

THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet



Europe's 'underground' army

Lost nuclear weapons

Stepfamily complications

Did God create evolution?

A universe of mysteries

How to avoid diabetes



THE NEW AMERICAN MORALITY



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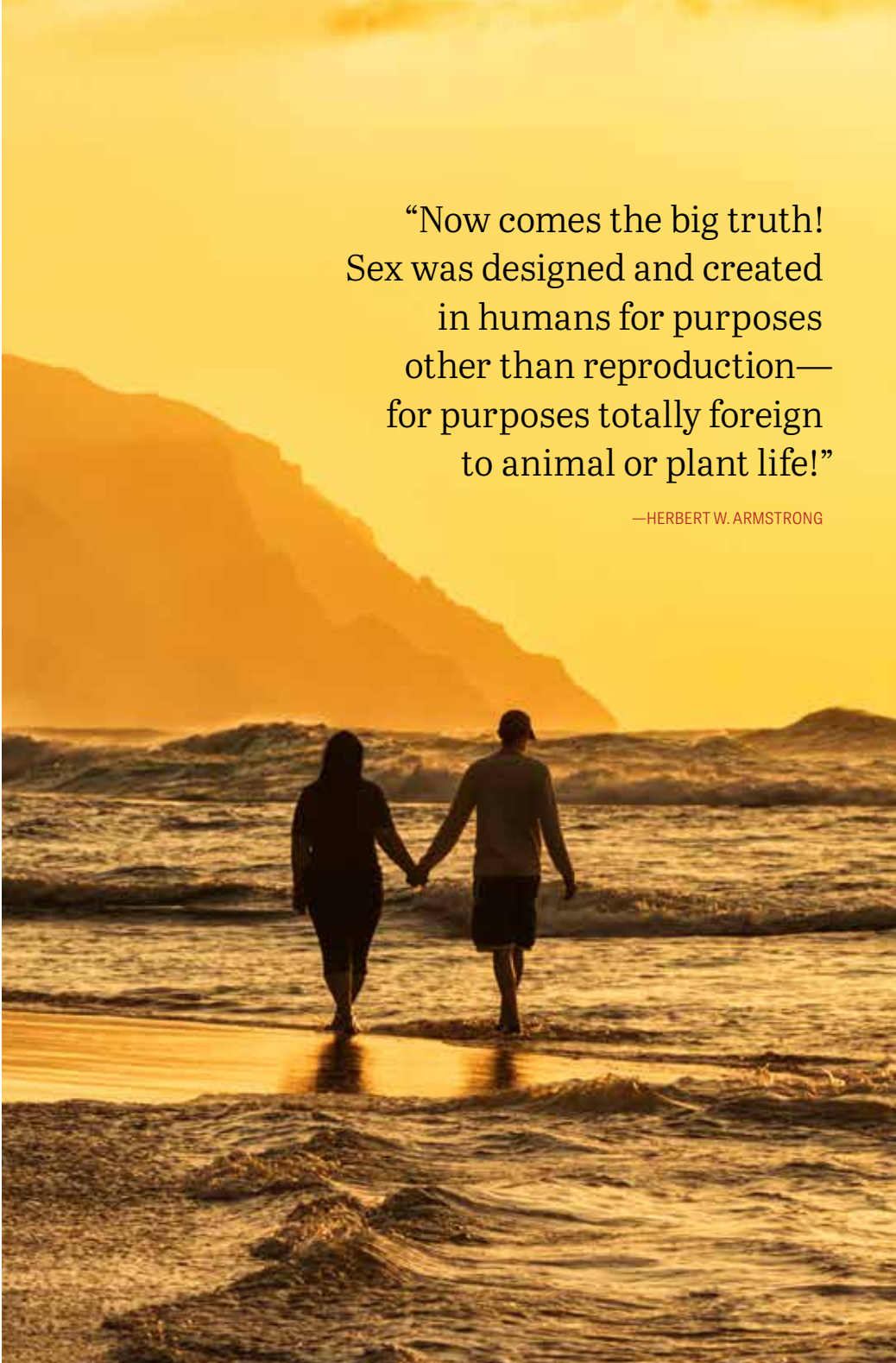
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“Now comes the big truth!
Sex was designed and created
in humans for purposes
other than reproduction—
for purposes totally foreign
to animal or plant life!”

—HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

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The Beautiful Truth That Would Solve the Sex Scandals

Why did God make sex? His purposes are far deeper and more beautiful than most people realize.

SEX SCANDALS ARE EVERYWHERE IN AMERICA AND BRITAIN today. Many prominent politicians, business leaders and famous entertainers are being exposed for having misused sex, hurting and abusing other people.

For many people, SEX IS A CURSE—wrecking marriages and damaging children for the rest of their lives.



GERALD FLURRY

God intends for sex to be a wonderful BLESSING to us! God's purposes for sex are so beautiful, they should make us practically dizzy with joy!

This world, though, is completely *blind* to God's purposes for sex. And it is suffering as a result.

This world's educational system cannot teach you about sex. Most of the people who are getting caught up in these scandals have been educated at some of the most prestigious institutions this world offers. These institutions don't teach people to conduct themselves uprightly regarding sex. They know nothing about why God made it.

You don't have to be blind. God's purposes for sex are provable from your Bible. You can also prove them by applying them in your life.

God Created Sex!

Where did sex come from? This intricate dimension to life is not an accident of evolution. It is beautifully *designed* by an intelligent, all-powerful Creator.

Look at the Bible account of creation. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; MALE AND FEMALE CREATED HE THEM. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth ..." (Genesis 1:26-28).

Notice: God said His creation, including the sex function, was "very good"! (verse 31). There is nothing shameful about sex, if used the way that God intended.

God created us male and female. He created two types of sex apparatuses. WHY? Did you know that angels are not male and female? God also made these brilliant, dazzling spirit beings—but He did not make them to reproduce (Matthew 22:30). He made each of them individually. Why, then, did He

make humans to be able to reproduce? God even commands us to "replenish," or populate, the Earth. It is an AWESOME OPPORTUNITY to be able to reproduce the way God does, as we shall see.

When you think about the purposes of sex, you probably think of reproduction first. But this is far, *far* from the only purpose.

Educator Herbert W. Armstrong authored the greatest book about sex of all time, after the Bible. It is called *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, and we will gladly send you a copy of it free. "Now comes the BIG truth!" he wrote. "Sex was designed and created in humans for purposes *other than* reproduction—for purposes totally foreign to animal or plant life! But the world has continued in unhappy and wretched IGNORANCE of these glorious and God-bestowed purposes!"

Mr. Armstrong wrote this near the end of his life. He knew and lived God's purposes for sex, and he yearned to rescue mankind from the pain and suffering that comes from using sex the wrong way.

Look around. It is plain to see that humans have sex for reasons other than just reproduction. Some of these reasons are perverse and should be avoided altogether, or sex scandals may result.

Sacred Purpose Among Humans

"Now reproduction, merely as such, is, of course, common to animals and plants, as well as humans," Mr. Armstrong continued. "But, in humans, reproduction has a sacred and God-plane meaning not applicable to any other kind of life!"

God said His creation, including the sex function, was "very good"! There is nothing shameful about sex, if used the way that God intended.

With animals, reproduction is nothing more than reproduction. With humans, reproduction points to a marvelous spiritual parallel. Human babies are very different from animal offspring. Only humans are born as *heirs of salvation—heirs of God!* Marriage, family and sex have God-plane meaning!

Mr. Armstrong continued: "[T]here is deep, spiritually transcendent meaning in human begetting, gestation and birth that raises it to an altogether and incomparably higher plane than mere animal reproduction. Human children are begotten through sex. And that very begetting, period of gestation and

birth of a human baby gives us the very picture of the spiritual salvation and gift of eternal life made possible through Jesus Christ!”

Humans are not animals! We can be spiritually begotten by receiving the Holy Spirit, and then spiritually born as SONS OF GOD! No animal or angel has such a potential!

Satan works diligently to hide God’s purposes for sex from the world because they point to our SALVATION. He wants to hide God’s plan of salvation, which is all about FAMILY.

During His ministry on Earth, Jesus Christ was dealing with ignorance about sex as well. He said to the Pharisees, “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:4-6).

Reproduction is the first and most obvious purpose of sex. In rebuking the Pharisees, Jesus Christ revealed a *second* purpose of sex: to be AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE between a man and a woman within MARRIAGE. “For what cause shall a man marry?” Mr. Armstrong asked. “Because God made them male and female—because God created SEX. Sex did not evolve, without intelligence or purpose!” (ibid).

Satan works diligently to hide God’s purposes for sex from the world because they point to our salvation.

God ordained the institution of marriage. If reproduction were the only purpose of sex, no marriage would be necessary. Obviously, in our day especially, people have children outside of marriage all the time. And of course, animals don’t marry, and they certainly reproduce.

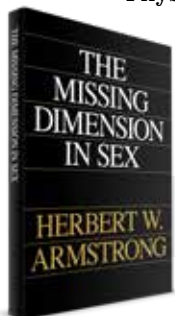
Marriage is a physical union, but a divine institution. GOD founded marriage; *it did not evolve!*

The Communist Party in the USSR was anti-family. Soviet leaders experimented with abolishing marriage, and the results were disastrous! They later reversed that policy in order to preserve the union!

