused Ukraine to pull out! "[T]he unprecedented pressure from the Russians was the decisive factor," said former Polish president and intermediary Aleksander Kwasniewski. "The Russians used everything in their arsenal."

What Does It Mean?

After Yanukovich's announcement, about half a million Ukrainians took to the streets of Kiev for mass demonstrations. These people did not want to go back to mother Russia, and did not want to be a part of Vladimir Putin's strategy. For weeks, they protested and demanded Yanukovich's resignation. These protests continue even as I write, and have become violent.

So what does it all mean?

Putin has long known that if Ukraine allies with Europe, it would significantly diminish his power. His ultimate goal is to resurrect the Soviet empire. The architecture of that empire was built around Ukraine being a part of it. Ukraine is the breadbasket of Russia. To this day, Russia's largest military base outside its own borders is in Ukraine.

Putin applied all that pressure on Ukraine because that nation is the *linchpin* of his goal of a renewed imperial Russia! A linchpin is the pin in an axle that keeps the wheel from coming off. Mr. Putin was doing everything in his power to keep the wheels from falling off his dream of a new Soviet empire. And that meant applying intense pressure on Ukraine.

THE FACT THAT ONE MAN—ONE MAN—IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS HUGE GEOPOLITICAL SHIFT IS DEEPLY SIGNIFICANT. It wouldn't have happened without him using his power and having the will to step out and **SHAKE THE NATIONS**, as Haggai says. (Order a copy of our free booklet *Haggai: God Has Begun to Shake the Nations* to understand what this means.)

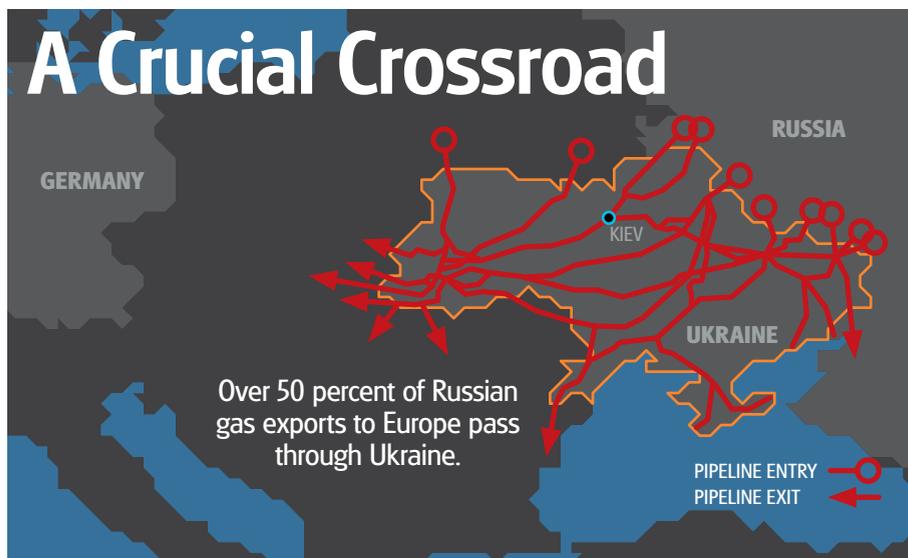
Some leading analysts and journalists have called Putin's move on Ukraine a **MONUMENTAL** crisis. The American media didn't say much about it, but it is nevertheless something that will *change the course of world history*. It is taking us a **GIANT STEP** closer to World War III! Bible prophecy

explains what is happening in Ukraine, and gives vital insight into what is BEHIND it all.

Vladimir Putin's goal is to restore the Soviet Union. And pulling Ukraine back into Moscow's orbit is the linchpin of that goal! In light of this understanding, Ezekiel 38:1-2 take on astounding meaning.

Europe's Response

Mats Persson, director of the Open Europe think tank, said UKRAINE'S DECISION WAS A COLOSSAL DEFEAT FOR THE EURO-



PEAN UNION. "The lesson is that EU's soft-power diplomacy has hit its limits," wrote Ambrose Evans-Pritchard. "Playing carrot and stick doesn't work when you come up against a real hard power like Russia. THIS IS A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT MOMENT" (*Telegraph*, Nov. 22, 2013; emphasis mine throughout).

It is "a highly significant moment" that could cause Germany and Europe to seek a strong leader to counter Putin. Franz Joseph Strauss, a famous German politician in the recent past, said that Germany usually seeks a strongman for emergencies.

Evans-Pritchard made these comments just one day after Yanukovich's announcement: "Twenty years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine is slipping back under Kremlin control. Ukraine's shock decision to opt for Vladimir Putin's Russia and pull out of EU talks on the eve of an historic deal is a dramatic upset to the European balance of power" (ibid).

What does that mean if the whole balance of power is upset? IT MEANS THE COURSE OF WORLD HISTORY HAS CHANGED! That's what Evans-Pritchard is saying, and it is true! The pullout is incredibly damaging to the EU's prestige and power.

What is Europe going to do about it?

So far neither Europe nor America has done much about Russia's bullying. For the United States, we shouldn't expect that to change. But in that television program filmed back on November 13, I warned that *Europe's attention* would soon be captured by Putin's recent behavior—especially in Ukraine!

In my article last month, I elaborated on this warning: "[Putin] rattled some European leaders to their core. ... EUROPE IS DEEPLY ALARMED BY WHAT HAPPENED TO

this country that is right in its own neighborhood! The changes this crisis provokes in Germany and Europe will shake the nations! The Ukraine debacle has taken us a giant step closer to World War III! ... If you study Moscow's foreign policy under Putin's leadership, it is plain that the ultimate goal is to eventually conquer the whole world. Europe is certainly aware of this goal and is closely watching its neighbor to the east" ("Is Vladimir Putin the Prophesied 'Prince of Rosh'"; read this article at theTrumpet.com/go/11228).

Just a couple of weeks after that was written, a certain European leader—a man the *Trumpet* has been studying for some time—revealed that he is deeply aware of Russia's imperialist motives.

Leadership Vacuum

"Putin Is Basking in an 'Astonishing Leadership Vacuum'" was the title of an opinion article that Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg wrote (with Garry Kasparov) for *Time* on January 6. The article revealed that Mr. Guttenberg is very aware of Russia's ambitious goals. He is "CLOSELY WATCHING" Moscow, just as I had said that discerning European leaders would.

Here is some of what Guttenberg wrote: "Since Vladimir Putin's official return to power in 2012, the Russian president seems to have set his mind on teaching the rest of the world ... that he shall not be underestimated on the international stage [and] that

Moscow will keep reasserting control over what it considers to be its legitimate sphere of influence for Russia. ... From Syria and the Snowden saga to blatant human-rights violations and, *most recently, pressuring Ukraine's leadership into a sudden change of heart on its association with the EU*, Putin has managed to bedevil the West all year long. ... When it comes to the honorable title of Bully of the Year, the Russian president surely triumphed in 2013."

Mr. Guttenberg explained the main cause: "The primary reason for Putin's self-aggrandizing behavior is the *astonishing leadership vacuum* in the world."

Guttenberg can see that America is in retreat. That is the main cause for the leadership vacuum he is talking about. It can no longer be looked to for displays of real force. So, he proposes another solution! Guttenberg says Putin's bullying means it's time for *Europe* to take action. Putin has "achieved what no pleas from the U.S. president or fellow European leaders could do: GERMANY FINALLY ASSUMED LEADERSHIP ON A DIFFICULT FOREIGN-POLICY ISSUE. ... RUSSIA'S BEHAVIOR TOWARD UKRAINE MIGHT HAND EUROPE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MORE UNITED AND EFFECTIVE IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY" (ibid).

Bible prophecy says this is precisely what will happen!

Scripture shows that Russia's resurgence will cause Europe to unite in a way that this world can't even imagine. It will help mold Europe into the seventh and final resurrection of the biblically prophesied Holy Roman Empire. This means that the darkest time mankind has ever seen is extremely close! But it's going to lead to the best news this world has ever experienced: THE RETURN OF THE MESSIAH TO END ALL OF MAN'S SUFFERING. The Bible contains more

than a hundred prophecies that tell us that! And yet you hear almost nothing about them.

The European Union has 28 nations now, but such scriptures as Revelation 17:12 show that it is going to be reduced to 10 “kings.” The Bible says 10 kings are going to rule over that Holy Roman Empire led by Germany, and we’ve been proclaiming that for some 70 years. The Scriptures reveal that it is going to be a church-state combine, and it will be a *real* superpower.

Biblical passages such as Daniel 8:23 and Isaiah 10:7 prophesy of a strongman who will rise up to lead Europe through this final crusade in the years just ahead. At the *Trumpet*, we have long viewed Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, the former defense minister of Germany, as the likeliest candidate to become this prophesied strong leader (article, “The Brilliance of Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg,” page 20).

That is why this one act by Vladimir Putin is having such a momentous impact. It is building to history-altering events! We need to continue to watch Europe, and see how individuals like Mr. Guttenberg respond. World events are moving just like a flash of lightning these days. We need to be aware of what’s happening.

Two Individuals

Did you notice that there is a second individual discussed in Ezekiel 38:1-2? This is an Ezekiel-type that God calls “son of man.” God tells this individual to proclaim the message of Ezekiel 38 in the end time.

So there are actually two individuals discussed here: the prince of Rosh, and the man commanded to proclaim the message about him. Two specific individuals! Can you believe that God would get that specific in the Bible? And He tells us we are to live by *every word of God* (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4).

Ezekiel 33:33 says that at a certain future time, people will finally “know that a prophet hath been among them.” They will know it *after* these events come to pass. At that point it will be too late for them to be protected physically, but not spiritually.

Verse 7 of that same chapter speaks of a “watchman.” This same individual who is called a *prophet* in verse 33 is called a *watchman* here. He is also the same individual God commands in Ezekiel 38:2 to watch what is happening in Russia, Ukraine, Europe and elsewhere, and to *WARN* people about it! In Ezekiel 33:7, God says, “I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt *hear the word at my mouth*, and *WARN THEM FROM ME.*” This is not the word of man—it comes right from God’s mouth! That is really significant.

THE BIBLE COMES ALIVE WHEN WE CAN UNDERSTAND SPECIFIC PROPHECIES LIKE THIS!

Is it just coincidence that Putin yanked Ukraine away from the EU right after our program was filmed and just around the time

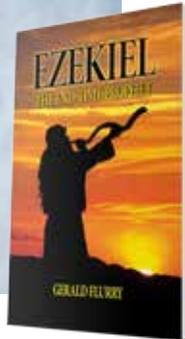


FIGHTING THE POWER

Anti-government protesters in Ukraine destroy a statue of Russian Communist revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin.

GOD HAS THE ANSWERS!

God has sent someone to help you understand world events and know where they’re leading. To find out who, request our free booklet *Ezekiel—the End-Time Prophet*.



that it aired? Is it a coincidence that Baron Guttenberg responded to Putin’s bullying with such eloquence and force so soon after that program was broadcast? Maybe it was. But if you are proclaiming God’s prophecies, then God is going to work *WITH* that message and bring events into sync to support His messenger. After all, it is *God* who tells this “son of man” to warn the world of what is happening in Russia and what is coming upon the world. If a man is speaking about God’s prophecies, you can be sure God is going to help him in many ways. I think a lot of what happened was orchestrated according to God’s perfect timing.

In light of the *Key of David* program I gave about Mr. Putin, and the way the Ukraine crisis suddenly exploded *just after* it, the identity of the second individual becomes hard to deny. God’s very elect surely will know who these two individuals in Ezekiel 38:1-2 are. And that will tell them where God’s work is, where God’s message is, where God’s fulfilled prophecy is, and where God’s revelation is!

We have to realize that this is all **GOOD NEWS** because Jesus Christ is going to return to this Earth at the very end of this clash between the Putin-led Eastern power and the German-led European power, which could very likely be led by Mr. Guttenberg. Those two powers are going to be destroyed by Jesus Christ Himself! The Messiah will intervene, or else there would be no flesh saved alive, according to Matthew 24:21-22.

Jesus Christ is about to return—biblical prophecy makes that clear. Surely we ought to be studying our Bibles and understanding those prophecies. They have such deep meaning and are so important to you!



No Kidding—Peace Is Possible in Your Home

How to get a grip on sibling rivalry **BY DENNIS LEAP**

“BROTHERS AND SISTERS FIGHT—it’s just the natural ebb and flow of family life,” says WebMD. “Different personalities and ages can play a role, but siblings also often see themselves as rivals, competing for an equal share of limited family resources (like the bathroom, telephone or last piece of cake) and parental attention.”

This quote is typical of the well-accepted notion that sibling rivalry is a normal part of raising children.

But then, people are always shocked and horrified over the gruesome news of fratricide. For example, the shocking sibling murders in 2013 include: a 15-year-old girl and her 10-year-old brother murdered their 6-year-old sibling in Lewisville, Texas; a 15-year-old boy stunned the small town of West Point, Utah, when he knifed to death his younger adopted brothers ages 4 and 10 because he was jealous for the attention of his biological mother; a 14-year-old girl

stabbed her 16-year-old brother to death after a heated argument in High Point, North Carolina.

After hearing such news, and once the shock wears off, most people go on about their lives thankful that it was someone else’s child or family. Yet, it isn’t always someone else’s child or family. Between 1980 and 2008, 3 percent of all U.S. murder victims were killed by a brother or a sister. This is an alarming statistic when you consider the mental and emotional torture families endure when confronting the aftermath of such tragedy: one child in the grave, the other in prison!

Sibling Strife Can Damage for Life

Sibling rivalry is extremely common. A new study, conducted by Corinna Jenkins Tucker of the University of New Hampshire and published in the American journal *Pediatrics* in December 2013, stated that a third of the children participating in the study admitted they had been a victim of sibling

aggression over the past year. That number was greater than the number of children who reported being bullied at school.

Most parents stick their heads in the sand, not wanting to face the problem or admit that it exists. Yet sibling rivalry does exist and is growing worse. Contrary to common belief, children don’t *work out* sibling rivalry problems on their own. Sibling competition, bickering and fighting, when left to run its own course, becomes a much more serious problem than a squabble over the last piece of cake.

Obviously not all sibling squabbles end with a fatal knifing. However, even short of such an outcome, the emotional and mental damage caused by sibling competition can wreck the relationship between brothers and sisters for a lifetime.

“My brother was physically aggressive, but I more than made up for it with my nasty remarks—remarks that I believe have helped lead him into a life of drug problems,” says Rachel, 39, in the same study published by *Pediatrics*. “He doesn’t speak to me now, and I can’t seem to forgive myself. Sometimes it eats me up inside.” Stories like Rachel’s are so commonplace they are likely innumerable.

For many frustrated parents, sibling rivalry appears to be an unsolvable problem. Is there a successful solution? Experts claim there is, but beware who you listen to.



Not all agree on the way to handle fighting among siblings.

Parents, Take Control

WebMD suggests, “The screaming might be driving you nuts, but avoid getting in the middle of an argument unless a child is in danger of getting hurt. Try to let your kids resolve their own issues. Stepping in won’t teach your kids how to handle conflict, and it could seem as though you are favoring one child over another—especially if you’re always punishing the same child.”

That statement is so lacking in wisdom and understanding it is unbelievable. Parents worth their salt understand that parenting involves fulfilling grave responsibilities while raising children. Wise King Solomon wrote: “[A] child left to himself brings shame to his mother [and father]” (Proverbs 29:15, English Standard Version).

Effective parenting demands that parents be the authority in the home, which means that they are lawmaker, enforcer, investigator, *teacher* and peacekeeper. Siblings must be *taught* how to resolve conflict. Fair and equitable punishment for fighting is a major part of the education process. The reality is, if you are not teaching your children how to cooperate with and love each other while they are young, the consequences could be grave.

Not intervening in sibling conflicts does *more* damage, not less. Many parents believe that siblings stop fighting by the teenage years. That is a delusion.

“My sister is so mean to me,” one 11-year-old boy told ChildLine, a teen-crisis help website in the United Kingdom. “She tells me I’m stupid and makes up all these horrible things about me. Mum and Dad don’t do anything to stop it. I cry almost every night and am so angry with everyone. Sometimes I want to disappear.”

In her study, Tucker discovered that even one act of sibling aggression can lead to mental distress. *Continual* acts of aggression can lead to anger, anxiety and depression. Many adult siblings who have been subjected to aggressive and emotionally disturbing sibling rivalry hold their parents responsible because they did not act to stop the problem.

Do your children bicker, fight and continually work to get the best of each other? Is your home a war zone? We can all agree that sibling rivalry is as old as the human family—yet does that fact give you a pass to ignore the problem?

While sibling rivalry cannot be completely eliminated, it can be controlled and strongly curtailed. However, it is up to you to take action. Truly, you are responsible to handle sibling rivalry. Here are some tips to get you started.

Don’t Stir Up Jealousy

Human history is full of famous sibling rivalries. Cain was jealous of his brother Abel and killed him. Jacob worked hard to get the best of Esau and scammed him out of his birthright. Judah concocted the plan to sell his half-brother Joseph into slavery. God gave us these examples to teach us how to deal with the problem.

Although not said overtly, the parents of these youths contributed significantly to the problems between their children. To prevent or stop such discord, you must take a hard look at yourself *first* in one particular area: favoritism. Parents can unwittingly escalate a sibling war by unfairly treating one child better than another.

Eve likely favored Cain—her first little darling—over Abel. There is indication that she may have believed Cain was the prophesied Messiah to come (Genesis 3:15). When

God accepted Abel’s sacrifice and not his, Cain could not handle it. Isaac favored Esau over Jacob, even though he knew the prophecy given to Rebekah that God had selected Jacob to receive the birthright (Genesis 25:23). Rebekah favored Jacob over Esau and led the conspiracy to get the birthright inheritance away from him (verse 28). Jacob clearly loved Joseph more than all his other children (Genesis 37:3). These parents were actively feeding already troubled situations. We can learn much from their experience.

Understand Human Nature

Accept the fact that children will compete even from a young age. Jacob and Esau were already going after each other in Rebekah’s womb (Genesis 25:22). That fact should have alerted Rebekah and Isaac to not play favorites with their sons.