Our leading educators, scientists and psychologists believe in evolution, an unprovable hypothesis that is anti-God in every way. They do not know the origin and purposes of sex. They have no clue why marriage even exists. They reject the Bible and rely instead on human reasoning, which leads only to disaster. The world is now on the edge of nuclear destruction as a result of our reliance on human intellect instead of the Almighty God.

Physical conception is a type of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Physical gestation is a type of God’s chosen people being nurtured and protected inside the one true Church until the return of Jesus Christ. Physical birth is a type of our coming transition from mortal flesh to immortal sons of God.



To learn the beautiful truth about sex, request your free copy of ***The Missing Dimension in Sex***.

Human family is a type of the God Family. Human marriage is a type of the coming spiritual marriage between Jesus Christ and God’s loyal saints who do His Work today (Ephesians 5:22-33). (Read *The Missing Dimension in Sex* to learn more about these inspiring parallels.)

The angels do not marry. They have no home life, family life or sex. After the angels failed to establish God’s government on Earth, God realized that He could only depend on Himself to do this. So He decided to re-create Himself—and He did so *in man!*

Man Unique!

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “So grasp this colossal truth, if you can! Here is the greatest truth you can ever know! Man, and man *only*, of all life forms God has created, can be born into THE GOD FAMILY—the KINGDOM OF GOD! Animals have never been given family relationship. Angels have never enjoyed family status. The family relationship is a GOD-PLANE relationship—not an angel-plane relationship. And God bestowed it on MAN! Because man is to be BORN into the God Family. Of all life forms—whether plant, animal or angel in all God’s creation, man alone was created for marriage—for home and family life!”

“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?” (Hebrews 1:5). Only humans can become begotten and later born as God’s children. God is our Father. Christ is our Husband. This is all about family! Angels, as magnificent as they are, have *never* had the opportunity to be actual born sons of God!

Billions of people have lived and died without this understanding! They will soon be resurrected and taught God’s awesome purposes of sex, marriage and family. This is the MOST AWESOME TRUTH YOU COULD EVER POSSIBLY HEAR, and it all relates to sex between human beings.

The sex problems on Earth are really the result of BROKEN LAWS. God’s laws on sex are invisible, like the law of gravity. You cannot defy gravity! Whether or not we understand these laws, we are still subject to the effects of breaking them. Too many people today prowl for sex like alley cats. That will never bring happiness.

Read Ephesians 5:22-33 to understand how to make your marriage truly happy. God clearly defines the man’s role and the woman’s role. The man must lead and be willing to *die* for his wife! (verse 25).

“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (verse 32). These principles apply to physical marriage, but mainly they are about spiritual marriage (Revelation 19:7). We can marry Christ, if we obey Him today. Physical marriage and sex prepare us for that glorious future.

Sex brings abundant LOVE into our marriages. A common theme in nearly every recent sex scandal is male CRUELTY—brute selfishness. Our marriages ought to be vastly different. Sex should bring husbands and wives closer together. Having children—within marriage—is a blessing!

God’s purposes for sex are filled with beauty and inspiration. What an incredible potential we have with marriage, family and sex! If only people would use sex for God’s intended purposes, they would find sex to be the real blessing—with no negative side effects—that God intends it to be! ■



THE New American Morality

Morality has always featured heavily in America's history. But the morals being promoted and preached today are unlike any the nation has ever seen. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

YOU CAN'T PUT MORALITY IN A BOX. Our morals affect every aspect of our lives: our families, our education, our charities, our religions, our commerce and business, our economics, our laws, our policing and justice, our governments, our social policies, our strategic planning, our foreign policies—even when, where and how we wage war.

Since its earliest days, American morality was rooted in the Bible. Americans practiced and enforced their understanding of biblical moral prescriptions with remarkable zeal.

In recent years, however, that morality has been replaced by an entirely different, very unbiblical Moral code.

The New Moralists expect compliance on sexual norms, gender roles and definitions, racism, multiculturalism and many more aspects of our lives. Remarkably, though it is irreligious, the New American Morality is increasingly enforced with just as much religious fervor as the old morality once was.

The dictates of this new Moral code are stringent and unforgiving,

with intolerant condemnations of all conceivable forms of intolerance, even those practiced by God Himself.

Early America

This new Moral Awakening is far different from America's previous Great Awakenings.

In colonial times, Puritans, Catholics, Quakers and others fled religious persecution in England and came to America for a refuge to worship as they chose. Early settlers established strongly religious colonies, some of which drew many of their laws directly from the Old Testament. Many of their colonial covenants mirrored the 1620 Mayflower Compact, whose signers said they were undertaking their project "for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith." The Massachusetts Bay Colony, among others, literally cited biblical chapter and verse in establishing the laws of the land.

When settlers encountered periods of difficulty and trial, governors responded by stiffening laws commanding prayer and religious worship, and increasing the severity of punishment

against those convicted of adultery, sodomy, rape and other immoral acts. When William Penn established the "holy experiment" of Pennsylvania, he outlawed "all such offenses against God as swearing, cursing, lying ... incest, sodomy, rapes, whoredom, fornication and other uncleanness (not to be repeated) ..." because "the wildness and looseness of the people provoke the indignation of God against a country."

In this climate, there spread a uniquely American religious tolerance: People could worship as they pleased—as long as they were Christian, with faith in Jesus Christ. In the 1700s, often referred to as the Age of Reason or the Enlightenment, America experienced a series of religious revivals. Preachers calling for repentance and conversion enjoyed tremendous popularity and attracted large crowds. Most of America's most prestigious universities—including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth—were founded at this time as denominational colleges and seminaries to train clergy. Education, everyone understood, was firstly a *moral* endeavor.

When the nation entered the tribulation of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress proclaimed several days of fasting, for “the exercise of repentance and reformation.” It viewed the war as “just punishment of our manifold transgressions,” and adjured civil and military officers to more strictly observe the Articles of War that forbade “profane swearing and all immorality.”

The nation’s founding lawmakers guaranteed legal protection for religion in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, which prohibits any laws restricting the freedom of religious practice. This separation of church and

understood it, America grew to become the greatest single nation in world history. People widely and correctly credited God’s blessing as the reason for this success. (Read the little-known truth about how God brought this about in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

Learn the New Rules

Tocqueville said that religion secures morality, and morality secures freedom. But in recent decades, American religion has concerned itself less and less with morality. By ceding its moral footing, it has grown weaker. And its enemies have

There are no *absolute* virtues: Depending on the individual and the circumstances, excess, indulgence, intoxication, arrogance and greed may all be praised as Moral or condemned as Immoral.

Despite its contradictions and volatility, however, it is still enforced with unforgiving conviction and authority.

The New American Morality says that all men are rapists and potential rapists, and should be feared and contained. At the same time, it says that if one of these men believes he is a woman, that is truth, and Moral. We all must play along. We should allow this man into women’s bathrooms, and anyone who is uncomfortable with this is a bigot. Bigotry is Immoral.

It is now Moral to allow children to choose their gender from their earliest years. It is Immoral to encourage them to conform to sex stereotypes, such as instilling in boys a duty to protect girls.

For a man to prey on a woman is clearly Immoral. Yet if he is married, for him to avoid being alone with a woman, to avoid temptation and/or the appearance of evil is Immoral. Why? Because it could hold back the careers of women who must meet with him alone. When a woman acts sexually in exchange for receiving professional advancement, this is Immoral for the man, yet Moral for the woman. In the much-celebrated words of Oprah Winfrey at the Golden Globes, she did this because she “had children to feed and bills to pay and dreams to pursue.” Moral.

Fornication and out-of-wedlock birth: Moral—and woe to anyone who would try to stop it. Pornography, so ubiquitous that it is readily, regularly viewed even by children: Moral. Same-sex marriage: Moral. Heterosexual marriage: Depends on whether the man leads his family. If he does, that is oppression: Immoral.

Efforts to protect the lives of the unborn: Immoral. Exposing clinics and doctors who sell aborted fetal body parts: Immoral.

Religion: generally accepted as Moral. Eastern religions are Moral. African tribal religious practices are Moral. Native American spirituality is Moral. Islam, including mandatory full-body coverings, forced marriage, genital mutilation, and occasional throwing homosexuals off of buildings: Moral.



The New Morality changes with time: What was once unacceptable may now be encouraged, and what was once tolerated may now be utterly intolerable.

state protected religion from interference by the government and secured its importance in public life.

When French political scientist Alexis de Tocqueville visited America in 1831, the country was undergoing another outburst of religious fervor, called the Second Great Awakening. “[T]here is no country in the world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men,” Tocqueville noted in *Democracy in America*. “Liberty regards religion as its companion in all its battles and its triumphs It considers religion as the safeguard of morality, and morality as the best security of law and the surest pledge of the duration of freedom”

Nobody argues that the United States implemented the Bible’s moral code perfectly. No nation in history has—even Israel, the nation to which God gave it originally. To take perhaps the most notable example in American history, despite codifying in the Declaration of Independence the belief “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights,” the young nation took nearly nine decades to finally abolish immoral and unbiblical slavery practices by constitutional law.

Nevertheless, as society broadly sought to practice biblical morality as they

grown bolder and more numerous. They have managed to transform the concept of separation of church and state to enforce the *secularization* of public life—not as a *protection* of religion but as a legal weapon against it.

This process has set the stage for a new Great Awakening—to a New Morality.

The old, biblically based morality was unchanging and absolute. It emphasized the inviolability of marriage, and the responsibility of parents to teach and train their children. It stressed the sanctity of sex between husband and wife. It instilled respect for authority and duty to country. It encouraged personal virtues like temperance, moderation, sobriety, modesty and thrift.

The New Morality changes with time: What was once unacceptable may now be encouraged, and what was once tolerated may now be utterly intolerable. It is inconsistent and self-contradictory. It emphasizes the preeminence of the individual, and the importance of personal fulfillment over duty to spouse or offspring. It encourages unrestrained sexual license—*except*, in a recent abrupt shift, when it involves men coercing women sexually. Depending on who is in authority, the New Morality either seeks more-authoritarian control or an overthrow of the entire system; and it considers patriotism akin to tribalism.

The New Moralists mustn't be intolerant bigots about such practices.

The notable *exception* is religion rooted in the Bible: Immoral. Christians whose conscience will not permit them to bake a wedding cake for a homosexual couple: Immoral.

Don't expect consistency in the New Morality. Just try to keep up—and be sure to comply.

The New Morality in Action

New generations growing up under the New American Morality are learning it well. They are scrupulously measuring society by it: tolerating and even encouraging others for beliefs and acts that would have been considered immoral in less enlightened times—and diligently using their exacting Moral measure to condemn those who fall afoul of the new rules.

One real-world example occurred after a June 2015 church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, by a white supremacist. In response, a movement to remove public monuments and memorials of the Confederate States of America began.

Last August, this movement exploded after competing protests fixated on a statue of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, Virginia. Suddenly, memorials across the country were now monuments to white nationalism, rank racism and everything Immoral about America's slave-owning past. The tide of Moral scorn beat against Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, Roger Taney and other Confederates. But it didn't stop there: It even swallowed up giants like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln: guilty of slavery and racism. Immoral. And to the inflexible New Morality, unpardonable.

It was a stark example of how volatile, passionate, zealous and fanatical the New Morality can be. It does not give reasoned judgment regarding, say, which aspects of history to preserve and which to topple, jackhammer, sandblast and raze. It reflexively brands all opposition as bigoted and racist. Contrary evidence is noise. The only Morally correct action is to destroy.

These high-minded critics can look at a man like President Washington and view themselves as his Moral superior. This was a man universally admired for his unimpeachable character—a man

without whose leadership the United States of America may well have been a failed historical footnote. For returning to private life and thus refusing to turn the American presidency into a monarchy, King George III reportedly called Washington “the greatest man in the world.” Yet he does not meet the stringent New Moral measure.

These people look at President Jefferson and see nothing but a wicked slaveholder. They are unable to recognize in him the author of the creeds that have helped grant greater freedom to more people than in any other nation in human history. The entire arc of America's past has been an arduous but remarkably successful struggle to live up to the high ideals of universal rights and liberties that Jefferson articulated at its birth. Yet no less a paragon of virtue than Al Sharpton has demanded that the Jefferson Memorial be stripped of public funding in order to punish his memory.

President Lincoln lacked the racial and cultural awareness of today's Moralizers. Nevertheless, he did manage the staggering feat of single-handedly restoring a divided country, preventing

us? What could we gain from studying a racist like Abraham Lincoln? They feel no *gratitude* for what those people built, and from which they benefit. They feel only self-righteous indignation and disdain.

The New Moralists have largely come to hate the country that gave them all their freedoms and prosperity, for all its Immorality—its intolerance, bigotry, slavery, systemic racism, cultural appropriation, capitalist greed, exploitation, class oppression, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, imperialism, war crimes, and the list goes on. Living in the most prosperous, free, inclusive nation in human history, the New American Moralists view it as possibly the most exploitative, racist, oppressive, Immoral nation in history.

How to Morally Measure a Man

“Make America great again” is President Donald Trump's slogan. When, then, was America last “great”? This question was posed to Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore at a campaign rally last September. He pointed back to around the time Tocqueville had visited, before the Civil War: “I think it was great at the

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it from being permanently rent in two—while eradicating slavery permanently by constitutional amendment. Yet these achievements were not enough to shield him from the reproach of at least one crusader in his home state who vandalized and set on fire a bust of Lincoln in Chicago's South Side.

Today's Moralists are excellent at pointing out sins. Historical figures are particularly easy targets, because nobody in human history has lived according to the strictures of America's New Morality. So educators can easily demonstrate how they are the Moral superiors of everyone who came before them in Western civilization. They can show how every hero of Western history was actually a villain. But they have no interest in *learning anything* from them. What could a slave owner like Thomas Jefferson possibly teach

time when families were united—even though we had slavery—they cared for one another Our families were strong; our country had a direction.”

The response that appeared broadly across media and political platforms was, *Roy Moore believes slavery made America stronger! Roy Moore supports slavery!*

In truth, Moore's response unambiguously acknowledged that slavery was wrong; he said that, setting that evil aside, there was something great about the nation when families were strong and the country was moving forward. Historians might even consider this objectively true regarding early America. But such distinctions are impossible in today's America—where people would rather view Jefferson as a barbaric slave owner than as the author of the



The Tangled Stepfamily Tree

American family trees are becoming overgrown with new growth as divorces and stepfamilies multiply. **BY DENNIS LEAP**

IT IS NOT REALLY BIG NEWS THAT divorce causes severe difficulties for families. However, the sad and surprising news is that divorce is making American families 66 percent bigger.

“This holiday season, many Americans may need a flow chart to figure how they’re all related,” wrote Ben Steverman for Bloomberg.com on December 18. “What do you call, for example, your stepmother’s son’s live-in girlfriend’s 11-year-old son?” While this may sound like a humorous scenario, it is a sad fact of life for many families.

Some statisticians say divorce rates in the United States peaked in the 1980s and have, in some age groups, declined ever since. But the problems after a divorce and a future remarriage are increasing. The traditional family structure—Dad, Mom and their biological children—is under a new wave of assault.

“As family structures become more complicated, a new body of research is attempting to quantify the trend,” Steverman wrote. “The proliferation of stepchildren, half-siblings, and other extended relationships has important implications for how American families function.” Or should he say, *dysfunction*?

It is safe to predict the impact of the “addition of stepfamily” trend will burden families for some time to come. If you are in such an arrangement or considering entering one, it is important to open your eyes to the facts. That is an important starting point for being able to make the best of the situation.

Understanding the Stepfamily Trend

Nearly a third of U.S. households headed by adults under age 55—about 42 million households—have at least one stepparent, survey data analysis at the University of Massachusetts–Boston found. And for couples over age 55 who have adult children—an additional 8 million households—one third have a stepchild. That means about 50 million American households include stepfamily. That is no small number.

Researchers included married, unmarried cohabiting couples, single parents and same-sex couples (with adopted children) in their analysis. However, this is just part of the reason why American families are 66 percent bigger.

“The rise in divorce and remarriage is driving this growth in family size,” continued Steverman. “Over the past

two decades, the divorce rate has doubled for older Americans. Almost 30 percent of people over 50 had been married more than once, according to a study by scholars at Bowling Green State University.”

Think about what this means. If an older couple with children divorces, and then both of those divorced partners marry other older divorced adults with children, the numbers of interconnected family members expands exponentially! Steverman said surveys show 40 percent of older Americans with children are in stepfamilies.

This is no small problem.

Who Is Obligated to Whom?

Consider the increased financial strain this places on these newly interconnected families. There were likely high divorce court costs. Depending on the ages of the children involved, there is the matter of child support. Taking into account a remarriage situation, there are likely the costs of the wedding and establishing a new household; the financial output could be huge. But that is just the beginning of the financial burdens that can plague stepfamilies.

Steverman quoted Bowling Green sociology professor Karen Benjamin Guzzo: “People in stepfamilies are often unsure of what their obligations are to their stepkin. It’s not uncommon for individuals to feel like they have to choose how to spread resources across their biological and step-relatives.”

“Couples can fight about how much money or time they owe to children from their previous vs. current relationships,” wrote Steverman.

Consider the types of questions that are likely to come up in stepfamilies. Imagine the problems with planning a vacation. For a divorced couple where both spouses have remarried, which parent takes the biological children on summer vacation? What happens to a vacation when stepchildren do not get along with their stepbrothers or stepsisters? What if spouses of stepfamilies opt to go on separate vacations with their own children? That could get very costly.

Now let’s reverse the situation. What happens to a stepfamily when older children must begin to take care of aging stepparents? This is happening

now to the baby boomer generation. Stepparents are moving from middle age to their elderly years. Should a stepchild feel as obligated to take an elderly stepparent to a doctor as he would his biological parent?

Steverman showed that “stepkids can end up with more elderly parents to take care of, and aging parents may have more children to lean on for help.” This might sound good for the aging parent; however, studies show that stepfamilies feel less connected to each other. The first-family type of familial bond is just not there. “Couples with adult stepchildren are 11 percentage points less likely to give time to their children, and 13 points less likely to receive time from kids,” stated Steverman. The increased number of kin does not make up for a weaker emotional attachment.

Increased Emotional Strain

“Especially in the early years of a stepfamily, and sometimes many years down the road, living in what we blithely call ‘blended families’ poses significant challenges to everyone involved,” writes Patricia L. Papernow in *Surviving and Thriving in Stepfamily Relationships*. Ms. Papernow, herself a stepmother, is a nationally recognized expert on stepfamilies and parenting after divorce. Her book follows 13 families as they struggle through the unsuspected problems, mistakes and setbacks of becoming a stepfamily. It is an insightful book. Yet it is heartrending to read.