Do you understand that all siblings will naturally compete and be jealous of each other? It is an aspect of human nature. To effectively deal with sibling rivalry, you must understand human nature.

What is human nature? Herbert Armstrong taught that it is actually Satan’s nature. Satan broadcasts his self-centered, selfish attitudes and moods into the unsuspecting minds of human beings—including children (Ephesians 2:2). It is the devil that broadcasts a spirit of competition into your child’s mind. This is a powerful force that must be reckoned with.

Competition is a major part of Satan’s thinking, as Mr. Armstrong wrote in *The Incredible Human Potential*: “He reasoned that competition would be better than cooperation. It would be an incentive to excel, to try harder, to accomplish. There would be more pleasure in serving self and more enjoyment.”

It is our job to teach our children to think and act differently—to love and cooperate with siblings.

Be Fair—Don’t Compare

Since children are always *naturally* looking for a competitive edge over siblings, you need to look for ways to dull the blade. Guard carefully what you say about each of your children in the presence of siblings. Set a goal to not make comparisons.

Request our free booklet
Human Nature: What Is It?
for a thorough explanation
of this important subject.

See **PEACE** page 25 ➤



Much More Than an Economic Plan

The pope wants to radically transform the global financial system, and he's quietly acquiring the power to do it. But his strategy goes well beyond economics. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

LAST YEAR WAS BIG FOR JORGE Mario Bergoglio. He started 2013 in obscurity, living in a one-bedroom flat in Buenos Aires, doing his own shopping and cooking, and riding the subway unnoticed and undisturbed. By May he was living in Rome, where he had inherited the throne of the Roman Catholic Church. By December, he was arguably the most popular and loved man

6

on Earth, the hope of millions, and *Time* magazine's Person of the Year.

Bergoglio's election as pope in March 2013 caught many by surprise. He is the first non-European pope in more than 1,200 years, the first-ever pope from the Americas, and the antithesis of the ultra-traditionalist that many assumed would replace Benedict XVI. Inconspicuous and humble in appearance, Bergoglio struck many as lacking in reputation, in theological pedigree, in charisma and personality.

People were perplexed. Could such an unremarkable man lead 1.2 billion Catholics? Could he run Vatican City, known for its cliques, egos and infighting? Could this quiet, unpretentious Argentine resurrect the Catholic Church—its reputation injured by years of crisis and scandal—as a force for stability and leadership for a tumultuous and hurting world?

Students of Bible prophecy wondered further: Could Bergoglio, an outsider, a non-European, a man seemingly more

interested in the poor than in politics, increase the Vatican's power in Europe, unite the Continent, then lead the prophesied Holy Roman Empire? We questioned, *does Pope Francis fulfill Bible prophecy?*

We're not even a year into his pontificate, and we already have answers. Pope Francis is having profound success. It has been so dramatic it has its own name: the Francis Effect. Across the planet, public support of the Catholic Church is increasing, in many countries dramatically so. Church attendance is up. Conversions are up. The pope is widely adored and admired, even among non-Catholics. Francis has worked wonders among the church's lukewarm and disillusioned laity. "What makes this pope so important is the speed with which he has *captured the imaginations of millions who had given up on hoping for the church at all,*" wrote *Time* (emphasis added throughout).

The dramatic restoration of the reputation of the Catholic Church under Pope Francis was one of the most significant stories of 2013. If it continues, Francis will easily hold his own beside John Paul II and Benedict XVI in the history books, and possibly eclipse both in impact and legacy. After all, he's *already accomplishing* what neither could: He's restoring the popularity of the Catholic Church, reviving the Vatican as a credible and respected international authority, and reestablishing Catholicism as a religion that people can once again look to, *listen to and FOLLOW!*

As far as Bible prophecy is concerned, it doesn't get much more significant—or exciting.

'Joy of the Gospel'

As the Vatican's prestige and influence grows, the question that comes into focus is, *how will Pope Francis use his power?* A superficial glance suggests he is employing it selflessly and humbly, to serve mankind, especially the poor and needy. A deeper investigation, however, reveals disconcerting fruits.

Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium) is the title of the pope's November 2013 apostolic exhortation, a document that encapsulates Francis's vision for mankind. The innocuous title and eloquent, righteous-sounding language is misleading. The

message of Evangelii Gaudium is powerful and transformative, and, in the context of history and Bible prophecy, deeply concerning. John Thavis, author and Vatican expert, described the pope's exhortation as a "remarkable and RADICAL document, one that ranges widely and challenges complacency at every level." Naomi O'Leary described it as the "Magna Carta for church reform" (Reuters, Nov. 26, 2013).

The exhortation covers a range of subjects, but it's especially striking for its tough and uncompromising appraisal of the global financial system, *particularly capitalism.*

"Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world," the pope wrote. But "this opinion, which has never been confirmed by

radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems."

Pope Francis calls for action beyond a "simple welfare mentality," and demands, in the words of Reuters, the "OVERHAUL OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM."

It's easy to see why *Evangelii Gaudium* was widely embraced. The message sounds empathetic and altruistic. It was also superbly timed. The world is experiencing a crisis of faith in government. People throughout the Western world are frustrated and disillusioned with politicians, with businessmen, with anyone considered "elite." An enormous number of people feel they've been failed by the "system." Pope Francis's message resonates deeply with these people, especially the poor. Also—and this is important to note—many of the pope's criticisms are fair and accurate. Capitalism, as the fruits have proven, is deeply flawed.

Still, Pope Francis seeks some extreme changes—changes we need to investigate closely.

Conservative radio commentator Rush Limbaugh lambasted *Evangelii Gaudium* as a full-frontal assault on America. "This is just pure Marxism coming out of the mouth of the pope," he said. "Unfettered capitalism? That doesn't exist anywhere. Unfettered capitalism is a liberal socialist phrase to describe the United States."

Such criticism didn't faze the pope. "The Marxist ideology is wrong," he said regarding Limbaugh's comments in an interview with Italy's *La Stampa*. "But I have met many Marxists in my life who are good people, so I don't feel offended."

In *Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis gives some principles of the system he says should be established. For example, he believes there is a place for politicians, *but they need to be influenced by God.* He writes: "I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor! It is vital that government leaders and financial

Feudalism 101

Feudalism was the dominant social system in medieval Europe. It was based on the ownership of land. In most feudal models, a monarch—empowered by the pope and the Catholic Church—would divide his kingdom into chunks of land called fiefs, and then place a lord, duke or other nobleman in a position of ownership over each one. Each nobleman would divide his fief into manors, and appoint a vassal or knight to manage each one. (In some cases, knights were of royal blood, and were themselves land-owning nobles.) Under each vassal or knight were peasants and serfs, who were required to live on the fief and to pay homage, labor and a portion of all they produced to those above them. In exchange for use of the fief, vassals and knights would provide some sort of service to the monarch, usually in the form of soldiers to fight for him. Peasants and serfs, although they weren't allowed to own land or pass anything down to their children, were given a place to live and to work. They also received protection by the Catholic Church, monarchy, etc. from invading barbarians, Vikings and other threats.

the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system."

Francis attacked unfettered capitalism as "a new tyranny." He condemned "income inequality," the "culture of prosperity," and "a financial system which rules rather than serves." Cloaked as a defense of the poor, the missive was taken by many as a denunciation of capitalism. He said, "As long as the problems of the poor are not

Why the Pope's Popularity Matters

Some Bible prophecy watchers have been on the lookout for a firebrand pope. They've been watching for a real zealot capable of spearheading a Europe-wide revival of uncompromising, conservative Catholicism.

Pope Francis seems to be a different kind of pope.

During his first year in office, he reached out to all religions, meeting with leaders from the Orthodox Church, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and also Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus. He even extended the olive branch toward atheists and agnostics, saying, "God forgives those who do not believe and do not seek faith."

He made headlines worldwide after he appeared to cede ground on a defining battlefield of our time. "Who am I to judge them?" he said about homosexuals. "They're our brothers."

These are issues that previous popes, especially Benedict XVI, had generally taken firm, conservative stances on. By contrast, Francis seems gentle, liberal and inclusive. His attitude may make him seem unlikely to become the pope who comes to hold sway over Europe's politics or to rally Europeans to the Catholic fold. But this view may not factor in the understanding that Europe—in terms of religion—is not the continent it was 50, 20 or even 10 years ago.

Look at France, for example. In 1965, over 80 percent of French people called themselves Catholic. By 2011, the number of France's Catholics *and other Christians combined* was just 54 percent. The decrease in the number of France's *active* Christians is even more significant: *Less than 1 percent* of French people today go to church services weekly.

leaders take heed and broaden their horizons. ... WHY NOT TURN TO GOD AND ASK HIM TO INSPIRE THEIR PLANS? *I am firmly convinced that openness to the transcendent can bring about a new political and economic mindset* which would help to break down the wall of separation between the economy and the common good of society."

Make no mistake, the pope isn't appealing to politicians to turn to the God of the Protestants or the Muslims or the Hindus. He wants world leaders to turn to the God of the Catholics—represented by none other than Pope Francis.

Throughout the document, the pope emphasizes the need for a new system that combats injustice and inequality, that defends the poor and weak, that protects the rights of humans. It all sounds appealing. *But we need to think seriously about its fundamental economic and political tenets:*

8

tearing down free-market capitalism and introducing a new financial system. Yet Francis has also

The shift has been similar in Germany. In 1950, over 96 percent of Germans identified as Christians. Today it's less than 60 percent, and only 1.2 percent attend church regularly. This trend is consistent throughout Europe.

Why the sharp decline? Mostly because of the rise of secularism. Modern Europeans are rejecting absolutes and religion at accelerating rates.

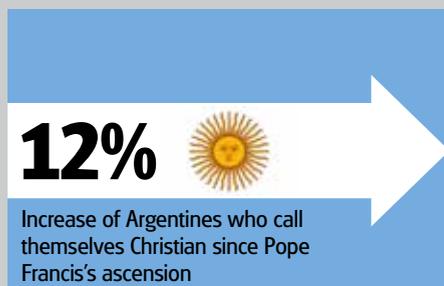
Even as recently as 2005, only 14 percent of French people described themselves as "convinced atheists." By 2012, that number had jumped to 29 percent. During that same time, Germany's "convinced atheists" jumped from 10 to 15 percent, and the Czech Republic's went from 20 to 30 percent. Of the world's top 10 nations by percentage of atheists, *seven* are now in Europe.

This is a momentous shift. And it's not just the confirmed atheists. Even of those who still say they are Christian, belief is being significantly watered down. For example, about half of the Catholics in France now say they are *not even sure God exists*.

It was in the midst of this decline that fiery Benedict took his bow and Francis entered the Vatican from stage left. Benedict is still backstage—perhaps ready to make another appearance, perhaps just whispering some lines—but it is Francis who is rewriting the script, healing the church's reputation and rebranding it as a bastion of acceptance and an institution whose

main concern is for the disenfranchised and poor.

This rebranding campaign has worked wonders in popularizing the church among Europeans. Pope Francis is now the most discussed person on the Internet. Francesco, the Italian version of "Francis," is suddenly Italy's most popular name for baby boys. Francis has also won the respect of the



said that Marxism is wrong. So, what does he believe? What financial and political system *does* he endorse? WE MUST KNOW. This man is arguably the most popular man in the world, and his popularity continues to grow. With popularity comes *power*—power to influence, power to install, power to pursue ambition—power that could ultimately affect the global financial system!

The 'Third Way'

Pope Francis has yet to present a detailed, overt action plan for the global economy. However, through press conferences, addresses, public statements, and especially *Evangelii Gaudium*, he has outlined the financial model he wants to implement.

While his plan sounds fresh and innovative, it is entirely unoriginal. In fact, it has been employed multiple times. The results have varied, from simple failure to painful and total destruction ("Catholic Corporatist States," page 10; also "Church + State," page 11). So, what is this system?

By the time of the defeat of French Emperor Napoleon in 1815, the last remnants of the old feudal economic system had been destroyed. Over the next century, two competing economic theories sprang up in its place. The first was Adam Smith-style capitalism, which flourished in Britain and America. The second was Karl Marx-style socialism. Whereas capitalist philosophy called for economic power to rest in the hands of the individual, socialist philosophy placed that power in the hands of the collective state. *Both economic philosophies displeased the Vatican and Europe's Catholic elite.*

Pope Leo XIII was concerned by how these twin evils, as he considered them—Protestant capitalism and atheistic socialism—both marginalized the Catholic Church in state affairs. In 1891, he wrote an apostolic exhortation, *Rerum Novarum (On the Conditions of Labor)*, that laid out a Catholic economic and social model. Leo's model became the official social doctrine

media, evidenced most recently by *Foreign Policy* calling his the most impressive voice in the international arena, and *Time* naming him Person of the Year for 2013. America's oldest homosexual rights magazine, the *Advocate*, even named him the "single most influential person of 2013 on the lives of LGBT people."

From the time of his election in March 2013 until the end of the year, more than 6.6 million people attended events with Pope Francis at the Vatican—almost triple the number that former Pope Benedict drew in all of 2012. Francis has also spawned a dramatic surge in Catholic Church attendance in Spain, Italy, the UK, France and other nations. In some, the increase has been by as much as 20 percent.



COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
Pope Francis greets visitors in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

It's too early to say whether Francis will be the pope who steers the church during the close of this age of man. But it is undeniable that he's significantly improving the way Europeans view the church. He is now in a prime position to do what Catholic leaders have often done best through history: assimilate the views of the masses into church teaching in order to "convert" those masses and lead them.

Bible prophecy says that, in the end time, the Roman Catholic Church's leadership will appear to be gentle, sincere and "like a lamb." In some ways, this description fits Francis better than any pope in recent memory.

JEREMIAH JACQUES

BENEDICT FRANCIS



of the Catholic Church and soon gained wide acceptance as a "third way." Pope Francis has admitted that *Evangelii Gaudium* is rooted in Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*.

In many ways, Pope Leo's new social doctrine was essentially an updated version of the medieval feudal order that had existed as far back as Justinian in the sixth century. The economic premise was the belief that equality is a cruel illusion, and that people are happiest when placed in a social and political hierarchy *shaped and guided by the Roman Church*.

Economically, it taught that competition is spiritually demeaning. Therefore, business, labor and the state must work together in vertically connected bodies of the economy called *corporations*. Each corporation, comprised of a group of Catholic leaders within a specific industry, manages the economy by setting quotas, prices and wages. The corporations regulate individual behavior to protect the social order and provide an equal standard of living for

all. Abuses of power are prevented by the guidance of an ethically superior elite—individuals supposedly made moral and selfless by the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In 2010, Randall Morck and Bernard Yeung, in a paper titled "Corporatism and the Ghost of the Third Way," explained how Catholic corporatism applies a "principle of subsidiarity." "THE CHURCH SAFEGUARDS SOULS, AND MUST RETAIN POWER OVER ALL MATTERS IT JUDGES NECESSARY TO THIS END, but should leave other matters to the prince," they wrote. "The prince retains power he deems necessary for governing his realm, but other matters subside to the corporations. These retain powers they deem necessary to setting their just wages, prices and quotas, but other matters subside to the industrialists. Industrialists retain such powers as they need to govern their businesses, but details subside to shop foremen. These charge master tradesmen with task, but leave them to get on with it,

and so on down to the lowest worker ..." (*Capitalism and Society*, Vol. 5, Iss. 3, Art. 2).

In Pope Leo's Catholic system, the ultimate authority was Catholic dogma. The economy would be governed by the state, divided into distinct departments, or corporations, *but under the moral and spiritual influence of the Roman Catholic Church*.

Leo's motive was obvious: He wanted to preserve and expand the church's central role in society and government. In essence, he wanted a church-state relationship, with the state operating independently **BUT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE AND IN CONCERT WITH THE VATICAN**.

In reality, this Catholic corporatist system, this "third way," was just Catholic-dominated feudalism for the industrial age. Unlike free-market capitalism, Leo's system prevented individuals from establishing private enterprises outside of society's established hierarchy. *Rerum Novarum* purported to

Catholic Corporatist States

After the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression, many people around the world became disillusioned with the Wall Street brand of capitalism. Many turned to corporatism as an alternative. By substituting “Fascist Party” for “Roman Catholic Church,” Benito Mussolini more or less co-opted Pope Leo XIII’s economic system.

Even though Mussolini’s one-party state fought occasional battles with the Catholic Church over state control, the Vatican accepted his corporatist economy. Mussolini declared the Holy Roman Empire restored and, in return for Catholic endorsement in the Lateran Treaty of 1929, he established Roman Catholicism as the only recognized religion in Fascist Italy. His treaty also subsidized Catholic clergy, subjected textbooks to church veto, and made insulting the Vatican a penal offense. All of this delighted Pope Pius XI, who spoke of Mussolini as “a man sent by Providence.”

Other countries soon followed Mussolini’s example. Austria established a corporatist dictatorship of Catholic clerics under the leadership of Engelbert Dollfuss in 1933. Then in 1936, Gen. Francisco Franco staged a coup d’etat in Spain and faithfully replicated Italian corporatism with his National Syndicalism movement. After Adolf Hitler appointed Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain as the head of Vichy France in 1940, the devoutly Catholic Pétain also established a corporatist economy based on the writing of Pope Pius XI.

Even Hitler followed in the economic footsteps of the Roman Catholic Church and Benito Mussolini. After coming to power in 1933, his Reich Economic Ministry assumed the power to suspend the creation of new enterprises and to fix the production capacity of existing enterprises. Within months, the German economy was partitioned into 28 employer-employee industrial corporations, all were controlled by the Reich Economic Ministry.

Like Mussolini, Hitler also fought battles with the Catholic Church over control of the state. However, in return for a Vatican Concordat designed to keep

priests out of politics, Hitler granted complete freedom to Catholic confessional schools throughout the country, among other things. In his book *Adolf Hitler*, author John Toland recalls the Vatican’s enthusiasm for entering into a relationship with the Third Reich. “His holiness welcomed Hitler’s representative, Franz von Papen, ‘most graciously and remarked how pleased he was that the German government now had at its head a man uncompromisingly opposed to communism and Russian nihilism in all its forms.’”