Stepparents must shoulder increased emotional strain coping with the complexity of building a stepfamily. Their new relationship may be great for them. But their children may feel differently. “Adolescents have a harder time adjusting than children under 9, and girls have a harder time than boys,” writes Ms. Papernow. This is true whether due to divorce or the death of a parent.

Most teens entering stepfamily situations are about 18 years of age. Adult children struggle emotionally as well.

“Len Powell, age 57, is divorced with two adult children. After several painful years alone, Len met his new love, Doris. He was thrilled when Doris and her 9-year-old twins moved in with him,” writes Papernow. “However, a year and a half later, both Len and Doris were extremely upset that Len’s 32-year-old adult daughter Lindsay still refused to accept their relationship.”

This would be a good book to read for anyone contemplating entering a stepfamily marriage, especially where children are involved. Papernow gives a wide range of examples, one of which likely matches your own situation. You must open your eyes to the challenges ahead and prepare.

One couple “began their new family full of hope after both had lost their partners to cancer,” she writes. “Connie had coped alone as a single mom for six years. Burt’s wife had recently died after a long fight with cancer.” Less than a year into their new family, Burt’s new wife felt his adolescent son was ruining everything. Meanwhile, Burt’s son was seeing a therapist and complaining his new family made him feel like he was attempting to “run a marathon with two broken legs.”

Stepfamilies come from a range of circumstances, and all must work to strengthen the weak bonds that naturally exist between stepchildren and stepparents. It takes strong, emotionally mature men, women and children to build a healthy and thriving stepfamily.

The Best Solution

With effective education and counseling in the biblical laws of marriage and child rearing, stepfamilies can become very successful. They can find real love and happiness. But let’s not forget the cause of the growing stepfamily problem as reported by Ben Steverman: “The rise in divorce and remarriage is driving this growth in family size.” To truly solve the problems of stepfamily, we must stop rampant divorce.

Will we? Mankind, including religious leaders and modern psychologists, has been experimenting with the institution of marriage for decades. Look at what we have brought on ourselves: family disaster and a generation of confused young people.

What is the real cause behind our staggering divorce rates? “In the modern rebellion against just about everything—including puritanical taboos—the world is tending to reject any and all authority, and is turning more and more to impulse and unbridled desire,” wrote Herbert W. Armstrong in his timeless, compelling classic, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. We live in a society that has no regard for law. When it comes to marriage and divorce, we laugh at the Seventh Commandment—“Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14)—and go on our merry way. What is the result? We have robbed ourselves and our families of thriving, peaceful happiness.

“Now some psychiatrists are questioning the institution of marriage! Who started the marriage custom, anyway? ... Do we really *need* any authority for what is right or wrong about sex—about marriage? Is sexual freedom by mutual consent *really harmful to anybody*?” Mr. Armstrong continued.

When we look at the problems in stepfamilies—especially with children—can we clearly see the great harm of sexual freedom? Don’t you find it interesting that so many people in our society who believed the psychiatrists who tore the marriage institution apart, are now going to psychiatrists to get help to fix the staggering mess the psychiatrists helped create? Isn’t it time our suffering families got counsel from a true, problem-solving source of help? Real help is available!

Request your copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex* and its companion booklet, *Why Marriage—Soon Obsolete?* They will be sent to you free of charge, with no obligation. ■

What is the purpose of family?

Have you ever stopped to think why marriage and family exist? To learn the true purpose and history of family, order Herbert W. Armstrong’s free booklet *Why Marriage—Soon Obsolete?*





EUROPE'S UNDER

JOINING FORCES
Dutch troops join German soldiers in "Land Operations" military exercises in Germany.

ONE NATION IS WORKING "behind the scenes" to bring European armies together. It is swallowing entire armies, and bringing foreign soldiers under its control, without firing a shot.

And this is rarely reported in Western media.

This nation is quietly building a massive new military power in Europe.

France is the nation that talks the most about a European military. But it is another nation doing the real work: Germany.

This is not the first time Germany has quietly built a military behind the scenes. A brief study of history gives a powerful warning about what is happening underground in Europe.

Training for an EU Army

The most recent report on these overlooked efforts comes from Spiegel Online. "It will be years before Europe becomes a true defense union, but [German Defense Minister Ursula] von der Leyen does not want to wait for that to happen," it wrote. "For a long time, the CDU politician has been working on the Euro army and pushing forward the networking of Bundeswehr troops with their European partners—beyond large armaments projects or command structures, so to speak, at the base" (Dec. 27, 2017; *Trumpet* translation throughout).

The Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces, currently has 24 training facilities that are open to soldiers from other European Union member states,

Spiegel Online reported. It also has German troops in 55 training facilities of other armies across Europe, from Albania to Spain.

Defense Minister von der Leyen is working "behind the scenes" to bring European armies together. She is creating a network of training facilities across the Continent where officers and soldiers learn to operate within the military organization of their European neighbors, Spiegel Online reported.

For example, some Bundeswehr officers are attending the elite officers' school in Saint-Cyr, France—learning about the military structure, strategies, resources and mentality of France.

In addition to learning to command foreign soldiers, the German officers learn to work with them. They cooperate with the French on flying helicopters. German submarines could soon set off for patrol carrying joint German-Norwegian crews.

And these are just a few of the many ways Germany is building an EU military.

Building an EU Army

Germany is also bringing soldiers from neighboring nations under its command. *Two thirds* of land forces personnel in the Netherlands—the great majority of the country's armed forces—will soon be under German authority. These soldiers serve in German brigades under a German

command structure. They are becoming part of the German Army. The Czech Republic is integrating one of its two combat brigades into the German Army, and Romania is signing over a mechanized brigade to Germany. These are far from token forces: A brigade typically includes several thousand soldiers.

Germany has been clear about the ultimate aim of this agreement: to create a European army. In 2013, then defense minister Thomas de Maizière outlined the plan at the Munich Security Conference; he said Germany was fed up with *talking* about a European army. "It is not new visions



VON DER LEYEN

we Europeans need, but a strategy of resolute pragmatism," he said. The Germans would let the rest of Europe talk about grand plans for an EU army, while they rolled up their sleeves and got on with the job, one nation at a time.

In 2016, von der Leyen said she aimed to use this method to create "a multinational Panzer division." No other nation in Europe is doing anything remotely similar. Writing about this project in 2016, *Die Welt* explained, "This should create a unit with up to 20,000 active soldiers, which should be operational by 2021—WHICH WOULD BE THE NUCLEUS OF A EUROPEAN ARMY" (emphasis added throughout).

Many commentators talk about a European army being years away. But in several significant ways, the army is already here: It's called the Bundeswehr.



GROUND ARMY

To many, Europe today is a military weakling. It has looked this way before—only to shock the world with its strength. **BY JOSUÉ MICHELS AND RICHARD PALMER**

Details of a European Army

On Dec. 11, 2017, EU nations officially launched a military pact called Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) that includes logistics, transportation and training missions that will help member countries operate in better coordination with one another.

PESCO pushes EU nations to boost their defense spending, provides a way to work together on weaponry, and helps them integrate their forces.

Germany will take the lead on some crucial projects, including the Network of Logistic Hubs in Europe and Support to Operations, a project that adds to the European Air Transport Command to help move European forces across borders more easily, a European Medical Command to help nations work together in rescuing and aiding the wounded, and another project for training military trainers.

These projects, particularly logistics, are essential for maximizing the concentration of forces in the battlefield in the right place at the right time. How does a multinational force move quickly to the battleground? Does each nation rely on its own transports, or can they pool transports to get there quicker? What about evacuating the wounded—every country for themselves, or is there a more efficient system? These are the kind of questions the great generals of the past put hours of painstaking research into. These are details Europe must resolve to create an effective joint military. And resolving them they are.

Why Germany?

Why is *Germany* taking the lead in creating a European military?

Germany has a history of quietly building its army in peacetime.

After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles limited the size of German armed forces. Though it was years—close to the start of World War II—before Germany broke the treaty publicly, in actuality it began quietly violating it almost immediately.

On April 16, 1922, Germany and Russia signed the Treaty of Rapallo. On the face of it, the treaty was a fairly standard diplomatic rapprochement between two former enemies. But it contained a secret clause. Germany would carry out military research, development and training—which had been outlawed by Versailles—in Russia. In exchange, Russia would share in the military advances and train with the German Army.

Germany built arms development factories and officer training facilities in Russia. The arrangement allowed Germany to maintain “a continuity of skills which, when the time was ripe, could once more be openly exploited back at home,” writes historian Paul Johnson (*Modern Times*).

The *Manchester Guardian* covered some of the details, and Germany’s Social Democrats publicized certain parts of the treaty. But apart from that, it remained secret. “Thus a strange,

covert alliance was formed, which occasionally broke surface,” writes Johnson.

Meanwhile, Germany’s police were trained and organized so they could quickly transform into a military reserve force. Versailles limited Germany to a 100,000-strong army. Berlin took full advantage by turning it into an army of officers. The nation was limited to 4,000 commissioned officers, but no limit was placed on non-commissioned officers (NCOs). As early as 1922, nearly *half the army* was comprised of NCOs. By 1926, privates were in the minority—making up a little over a third of the army. Versailles also forbade Germany from having an air force. In addition to training pilots at the Lipetsk Air Base in Russia, Germany trained pilots in civilian glider clubs.

Starting around 1927, the German Army began making concrete plans for rapid expansion and getting ready the infrastructure necessary to support a modern, mechanized military. In 1933, Germany announced plans to expand its army to 300,000 soldiers. Just six years later, it was almost 10 times that size.

This is merely one of the most recent examples. To Italian journalist Luigi Barzini Jr., this sudden eruption from nowhere of German military strength was such a common occurrence in history that he believed it formed part of the character of the Germans. He wrote of “transformations” with the nation

If you want to learn more about the development of a common European military and how the Bible prophesied of it, visit theTrumpet.com and read our article “[Why the Trumpet Watches Europe’s Push Toward a Unified Military](http://theTrumpet.com/15727)” (theTrumpet.com/15727).

“hibernating at times.” For example, Napoleon repeatedly beat German states easily. At the time, many wrote the Germans off as militarily useless. “Then as you turned a few pages in the history book, the Germans suddenly appeared completely transformed,” Barzini wrote (*The Europeans*). “They crossed the border of France as a gray tide of faceless, disciplined soldiers with spiked helmets, a relentless unstoppable war machine. Where had they come from? Only a few Germans and no foreigner had suspected what the imminent metamorphosis would be like.”

Is Germany planning to do the same thing again?

Planning to Go Underground

“From the very start of World War II, [Germans] have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically *planned*, in such eventuality the *third* round ...,” Herbert W.

Armstrong told listeners to his radio program on May 9, 1945.



Rising before your eyes.

Germany is building a war machine—and it has already destroyed one nation. Request Gerald Flurry's free booklet ***Germany's Conquest of the Balkans*** to learn about Germany's first victim in its rise to power.

In 1996, the United States declassified a document written in 1944, proving Mr. Armstrong right. It was a report of a meeting attended by the leaders of Germany's elite industries. These firms had been told to “prepare themselves to finance the Nazi Party which would be forced to go underground.”

There are other examples. Maj. Gen. Reinhard Gehlen commanded the Wehrmacht's Foreign Armies East military-intelligence unit from 1942 to 1945. Gehlen hid his group's best intelligence in water-tight containers in the Alps. After the war, he swapped his treasure trove of intel for freedom for himself and his staff.

America, as part of its postwar effort to oppose Russia, then paid Gehlen to essentially resurrect his old organization, using many of his old command

staff, toward the end of 1946. Within 10 years, Gehlen had rebuilt his old intelligence unit and staffed it with ex-Nazis. By this time his unit was the BND—the official secret service of West Germany.

Initially after the war, the German government was not allowed its own army. So it turned a blind eye as ex-Nazis built their own. According to German intelligence reports published by *Der Spiegel* in 2014, a force of 40,000 men with 2,000 officers had been set up and was ready to go in case of war by the end of the 1950s. The defense minister at the time, Franz Josef Strauss, probably knew all about it, according to Spiegel Online. The intelligence documents indicate the project was supported by Hans Speidel, who went on to become the NATO supreme commander of the Allied Army in Central Europe, and Adolf Heusinger, who would become the first inspector general of the Bundeswehr. Gehlen was given the task of keeping tabs on this underground army by Germany's first chancellor, Konrad Adenauer.

These are just a few of the known attempts to set up underground military groups. But these groups were not ideal and Germany soon tried to establish something more official.

The German government has had a clear vision of remilitarizing Europe since 1950. According to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Adenauer gathered multiple military experts who had previously served as top-ranking officers under Hitler. At Himmerod Abbey, they discussed the principles of German rearmament as well as the nature and structure of future German forces.

It was in these meetings that the idea of a common European army was formed. Instead of conquering neighboring countries in open warfare as it had attempted to do in two world wars, Germany would ultimately integrate them diplomatically under its own

command. A first attempt in May 1952 at developing a common army was rejected by the French legislature in August 1954, but the idea survived. Leading officers went on to take important offices in the new German military and in NATO.

Few people were paying attention to these developments, but one voice was sounding a strong warning about them. Mr. Armstrong foretold at the end of World War II that Germany would rise again to gain dominance over Europe and its armies. *The day after the war ended in Europe*, he gave a public address forecasting that Germany would be back. That nation, he said, would lead a “coming United States of Europe” (op cit).

How could a crushed Germany possibly achieve this? By “winning the BATTLE of the peace,” he said. The Germans would go “underground” and establish dominance over Europe in peacetime.

This was well before even the early stages of the European Union. In fact, World War II was not yet over: The Allies were still fighting Japan in the East. Yet Mr. Armstrong was already forecasting a “United States of Europe.”

Modern history shows that Germany went on to create exactly that.

How did he know, just one day after the Allies defeated Germany, that this crushed nation would rise again? Because the Bible contains prophetic language that perfectly describes what is happening in Germany in 2018.

Rising From ‘Underground’

Revelation 17:8 describes a beast, symbolic of a major world power, that “was, and is not.” This beast exists, then vanishes—only to then “ascend out of the bottomless pit.” You could say it comes out of nowhere—from “underground.”

Here is how *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains this prophecy in his booklet *Prophecy Again*: “During World War II, we saw the Hitler-Mussolini axis, but then it disappeared from the scene. It ‘was not’! And yet, God says, ‘it is’! The Axis powers lost the war, but as Mr. Armstrong preached time and again, they just went underground—into ‘the bottomless pit’ (verse 8). They’re still there—they’re just *underground*. God says, after that happens, they are going to ascend right back up!”

DIABETES IS NOW THE EIGHTH-BIGGEST killer in the world, accounting for 1.5 million deaths each year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). New cases of diabetes have nearly quadrupled worldwide since 1980, rising to a staggering 422 million people annually by 2016.

Once considered a disease of affluence, diabetes has now spread to every corner of the globe, with two thirds of cases occurring in low-to-middle-income countries. And the price tag, at a crushing \$827 billion annual cost, has the WHO admitting in its first Global Diabetes Report that the disease could threaten the economies of all nations.

The truth is, though, that we have tremendous power over this disease—through the way we live.

What Is Diabetes?

There are three main forms of the disease. Type 1, with no known cure, is where the pancreas stops producing the hormone insulin and as a result, sugar builds up in the blood instead of being used as energy. Type 2 results from the body's ineffective use of insulin and comprises the majority of people with diabetes around the world. The third, gestational diabetes, is a temporary condition in women with high blood glucose (sugar) levels during pregnancy.

The mechanisms of the disease are intricate. According to Dr. Robert Lustig, professor of pediatrics at the University of California–San Francisco, the way your body stores fat is a carefully regulated process controlled primarily by the hormone leptin. If we gain excess weight, the additional body fat produces extra leptin that sends satiation signals to the brain, causing us to stop feeling hungry.

But as we consume a diet heavy in sugar and processed foods, our body no longer hears the messages telling it to stop eating and burn fat. This continued onslaught produces abnormally high blood sugar levels with repeated surges in insulin, in turn causing cells to become insulin resistant. In short, there is a metabolic miscommunication in the body when leptin and insulin levels are continually disrupted, eventually leading to Type 2 diabetes.



How to Avoid (or Recover From) DIABETES

Keep this worldwide epidemic from affecting your life.

BY JORG MARDIAN

Grave Health Implications

Those with Type 2 diabetes are two to four times more likely to get cardiovascular disease, and 80 percent of these will die prematurely by an estimated 12 to 14 years. Other repercussions include nerve damage, infections leading to amputations, blindness, kidney failure and increased medical costs two to five times higher than for the average person (*International Journal of Health Sciences*).

The steady rise in diabetes is to a large degree a manifestation of our flawed, modern society. Fueled by rapid urbanization, unhealthy foods and increasingly sedentary lifestyles, the march of diabetes has closely paralleled that of obesity; almost 90 percent of people with Type 2 diabetes are overweight or obese (U.S. National Library of Medicine). Such is the interdependence between each other that the term “diabesity” has been coined.

Still, science fiddles while Rome burns, seeking the unlikely prospect of a cure via the pharmaceutical pipeline or genetic cause. In fact, a reversal of trends may lie in the simple notion of a lifestyle change.

Effective Diabetes Lifestyle Tips

Studies show that exercise may be one of the most powerful ways of getting

diabetes under control. It increases the number of insulin receptors in muscle and the sensitivity of the body to insulin, which releases the pancreas of the burden of constant insulin production. Exercise also results in the release of appetite-suppressing hormones and neurotransmitters that help to forestall overeating.

Nutritionally, if you have or are in danger of getting diabetes, you should eliminate all refined grains, sugars and processed foods, especially those made with fructose and high fructose corn syrup.

Michael Pollan, author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, advocates building your day around real foods—fruits and vegetables supported by lean protein and a smaller consumption of whole-grain carbohydrates.

This approach also stays clear of chemicals and genetically modified organisms, focusing on organic and sustainable food sources.

What Can Be Done?

Scientists have proved that even small amounts of weight loss (as little as 10 pounds) can keep your blood sugar levels within a healthy range and reduce the risk of diabetic complications. But further, you can actually reverse diabetes or come off medications altogether, according to Ann Albright, Ph.D., director of diabetes translation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In one study, people with Type 2 diabetes exercised about three hours a week and limited their calories to between 1,200 and 1,800 a day. Within a year, about 10 percent improved to the point that their blood sugar levels were no longer in the diabetes range, and 15 to 20 percent were able to stop taking their diabetes medications altogether (WebMD.com).

All this information adds up to great news: You don't have to be part of the diabetes epidemic. But remember, particularly if you are diabetic or prediabetic, your lifestyle will make or break you. Be mindful about your habits from day to day. Stick to whole, unprocessed foods and get your body moving to avoid becoming a statistic. ■

Jorg Mardian is a certified holistic nutritionist.