After the Second World War, Latin American Catholic dictators like Juan Peron and Augusto Pinochet ran openly corporatist economies with papal blessing. In fact, one of the primary criticisms of the current pope is that he failed to stand up to the Catholic corporatist military junta that ruled his Argentine homeland in the 1970s.

It is a Christian principle to care for the poor. However, when a humanly run state steps in to force people to do their Christian duty, things end badly. History teaches that all forms of human totalitarianism fail—whether communist, socialist, fascist or Catholic corporatist. Both Pope Leo and Pope Francis have been astonishingly overconfident in their assertion that the Catholic Church possesses a power to bring men to act selflessly in the service of others. Centuries of medieval history and numerous 20th-century fascist dictatorships prove that power corrupts most human beings—including devout Catholics.

ANDREW MILLER



defend the poor by creating a fair and equal system. But it denied the realities of human nature. Just like Marxist socialism, Catholic corporatism presumes the reliability of a moral and righteous, a “benevolent” and “compassionate,” *Catholic* state.

Spearhead of Radical Economic Thought

How serious is Pope Francis about promoting his “third way”?

Notice how Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, an economist and columnist for the *Telegraph*, reacted to *Evangelii Gaudium*. “UNFETTERED GLOBAL CAPITALISM HAS MET ITS MATCH AT LAST,” he wrote. “Ever since Bishop Bergoglio picked St. Francis of Assisi to be his guiding inspiration and lead a ‘church for the poor,’ ALL HIS ACTIONS HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME DIRECTION” (January 8).

What direction? Essentially, it’s aimed at the implementation of a new global financial system. “ALL OF A SUDDEN THE VATICAN IS

THE SPEARHEAD OF RADICAL ECONOMIC THINKING,” Evans-Pritchard wrote.

He noted how Pope Francis’s campaign comes during the post-2008 global financial crisis, a time when so many people are hurting and disillusioned. Dissatisfaction is everywhere. It is evident within the Occupy movements, angry trade unions, and the rise of various marginal political parties, both left and right, the world over. But while the frustration and disillusionment is ubiquitous, there is no singular, coherent, credible party or institution delivering a solution.

Enter Pope Francis!

Jorge Mario Bergoglio presents himself as the ideal solution. Personally, he is the antithesis of a corporatist elitist or greedy, self-serving politician. He appears contrite and selfless, free of prejudice and bile. He scorns gratuitous opulence and appears to have no love for wealth or materialism. Moreover, he has a plan, an alternate model, a financial system that values

justice and equality for all and protects the poor. Finally, Pope Francis—the “vicar of Christ” and the leader of 1.2 billion Catholics and an ever more popular church—has the presence and power to sell his financial system to mankind.

“So the task has fallen to the Catholic Church,” noted Evans-Pritchard, “the greatest moral and mobilizing force in the world. . . . This economic struggle has mass appeal. IT MAY PROVE TO BE THE LAUNCHING PAD FOR A CHRISTIAN REVIVAL, inevitable in some form as militant Islam prompts Westerners to look back to their own cultural roots” (ibid).

The Rising Beast

Many accept that the Bible has a lot to say about the Catholic Church. A scarce few, however, actually accept *what* the Bible teaches about this institution. Most have never studied, and refuse to study, passages like Isaiah 47, Daniel 7, Matthew 24

See **PLAN** page 30 >

Church + State

Want a case study of what happens when Catholicism mixes with politics? Look at Spain. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

POPE FRANCIS'S MESSAGE ON THE global economy is simply this: *Communism has failed; capitalism has failed. Now we need to try it the Catholic way.*

He presents this Roman Catholic “third way” as new and innovative, but it isn’t: We’ve seen Catholic economic systems in Europe many times over the centuries. Medieval Europe was almost uniformly Catholic, including its economy. But the most recent example comes from Spain.

What Catholic Rule Looks Like

From 1939 until 1975, Spain was a Catholic state under the dictator Gen. Francisco Franco. The *Catholic Herald*, one of Britain’s main Catholic news outlets, wrote, “Under General Franco’s 40-year dictatorship, church and state were intimately linked. Life was so strictly regimented that missing mass was frowned upon, while the dictatorship was openly supported by the church, which held a uniquely privileged position” (June 2, 2006).

George Orwell wrote that “in the main, especially at the beginning,” Franco’s rule “was an attempt not so much to impose fascism as to restore feudalism.” In other words, it put into practice exactly the kind of Catholic economics discussed in “Much More Than an Economic Plan” (page 6).

Before World War II, this type of Catholic dictatorship was not unusual, especially in Europe and Latin America. But by refusing to get involved in the Second World War, Spain survived longer than the other Catholic states—until Franco’s death in 1975. His regime shows us what a society

and economy dominated by the Catholic Church looks like.

General Franco was “Hitler-lite.” He sat out World War II and had no dramatic plan to wipe out every Jew on Earth. But he was an authoritarian dictator who locked up tens of thousands of his own people in concentration camps and prisons. Estimates of the numbers he killed vary: Leeds University puts it as at least 130,000; other estimates are higher. The scale of the repression was so great that some have argued that the Franco regime committed genocide, or even a “holocaust.”

And all this was done with the support of the Roman Catholic Church. Under Franco, there was no religious freedom. Catholic teaching was compulsory in all schools. No other churches or religions were allowed legal status to own property or publish books. (This loosened up somewhat after the Vatican II reforms in the early 1960s.) Spanish government money poured into the church. In return, Franco had veto power over the appointment of Spanish clergy and chose the bishops.

The Catholic Church has never issued any apology or shown any contrition for its support of Franco. “Rather than apologize for its complicity in human rights abuses, the church has adopted a strategy of confrontation and denial,” wrote Michael Phillips, senior lecturer in law at the Center for Human Rights in Conflict, University of East London, in the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion* (October 2013).

Instead, this past October the church beatified 522 Catholic “martyrs” of the Spanish civil war that brought Franco to power. That war had some similarities



EL CAUDILLO With the help of Hitler and Mussolini, Francisco Franco became Catholic dictator of Spain.

to the one unfolding right now in Syria: There were no clear good guys: One side was backed by Hitler, the other by Stalin, and both sides committed atrocities. But the Catholic Church is (almost literally) making those on its side out to be saints, while refusing to even talk about—let alone apologize for—the crimes and atrocities that side committed. These are not the actions of an organization that has learned from its mistakes and is determined not to repeat them.

Perhaps the atrocity the Catholic Church was most involved in was Spain’s adoption scandal, which has been exposed in the last couple of years. At least 2,000 individuals have begun court proceedings after the revelation that babies were taken from their mothers in Catholic-run hospitals and sold (the mothers were told that their children had died). This was partly a money-making exercise, and partly a way to turn children from “bad” left-wing parents over to “good” Catholic ones. It was literally an attempt to breed socialism out of Spain. The 2,000 people who have pressed criminal charges are the tip of the iceberg. Many more have been unable, so far, to jump through all the hoops necessary to bring these decades-old crimes to court. Lawyers interviewed by the BBC said the number of babies involved could be as high as 300,000 between 1939 and 1987. The Spanish government has been reluctant to estimate

the number of victims, but it does admit that the abuse was widespread.

This is what a Catholic economic system looks like *in modern times*. Looking back further in history gives an even starker warning. Any time any religion has had enough power to stamp out its competition, it has almost always done exactly that—from Charlemagne’s forcible conversion of the Saxons to modern Saudi Arabia’s much less violent ban on Christianity.

The Catholic system that the pope is advocating concentrates a huge amount of power with a few secular and church officials. History has proven, time and time again, that this formula leads to disaster.

Catholicism in Modern Spain

After Franco’s death in 1975, Spain’s relationship with the Catholic Church changed to “It’s complicated.” But now we see early signs that Spain is at the forefront of modern Europe’s return to this kind of Catholic system.

In many ways, Spain resembles any other Western democracy. It was one of the first European countries to legalize

a dire economic crisis, with huge youth unemployment; yet it is handing the equivalent of *1 percent of its entire economic output* to the Catholic Church each year.

Even so, the church’s influence had been dwindling in Spain, just as it has across the European continent. Many view this simply as the inexorable march of progress—mankind’s journey out of the darkness of superstition into the light of scientific inquiry. The secular left sees “progress” against religion in the form of abortion becoming easier, homosexual “marriage” spreading, and euthanasia slowly becoming more common.

But in Spain, that “progress” appears to be suddenly reversing. Spain may become the first country in the EU to *re-legalize* abortion. Currently, a Spanish woman can legally abort her baby in any circumstance until the 14th week of her pregnancy, or longer if the unborn baby has any deformities. But to the dismay of the political left, under a new proposed law, all abortions would be illegal except in cases of rape, incest, serious risk to the physical or mental health of the mother, or when

giving it a privileged place in the nation’s education system.

Watch Spain’s Direction

A key part of this reversal is Spain’s right-wing Popular Party. This party is closely allied with the Catholic Church and came to power in the wake of Spain’s economic crisis. The party is Franco’s modern successor, a democratic home for those who supported Franco’s regime.

In early 2013, the Popular Party pushed through some highly contentious school reforms. The new law allows the government to continue to fund the Catholic Church’s private single-sex schools, something the previous government tried to stop. It also makes religion classes compulsory. These classes are taught by teachers appointed by the local bishop and paid by the state. It is the state injecting Sunday school into the regular school day. Those who don’t want this Catholic education can take a non-religious ethics class, but this is the exception—usually the choice of the rare, militant atheist.

Seventy percent of Spaniards opposed the pro-Catholic education law; only 27 percent supported it. The low level of support indicated that the law was a response “to the pressures that the hierarchy of the Spanish Catholic Church has on the current government rather than considerations of educational policy or academics,” wrote *El Pais* (May 26, 2013).

The new abortion law also has the strong support of the Catholic Church. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both personally endorsed a change in the law.

What’s most important here is Spain’s direction. These changes do not make Spain a Franco-style Catholic dictatorship, but they do reveal that the church is getting far more involved in state affairs than it has been in recent years. And the Vatican, once it gets going, doesn’t usually back off.

In his booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote that we need to watch for signs of the Catholic Church gaining power in Europe. Spain was the most recent European country to exit the Catholic system. What’s happening now could be a sign of Europe heading right back into it. ■

The Catholic system that the pope is advocating concentrates a huge amount of power with a few secular and church officials. History has proven, time and time again, that this formula leads to disaster.

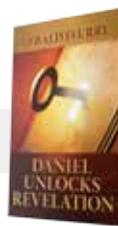
homosexual “marriage”—and it did so with the support of around 70 percent of the population. At the same time, just over 70 percent of Spaniards claim to be Catholic. Many of these Catholics clearly don’t pay much attention to the beliefs of their mother church. In fact, only around 15 percent of Spaniards regularly attend mass.

Catholicism is no longer the state religion—at least on paper. But church and state are so intertwined that it’s still hard to say where one stops and the other begins. Through direct aid, special tax treatment and the government paying the salaries of Catholic religious workers, the government gives the church over €11 billion (US\$15 billion) annually, according to Europa Laica (Secular Europe), a Spanish campaign group. Spain is in the midst of

the fetus is so deformed that it could die shortly after being born. Girls younger than 18 would need their parents’ approval. The government has a comfortable majority in the Spanish parliament, so the law is likely to pass within the next few months.

Thus, where most Western nations are *legalizing* abortion and homosexual “marriage,” only Spain is making abortion *more difficult* while simultaneously promoting religion in national life.

On its own, this is very good news. The Bible clearly teaches that abortion is murder. (Request our reprint article, “*Is Abortion Really Murder?*” or visit theTrumpet.com/go/abortion.) However, this is part of a bigger picture. In the abortion battle and beyond, Spain has revived the role of the Roman Catholic Church in its government and is



Tomorrow's Wonderful World Economy

What it will be like. **BY PHILIP NICE**



IT'S A BOLD MOVE, PROCLAIMING THAT you should have influence over the entire global economy. But that's exactly what Pope Francis did in November.

In his official exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Francis particularly attacked the idea that free-market capitalism can produce economic growth that causes greater justice and inclusiveness. "This opinion," he wrote, "which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power." The pope's solution? Trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power—when they are Catholic.

The Catholic Church has influenced economics in different ways for thousands of years. The historical facts con-

firm the results: Dark Ages where peasants live in pulverizing poverty; six oppressive eras under the Holy Roman Empire; the modern rise of dictators in Italy, Austria and Spain. The facts also confirm that the church almost always manages to get richer even when the poor get poorer.

Islamism, anarchism and every other human model—where is there an economic system that actually works?

Believe it or not, the world's most brilliant, equitable, innovative, comprehensive, prosperous economic system is hiding in plain sight: inside your Bible! And it is about to be established!

But before it arrives, the Bible prophesies what will happen to the world's economy. First, America's economic dominance will crash and burn (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28; Ezekiel 5). Then, the German/Vatican-led Holy Roman Empire will conquer and wield economic power (Revelation 13) over the Western Hemisphere. It will impose a mark of worship without which "no man might buy or sell" (verse 17). Then, this European superpower will clash with an Asian superpower (Daniel 11:44). But before this nuclear World War III finally wipes out all human life (Matthew 24:22; Isaiah 24; Zechariah 14), *Jesus Christ will return to Jerusalem!*

The King of kings is about to take over control of the *entire world government*: executive administration, legislation, jurisprudence, education—and economics!

A Perfect Constitutional Law

Imagine the *perfect* world economy. Imagine a wise, just, intelligent, agile government. Imagine a rock-solid monetary system. Imagine flourishing agriculture, universal fair trade, thriving industries, powerful technology, blossoming environments, exuberant cultures, elite education. And imagine *nobody* being left out! That's the system Jesus Christ, *the Economist*, will administer, bringing prosperity, equity

and growth to every nation on Earth.

The Bible reveals not only what He will do, but also *how* He will do it!

God is love (1 John 4:8)—and so is His law. Christ named the two main principles of that law in Matthew 22:36-40: Love God, and love your fellow man. These two principles expand into the legal (and economic) foundation of the World Tomorrow: *the Ten Commandments*.

When He returns, Christ and His kings will administer these great commandments powerfully and fairly. What will *that* world economy be like?

First, everyone will worship the true God (by obeying the first four commandments), producing a spectacularly peaceful, purposeful culture, as well as an educational system beyond your wildest dreams.

Christ's subjects will keep the Fifth Commandment, honoring their parents, caring for and even providing for them when necessary. World Tomorrow economics will be built on the foundation of *family!*

These citizens will be protected against murder as Christ enforces the Sixth Commandment. One effect: all the manpower, innovation and money that would otherwise be spent on massive militaries instead will flood into the productive economy.

Christ's subjects will not suffer or even fear theft or robbery. The Eighth Commandment will outlaw the action and even the spirit of stealing. No resources will be wasted on police and security industries. Workers will consider it a sin to cheat their employers—or even to give less than 100 percent effort. Owners will consider it a sin to horde

Everyone will worship the true God producing a spectacularly peaceful, purposeful culture, as well as an educational system beyond your wildest dreams.

firm the results: Dark Ages where peasants live in pulverizing poverty; six oppressive eras under the Holy Roman Empire; the modern rise of dictators in Italy, Austria and Spain. The facts also confirm that the church almost always manages to get richer even when the poor get poorer.

But if Catholic corporatism causes injustice and suffering—and so does capitalism, communism, socialism, fascism,

profits generated by laborers. The goal won't be to *get* at all costs, but to give, to grow and to build.

The World Tomorrow economy will not suffer the effects of lying. Contracts will be kept. Misleading promises, bait-and-switch transactions, embezzling, fraud and counterfeiting will be unheard of. Sellers won't lie to buyers; buyers won't lie to sellers.

And those who live under Christ's rule will not covet! Imagine what the Tenth Commandment will do for the economy. People won't take from each other. They won't waste their lives lusting and being greedy. They won't invent ways to spend more than they actually have. They will care far less about what they *own* and far more about who they *are* and how they keep God's commandments.

More Brilliant Economic Laws

God gave His magnificent Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. But throughout the Bible, He also gave many more financial statutes and judgments: brilliant, practical, surprisingly specific regulations that will help make the World Tomorrow economy unimaginably prosperous and equitable.

The World Tomorrow citizen will pay no taxes: no income taxes, business taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, health care taxes or death taxes. Instead, he will pay his first tithe to God's government: a

Version; see also Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:35-37). Christ will outlaw not just exorbitant interest or interest charged to the poor, but *any* interest. There will be exactly zero headlines about credit card debt, mortgage debt or national debt.

Although interest will not exist, loans will—but they will be interest-free! Some ancient Israelites experienced financial problems, and that will still be the (rare) case in the World Tomorrow. Notice each part of God's statute in Deuteronomy 15:7: "If there be *among you* a poor man of one of *thy brethren* within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother." Notice that the man 1) really does need help; 2) lives among the potential lenders; and 3) receives the loan. Who responds to the situation? Not a government bureau or a multinational corporation, which can be easily lied to—and cares nothing about the borrower as a person. It's the man's neighbors—most probably his actual family.

The borrower is expected to pay his loan back, not to default or declare bankruptcy. Israelite borrowers went so far as to sell themselves into indentured servitude in order to pay back what they had been given. Meanwhile, God commands the needy person's family/friends/neighbors to respond and to live the way of *give*.

debts and return land to the family that had sold it. These two laws are perfect reset buttons that will help create an economy with a gigantic middle class "to the end that there be *no poor among you*" (Deuteronomy 15:4, margin). Instead of experiencing a depression every half-century, the world economy will experience a jubilee!

What about those who open their hands and then watch their repayment evaporate? Amazingly, God tells them, *I will repay*. "He that hath pity upon the poor *lendeth to the Lord*; and that which he hath given will he pay him again" (Proverbs 19:17). It'll be a blessing to receive a much-needed loan, then to be liberated from paying it back. But it will be an even greater blessing to be the person who *gave* that loan (Acts 20:35). You can be sure that on that jubilee year, the lenders will be celebrating right alongside the borrowers, probably even buying them a drink!