BROKEN ARROWS:

Will the World's Lost Nuclear Weapons Trigger World War III?

In the wrong hands, even just one lost nuclear weapon could be disastrous. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

ON DEC. 5, 1965, LT. DOUGLAS M. WEBSTER CLIMBED INTO his aircraft as he prepared to take part in a round of United States Navy training exercises. The plane was an A-4E Skyhawk, on board the USS Ticonderoga aircraft carrier. The Ticonderoga was en route from duty along the Vietnamese coast to a port call in Japan. When the ship was 70 miles east of Okinawa, Webster's Skyhawk accidentally rolled off the deck and plunged into the Pacific.

One other important detail: Webster's jet was carrying a one-megaton B-43 thermonuclear bomb, with a yield 70 times larger than the weapon detonated on Hiroshima, Japan, 20 years earlier.

Crews from the Ticonderoga and its escort ships spent hours searching. But Webster, his plane and the nuclear weapon were never found. The U.S. government kept the incident confidential until 1989.

Empty Quivers and Broken Arrows

This event was neither the first nor the last time that American forces suffered "Empty Quiver" or "Broken Arrow" incidents—military code words describing the accidental firing, seizure, theft or loss of nuclear weapons.

"There always is the possibility of an accident," said David G. Jackson, former public affairs officer for the U.S. Department of Energy.

The United States has acknowledged 32 such accidents, the first in 1950 and the latest in 1980. "A couple of weapons were accidentally dropped from aircraft," Jackson said. "There have been midair collisions, there have been planes destroyed in terrible weather; the planes just came apart, and the bombs went on down. Some weapons that were jettisoned at sea, mostly in deep water, so many years ago that, by now, who knows what's down there?"

In the case of at least seven weapons, U.S. officials acknowledged that they never recovered the strays:



1956 A B-47 flying from MacDill Air Force Base in Florida toward a base in Morocco vanishes. It was carrying two nuclear weapon cores and is believed to have crashed somewhere around the Morocco-Algeria border. Despite extensive search efforts, no debris or crash site is ever found—at least not by U.S. authorities.

1961 A B-52 armed with two 24-megaton nuclear weapons crashes near an air base in Goldsboro, North Carolina. One of the bombs falls somewhere in the swampy terrain and is never recovered.

1965 The Ticonderoga loses Lieutenant Webster, his Skyhawk and its one-megaton B-43 munition.

1968 The USS Scorpion submarine vanishes near the Azores Islands in the Atlantic along with its 99 crewmen and two 11-kiloton Mark 45 antisubmarine nuclear torpedoes. The Navy searches for the vessel for nine days and finds no sign of it. A later mission locates the wreckage and verifies that the torpedo room remains intact, but it is unable to retrieve the nuclear weapons.

The U.S. military does not acknowledge the occurrence of any Broken Arrows or Empty Quivers since 1980. This doesn't mean no nuclear weapons incidents have occurred since then, but only that the government keeps more recent incidents classified, mainly for security reasons.

And the United States is not the only nation to occasionally lose track of a nuclear weapon.



Back in the USSR

In 1949, the Soviet Union became the second nation to successfully test an atomic device. Within a few years, the Soviet military had deployed an abundance of deliverable nuclear bombs. With this proliferation came numerous Soviet Broken Arrows and Empty Quivers.

One of the most notable Soviet incidents occurred in October 1986, after the seal failed on a missile hatch cover of a Soviet Yankee I-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. The failure led to a fire, and the submarine sank—along with an estimated 34 nuclear weapons.

At the time of the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, its vast arsenal included more than 27,000 nuclear weapons and enough highly enriched uranium and plutonium to manufacture 54,000 more. After the chaotic downfall, the former Soviet republics of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine are believed to have transferred all their Soviet nuclear arms to Russia. But security in these former Soviet states was, and in some cases still is, notoriously insufficient. And these nations still possess reserves of weapons-grade plutonium and uranium.

There have been no authenticated reports of Soviet nuclear weapons being stolen or lost during the post-USSR transfer, but abundant evidence indicates that there is a vibrant black market for nuclear materials. From 1993 to 2015, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported 2,880 confirmed incidents of nuclear trafficking, theft, smuggling, loss and other

unauthorized activities, 30 of which involved highly enriched uranium, which is the primary component of nuclear weapons. “Some of these incidents involved attempts to sell or traffic these materials across international borders,” the IAEA said.

The report noted that the IAEA knows only about failed smuggling attempts, adding, “The number of successful transactions is not known”

A True Threat?

Experts believe that corrosion and contamination has rendered most of the weapons that fell into the oceans unable to produce nuclear explosions. They say most of those on the seafloor—such as the one on Webster's Skyhawk—probably pose little danger beyond radiation harm to the local marine environment. Experts also say security safeguards are built onto many such weapons to prevent unauthorized personnel from being able to detonate them. There is also the fact that tritium gas in nuclear weapons normally needs to be replenished periodically to keep them detonable. These factors combine to mean that most of the world's stray nuclear materials and nuclear weapons may not present a grave threat.

But all it would take is one.

One nuclear weapon falling into the hands of a team determined to either repair or reverse-engineer it could pose a serious threat. And that brings us to Iran.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his free booklet *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*: “Today, the regime started by the Iranian Revolution is trying to take over the whole Arab world! ... It's about to achieve nuclear status, and other nations are too weak to stop it! Iran will keep *pushing* the West until it gets a fight.”

In his article titled “America's Deadly Nuclear Deal With Iran,” Mr. Flurry wrote: “Iran is pushing and pushing its foreign policy. It is about to push so hard and so aggressively that it will launch a massive war! But it won't be with the United States, which is now too weak to even *fight* such a war. ... [Y]ou see Iran pushing aggressively at America and also very forcefully against Europe; ... you see the very real threat of war; you see the very imminent threat of nuclear bombs eliminating millions of people” (*Trumpet*, October 2016).

Mr. Flurry's statements are based on specific Bible prophecies that describe a coming nuclear World War III that Iran's pushing against Europe will soon trigger.

Daniel 11:40 says, “at the time of the end” a power called “the king of the south” will “push” at another power bloc called “the king of the north.”

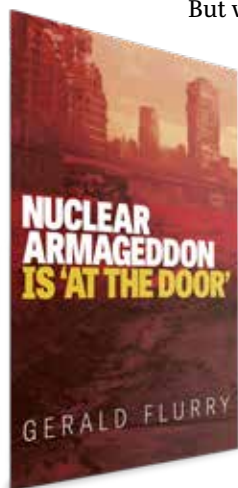
Today, analysts around the world regularly label the Islamic Republic of Iran as the leading state sponsor of terrorism. Underwriting such brutal behavior is among the most confrontational or “pushy” policies a country could implement, and helps to pinpoint the “king of the south” as radical Islam led by Iran. Verses 42-43 indicate that, when the third world war breaks out, this Middle Eastern power will have some degree of partnership with Libya, Egypt and Ethiopia. Also pertinent is that most of the radical Islamists in these and other regions that Iran sways lie mostly to the south of Israel. (For detailed proof that the “king of the south” is modern Iran, request Mr. Flurry's free booklet *The King of the South*.)

The “king of the north” in this passage refers to a united European power that will be led by Germany and guided by the Vatican. An examination of Revelation 17 makes this clear and delivers key details about this mighty church-state combine, which is already materializing today. Daniel 8:23-24 say this “king” will “destroy wonderfully.” (For thorough proof that the king of the north will be a German-led European power, request our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.)

This all makes clear that when radical Islam, as led by Iran, pushes against the united European power that is influenced by the Vatican, that push will be the spark that ignites nuclear World War III.

Thanks in large part to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal that the Obama administration implemented with Iran on Jan. 16, 2016, the Iranians will soon be able to develop nuclear weapons without outside assistance. There is also ample evidence that assistance from North Korea could be hastening Iran’s race toward that milestone.

But what if Tehran, or terrorists from one of the many groups that Iran supports, were to acquire one of the Broken Arrow or Empty Quiver weapons lost by the U.S. or Russia? This would boost the capacity of the king of the south to intensify its push against



To learn more about the imminence of nuclear world war and the global peace to follow, request Gerald Flurry’s free booklet *Nuclear Armageddon Is ‘At the Door.’*

► UNDERGROUND ARMY FROM PAGE 10

But this was not a one-off. Verse 10 states that this power will be ruled by seven successive kings. It rises to power, declines, goes underground, only to reemerge later. Revelation 17 also describes these kings as seven mountains with valleys in between (verse 9). They are not seven continuous kings. There are gaps—during which this power goes underground.

Compare the Bible’s language to quotes used in this article from historians and other experts. Germany’s rearmament deals with Russia “occasionally broke the surface.” The nation is “hibernating at times.” These are similar metaphors to the ones used in your Bible.

Mr. Flurry explains that this power began emerging from the underground in the early 1990s. But to this day it remains partially subterranean.

Now, however, this army is almost ready to burst onto the scene. “When you understand Revelation 17:8 and what is happening [in Europe], you have to say, *That’s it! The beast is rising up right before our eyes!*” Mr. Flurry writes.

Looking at these behind-the-scenes efforts Germany is making to build a European army, these statements from Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Flurry leap into focus! As Mr. Flurry writes: “The Bible really comes alive when we know specifically what is happening.”

But there is much more to this story than the rise of Germany. Revelation 17 says that this European power will ultimately *lose* its final battle. It will be overcome by Jesus Christ Himself (verse 14). And the world can thank God for that! His return will mark the merciful end of the most violent, brutal holocaust the world has ever experienced!

Western powers. This would be the case even if the nuclear materials they obtained were only used to make a *dirty bomb*: a weapon combining conventional explosives with radioactive materials in order to contaminate the area around the conventional explosion with radioactive material. Such a detonation in a city like Jerusalem would be a history-altering event.

Whether or not the world’s stray nuclear materials end up contributing to the spark that ignites that final world war, Bible prophecy makes clear that it will be an unprecedentedly destructive conflict. In Matthew 24:21-22, Jesus Christ is recorded as saying: “For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive ...” (New Living Translation).

This could only be describing a global nuclear war with enough detonations to cause nuclear winter.

Cause for Hope

Yet as we see that utterly devastating and dark time of war approach, there is cause for profound hope! Continuing that passage in Matthew 24:22, just after Christ says that nuclear war at the end of this age will be so devastating that it *could* end all human life, He then adds a crucial detail: “But it will be shortened” (NLT).

Nuclear World War III will be interrupted!

Before man detonates enough weapons to entirely obliterate himself, Jesus Christ will cut the war short. Following just after that season of unprecedented death, He will usher in an age of unprecedented peace. Regarding this future time of worldwide tranquility and prosperity, Isaiah 2:4 says: “[N]ation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” War, nuclear and otherwise, will then be a relic of a bygone era. ■

The defeat will mean the final end of this power—no more going underground. This will be a liberation for the whole world—including the Germans, who will never have to suffer under this tyrannical power again.

This is the hope you can get only from the Bible. The power that is about to emerge into full view is soon going to disappear forever—to be replaced by the first truly good rule in the history of the world: that of Jesus Christ.

The Bible has proved to be stunningly accurate in forecasting power thus far. Its description perfectly characterizes the “underground” nature of this power in Europe. And it will prove just as accurate in forecasting the hope that follows.

Germany is getting ready to emerge from this bottomless pit. But the good news is, this also means that Jesus Christ is getting ready to return! ■



Did God Create Evolution?

The natural world itself answers the question. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

CREATION OR EVOLUTION? FEW questions are as divisive, and most people are convinced they know the correct answer. Earth is the only planet with life, and it has millions of forms of it. Was it all crafted by an intelligent designer? Or did it all evolve from a single-cell ancestor? Since Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, these questions have divided creationists from evolutionists.

But now, more and more people—including the pope—say you can believe *both* creation and evolution. “God is not ... a magician, but the Creator who brought everything to life,” Pope Francis told the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. “Evolution in nature is not inconsistent with the notion of creation, because evolution requires the creation of beings that evolve” (Oct. 27, 2014). In other words, the pope is saying God creates new species by using evolution.

In the United States, most Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Catholics and mainstream Protestants believe evolution is the best explanation for the origin of human life. Evangelical Protestants and Sabbath-keeping Christians believe God sculpted man in His own image and likeness.

A May 2017 Gallup poll shows that 38 percent of U.S. adults believe God

guided the process of human evolution over millions of years. For the first time since Gallup began tracking this trend in 1982, the belief that God directly created man is not the most common response.

The idea that God directs the evolutionary process is called *theistic evolution*. Is it true?

It is important to understand the plain truth about the origin of species and how human life began.

The Blueprint of Life

From the microscopic amoeba to the giant sequoia, every living thing has its own genome. A genome is the sum of an organism’s genetic material. Molecules called nucleobases join to form larger molecules called base pairs. These base pairs stack together to form long, twisting chains of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). These DNA chains store the instructions for building the various proteins that construct an organism. They are the blueprints of life.

A chain of DNA containing enough information to make a protein is a gene. These genes pass from one generation to the next generation in bundles called chromosomes. If you compare a genome to a set of written instructions on how to build a living being, *nucleobases* are like letters, *base pairs* are like words, *genes* are like chapters,

chromosomes are like books, and the *genome* is like an entire library.

Geneticists estimate that every cell in the body of a songbird contains 2 billion nucleobases, clustered into 17,000 genes. If you wrote a manual on how to “build” a songbird using one letter per nucleobase, it would be seven times longer than the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

The human genome is even more complex.

Really, there is no technology that serves as an analogy for the complexity of a genome.

“The genome is not just a simple string of letters spelling out a linear series of instructions,” Dr. John Sanford writes in his book *Genetic Entropy*. “It actually embodies multiple linear codes that overlap and constitute an exceedingly sophisticated information system embodying what is called data compression. ... In addition to multiple, overlapping, linear, language-like forms of genetic information, the genome is full of countless loops and branches, like a computer program.”

A list of nucleobases represents only the first dimension of complexity of the genome. The analogy of an encyclopedia will prove useful in explaining how genetic information passes from generation to generation. But it does not even begin to scratch the surface of the genome’s wondrous design.

Genetic Variety

When high-school students first start studying the hypothesis of evolution, they learn about finches. These songbirds are native to the Galápagos Islands and exhibit remarkable diversity in beak size, shape and function.

Darwin studied 15 varieties of these birds, each having a special beak that enables it to feed on different types of food. One variety has a large beak useful for cracking seeds. Another variety has a long beak useful for probing out grubs. Other beak shapes allow finches to eat insects, fruits, leaves or cactus nectar.

Why all this variety? Is it all due to the process that Darwin called *natural selection*?

Geneticists have discovered a gene, called ALX1, that seems to be primarily responsible for variation in beak size, shape and function. A finch's beak shape is determined by what genes it inherits from its parents. Since different varieties of finches can interbreed, it is possible for a finch to inherit different forms of the ALX1 gene from each parent. So a big-beaked male and a small-beaked female can have a medium-beaked chick.

Darwin's hypothesis of *natural selection* predicts that a finch with the best type of beak for a particular environment will outcompete finches and have more chicks than his neighbors. Thus his beak type will become more common as finches with other beak types die out. The idea underpinning "natural selection" removes God from the equation, as though He had nothing to do with where animals and people settled. It suggests it is *nature* that does the selecting.

The Bible says it is God who feeds the finches of the Galápagos Islands. "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Matthew 6:26).

God created the different varieties of finches, and He created the different types of food that finches eat. And He also created the different forms of the ALX1 gene that ensure that finches have a special beak designed for the food they were intended to eat. So, finches simply fly to the locations where the foods God provided for them are located. If they

are born with a long beak, they fly to the top of a cactus where flowers with nectar grow. If they are born with a short beak, they fly to the bottom of the cactus where they can eat ticks off an iguana. Some finches even tear off cactus spines to use as a tool to probe out grubs their beaks cannot reach.

“The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the *Unabridged Dictionary* resulting from an explosion in a printing factory.”

—EDWIN CONKLIN, ZOOLOGIST

It is important to note that even what evolutionists term "natural selection" *could never create new genetic information*. The genes for all 15 types of beaks already exist in the world's finch population. In certain situations, environmental factors might influence whether genes are passed to a new generation. But you cannot select for nonexistent genes.

"*Natural selection* may explain the survival of the fittest, but it cannot explain the *arrival of the fittest*." That's how botanist and geneticist Hugo de Vries described the problem Darwinists face. Creatures can pass a variety of characteristics to their offspring—but only within set limits. Nature cannot create new traits that did not already exist within a population's genome.

Kind Reproduces Kind

Small changes within a species are sometimes called adaptations. Such adaptation occurs when the gene for big beaks becomes more common in a population of finches, for example. But there always comes a point where finch beaks cannot get any bigger. The genes for beaks past a certain size do not exist in the finch genome, just like the genes for gills do not exist in the finch genome. The only way a finch can add new genes to its chick's genome is by breeding

with a finch that possesses those genes. So, a finch's adaptive potential is limited by the type of animals it can breed with to produce a new generation.

This fact proves the Bible's statement that creatures reproduce after their own kind. "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit *after his kind*, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth, and it was so. ... And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, *after their kind*, and every winged fowl *after his kind*: and God saw that it was good. ... And God made the beast of the earth *after his kind*, and cattle *after their kind*, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth *after his kind*: and God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:11, 21, 25).

The Bible's creation account does not state that God made man after the animal kind, or the monkey kind, but that He made man after the God kind. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

Scientists classify finches into 15 different species. Since each of these species can interbreed with the others, they are just varieties of what the Bible would call the finch "kind." Likewise, scientists classify coyotes, dingoes, golden jackals, gray wolves, red wolves and 340 breeds of domestic dogs as different species, but they are varieties of the dog "kind."

A finch can add new finch genes to its chick's genome by breeding with a finch of another variety. A dog can add new dog genes to its puppy's genome by breeding with a dog of another variety. But a finch cannot add dog genes to its chick's genome, because a finch cannot breed with a dog. Kinds reproduce within the bounds of their own kind.

Theistic evolutionists claim that God created finches by making gradual alterations to amoebas over millions of years, but this is simply NOT what God's Word clearly states.

The Problem With Mutations

When Charles Darwin wrote *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* in 1859, scientists knew

almost nothing about genetics. Darwin could observe that offspring inherited physical characteristics from their parents. But he knew that his observations explained only how old traits were preserved, not how new traits were created.

When Darwin speculated that one kind of organism was able to evolve into another kind, he was taking a leap into fantasy.