These foundational economic laws reveal an amazing truth about the prosperous World Tomorrow economy: *It's not about prosperity*. Yes, you will have help if you are poor. You will be able to return to the property God gave your family. You will be able to acquire, to produce, to beautify, to build up. You will be able to innovate and create and earn and own. But those won't be the things that matter the most to you. *Family* will be far more important. *Giving* will be far more important. *Character* will be far more important. Your relationship with *God* will be far more important.

Proverbs 3:9-10 says the abundance will literally be uncontainable. Yet for all their prosperity, what people will be excited about the most are *spiritual* lessons they learn from the World Tomorrow economy. Christ said in Luke 16:10: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." The "least," in this case, will be incredible prosperity. What is the "much"? Hebrews 2:8 reveals the answer: God wants to put *all things* under mankind's subjection. In the World Tomorrow, it will be this tiny little jewel of a planet. But when God finishes crafting rich, dazzling, abundant, elite *character* in us using His magnificent law, He will put *all things* under our feet: THE UNIVERSE! ■

The World Tomorrow citizen will pay no taxes: no income taxes, no business taxes, no sales taxes, no property taxes, no health care taxes, no death taxes.

tenth of his increase (Deuteronomy 14:22). Not only will the percentage he pays be extremely low, but he will also be *blessed* by God for paying it!

Christ's government will also abolish the economic drag of interest. This will be a key step to restrict much of the power associated with money. The Old Testament calls it "usury," and all 22 times this word is mentioned, there is evidence that God disapproves of it. Deuteronomy 23:19 says, "You shall not charge interest to your brother—interest on money or food or anything that is lent out at interest" (New King James

Laws of Liberty

God will also administer two other major laws on borrowing and debt. One is known as the year of release. Every seventh year, everyone will cancel all the short-term debts people owe them (Deuteronomy 15). God even specifies that people of means should not withhold lending to the poor even if the seventh year is coming soon and there's a good chance the lender will then release the borrower from his debt.

The other fantastic law is called the jubilee, which occurs every 50th year (Leviticus 25:8-17). In that year, people will cancel



Spent in Vain

What has America's blood and treasure gained in Iraq?
A playground for al Qaeda. **BY CALLUM WOOD**

NEW OCCUPIERS
Iraqi Shiite Muslims carry their flag to Karbala.

"LEFT MY SOUL IN RAMADI, AS well as my fellow Marines." This is the sentiment of Sgt. Tyler Rock. In an interview with the *Trumpet*, Rock shared what many U.S. servicemen and veterans are thinking as they see headlines coming out of Iraq today. He is one of thousands of brave men and women who absorbed the horrors of war so that country might be free of dictatorial rule and Islamic terrorism.

"I left a different person than when I went in. But I was okay with that, because I felt that we actually did good in the city," Rock said. "[Ramadi] will always be a part of me, and may be the most defining moment in my life."

Considering the effort and sacrifice of Sergeant Rock and all the coalition troops who served in Ramadi, Fallujah, Baghdad and elsewhere, watching what is happening in Iraq today is devastating. The same cities where Rock's fellow Marines fought and died are now falling to Iran and al Qaeda.

But Iraq's story is tragic for reasons beyond the energy and lives of Western troops, and the \$1.7 trillion bill America

has paid. Washington's withdrawal from Iraq and the subsequent unraveling of that nation has set in motion dramatic changes—prophetically significant changes—whose effects will extend far beyond the Middle East, even into *your* life.

Al Qaeda Takes Control

Since the night of Dec. 18, 2011, when the last U.S. convoy rolled out of Iraq, the country has come undone, politically, economically and socially. In America's absence, the Sunni population has grown increasingly dissatisfied with what it sees as a discriminatory government. Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki's Shiite-dominated, pro-Iranian administration has been accused of promoting Shiite ideals and ignoring the voice of the Sunni minority. In provinces such as Anbar, whose population is primarily Sunni, the discontent has boiled over into riots. The disorder has been an invitation to al Qaeda, which has surged back into the country in full force.

The chaos-inducing departure of U.S. troops from Iraq was completely exposed on January 3 of this year. On that day, a branch

of al Qaeda known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) captured the key Anbar cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. Sergeant Rock and his brothers in arms paid a high price to eradicate al Qaeda's—particularly from Fallujah. To see those gains reversed so quickly is both embarrassing and demoralizing to those who fought to protect America, advance its interests, and bring freedom to the Iraqi people.

According to the *Washington Post*, "Roughly a third of the 4,486 U.S. troops killed in Iraq died in Anbar trying to defeat al Qaeda in Iraq, nearly 100 of them in the November 2004 battle for control of Fallujah, the site of America's bloodiest confrontation since the Vietnam War.

"Events Friday suggested the fight may have been in vain" (January 3).

America Defeated

With the Sunnis up in arms and al Qaeda capturing territory throughout the region, the mainstream media and Mideast pundits talk about the reversal of U.S. gains in terms of a broader Sunni-versus-Shiite proxy war.

The casual observer sees Iran heading up the Shiite camp, while Saudi Arabia rallies Sunni Arabs to counter Iran's influence. But is the reality as simple as that?

Focusing on the Sunni/Shia, Maliki/al Qaeda struggle, analysts overlook the real conflict: the large-scale assault against *American* influence in the region.

In this battle for the Middle East, the United States has not only lost blood and treasure in the sands of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. It has also taken a backseat to Russia in the Syrian civil war; it has forfeited the relationship it had with Cairo before the Arab Spring; and it has lost the trust of its longtime ally Saudi Arabia because it no longer is able or apparently even willing to prevent Iran's ascent to power. In addition, the Taliban is rising again in Afghanistan, U.S.-Israel relations are at their worst, and terrorists in Benghazi, Libya, have murdered a U.S. ambassador.

America's withdrawal from the Mideast has repeatedly left the door open for terrorists to make a comeback.

What a change two years has made in Iraq. Today terrorist flags are flying over Fallujah and Ramadi while Iraqi flags burn on the street corners. The ISIL has military camps, strongholds and weapons caches throughout Anbar province and in the rebel-held parts of Syria. Terrorists have free access across the 373-mile border between Syria and Iraq, making the task of uprooting the group even harder for authorities.

In capturing these two cities, ISIL has gained control over the vast majority of the Anbar province population, along with vast swathes of western Iraq. The province is over 53,200 square miles, about the size of North Carolina—a territory larger than Jordan, Israel and Lebanon combined. Al Qaeda now controls more land than it did before the coalition invaded!

Even if Maliki's forces manage to retake much of the ISIL-controlled province, the fact that the terrorists were capable of taking control of the two cities testifies to Washington's failure to defeat radical Islam in the region.

The rapid expansion of the Sunni al Qaeda has been met by the equally ambitious Shiites empowered by Iran. But while conflict does

rage between Sunni and Shiite factions, who is really losing? The civilians whose lives are constantly disrupted by violence are suffering terribly. But from a geopolitical perspective, the big loser is the United States. The common denominator in all the wars between the Islamic groups is the reversal of American gains. By focusing on the back and forth between the Shiites and Sunnis, most forget that the Sunnis and Shiites are both Islamic, and both harbor extremists with deep-seated hatred for America and Western culture.

Look at Egypt. The Arab Spring blossomed and withered. Shiite power rose and fell. Pre-Spring, Washington was well connected to the government of Hosni Mubarak, America's greatest Arabic ally in the region. Post-Spring, Egypt wants nothing to do with America. The Americans backed the losers and turned against old allies. Now they are on the outside looking in. In Afghanistan, the struggle between the government and the Taliban hasn't turned the Afghans to America—it has turned them to Iran! (For evidence, see "Pacts of Friendship," page 26.)

Wherever you look in the Middle East, regional turmoil is not just rival Islamic factions vying for power; it is a systematic destruction of American influence. With few allies and little opportunity to stem the tide of radical Islam, America looks on as radicals wash away years of gains made by the U.S. military.

But this grim reality gets worse. Not only has the U.S. allowed the return of al Qaeda in Iraq, but now it is in a position where it is *actively supporting* those who seek America's destruction.

Empowering Iran

America's departure from Iraq and the region serves Iran. The al Qaeda threat serves Iran by forcing Maliki to rely on Tehran for help. Some say the presence of Sunni al Qaeda along Iran's borders is a threat to Tehran. Not really. One reality widely and willingly ignored for years now is the axis that exists between al Qaeda and Iran's mullahs. It's true that the two sects differ religiously. But ideologically and strategically, Iran and al Qaeda are almost in perfect alignment: Both seek to destroy America and purge the region of Western influence.

Iran has a long history of supporting and harboring al Qaeda operatives. In

2005, safe behind Iranian borders, Saif al-Adel posted a lengthy dispatch about al Qaeda's activities in Iran and Iraq on the Internet. In it he mentioned that he and Abu Musab al Zarqawi planned to make Iraq the new battleground against America from various safe havens in Iran. Zarqawi—who was killed in 2006—ran paramilitary camps in Afghanistan and was responsible for terrorist attacks from Madrid to Kabul. He was also suspected of personally decapitating 26-year-old American hostage Nick Berg in 2004. Iran has a long history of such Shiite-Sunni cooperation against the greater enemy: America.

In this sense, al Qaeda's victories—and its growth in Iraq—serve Iran.

President Obama has been cautious not to wade back into a war from which he worked to untangle himself since his campaign and election in 2008. To avoid looking like it has completely abandoned Iraq in this latest crisis, his administration has promised Hellfire missiles and drones to Maliki's government to aid in quelling the violence.

But Washington isn't arming an independent Iraq; it is arming *an Iranian puppet*. As David Ignatius wrote in the *Washington Post*, "Iran has waged a brilliant covert-action campaign that turned Maliki and Iraq into virtual clients of Tehran—and in the process alienated Sunnis and pushed them toward extremism" (January 8).

Iran is a master at working through proxy groups, particularly terrorist groups. Kataib Hezbollah, the League of the Righteous, and the Promised Day Brigades are just a few of the Iranian-led militias operating in Iraq and Syria today. Iran has also infiltrated the Iraqi government; the minister of transport once headed the Badr Brigade, another Iranian-backed militia.

If Iraq is serving Iran's purposes, it stands to reason that when the U.S. aids Iraq, it is in fact supporting Iran! That is how weak America's approach has become. This once great superpower, now lacking the stomach for fighting, tries to resolve these problems by sending weapons to a regime that is actively suppressing large parts of the population and acts as a mere puppet for the world's number one state sponsor of terror!

The *Trumpet* warned in our November 2001 edition that Iran would outlast America in the Middle East: "[W]e can

see unequivocally that the terrorist snake will survive America's aggression—head intact, and stronger than ever." The accuracy of this statement is proven by the recent al Qaeda surge.

Days after Fallujah fell to extremists, Melanie Phillips explained the panic it would cause in America. "[A]ll those American and other coalition soldiers who died in Iraq will be soon seen to have died in vain, as America's scuttling away from the battlefield turns fragile victory into baleful defeat and Iraq stares into the abyss of civil war" (January 7).

Events in Iraq back up what the *Trumpet* warned about at the very beginning of the war! Notice what editor in chief Gerald Flurry said in June 2003: "It may seem shocking, given the U.S. presence in the region right now, but prophecy indicates that, in pursuit of its goal, Iran will probably TAKE OVER IRAQ. At least, it will have a heavy influence over the Iraqi people." That is exactly what is happening. The Sunnis are rising up because they see the Iraqi government bending to Iran's will—away from the United States.

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

The eradication of American influence in the region and the rise of Iran in its place should not surprise us. After all, God warned about it thousands of years ago.

The *Trumpet* has often referred to Leviticus 26 as a pivotal prophecy of the Old Testament. We have explained its connotations numerous times over the years, particularly verse 19, where it says God would break the pride of our power. There is still plenty of power in the United States, but the *will* to use it is shattered. Iraq is a case in point: The U.S. still has the largest military in the world, but has been unsuccessful in making long-term gains in Iraq. In verse 20, God warns, "your strength shall be SPENT IN VAIN." All of America's vast expenditure in these theaters is proving fruitless. Only two years after America's



UNDER CONTROL?

Terrorists in Baghdad murdered at least 39 people on January 15 with seven car bombs and a suicide bombing at a funeral.

withdrawal, al Qaeda has retaken the largest province in the country!

Why would God allow this?

Verses 15 and 16 discuss how God will appoint terror over us as a curse! As Stephen Flurry pointed out in his January 8 *Trumpet Daily*, "He certainly is a God of great benevolence and generosity who will bless those who strive to obey Him and to follow Him. But God will also allow curses to come upon us if we don't obey—if we disobey His commands, if we drift far from Him." You can see this again in verse 17 and 18, and expounded in Deuteronomy 28.

In his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong went through this crucial prophecy in great detail. He explained how God blessed the nations of Israel—primarily the U.S. and Britain—as a result of promises He made to Abraham. But Mr. Armstrong went on to explain: "No longer is God obligated by His promise to continue our undeserving peoples in world prestige, wealth and greatness. Once we had been given such unrivaled position, it was up to us whether we should keep it."

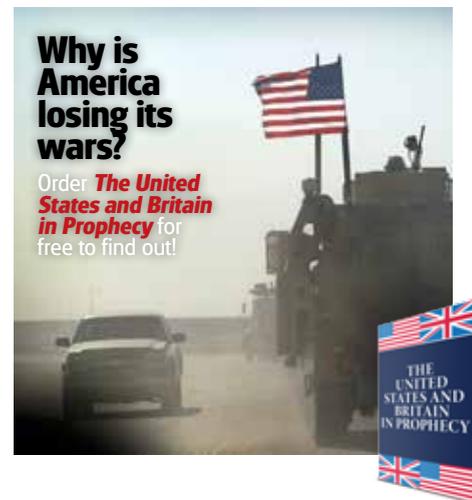
The reality today is evident. America has squandered the blessings God once bestowed upon it. This pivotal prophecy shows what is truly causing America's influence in the Middle East to waste away.

Fallujah is just a little preview of what happens when America is pushed aside. Once the last shreds of American influence are gone, radical Islam will fill the power vacuum.

Commentators are now speaking about how American lives have been spent in vain in Iraq—without realizing that they are discussing Leviticus 26! The *Trumpet* warned about this from the first days of the war! It is all happening exactly as we said it would back in 2003, based on biblical prophecy.

God is sending this message out in love. God doesn't want soldiers to die on the battlefield. He doesn't want to curse America. But He promised to break the pride of the nation's power if we didn't obey Him. He warned that America's strength would be spent in vain.

If you haven't ordered a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, you need to. This book will explain the rise and fall of the nations of Israel, as well as the glorious future God has in store for all men once they finally turn to Him, and live according to His abundant way of life. ■



President Obama has been bringing U.S. troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan. He has said that America has defeated all but the barely threatening "jayvee" league of terrorists. But is that true?

WAR ON TERROR PROGRESS REPORT

"[W]e are winning the war on terror. ... [W]e will shut down terrorist camps, disrupt terrorist plans and bring terrorists to justice. ... We can't stop short. ... We will win this war. ... My fellow Americans, we will see freedom's victory."

GEORGE W. BUSH Jan. 29, 2002



"[W]hat we can do—what we must do—is dismantle networks that pose a direct danger to us, and make it less likely for new groups to gain a foothold, all the while maintaining the freedoms and ideals that we defend."

BARACK OBAMA May 23, 2013

Spent in vain?

American casualties resulting from the war on terror (SINCE 2001)



The U.S. spent an estimated **\$1.49 TRILLION** on the war on terror since October 2001



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Al Nour Party



ESTABLISHED May 2011

MEMBERS The party's bloc received 28 percent of votes in Egypt's 2011-12 parliamentary election. It controls 111 of the Egyptian parliament's 127 Islamist seats.

GOAL To implement strict sharia law throughout Egypt

KNOWN FOR Charismatic leadership; ultra-conservative ideologies; joining the coup that ousted President Morsi

ALLIANCES The powerful Egyptian military

TERRITORY Egypt

Al Qaeda in the Maghreb



ESTABLISHED 1998

MEMBERS 1,000

GOAL To overthrow the government of Algeria and re-create an Islamic state

KNOWN FOR Kidnap-for-ransom tactics

ALLIANCES Al Shabaab, Boko Haram, Ansaru

TERRITORY Algeria, Mali and Mauritania

Al Mulathamun Battalion



ESTABLISHED Fall 2012

GOAL To encourage jihadists from around the globe to travel to Mali to fight against Western intervention

KNOWN FOR The Jan. 16, 2013, attack on Algeria's In Amenas oil facility. It resulted in a four-day hostage crisis during which the group held at least 39 Western captives, including U.S. citizens.

ALLIANCES Al Qaeda branches, the Masked Brigade

TERRITORY Algeria, Mali

Hezbollah



ESTABLISHED 1985

MEMBERS 65,000

GOAL To eliminate the state of Israel

KNOWN FOR Building a reputation as "the greatest guerilla group in the world"; the 2006 war against Israel; fighting alongside Assad in the ongoing Syrian war; infiltrating Latin American drug cartels

ALLIANCES The Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria's ruling Baath party

TERRITORY Lebanon, Syria, all of the Middle East and many Latin American cities



Who's winning the war? Worldwide terrorist attacks and lives lost



Hamas



ESTABLISHED 1987

MEMBERS 20,000

GOAL To replace Israel and the Palestinian territories with an Islamic nation

KNOWN FOR Being labeled as "one of the deadliest terrorist organizations in the world" by former President Bush; fighting against Israel in the Second Intifada and the Gaza War

ALLIANCES Hezbollah, Muslim Brotherhood, Iran

TERRITORY Israel (West Bank and Gaza Strip)

Al Qaeda



ESTABLISHED 1988

MEMBERS 15,000 worldwide

GOAL Jihad

KNOWN FOR Planning and carrying out 9/11 attacks on the U.S.; targeting Iraqi Shiite civilians

ALLIANCES Taliban, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, al Shabaab

TERRITORY Iraq, Syria and worldwide, mostly throughout the Middle East

Taliban



ESTABLISHED 2004 (insurgent branch)

MEMBERS 40,000

GOALS To use violence to defeat Western influence in Pakistan and beyond; to establish an Islamic emirate in its place

KNOWN FOR Involvement in 9/11 attacks on the U.S.; massacres against Afghan civilians; denying UN food to starving Afghans; savage treatment of women

ALLIANCES Haqqani network, Hezb-e-Islami, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, al Qaeda

TERRITORY Afghanistan and Pakistan

Afghan suicide bombings

2000-2005 **23** 2006-2010 **678**

Designated by the U.S. State Department as a state sponsor of terrorism

Al Shabaab



ESTABLISHED 2006

MEMBERS 6,000

GOAL Waging jihad against "enemies of Islam" locally and globally

KNOWN FOR Ruthless piracy of the Horn of Africa; raising jihad funds by poaching thousands of elephants to harvest their ivory; a major offensive to take over Mogadishu, which left hundreds dead and thousands displaced

ALLIANCES Al Qaeda, foreign mujahideen, Boko Haram

TERRITORY Southern Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula



ESTABLISHED January 2009

MEMBERS 500-600

GOAL To provide a center for regional terrorism in Saudi Arabia and Yemen

KNOWN FOR The attack on Dec. 25, 2009, when Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to ignite an explosive on a Northwest Airlines flight. It was the first al Qaeda attack inside the U.S. since 9/11.

ALLIANCES Other al Qaeda branches

TERRITORY Saudi Arabia and Yemen

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi



ESTABLISHED 1996

MEMBERS 300

GOAL To use violence to turn Pakistan into a Sunni nation

KNOWN FOR Kidnapping and executing high-profile Americans and other Westerners in Pakistan; some of the deadliest sectarian attacks in Pakistan's history

ALLIANCES Al Qaeda, Taliban, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

TERRITORY Pakistan



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?
Guttenberg is smartly maintaining his connection with the German people.

THE BRILLIANCE OF KARL-THEODOR ZU GUTTENBERG

Was his untimely departure from German politics a blessing in disguise? Recent actions show that he may be preparing for a dramatic return. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

REGULAR *TRUMPET* READERS WILL be well acquainted with the name. Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg is a man we have watched for several years and repeatedly identified as a likely candidate to become the prophesied strongman of Europe.

In early 2011, Mr. Guttenberg, serving as Germany's defense minister, was the most popular politician in the nation by a wide margin. He and his glamorous, articulate wife, Stephanie, were hailed as Germany's power couple. The media within Germany

and beyond viewed Guttenberg as "chancellor in reserve," the man who would inevitably replace Angela Merkel at Germany's helm.

But in March 2011, Guttenberg resigned from the Bundestag and as defense minister after it was discovered that he had plagiarized his doctoral thesis. The media bashed Guttenberg for months, even long after his title had been removed and he'd been exiled from politics. Although his crime was serious, the ferocity of the attack on the aristocratic superstar seemed especially intense and bizarre.

Guttenberg moved his family to Connecticut, where he joined the think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies under the title "distinguished statesman." He also became an adviser to Neelie Kroes, vice president of the European Commission, on the issue of Internet freedom. It's a lightweight job that doesn't seem to have consumed too much time. Many German pundits felt Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg's career as a major politician in Germany was over.

But could there be another way of looking at this? Was Guttenberg's untimely departure from Germany's political scene a blessing in disguise?

Shelter From the Storm

Guttenberg left public office just as Greece's debt crisis was peaking and at the point of forcing Germany and Europe into some divisive, deeply personal discussions. He left before unemployment in Europe became the time bomb it is today, and before the financial crises that now besiege Spain, Italy, France and other European states really set in. He was gone before the war on Libya, before the Syrian crisis, and before the recent German election. No politician in Germany or Europe has come through all this tumult unscathed, reputation intact, political career secure and bright. There's no doubt the plagiarism scandal hurt Guttenberg, but it also probably saved him from being wounded, perhaps fatally, in the crossfire of the past three years.

The plagiarism scandal is now becoming a memory, and Guttenberg has occupied his "downtime" brilliantly. His supreme goal likely remains to become chancellor or obtain a high-level position in Berlin or Brussels that sets him on that path. It appears that in pursuit of this goal, he has employed a three-pronged strategy.

A Triple Play

First, Mr. Guttenberg is refusing every opportunity to play a major official role in German or EU politics—at least for now. Under the right circumstances this could change, but currently he is happy to sit on the bench. That seems counterintuitive, but in politics—especially for an ambitious 42-year-old politician—you have to play the long game. If you're watching politics in Europe and Germany, you readily see that the place is a minefield.

Europe's debt crisis, in particular, is a career killer that is still taking casualties. Name a German or European politician right now who is *genuinely* liked by the public. Angela Merkel, coming off victorious in last year's German elections, might be popular, *but she isn't genuinely liked*. She was reelected because she's a known entity, a way to preserve the status quo, a *safe* choice. And safe is what Germans desire most right now.

Merkel might have the most important job in Europe, but it's also the most dangerous. The Continent is experiencing a complex and historic crisis—one that threatens the financial and political underpinnings of the EU and post-war Europe—one that increasingly pits the German public (anti-German intervention) against the rest of Europe (desperate for German intervention)—and one that will get much worse before it gets better. Angela Merkel has the impossible task of fixing Europe, *and in a way that satisfies everyone*. Guttenberg probably ultimately wants that position, just not right now.

Second, though he's avoiding public office, Guttenberg is maintaining a public image. Not in an obnoxious, gratuitous way. He is avoiding silly antics and superficial attention. He promotes his personality and politics widely but subtly, through diligent effort, meaningful projects and quality works.

This means writing thoughtful, articulate articles on key issues, articles that expose the weaknesses of opponents and sell himself as an intelligent politician with serious solutions. (See "The Ukraine Crisis Was Prophesied!" on page 1 for analysis on the most significant of such articles he has recently written.) Guttenberg has also weighed in on such issues as Germany's national elections, the Syrian crisis, the need for greater German leadership in the world, and U.S.-German relations, particularly in the wake of Merkelgate (the U.S. National Security Administration spying on Germany's chancellor). In every case, his thoughts are insightful, original, and infused with strength of opinion and leadership rare in today's world.

Maintaining his public image also means making the evening news and the pages of *Bild* and other papers, but only occasionally and only in narratives that build the Guttenberg brand. It means

attending major conferences, giving lectures and delivering public speeches. Not on frivolous subjects, but on important subjects that Germans care about or ought to care about: German politics, the war in Afghanistan, German foreign policy, Europe's financial crises. His goal is to be seen, *but only as the solution and never as the problem*.

Third, he maintains intimate relations with political friends and allies in Germany and abroad. This means keeping abreast of all the major issues, keeping his finger on the pulse of German politics, and injecting himself into all the major conversations in Berlin. It means regular meetings, dinners and weekends with politicians, statesmen, journalists and businessmen from Berlin, Brussels and other world capitals.

The most notable example of this third tactic was his meeting in Berlin in November of last year with Angela Merkel. The meeting was unofficial and off the books; even the chancellor's closest allies were kept in the dark. It was an hour long—an eternity with someone of Merkel's stature—and its agenda was never formally disclosed. Although the talking points of this meeting remain secret, it shows us that Guttenberg is no longer in Germany's political doghouse. In a way, it marked the return of Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg to Germany's political fold.

Biding Time

By pursuing these three tactics, Guttenberg could be positioning himself to assume power when conditions are right. What will conditions have to be like for him to return? It's hard to say. It's not that the debt crisis would have to be over and Europe fixed. He would just have to see a clear and safe path toward his ultimate goal. So, whatever position he might accept, it would have to be significant, a guaranteed springboard into higher office, with minimal risk of tarnishing his reputation and handicapping his political aspirations.

But here's what may be the most brilliant part of his strategy: Executed right, it could even result in his being INVITED into a position of leadership!

Present conditions may be conducive to a major shift in Germany's public opinion on Guttenberg. Germans could see the man as repentant, having done penance for his mistakes and deserving of a second

chance. Moreover, the need for his style of leadership is intensifying. Europe's domestic problems are growing. Vladimir Putin is ratcheting up efforts to revive the Russian empire, as evidenced most recently by his history-altering power grab of Ukraine. The Continent is demanding leadership from Merkel that she just doesn't have. Inside Germany, Merkel is seen to be holding the line, keeping problems at bay, *but not actually solving the issues*.

Political, financial and social conditions in Germany and Europe are creating a sharp demand for a strong, capable, inspiring, decisive dignitary who will actually lead Germany, and Europe, to a brighter, more hopeful place. Merkel's weaknesses will be increasingly exposed, which could intensify the calls for a leader of Guttenberg's heritage and caliber.

Daniel 8

The Bible prophesies that in the end time, immediately before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, a German-led, Catholic-inspired European superpower is going to appear. In Isaiah 10:5, for example, we read that God brandishes Germany as an instrument of correction upon the nations of Israel. "O Assyrian [modern-day Germany], the rod of mine anger," God says. Habakkuk also describes end-time events and specifically the resurrection of the "Chaldeans," a prophetic reference to the Holy Roman Empire. "For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs" (Habakkuk 1:6).

Daniel 7 and 8 provide further insight into this seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. In fact, these chapters describe specifically the appearance of an end-time antitype of Antiochus Epiphanes—the cunning, calloused Greek dictator responsible for inflicting terrible destruction on the Jews and Jerusalem in the second century B.C. Notice how the Bible describes this end-time Antiochus: "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of FIERCE COUNTEenance, and UNDERSTANDING DARK SENTENCES, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and

What Is the True Gospel?

It is far more awesome than most people realize!

BY GERALD FLURRY

OUR WORLD IS OVERLOADED WITH confusion. How do we find our way through it? Of all things, we should be able to look to *religion* to point the way. Yet we find the same confusion there! Religion is plagued by all kinds of serious, fundamental disagreements.

Even within Christianity, there are a variety of different gospels: the gospel about Jesus Christ, the gospel of salvation, the gospel of grace, the gospel of the Kingdom, the social gospel, the Israel message—and many more. Confusion.

WHAT IS THE TRUE GOSPEL? Even practicing Christians have *lost* it! And the gospel is *everything!* That's what the entire message of the Bible is about!

Just how important is the gospel to you? And how important is it that you *believe* the *true* gospel?

To believe the gospel, you must know what it is. Do you *know* what the true gospel is, and can you prove it from your Bible?

A Double Curse!

The Apostle Paul knew the true gospel and preached it. And notice what he wrote to the people of God in Galatia: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach *any other gospel* unto you than that which we have

preached unto you, LET HIM BE ACCURSED. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach

any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be ACCURSED" (Galatians 1:8-9). Paul pronounced a double curse on himself or any man, OR EVEN AN ANGEL, WHO PREACHED ANY OTHER GOSPEL.

We have to *know* what the true gospel is. We do not want to follow the gospel of men whom God has double-cursed! It is extremely important to get this right! This subject affects our eternal lives.

What is the true gospel?

'Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God'

Let's look at one of the most inspiring introductions to any book in the Bible. It is one verse, just 12 words—yet it tells you so much about the true gospel. It should be enough to inspire you for the rest of your life!

Think about what this verse means to you: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). Mark introduced "the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It was not the message of a man, but THE MESSAGE *Jesus Christ* delivered. Understanding "the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" leaves you deeply inspired.

This is a *wonderful* introduction to Mark's book—yet people don't understand it because they don't get beyond the deception of this world. You can prove to yourself that even speakers who are teaching a gospel have *shredded* this verse many times over!

Many preachers talk about what they call a "gospel" message. But do they preach "the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"? That gospel is a MESSAGE. It is not about the person of Christ—it is the message that CHRIST HIMSELF BROUGHT TO THIS WORLD. Jesus delivered a *message*, and that message was *not about Himself!*

The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ preached. A God came down from heaven to Earth, took a chance on losing His *own* eternal life, and died for our sins so we could be saved and could understand this precious truth! How *tremendously* important this subject is.

This is Christ's message even now. This message *fills your life* with GOOD NEWS! It is no fantasy—it is REAL, TRUE NEWS. The true gospel is the best news this world has ever received! In fact, it is the *only* good news in this evil world—there is no other! If you understand these 12 words in Mark 1, they will give you joy, peace, happiness and excitement. The true gospel is greater than anything you can even imagine.

Yet this transcendent message has been lost! Most people do not understand it. Many seem to not *want* to understand it, to their own pain, suffering and shame. Why do most people turn away from it? Because the majority of people—throughout mankind's history—have been *deceived*. They even KILLED JESUS CHRIST, who brought the message. And they killed Him *because* of that message! How do you explain that? People hated His message because they were terribly deceived—and to this day people *still* hate that message, as shocking as that may sound.

In Malachi 3:1, God prophesied that He would send "the messenger of the covenant." That is talking about Jesus Christ. Christ was the messenger of the New Covenant. He brought the good news of the message of the New Testament. Christ was a messenger, and He wants us to focus on the *message* He brought. Yet millions of people believe a gospel that focuses on the PERSON of Christ. That is where the deception lies: They don't focus on *what He said*.

What kind of love does God have, that He would give His only begotten Son to this world, to let them kill Him so we could be a part of this gospel for all eternity? That love transcends anything we can imagine. It is the love of God!

In a world overflowing with bad news, the gospel is good news for *you*. You need

to understand just what it is. What is it that God wants you to learn, that will fill your life with good news?

Father and Son

Read those words one more time: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Why does Mark mention the *Son of God* with the gospel? Isn’t “Jesus Christ” enough? No, it isn’t. You need “Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” That is not an embellishment—it is a critical understanding. We have to understand what this gospel is all about, and the *Son of God* is a truly important part of it!

If there is a *Son of God*, THERE MUST ALSO BE A FATHER.

To understand this truth, look at the Gospel of John. He begins by describing a time when only God and the Word existed. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Notice, this verse mentions God and the Word, but it *does not* talk about Father and Son. If you put this together with other scriptures, you see that God became the Father, and the Word became the Son. Why? Because of a great master plan that God has, not only for His Son but also for all the billions of people who have ever lived—even those who, to this point, have never heard the name of Christ!

There was a point in history when the Word *gave up* His divinity and became a tiny cell, and God *begat Him* in Mary’s womb (John 1:14). At that point, the Word became the *Son of the Father*. There was Father and Son—there was *family*.

Why? What is that all about? It’s about YOU! It’s a plan for YOU and for ME and for ALL MANKIND! “The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,” is about the God *Family*.

The Son Declared the Father

Notice verse 18 of John 1: “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath DECLARED HIM.” The world didn’t even *know* about God the Father until Jesus came to Earth and began *declaring Him*.

Why would Christ come and declare the Father? Because He is the Son, and His message was all about the Father and the Son. He brought a message about the God Family.

In John 12:49, Christ said, “I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which

sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.” Imagine Jesus Christ following His Father’s instructions like that!

In John 14:24, He said, “[T]he word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.” His message was *from the Father*, and it was about the God Family.

How many people understand that? How many even understand what Christ was teaching from the Father, and about the Father?

Here is where people make many mistakes. “And Jesus answered and said unto them, *Take heed that no man deceive you.*”

In a world overflowing with bad news, the gospel is good news for you. You need to understand just what it is. What is it that God wants you to learn, that will fill your life with good news?

FOR MANY shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:4-5). He wasn’t warning about many people claiming to *be* Christ. He was prophesying that *many* people would be TALKING ABOUT CHRIST! They say Jesus is the Christ—they preach a gospel about the person of Christ. *But they ignore the good news that Christ brought!* The *true* gospel, the real good news of Jesus Christ, is not about the person of Christ—yet that is exactly where Christianity goes off track. “MANY shall come in my name,” Christ warned. Many *have* come with a message about Christ, and they *have* deceived MANY. This has happened, and it continues to happen.

Jesus didn’t come to declare Himself. He came to declare the Father, and the message of the Father about the God Family!

The Family of God!

Herbert W. Armstrong knew the Bible like few men on Earth ever have. Five months before he died, in the August 1985 edition of the *Good News* magazine, he addressed this very subject of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. “And what was that gospel message?” he wrote. “It was the *news* of the coming Kingdom of God. And what *is* the Kingdom of God? It is the divine *Family* of God, ruling all Earth’s nations with the government of God” (emphasis mine throughout).

How much do you know about the God Family? Most people are very confused about it. But the Bible’s teaching is quite plain.

The Bible reveals that the God Family is what will *rule* the entire Earth in the World Tomorrow. Jesus Christ will be King of kings and Lord of lords—the pre-eminent King and Lord over *many* kings and lords who will rule under Him (e.g. Revelation 19:16).

Jesus was *born* as a Son to God the Father. But though He is the *firstborn* Son, He is not to be the *only* Son—but “the *firstborn* among MANY BRETHREN” (Romans 8:29). That is right—God’s saints “are the

children of God: And if children, then *heirs*; heirs of God, and JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also GLORIFIED TOGETHER”! (verses 16-17).

That is what the gospel is about! God is going to save billions of people and bring them into His Family, which began with the Father’s begetting of Christ.

Mr. Armstrong went on to say: “AND GOD IS A KINGDOM! THAT IS, THE SUPREME DIVINE FAMILY THAT RULES THE UNIVERSE!” It’s all about *family*!

In his booklet *What Is the True Gospel?*, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Four things are necessary to constitute a kingdom,” or God’s Family, in this case: “1) the territory, with its specific location and definite boundary lines, with 2) a king or supreme ruler or governing agent, ruling over 3) subjects or citizens within that territorial jurisdiction, with 4) laws and form of government.” That is what it takes to make a kingdom—and that is what this Family is going to be in the World Tomorrow: a FAMILY of God, or a Kingdom of God. Those two terms mean the same thing here.

“The Kingdom of God starts with a family relationship,” Mr. Armstrong wrote in that *Good News* article. “[F]irst, the physical human families, second, the one compacted-together Church, and, finally, when the Church is

changed to IMMORTALITY, the God Family—which is the Kingdom of God.”

The God Family is going to rule the Earth with Jesus Christ—and it *will include* the Spirit-begotten saints. Those who are called out now, before Christ returns, are going to rule with Him and God the Father for all eternity—in the God Family!

The true gospel reveals that you can enter the God Family today, in embryo, and be filled with the kind of love that God has for this world. And you can ultimately be born into God’s Family like Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was!

A Family Gospel

Now do you see why Mark introduced the true gospel with “Jesus Christ, the Son of God”? It is because the *true* gospel is a FAMILY gospel! It is about a FAMILY overflowing with a love beyond any you have ever seen in a family before—the kind of love where one member of the Godhead risked it all and *died* for all of our sins to give us a chance to be a part of the *true* good news.

Mr. Armstrong went on to write: “When Jesus was born human of the virgin Mary, He became the Son of God. He was ‘Immanuel’—God with us—God in mortal human flesh to make it *possible* for the rest of us humans to be born into the God Family!” (ibid). What act of love would *ever* equal that? What act of love has even come close? A God came to Earth and *died* for these lumps of clay that He created. That is love like you have never understood before if you don’t understand the real gospel of the Bible.

“But when Jesus was begotten in the womb of the virgin Mary, He was NOT, as all other humans, begotten by a human father, but by God the divine Father, by the power of God’s Spirit, which emanates from His very person,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “When Jesus became adult, He set us the example of praying to His Father in heaven. He had become the Son of God. And so we have the divine family relationship—Father and Son. That is a family relationship!” (ibid). The Father and Son *opened up* that Family to *all* men who have ever lived! Why? Because God the Father and Christ the Son want a family!

“The Church will, then, become the actual *born* inheritors of the Kingdom of God, the divine Family,” Mr. Armstrong continued. “The Kingdom of God will then

become the God Family, ruling the universe!” It’s all to become a family!

We can understand God’s love a lot better if we can understand a loving human family. That gives us good insight into it. But still, it strains the imagination to think about God’s Family of love.

In 1 Corinthians 15:19, the Apostle Paul wrote that if we have hope in this life only, we are of all men most miserable. You must have HOPE that goes *beyond* this life, or you’re going to be MISERABLE! But if you have the hope that Christ offered in His message of good news, you will be filled with joy! Do you have hope in your life? Or are you miserable? God’s very elect have this hope, and all human beings on Earth have the OPPORTUNITY to have that hope in their lives. But Satan has deceived them, and they have rejected it.

There is going to be a family! What does that mean to you? What does it mean to be able to be a member of the Family of God for all eternity?

Gloriously Good News!

“Satan is subtly destroying the human family relationship,” Mr. Armstrong continued. With the true gospel in mind, think about what is happening to *family* right now. Satan is *destroying* the human family relationship! This deceives people even more about God. That is why there is so much *misery* in this world: People don’t know the true gospel about God’s Family, and they are even destroying physical human family!

God is going to put an end to that destruction. That is part of the good news! As Mr. Armstrong wrote, “And in that happy World Tomorrow, mortal humans, taught and ruled by the God Family, will learn the *joys* and *blessings* of a healthy home-and-family relationship, with spiritual salvation and eternal life to look forward to” (ibid).

Jesus Christ wasn’t kidding. He wasn’t disseminating some wild fantasy. The Father and the Son are going to have a family of billions! How tragic that the whole world is *blind* to this truth! And how tremendous is the wonderful, *wonderful* truth of God!

THE GOSPEL IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE COMING FAMILY OF GOD RULING THIS WORLD—a family that will administer the loving, self-sacrificing government of God.

Mark introduced this gospel by focusing on the good news message of “Jesus

Christ, the Son of God”! That Son has a Father. And there are going to be *billions of other sons* brought into that Family!

Do You Believe Christ?

If you want to be a part of that good news, you have to *believe* what God says! Jesus Christ taught people that they had to BELIEVE the gospel! At that time, many did believe *on* Him. But astoundingly, many of those Jews *who believed on Him* (John 8:31) TRIED TO KILL HIM! (verse 37). Why? “[Y]e seek to kill me, *because my word hath no place in you*,” He explained. They wanted to kill Him BECAUSE OF HIS MESSAGE!

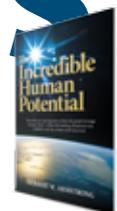
DO YOU BELIEVE CHRIST? It is *not enough* to believe on the *person* of Christ. That is *another gospel*. To believe the true gospel, we have to BELIEVE HIM! We have to *believe* His message. We must really work to build faith and *believe* what He said! That brings the happiness and joy into your life that every person on Earth ought to have—even now, this very minute!

People, even religious people—even people who believe on Christ—will do terrible things if the true gospel is not a part of them. They will even kill Jesus Christ!

But if you *believe* Him *and* you *believe* His gospel, you will have an unimaginably wonderful future that will stun you! It’s the most wonderful picture you could ever have in your mind! It is the TRUE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD! ■

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► PEACE from page 5

For example, my wife and I raised four daughters. We made sure to never say one daughter's hair was blonder, thicker or curlier than the others'. We never said one could run faster, jump higher or skip better than the others. If one was clearly good at some skill or venture, we would acknowledge it. Yet, we looked for an equally good quality or accomplishment to praise—at an appropriate time—in our other daughters as well. We looked for ways to praise the girls equally, to give them equal hugs and equal time alone with us.

There were times our children tried to draw us into making comparisons between them. One daughter would work us by wanting us to say she was better than her sisters. The conversation would go something like: "Dad, I can draw better than (sister), right?" Beware that trap. I might answer, "You have a talent for drawing and (sister) has a talent for sewing. Both are very creative." Had I responded with a simple yes, I would have given a "one up" to the daughter asking the question. By explaining the fact that each daughter held a unique talent that was very creative, I kept the playing field even.

Be sure to discuss your children's weaknesses privately, without the other siblings present. When one of your children needs to be corrected, do that behind closed doors, away from the others. Even if two of our daughters got into trouble together, we corrected each child privately. Following this technique faithfully will severely reduce the amount of ammunition your children can aim at each other.

One very important point you should emphasize regularly with your children is that you love all of them equally!

Establish Just Rules, Equal Punishment

Establish clearly defined rules to *keep the peace* in your home. You could call it your family non-aggression pact. Here are some ideas you can include in your pact.

- Don't allow your children to put down or make fun of a sibling in a destructive or hurtful way—ever.
- Don't allow your children to bite, kick, punch, slap or scream at each other.
- Don't allow an older child to tease a younger child.
- Don't allow a younger child to harass an older child.

- Don't allow your children to invade each other's private space. Depending on your home situation, private space can mean a bedroom, clothes closet, bookshelf, or bedside end table.
- Don't allow your children to wear each other's clothes without permission.

If a disagreement begins to flare into an argument, make sure your children come to you for arbitration so a fight does not begin. However, if a fight occurs, be sure to discipline *all* involved. Teach your children that fighting does not solve problems.

After you establish the rules, you must also establish the penalties for all violations of the rules. Be sure your children understand that consequences will have to be paid for all pact violations. Naturally, not all violations of the rules would carry the same weight, so punishments should vary. For example, biting, kicking, slapping, or screaming should carry a heavier punishment than wearing clothes without permission. However, if one sibling continually ignores the rule on clothing, then a more severe penalty may be necessary.

Above all, enforce the rules consistently, equally and equitably. This will prove to be the real secret to your success. Lasting peace in your home is the product of right and stable government (Isaiah 9:7). Never abdicate the government or give complete self-rule to your children. Although your children may complain about your strictness at times, in the long run they will love you more for your commitment to their protection.

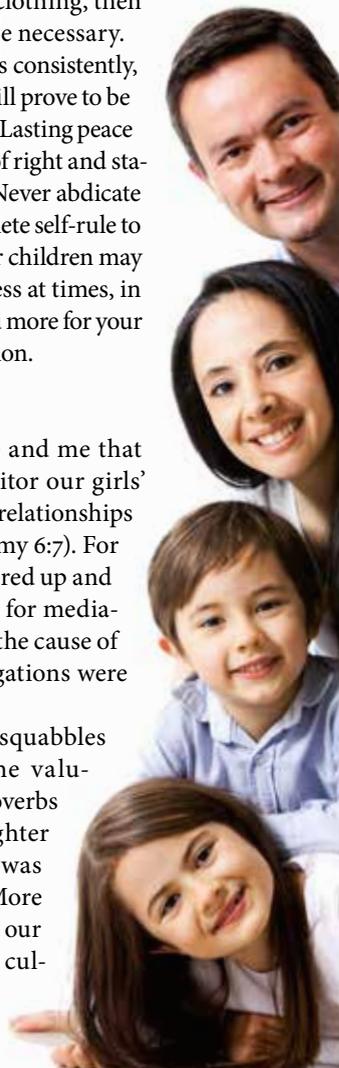
Monitor Your Children

Experience taught my wife and me that we had to continually monitor our girls' activities and interpersonal relationships with each other (Deuteronomy 6:7). For example, when situations flared up and the girls did not come to us for mediation, we always *investigated* the cause of the problem. These investigations were often quite revealing.

Working through their squabbles with them, we learned the valuable lesson illustrated in Proverbs 18:17. Many times the daughter who appeared most guilty was not the guilty party at all. More than once we discovered that our younger daughters were the culprits. Parents, learn to be good sleuths!

Here is one final point to deeply consider. When our daughters did get into an occasional fight, we did not compromise on disciplining all involved. Although one or two may be the guiltiest, we held the others involved responsible to come get us to solve the disagreement. If they did not come to us, we considered them accomplices in the crime. We were amazed at how much less fighting there was in our home. We discovered that painful enforcement on a child's bottom at the right time is an effective teacher.

With time, hard effort, continual teaching and experience, your non-aggression pact will work out well for you. Our girls—now mature married ladies—are wonderful, loving friends with each other. Do they have disagreements at times? Yes. However, we are comforted because we know that we taught them how to work through them. Establish a non-aggression pact for your family. Then, enjoy the peace—no kidding! ■



Want to make family work?

Find practical articles on how to bring peace to your family at www.pco.org/family

Here's a sample of what you'll find:

"How to Select Toys for Your Children"

"Parents! Save Your Teens From the Technology Tr@p"

"Lost Boys"

"The Gift of a Happy Home"

"Male Christian Leadership"



Russian President Vladimir Putin prefers that the media portray his good side.

'Putin II' tightens grip on Russian media

President Vladimir Putin dissolved Russia's primary state news agency on December 9 and replaced it with a propaganda machine, the latest example of his openly aggressive attempt to control Russia's media.

The RIA Novosti news agency was government-controlled, but Putin decided it did not toe the Kremlin line closely enough. He was displeased by the agency's coverage of demonstrations that followed his 2012 announcement that he would run for president again. The last straw appears to have been RIA Novosti's reporting on the mass protests currently underway in Ukraine.

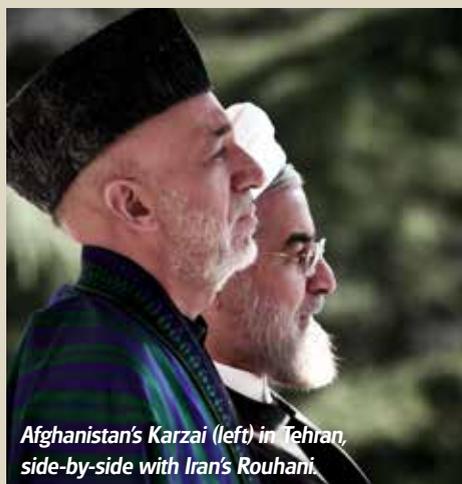
Putin dissolved the decades-old agency, and its headquarters in central Moscow is now being used by a new state-controlled organization called Rossiya Segodnya. The new agency is essentially a propaganda apparatus for the Kremlin—completely uncritical of Putin.

In a separate maneuver in late November, Putin greatly extended his grip over TV and radio when the media arm

of state-controlled Gazprom bought Profmedia.

Putin is making openly authoritarian moves to consolidate his power. In a recent *New York Times* op-ed, Serge Schmemmann wrote: "[I]n replacing

a respected news agency with a propaganda machine, Mr. Putin followed the more openly aggressive stance of his return to the presidency in May 2012—what Russians call Putin II, or Late Putin."



Afghanistan's Karzai (left) in Tehran, side-by-side with Iran's Rouhani.

PACTS OF FRIENDSHIP

Afghanistan has agreed to a long-term friendship and cooperation pact with Iran. Afghan President Hamid Karzai rushed to Tehran on Dec. 8, 2013, to sign the cooperation deal, which his spokesman said "will be for long-term political, security, economic and cultural cooperation, regional peace and security."

For years the United States has attempted to

strike a security deal with Karzai that would maintain an American presence in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of most of its troops by December 2014. With that deadline looming and the Pentagon hoping to keep 8,000 troops in Afghanistan next year, Karzai made some sudden demands. He told Washington he would sign no bilateral security agreement unless his 11th-hour conditions were met.

Now Afghanistan has made an agreement with Iran. Karzai's actions say a lot about America's long-term relationship with Afghanistan. Karzai's spokesman, Aimal Faizi, said at the time the deal was made, "We need to enhance our relationships with our neighbors because these are the countries we have our future with." Despite Washington's efforts to close a deal, Iran appears to have won the battle for influence over Karzai's government.

The scenario further reveals the precipitous decline of American influence in the Middle East.

This Afghanistan-Iran pact relates to a biblical prophecy forecasting the rise of the "king of the south." This king is Iran leading an alliance of radical Islamic nations. It will come to power in the Middle East, and the Bible prophesies that it will trigger World War III.

The *Trumpet* has been anticipating an authoritarian Putin II, predicting the second, more dictatorial phase of "Dark Rider Putin." Time has proven that prediction accurate. Besides clamping down on the Russian media and stifling protests, Putin has also yanked Ukraine away from years' worth of talks and cooperation with the European Union. He has claimed sovereignty over the Arctic, called Russia the "moral compass of the world," and made a trade deal with Iran that severely undermined American and European sanctions and ultimately helps Iran's nuclear program.

As editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains in detail in his article "The Ukraine Crisis Was Prophesied!" (page 1), one of the most significant aspects of Russia's resurgence is the catalytic effect it will have on European unification. ■

Turkey's upheaval may give Europe an opportunity

TURKISH PRIME MINISTER **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** is facing what looks to be the biggest challenge of his 11 years in office. Embroiled in a massive corruption scandal, he has been forced to reshuffle his cabinet, and Turks across the nation are still calling for him to step down.



ERDOĞAN

The corruption charges date back to December 17, when at least two sons of high-ranking politicians were arrested as part of a larger operation aimed at stemming government corruption.

When he took office, Erdoğan was seen as the solution to years of corruption

under former Prime Minister **Abdullah Gül**. Now those who put Erdoğan in office seem to think he himself is corrupt.

Immediately after the first arrests, the government attempted to control the damage, removing numerous police and judicial officials from office. Three politicians from the Justice and Development Party have resigned over the scandal.

Whether the scandal claims Erdoğan's career or not, prophecy tells us what is about to happen in **Turkey**. Geographically, culturally and economically, Turkey is wedged between Europe and the Middle East. Bible prophecy tells us that it will enter a strategic partnership with the Europeans. As a literal land bridge, Turkey will play a vital role for



Europe in securing control of the Middle East (Daniel 11:40).

A strong pro-European leader may be all Turkey needs to tip the nation toward European influence. A large-scale government reshuffle could have a similar effect.

In Psalm 83:5-8, the Europeans are prophesied to ally with the Turks, along with a number of other Arabic nations. The descendents of Edom,

mentioned in this prophecy, are the modern Turks, and those of the Assyrians are the modern Germans.

The repercussions of this alliance will be felt across the world. The context of Psalm 83 is the destruction of **Israel**. Keep your eye on events in Turkey; upheavals will eventually lead that nation toward betraying its old partners, including the **United States** and **Britain**. ■

ANGLING TO BUILD AN ARMY

British Prime Minister **David Cameron** blocked plans for the European Union to create its own armed forces during a defense summit held December 19 to 20, saying "it isn't right for the European Union to have capabilities, armies, air forces and all the rest of it."



CAMERON

Mr. Cameron's statement came after President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** said on December 19, "We need a headquarters for civil and military missions in Brussels and deployable troops."

Nevertheless, at the summit, the EU still took other significant but subtler steps toward amassing power.

The European Commission and other EU bodies were tasked with creating an "EU Cyber Defense Policy Framework" and an "EU Maritime Security Strategy." That puts these two projects beyond **Britain's** veto power. The Commission also aims to set new standards for European

military equipment—something it could use to prevent EU nations from buying new equipment from the United States. The summit's conclusions also call for the development of a European drone by 2020 to 2025, and the development of air-to-air refueling technology.

The European Commission now has plenty of scope to increase European military cooperation. Keep watching to see what will come of it.

Chief Executive of European Aeronautic Defense and Space Co. **Tom Enders** is hopeful. Enders, who is usually critical of European politicians on defense matters, called the meeting a "very positive forward step." He said that the agreements to do more to coordinate military purchasing were "a sign that the political will exists" for further action.

But in the near future, moves toward a European army will probably come from cooperation between individual member states rather than from the EU. "The frequent calls for more cooperation between member states... lends force

to one of the major pre-summit arguments put forward by officials and diplomats: that some of the most significant effects of the summit would be felt not at the EU level, but in cooperation between 'clusters' of member states, and at the national level," wrote the *European Voice*.

"The focus on cooperation between groups of member states reflects the current limited level of pan-EU collaboration on defense issues, and also sensitivities about whether cooperation should be developed through the EU or NATO" (Dec. 20, 2013).

This will be the way forward for the near future. Britain is Europe's biggest obstacle to closer cooperation, but not the only one. It will probably take a major crisis to convince even the less Euroskeptical nations to give up more control over their militaries.

But this "clusters" approach is exactly the route **Germany** has been pursuing. There are some big obstacles in the way of a common European military, but Germany, especially, is committed to making it happen.

For more on this subject, see our article "Under Construction" in the August 2013 issue. theTrumpet.com/go/10771

Get to know the new head of DHS

THE **United States** SENATE CONFIRMED a new Secretary of Homeland Security on December 16. Winning confirmation by an overwhelming vote of 78 to 16, **Jeh Johnson** is the fourth person to lead the sprawling domestic security agency since its inception after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Johnson is one of three African Americans in President **Barack Obama's** new cabinet,

and will take over a department overseeing 22 agencies with a far-flung jurisdiction that includes counterterrorism, fighting illegal immigration and responding to natural disasters. But many civil rights advocates are deeply concerned about the direction Johnson is likely to move national law enforcement.

Although he has been an obscure figure thus far to both the general public and

the law enforcement community, the American Civil Liberties Union has been voicing concerns about his human rights record—specifically his unapologetic support of the Obama administration's drone warfare policies.

During his stint as a legal adviser for the Pentagon, Johnson provided legal rationale for military involvement in the drone program. To the shock



of civil rights advocates, Johnson *advocated targeting U.S. citizens* in such drone strikes. "Belligerents who also happen to be U.S. citizens do not enjoy immunity where non-citizen belligerents are valid military objectives," he said in a speech at Yale Law School.

Now Johnson is head of Homeland Security. Has he changed his legal rationale, or will he beef up the department's domestic drone fleet?

Johnson has also defended the National Security Administration's massive and unpopular program of spying on Americans. During a discussion at the 2013 Aspen Security Forum, Johnson said that when Americans make a phone call, they have "no legitimate expectation of privacy." Their metadata (including phone numbers, call duration and sometimes even GPS location) belongs to the government. Johnson is unperturbed by this massive, unprecedented expansion of government power.

With support from the Pentagon, the federal Department of Homeland Security is working with local police departments to spy on American citizens without warrant and to conduct arrests with military hardware. What comes next? To find out, request your own copy of our booklet *America Under Attack*. ■



RECORD FOR VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS SMASHED

A brand new island created by volcanic explosion is quickly growing and will likely remain a fixture of the Pacific landscape, **Japan's** Meteorological Agency said on December 12. The island was formed from lava that cooled and hardened above sea level after a large underwater volcano began erupting in late November.

While it is quite rare for new islands to spring up out of the sea, major volcanic eruptions are becoming commonplace. In fact, 2013 had the most volcanic eruptions in any year since record keeping began: It had 84 volcanic eruptions, according to calculations by Alvin Conway, author of *The Extinction Protocol*. Considering that the average is between 50 and 60 per year, this represents a significant increase. This number does not even include undersea volcanoes like the one that produced the new Japanese island.

Conway wrote about the potential importance of the uptick in eruptions: "While most scientists may readily dismiss any significance to the latest figures and may be quick to say the planet is just experiencing normal geological activity, it does raise other concerns about just what may be transpiring within the interior of our planet."

Having 23 to 33 eruptions more than usual also represents a potentially significant increase in the amount of ash and gases entering into Earth's atmosphere. Some analysts believe the increase could lower global temperatures by 2 degrees Celsius or more, which could be enough to alter agricultural yields in key regions. Even if it isn't, the trend is significant.



The Holy Bible reveals that the God who created Earth and the universe can cause volcanoes to erupt: "Mountains have shaken because of Him, And the hills have been melted" (Nahum 1:5; Young's Literal Translation). Psalm 104:32 says, "He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke."

Although Jesus Christ is not recorded as having mentioned volcanoes specifically, He did talk about earthquakes, which are often the result of volcanic activity. During His earthly ministry, Jesus said earthquakes would increase just before His return (Matthew 24:7-8).

It seems that every few weeks the Earth unleashes devastating violence of one kind or other: a volcanic eruption, an earthquake, a tornado, a tsunami, a mega storm, a flood, drought, a rash of wildfires. Bible prophecy makes plain that these disasters signal that this present evil world is about to end. In the rubble of the catastrophes lies invigorating hope. To understand more, request a free copy of *Why 'Natural' Disasters?*



The president's strange choice to oversee mortgage giants

ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL Obama appointees yet was sworn in as director of the Federal Housing Financial Agency on January 6. Democrat Rep. **Mel Watt** now oversees Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the two giant government-owned mortgage companies. Ironically, he was also one of the chief architects of the housing bubble that popped in 2007.

Watt, who was chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, is perhaps best known for pushing banks to give risky loans to blacks and other minorities that could not afford them. In the lead-up to the housing bubble, he drafted legislation that would have pushed banks to even give mortgages to *people on welfare* as long as they could come up with \$1,000. To placate the banks, which resisted, his plan called on the government to cover any losses incurred by the banks by guaranteeing the mortgages.

In October 2002, Watt announced the public-private partnership called "Pathways to Homeownership." This plan was designed to coerce banks to give mortgages to people *even if they couldn't scrape together a down payment*.

Watt aggressively pushed policies to get people to buy homes whether or not they could afford them. He worked to expand government

mortgage insurance programs, government handouts and tax credits. Even in 2007, when the housing market was imploding from all these subprime loans, Watt pushed a bill to force Fannie and Freddie to make *more* loans to non-creditworthy minorities in inner cities.

Watt also vehemently fought against any effort to reduce subprime lending. He and Rep. **Barney Frank** led the effort to successfully block the 2003 Fannie and Freddie reform effort.

What do you think Watt's agenda will include? He has already told us: Reflate the housing bubble by helping people buy houses they cannot afford.

Even before he was confirmed, Watt pledged to stop the planned increases in government-backed mortgage fees that were designed to wean the mortgage market off government subsidies. He also put his name to a letter calling on Fannie and Freddie to forgive the debts of underwater homeowners who speculated on houses at the height of the bubble.

Mel Watt's record is public knowledge. So why didn't Republicans challenge him on that, rather than criticizing his lack of business experience?

Here's one reason: Everybody is afraid to be called a racist. No one wants to be associated with anything that can be twisted or perceived to be

against minorities. The race card is a powerful motivator in today's political climate.

Additionally, Republicans were also complicit in the housing bubble and pushing banks to issue risky loans to those who could not afford them.

But there is a bigger reason.

Big banks and real estate groups are some of the biggest donors to both political parties. As the Center for Responsive Politics points out, financial industry players (commercial banks, investment banks and insurance companies) are three of the top five contributors to

Watt's election coffers.

Mel Watt is just the man for Wall Street. He said he wants to reflate housing prices, and he is for lowering lending standards again. The big banks couldn't be happier. They love giving subprime loans to those who can't afford them—now that they know the government will subsidize them and bail them out when things go wrong.

By appointing Watt as the mortgage market regulator, President Obama has signaled that government-backed loans are here to stay. Housing Bubble 2.0 is on the way. ■

You CAN conquer credit card debt

Call if you can't make a payment There's a good chance your credit card company can work with you by taking a partial payment or deferring your payments, especially if you have a good payment history.

Seek advice Because your credit rating is on the line, be very choosy about who you turn to for help. Beware of "debt negotiation schemes." Non-profit debt-help organizations can provide much-needed expert counsel.

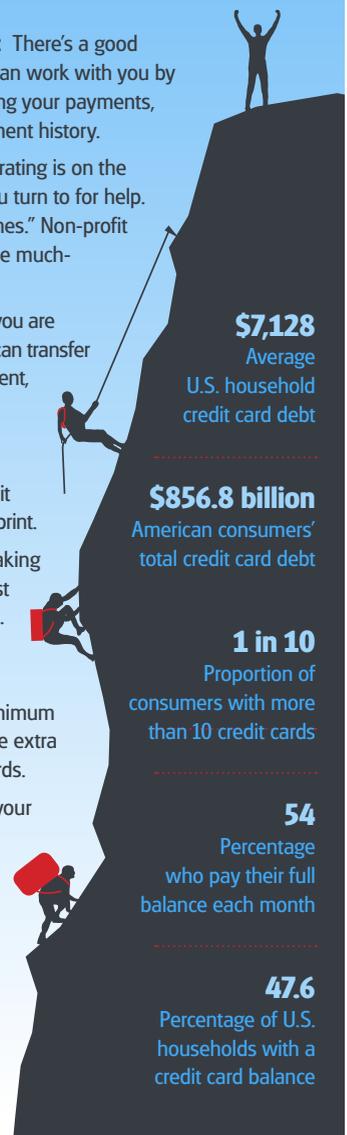
Transfer high to low-interest If you are paying 20 percent on one card but can transfer it to a card that only charges 11 percent, do so. But, be careful—many cards have penalties and fees associated with balance transfers or have low teaser interest rates. Talk to the credit card company and read all the fine print.

Pay more than the minimum Making just the minimum payment will cost you thousands of dollars over time.

Prioritize In most cases, it makes sense to pay off the card with the highest interest rate first. Make minimum payments on all your cards, but use extra funds to pay off the higher-rate cards.

Quit using those cards Think of your cards as a tool, not a license to spend. If you have a binge-spending problem, get rid of the cards. Simply cut them up.

Create a budget Start by listing all your monthly expenses. Be thorough and accurate. Next, total your sources of income. If your balance sheet doesn't add up, you must increase your earnings or reduce your standard of living.



► **PLAN** from page 10

or Acts 8, all of which specifically discuss the Catholic Church. Very few understand that while the Bible reveals that the church is a great and impressive religion, *it is actually a false religion, a counterfeit of God's true religion.*

Herbert Armstrong understood this truth, and he explained it often and extensively. Although he gleaned his knowledge from all over the Bible, he concentrated on Revelation 17 and 18, two chapters that discuss the Catholic Church in explicit and vivid detail.

Events discussed in these chapters revolve primarily around the time of Jesus Christ's Second Coming. In the first few verses of Revelation 17, God gives the Apostle John a vision of a "woman sit[ting] upon a scarlet coloured beast." The Bible uses a woman as a type of religion (e.g. 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7; Ephesians 5:22-32). This woman, or religion, is impressive and extraordinarily powerful. "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:4-5).

Verse 6 is especially important: "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus . . ." The religion or church of Revelation 17 and 18 **CLEARLY IS NOT** the true religion of God. In fact, this great false religion exists to *destroy* the true church of God.

Now who or what is the seven-headed "beast" ridden by the Catholic Church? The term *beast*, as Mr. Armstrong taught and is thoroughly corroborated by the history of this institution, "is a symbol of a kingdom, or empire" (*Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*). Thus, symbolically, this is a prophecy about a religion guiding a secular government, or kingdom. The seven heads of the beast indicate this church-state relationship would be manifested on seven distinct occasions throughout history. Can we find such a relationship in world history? We can. It's called the Holy Roman Empire!

History books confirm the existence of this empire. Its first manifestation was Emperor

Justinian in the sixth century; its latest was the Hitler-Mussolini axis of World War II. The woman, or religion, is the "holy" in the Holy Roman Empire. Who is she, specifically? Even a casual study of the Holy Roman Empire shows that the Catholic Church sponsored each resurrection: Justinian, Charlemagne, Otto the Great, the Habsburg dynasty, Napoleon Bonaparte—and even the Axis powers in World War II.

After verse 10, the remainder of Revelation 17 and chapter 18 discuss the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. This resurrection—as Mr. Armstrong explained and as prophecies in Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea, Matthew 24 and other Bible passages prove—is the now-building, German-led European conglomerate of nations. But remember, this superpower of nations is ridden—led, influenced, guided—by the Roman Catholic Church.

Global Reach

What is this German-led, Catholic-inspired superpower characterized by? Revelation 17:1 says this church "sitteth upon many waters." She has a global presence. Verse 2 says she commits fornication with "the kings of the earth," or world governments, as well as "the inhabitants of the earth," the citizens of various countries. Verse 15 states: "The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, *are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*" This religion is popular in the four corners of the globe, among many peoples, nations and languages.

Can you see the fulfillment of verse 15 in the Francis Effect and the remarkable restoration of the Catholic Church's popularity by the current pope?

It gets more riveting when you consider Revelation 18, which continues to discuss the great false religion and specifically prophesies its destruction at Christ's return. Verse 3 says, "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, *and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*"

Notice, there's a distinct **ECONOMIC** and **FINANCIAL** facet to this religion's existence. This "woman" isn't just socially or religiously popular; *she's exerting influence in global finance, trade and commerce.* **REVELATION 18 INDICATES SHE'S AT THE CENTER**

OF A GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM!

Read verses 9 through 18. They paint a vivid picture of a globalized world in which this religion is the nucleus of world trade and commerce. When you study these two chapters, you get a portrait of a world revolving around a global financial system heavily influenced, if not created, by this "woman."

Isn't this astonishing? The Bible prophesies that the Catholic Church will be popular among many "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues," and that it will play a decisive role in world government. *But it also prophesies specifically that it will have a decisive influence over global trade and finance.* Now look again at Pope Francis, the lowly, inconspicuous cardinal from Argentina. This man and his remarkable accomplishments are leading toward the fulfillment of the prophecy of Revelation 17 and 18.

How sobering, yet how exciting! ■

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE BY **ANDREW MILLER**



**LAMBS
BEASTS
DRAGONS
SERPENTS**

What does it all mean?

Bible prophecy is filled with symbolic creatures that represent modern institutions. To find out what those symbols mean, order our free booklet ***Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?***

GARY DOWNING/TRUMPHET



Follow God With Your Whole Heart

Real spiritual growth comes when you are totally wrapped up in God's work. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

HOW FAR ARE WE WILLING TO GO FOR GOD? IN MATTHEW 5:29-30, Christ said that if anything gets in the way of doing God's work, then we have to conquer it. We have to cut things off, if necessary—take drastic action. We can't allow those problems to slow us down because if they do, it will slow down God's work.

In Luke 14, Christ gives a parable in which a master of a house prepared a royal feast for an exclusive gathering (verses 16-17). But when the invitations were sent out, the people turned them down. The people made excuses because of the strong attachments they had in the world (verses 18-20).

In response, the master told his servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind" (verse 21). In other words, go out and find those who are willing to GIVE UP THOSE THINGS in order to dwell with God.

"And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper" (verses 22-24). Those who were invited originally end up getting SHUT OUT ENTIRELY because of their many lame excuses.

The lesson of this parable, Christ said, is in the commitment to follow Him: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (verse 26). If we commit to follow God, we are saying we are willing to give it all up for God—even our own lives, if necessary. God's Family and God's work must come first—ahead of our own flesh and blood; ahead of material things or pursuits.

Understand just how serious this commitment really is. This is not some puny endeavor: It's THE WORK OF GOD!

One man who was seriously committed to God was Joshua. The Bible says he and Caleb "wholly followed" God (Joshua 14:6-8). In response, Moses told them, "Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God" (verse 9).

Here is one characteristic that helped shape Joshua's courageous nature: He served God with his whole heart. God's way of life is to go forward, sincerely, wholeheartedly and earnestly, as far as you can go in the direction of His law. The Christian life is a life of growing and improving in character—of overcoming—of becoming more and more like Christ. If we are not growing, WE ARE DYING.

In Matthew 5, Jesus Christ magnifies the law given in the Old Testament. In a sense, He is saying, "I know you are well aware of all the human customs and traditions of the day. But I'm talking to you Christians about elevating the standard FAR ABOVE that" (verses 38-39). In verse 48 He challenges His disciples to "[become] ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." What a standard!

This scripture encapsulates the gospel of God. It is all about human beings actually becoming like God Himself. God is a perfectionist. How much of a perfectionist are you? We should develop a desire for perfection in everything that we do.

As true Christians, we are called upon to do MORE than is required of us—to be a LIVING SACRIFICE (Romans 12:1-2). Colossians 3:23 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." (See also Ecclesiastes 9:10.) God expects TOTAL COMMITMENT from us. This is not easy.

On Feb. 25, 1955, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "God has never intended our lives, yielded to Him for His service, to be a proverbial soft 'bed of roses.' God has not intended our Christian lives in His service to run smooth and easy, with no problems, no concerns. God intended—ordained—that we should be confronted with continual problems, difficulties, troubles—

that we should have to make constant sacrifices, learning to give up our own ways and wants—even some of our money, and the things we want to buy with it!"

Christ said in Matthew 16:24-27, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ... For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

If we hold back, we might lose out entirely. The way to gain eternal life and a reward in God's Kingdom is to give up our life right now—to lay it down, and sacrifice it for God's work!

Strive to put your WHOLE HEART into God's work. Don't be a half-hearted Christian. Don't give in to the downward pull of human nature to be spiritually lazy. Set your mind and your will to obey God with all your heart.

Real spiritual growth comes when you are totally wrapped up in God's work. God's work is a work of giving, serving and helping others. It is a work that requires sacrifice. It is a work of love. It is a work worth fighting, suffering and dying for! If you will commit yourself and give up your life for this work, Jesus Christ says you will gain eternal life. ■

Strive to put your whole heart into God's work. Don't be a half-hearted Christian. Don't give in to the downward pull of human nature to be spiritually lazy. Set your mind and your will to obey God with all your heart.



Beast of the East

Wow ("Is Vladimir Putin the Propheted 'Prince of Rosh?'" February). This is simply amazing! We are living in the passages of God's Word today! Thank you for this article. No doubt Mr. Putin is a man being used by God to cause the Bible to come alive. The messages are getting stronger and stronger and the picture is getting clearer. It is just astounding to look at the words recorded in the Bible, and by revelation, realize that we are living in a time when specific people can now be identified. This is enough to make a person dizzy! I look forward to how God reveals His plan as world events unfold.

R. S.—South Africa

FEEDBACK

13%	The Unthinkable Will Happen!
12%	Why Does the Environmental Protection Agency Need Its Own SWAT Team?
12%	Coming Soon: Freedom for Slaves!
11%	The Truth About Nelson Mandela
8%	Is Vladimir Putin the Propheted 'Prince of Rosh?'
44%	(other articles)



Putin is an interesting man. He came out of obscurity as an ex-KGB officer and then advanced to president. Some genealogists claim he is related to Russian royalty from the old Putyanin clan. He would be a good match as the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. I think it is interesting that the Bible calls Gog a chief prince, not a king, because a prince is a man of royal descent who has not been crowned as king yet.

Kjetil—Norway

Thought-provoking concept. I disagree with the notion that we are "in trouble" because the USA has lost its influence internationally. Let's let Putin

establish a new Soviet Union and see how well he does. Let's let Merkel establish a European Union and see how well she does. These are two outstanding leaders that have much to offer the rest of the world. I'm not sure why we think we can get it right and that they are incapable of getting it right. They may surprise us! Let's not be critical of these people but encourage and support them. Then we can all live in harmony.

Von Rickinoff

Seven 30-day months to bury 200 million people means putting close to a million people in the ground every single day for seven months straight. What a nightmare.

David

RESPONSES FOR "COMING SOON: FREEDOM FOR SLAVES!"

"I don't know how anyone could read this article and not be moved to passionately support this *Trumpet* message of hope and deliverance for all."

"This article should help us wake up to the reality of the results of family breakdown and lawlessness."

"As difficult as this article was to read, it is necessary that we educate ourselves to these realities."

"With tears in my eyes I pray for God's Kingdom to be here soon and all of these victims to have their freedom."

"Oftentimes it is just easier to ignore it and bury our heads in the sand, but this would just contribute to the problem."

"How terrible man can be inspired by Satan. It just brings tears."

"We sit in our comfy homes not realizing the evil that is all around us."



Putin is a great leader. He knows the direction he wants to take Russia. Russia needs to remain strong because Russia is constantly surrounded by U.S. bases, missiles and such, that Putin has no choice but to take Russia towards a more assertive role. And apparently, as the article brings out, this has God's approval. Thank God for strong Russia and Asia.

Observer

God's golden rules

This article hits the nail on the head ("Is America's Economy Improving?" February). The unbelievably sad economic state this country is in is brought out clearly in reporting how things are in the personal financial affairs of the people, as well as the government. Now people are too weak in character to change the greedy, Ponzi-scheme lifestyle they live. Herbert W. Armstrong was right when he warned of what lies ahead.

Patricia Malone—Oklahoma

This is an excellent article. I was always taught, as I think most of us were, to make sure you plan

ahead, but for some reason this doesn't apply to economics and spending. What's more interesting is that a recent study about the haves and have-nots revealed that those with very little were far happier than those with an abundance of materialistic things, as they put their faith and devotion into their family, friends and relationships.

Andrew Barfield—United Kingdom

Many thanks for your easy-to-understand article explaining the dire situation that has been created worshipping mammon! For many years now people have watched the same pattern here in Australia, calling us "little America." After reading your explanation on many subjects all backed up by Scripture, you are the shining star in a world that is darkening. This absolute carnage is caused by discarding God's golden rules.

Margaret Fenyn—Australia

Living the give way

I believe this concept to be true from real-life experience ("You Don't Have to Be a Jerk to Get Ahead," February). Givers are also generally much more content and happier all around than either matchers or takers. Living the way of give really is rewarding, no matter how you slice that pie.

Janice Davidson—Oklahoma

Nuclear war coming

Yes, the "unthinkable" will happen ("The Unthinkable Will Happen!" February). Thank God it will only happen once, and then Christ will put a stop to the nuclear madness forever!

James Paine—New York

Pounded by propaganda

A recent media statement proclaimed that one third of Americans do not believe in evolution. ("The Real Problem With Higher Education," February). To me that strongly implies that at least two thirds are either uneducated or at least under-educated. Thank you for the good work at the *Trumpet* and the library materials that you make available at no charge!

Harris Allen—North Carolina

As a recent university-goer, I can say that these institutions are declining. From the professors' desire to convey material to the material itself, even the students are being pounded with left-leaning propaganda that has nothing to do with their studies. Why do I have to take a minimum of 10 courses of "social sciences"? Social sciences are *not* the concrete sciences, but rather the kind that try to get me to agree with the left's ideas or ethics, when it's completely the

opposite of my upbringing. My math teachers couldn't have even known I existed, and I could get a high grade because of the concrete substance of the subject. However, if my social science professor didn't like that I disagreed with the idea of two men or two women raising children together, they could have happily failed me.

James Ellis—Canada

Armed and dangerous

This was a very disturbing article to read, but the situation is not surprising ("Why Does the Environmental Protection Agency Need Its Own SWAT Team?" February). From past experience I

have found that not all law enforcement officers are good people. The percentage of humans deceived by Satan in the police force is the same percent in the rest of society. I always prepare myself mentally for the day when society breaks down. I know that someone with a badge knocking on my door could be just as affected by evil as a person without a badge. If this person were issued a machine gun, it would be mind-boggling. The story of the local sheriff using a drone on a family farm was quite an eye opener. Satan has already tempted law enforcement to take all this military hardware. Society can collapse very quickly.

Bruce Posch—Canada



ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Learn more about Russia in prophecy on theTrumpet.com



Guttenberg vs. Putin: A Battle of the Titans

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg's candid, even forceful, message to Vladimir Putin was infused with a spirit of confrontation. theTrumpet.com/go/11279



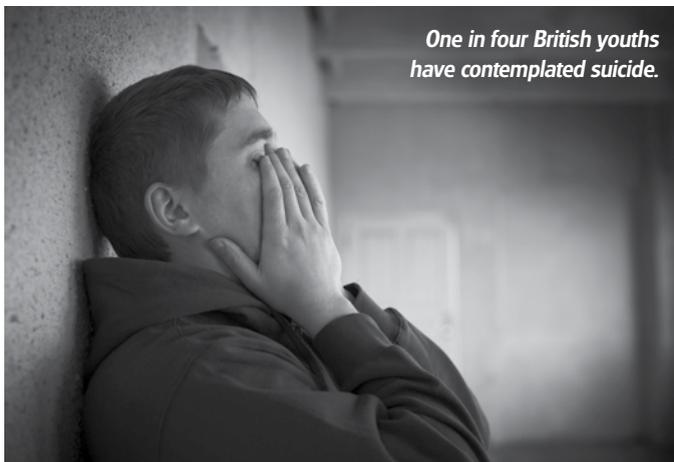
Guttenberg on Putin: 'Bully of the Year'

The former German defense minister calls out the Russian premier for his authoritarian agenda. theTrumpet.com/go/11283



About Those Russian Missiles Aimed at Europe

Vladimir Putin takes advantage of American appeasement to expand imperialistic reach. theTrumpet.com/go/11223



One in four British youths have contemplated suicide.

'I have nothing to live for'

MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS of a million young people in the United Kingdom feel they “have nothing to live for,” according to a YouGov poll for the Prince’s Trust Macquarie Youth Index published January 1.

The study, based on interviews with 2,161 people ages 16 to 25, also shows that more than one in four British youth have considered committing suicide. And almost one in five have self-harmed.

Why do so many young people in the affluent UK believe life is not worth living? Why have over 2 million of them thought seriously about taking their own life? Why have over 1.5 million deliberately harmed their bodies by cutting their skin with blades and other methods?

Most analysts discussing the study blame long-term unemployment. This is a contributing factor, but the figures include significant percentages of job-holders, students and others. Unemployment exacerbates hopelessness and self-destructive tendencies, but it isn’t the only cause.

Alongside unemployment, we could also point to the UK’s failing school systems, its entertainment and music

industries, pornography, drug pushers, violent video games and a host of other aspects of its lawless modern culture.

But the far bigger cause of the increasing hopelessness of youths originates in the home.

Increasing numbers of parents in the UK are unstable and self-absorbed. They are often too mired in personal crises of their own to be active in the lives of their children. Many have bought the deception that permissiveness in child rearing is the paragon of parental love.

But what does the God who created mankind, and who designed us to reproduce and live in the structure of family, say? “The one who spares his rod hates his child, but the one who loves his child is diligent in disciplining him” (Proverbs 13:24; Net Translation).

That proverb and hundreds

of other biblical passages revealing how to build healthy families are largely ignored. Whether unqualified or unwilling, too many parents are not fulfilling their God-given responsibility to love, nurture, teach, lead, correct and discipline their children. In these vital areas, many parents have abandoned their children. The result is the millions of troubled youth revealed by the YouGov poll.

If you are among the growing number of people who feel they have little to live for, read “A Fresh Look at Depression” (theTrumpet.com/go/8532). It could change your life!

A NEW YEAR, A NEW 40,000 LAWS

By the measure of signing new bills into law, America’s Congress this past year was the most ineffective in American history, passing a meager 56 laws. Individual states, however, surged ahead with legislative ferocity. A mind-staggering 40,000 new state laws are coming into effect this year.

The thinking seems to be that every problem can be solved by making it unlawful, and every positive action can be secured by making it legally mandatory.

The explosion of new laws recalls the effort that was made in 1982 to count the criminal laws on America’s books scattered among 50 titles and 23,000 pages of federal law. The project took two years, and in the end, no one could say for sure how many criminal offenses there were. A Justice Department official who oversaw the attempted tally said, “You will have died and [been] resurrected three times” before you could ever hope to count all the laws.

America is already overburdened with laws. “There is no one in the United States over the age of 18 who cannot be indicted for some federal crime,” John Baker, a retired Louisiana State University law professor told the *Wall Street Journal*. “That is not an exaggeration.”

But the problem is greater than just the sheer number of laws. Many of these laws promote practices that a great number of people consider immoral. In California, transgender students will be able to choose which restrooms to use and

which sports teams to play on based on “gender identity” rather than physical anatomy. Also in California, children can now have more than two legal parents. Illinois legalized a same-sex “marriage” law that will come into effect later this year. Colorado became the first place in the world to allow the legal selling of marijuana.

What is the root cause driving all this legislation? Would you believe that it is the breaking of a higher law that supersedes every law ever written by man?

The truth is that all the evils in society today—evils that human governments try to curtail with laws of their own—are a result of breaking the perfect law of God—His spiritual law of love. What is that law? Herbert W. Armstrong explained: “When the Eternal God first created man and placed him on this Earth, all was perfect harmony and beauty. ... And then, of necessity, there is a great fundamental, inexorable spiritual law, to regulate man’s relations with man, and man’s relation to his Creator. This spiritual law might be called the law of love.”

It is because of these broken laws that man is unable to produce peace, regardless of the political system or legal mechanism we use. America’s countless laws have failed to bring real peace, and the 40,000 new laws won’t bring us any closer to peace either.

Ultimately, it will take a totally different governmental and legal structure to bring peace—one founded on God’s perfect law of love summed up in the Ten Commandments. Such a government is coming.

Laws passed in 2013	
CONGRESS	STATES
56	40,000

One Man's Admirable Attempt to Save Britain and the World

BY JOEL HILLIKER

"OUR LIFE IS FRITTERED AWAY BY DETAIL," WROTE THOREAU. "Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand . . ."

That was 1854. What would the man think of the life-frittering details that consume us in the Twitter age?

Contemplating this, I recently picked up Ferrar Fenton's translation of the Bible in my study. A few months back a friend gave me a copy. But it wasn't until that recent morning that I realized I was in possession of something quite awesome and inspiring.

At the beginning of the massive volume is "A note to my inquiring friends" from the translator. It is Mr. Fenton's explanation of why he—a British businessman in the 19th century—undertook the mammoth project of translating the entirety of the Holy Scriptures.

It is a testament to the manly sense of duty, determination, sacrifice, perseverance, magnanimity and big-mindedness behind this book. It truly stirred my admiration.

Fenton paraphrases a Prof. Karl Behr of Munich, who taught thus: "That the best-established doctrine of Historical Philosophy was, that all the power, prosperity and mental energy of a race or nation sprang from and lived by its religion; that when its religion ceased to be its faith—that is, its energizing principle—the intellect, power, vigor and prosperity of that race or nation died away in proportion, and ultimately perished, both mentally and physically."

That is a breathtaking statement, piercing in its truth, painful for its prophetic relevance in this aggressively secularist age.

Fenton then expresses this remarkable conviction: "[T]he position the British race has won in the world is founded upon the . . . religion, which takes as its origin the Bible, and therefore I am convinced that *with the decay of faith in the Scriptures our national vigor and prosperity, as a race, will waste away*; not only in the British Isles, but, as with all races, in *every state or colony sprung from them*, no matter upon what part of the Earth's surface they are situated. Consequently, I WILL TRY AT LEAST TO AVERT, OR RETARD, SO GREAT A CATASTROPHE AND CALAMITY TO THE WHOLE OF MANKIND. I have decided, God helping me, to execute the work you see I am doing" (emphasis added throughout).

In translating the Bible into modern English, he explains, "MY OBJECT IS TO TRY AND SAVE THE BRITISH RACE FROM DECAY AND DISSOLUTION by restoring to it *the vital element of faith in revelation*, for UNLESS ITS FAITH IS REVIVED OUR DOOM IS CERTAIN."

I find several things about this astounding. That this man recognized with such assurance the centrality of Bible-based faith to national health and prosperity, even survival. That he particularly believed this to be true of Britain and the outlying elements of its empire, and of



America. That he knew the decline of these nations would constitute a catastrophe and calamity to the world.

Again, these are prophetic truths that resonate with relevance today. In 1910, when Fenton penned this introduction to his Bible translation, "nobody cares a halfpenny for the Bible," he wrote, quoting the words of a critic of his work. A century later, that indifference has turned to antipathy. We live in a Britain and an America that are increasingly making adherence to biblical truth a crime punishable by the state.

This all made Fenton's words stir me as I read them. But there is something more. I am also deeply impressed that this man possessed such determined focus to try to single-handedly prevent, or at least delay, this catastrophe, using the means he believed God inspired him to. Fenton perceived a need for a modern translation of the Bible, and recognized that it was a task nobody else would undertake. So what did he do?

He got started.

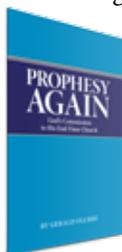
And then he didn't stop until he finished.

"I saw the need also, not only as a student, but from intercourse with all classes of my countrymen," he wrote, "and God inspired me with courage to undertake it, and with *inborn perseverance during a period of 50 years to carry it through*, by DEVOTING EVERY LEISURE MOMENT OF A BUSY COMMERCIAL LIFE to the preparation for, and execution of, that ONE OBJECT."

It was in 1853—the same time that Thoreau was traversing the woods of Walden Pond—that Fenton started this mammoth undertaking. He finished in 1903 at the age of 71.

It's astonishing what singular devotion to an important task can yield. How critical it is that we prune out those life-frittering details—and make the very most of the brief time we possess. For today, too, there is a great work to be done, in the shadow of looming catastrophe and calamity. It demands courage, perseverance, and devotion to that one object. Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! ■

To learn more about this life-saving work, which you can be a part of, read our booklet **Prophesy Again**.



► **GUTTENBERG** from page 21

shall prosper, and practice.... And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many..." (Daniel 8:23-25).

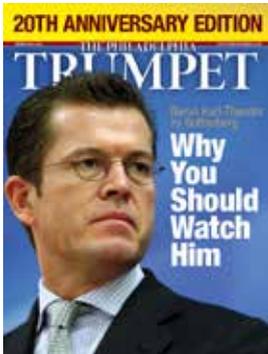
This man is discussed again in Daniel 11:21: "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he SHALL COME IN PEACEABLY, and OBTAIN THE KINGDOM BY FLATTERIES."

Notice how this man is characterized. He has a "fierce countenance," meaning he's mighty, powerful and cruel. He has an "understanding [of] dark sentences." As *Clarke's Commentary* says, he's "very learned and skillful in all things relating to government and its intrigues"—a skilled politician. He inherits the throne of Europe "peaceably," obtaining his kingdom by "flatteries." He's crafty and sly, with an engaging, attractive personality. The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says "the nation shall not, by a public act, confer the kingdom on him, but he shall obtain it by artifice, 'flattering.'" In other words, *a deceived public, or a group of European leaders, likely invites this man into power.*

Gerald Flurry and the *Trumpet* believe Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg *could* be this prophesied end-time leader!

This man is young, highly intelligent, politically experienced, and a powerful orator with a movie-star appearance. He comes from Bavaria, a staunchly Catholic region, where he's long been an active and important member of the conservative Christian Social Union, sister party to Merkel's Christian Democratic Union. He and his wife have an intriguing and captivating family heritage. He belongs to a wealthy, aristocratic family whose bloodlines have been traced as far back as 1158. In 1700, Guttenberg's forefathers were conferred the title Baron of the Holy Roman Empire. Guttenberg is also related to the Habsburgs, another prominent royal dynasty that has a rich history with the Holy Roman Empire. Even today, he owns an impressive castle that sits high on a hill overlooking the village of Guttenberg, Bavaria. The lineage of his wife is equally impressive. Stephanie Gräfin von Bismarck-Schönhausen is the great-great-granddaughter of Otto von Bismarck, father of the modern German state and the first chancellor of modern Germany.

Continue to watch this man. Mr. Guttenberg might have been exiled from public office, but he has by no means frittered the last three years away, and hasn't left the public eye or escaped the public's curiosity. And don't assume his absence from German politics means his political star is waning. To the contrary, it's possible Guttenberg has employed a brilliant strategy that could well have put him in an ideal position for a political comeback.



Why should you watch him?

Visit theTrumpet.com/go/PT201002 to find out.

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ION, 6:00 ET, Fri
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Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed

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

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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 KPFI/KBEO 10:30, Sun

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Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

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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
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Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun
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Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun

Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
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Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
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Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWFX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCQO 7:00, Sun
Spokane KGFX 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
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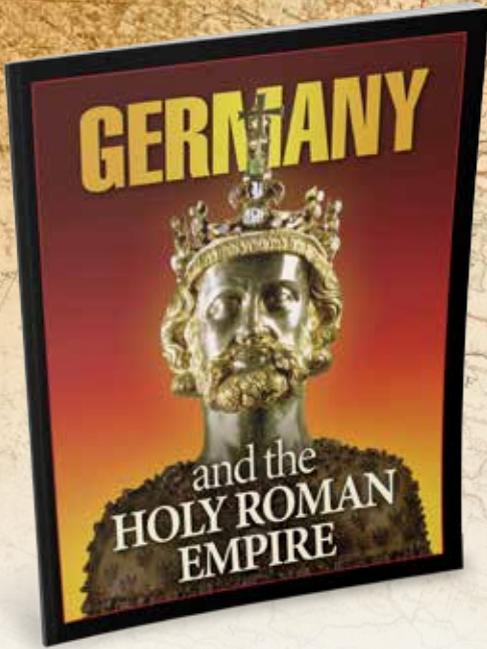
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