When Hugo de Vries discovered mutations in the 1890s, evolutionists hypothesized an idea called neo-Darwinism. Mutations are errors in the DNA replication process. According to neo-Darwinism, these random and rare genetic errors create new genes. They say *natural selection* then weeds out the bad genetic errors and selects the good ones.

The trouble with this hypothesis is that mutations are random errors at the nucleobase level of a genome. Remember if you compare the genome to a library, genes are chapters and nucleobases are letters. So a mutation is like an extra letter “a” printed in a 225-volume genetics manual on how to build a songbird. If you reprint an encyclopedia with one typo every year, the encyclopedia is not going to randomly evolve a new chapter on beak shapes—no matter how many times it is reprinted. Instead, it will degenerate into a jumble of letters that fails to tell you how to build anything at all.

The average gene in a songbird’s genome is over 100,000 nucleobases long, and only mutations occurring in a sperm or egg cell are passed on to the next generation. Since most traits require information from more than one gene, the neo-Darwinism hypothesis would require millions of perfectly timed, beneficial mutations to create a finch beak perfectly shaped for eating seeds. And it could only require one harmful mutation to destroy the intricate instructions for such a perfect beak.

This is why American zoologist Edwin Conklin said, “The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the *Unabridged Dictionary* resulting from an explosion in a printing factory.” He was dramatically understating the absurdity of Neo-Darwinist evolution.

To think the wondrous complexity of even one gene, let alone an entire genome, resulted from undirected mutations defies logic. Some argue that an omnipotent Creator could secretly guide the process of mutation. However, the Bible emphatically states that God created each kind of plant and animal in a single week. Since there are no fossils showing one kind of organism evolving into another kind, the natural world itself provides no evidence to refute the Bible’s account.

Subject to Decay

It is a principle of entropy that a closed system always tends toward a state of disorder, unless maintained by an outside force. The genome of living things is no different. Genetic mutations cause information to be lost, not gained. Therefore, genetic mutations are harmful to an organism. They only explain the presence of varieties *less fit* to survive.

There is some evidence that damage done to DNA chains by mutations is what causes organisms to age and die. Beyond these preprogrammed mutations, however, additional mutations can result from broken physical laws. Improper diet, drug abuse and exposure to harmful radiation have all been shown to increase the likelihood of genetic mutations.

These mutations do not spontaneously create new and better physical traits;

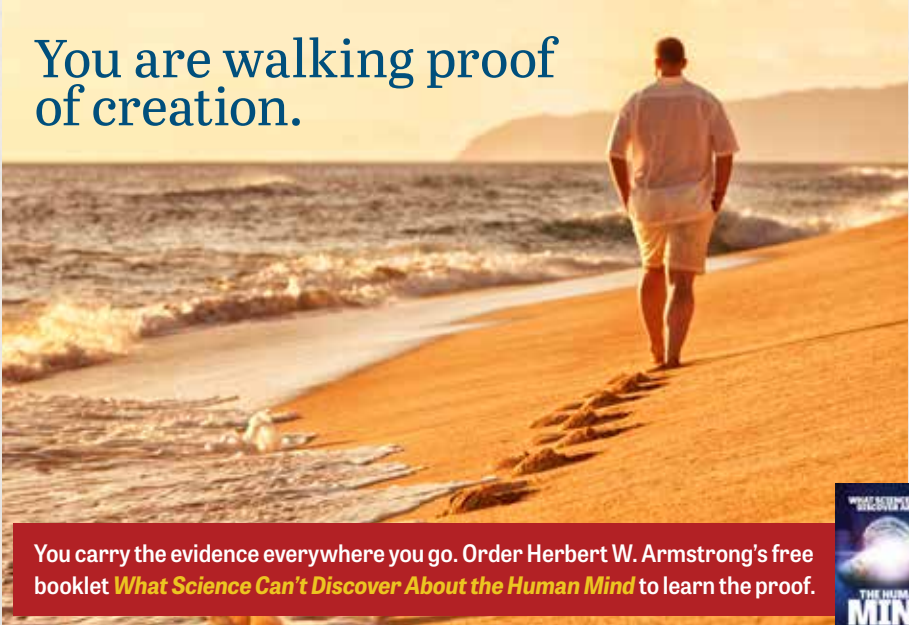
they destroy the fine-tuned intricacy of the genes God originally created.

Think of this also: As fearfully and wonderfully made as we are (Psalms 139:14), when God desires to make something permanent, He does not make it out of physical matter. He makes it out of spirit. God only crafts something out of physical matter when His plan requires it to be subject to decay (Romans 8:19-23).

The Bible clearly shows that the genome of each kind of creature was the most perfect on the day God created it. In the years since, these genomes have decayed.

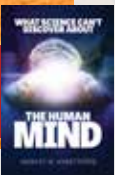
Like atheistic evolution, the claims of theistic evolution run counter to what the Bible reveals. Instead of teaching that mankind was created in the image of God, it claims that mankind descended from some lower animal. Instead of teaching that kind reproduced after its kind, it claims one kind can evolve into another kind. Instead of teaching that creatures were subject to decay, it claims that every species has been getting better and better.

The main reason theistic evolution has become so popular today is that people struggle to reconcile the clear word of the Bible with the false principles of science being taught in most high schools and universities. But an honest study of both genetics and physics shows there is no contradiction between the Bible and true science. ■



You are walking proof
of creation.

You carry the evidence everywhere you go. Order Herbert W. Armstrong’s free booklet *What Science Can’t Discover About the Human Mind* to learn the proof.



DEFYING EVOLUTION

Almost all high schools and universities in the Western world teach that the estimated 8.7 million species of life on planet Earth evolved from a single cell ancestor via a process of mutation and natural selection. The truth, however, is that there is no rational explanation for the millions of forms of life on Earth—unless they were created by an intelligent Creator. These amazing creatures are great proofs of our Creator God.

DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS

It has been said that God created the platypus as a means to confuse and befuddle the evolutionist. After all, this unique creature looks like an egg-laying beaver with poisonous spurs on its back legs and the bill of a duck on its face. It dives underwater to search for small crustaceans and worms using highly sophisticated electrolocation sensors in its bill. If these electrolocation sensors evolved, how did the poor platypus find food back before it had a functioning bill?



FRUIT BAT

Evolutionists claim that bats evolved from an ancestor that looked like a shrew. In order for a shrew's forepaws to become wings, however, its fingers would have to gradually become longer over many generations. If this actually happened, the shrew's paws would become useless for running long before they became useful for flying. Such a poor deformed creature would be unable to walk, run, fly, hold food to its mouth, or survive for more than a few days.



GIRAFFE

Evolutionists claim that giraffes had short necks millions of years ago, but random genetic mutations produced giraffes with longer necks. The problem with this hypothesis is that the pressure required to pump blood to the top of an 8-foot neck would kill the giraffe if it didn't have five regulatory systems to protect its brain. All five systems had to have evolved simultaneously, which is statistically impossible.



MELIPONA BEE

The Melipona bee is the only insect in the world that is able to pollinate the flower that produces vanilla beans. The vanilla orchid only blooms two to three hours each year. But, somehow, this bee knows when the orchid will flower and the technique to access its nectar. Without the Melipona bee, the vanilla orchid would go extinct. So how did the vanilla orchid survive long enough for the Melipona bee to evolve the capacity to pollinate it?

CHICKEN

Evolutionists claim that chickens evolved from a family of dinosaurs that included the Tyrannosaurus Rex. But how bird feathers evolved from reptile scales is a great mystery to evolutionists. Flat scales would have had to gradually develop into tube-shaped quills. These quills would have had to split to form webbed

feathers. While this was happening, the poor creature would have been covered by half-formed feathers that offered no protection from the elements.



GALÁPAGOS TORTOISE

Evolutionists hypothesize that tortoises evolved from a species of prehistoric lizard, whose scales got progressively bigger over millions of generations until they fused into a shell. Evolutionists claim this lizard lived over 200 million years ago. However, no half-lizard, half-tortoise fossils have ever been discovered.



ANGLERFISH

Evolutionists claim that the anglerfish evolved the fishing-rod-like extension on its forehead, complete with a glowing bulb full of bioluminescent bacteria. The anglerfish uses this bulb to lure small fish close enough for it to eat. Of course, this infers that small fish evolved a hypnotic attraction to light so that they could partake in the privilege of being eaten.



GLIESE 436 B

BPM 37093

CFBDSIR J214947.2-040308.9

START YOUR JOURNEY HERE

YOUR MYSTERIOUS AWESOME UNIVERSE

A lighthearted voyage
through time and space

BY CALLUM WOOD

You live in a universe of marvel and wonder. Through the lens of a telescope, you peer out into the glittering expanse, finding new wonders that human beings cannot explain and can barely comprehend.

Scientists estimate that 275 million stars are born and die every day in the observable universe. It is a place of change and discovery. But God knows every one of the estimated 70 billion trillion stars by name (Psalm 147:4). Would you like to get to know some of them too?

BURNING ICE WORLD

The first stop on your voyage through the stars is **GLIESE 436 B**, only 30 light-years from Earth. Astronomers believe this Neptune-size planet is composed of exotic water. Because “Gli” orbits 13 times closer to its star than Earth does to our sun, the surface is a balmy 572 degrees Fahrenheit. But the planet’s immensely pressurized core prevents the ice from melting. Just as coal under pressure creates diamonds, water under pressure can create “hot ice” with names like Ice VII and Ice X.

GALACTIC DIAMOND

Speaking of diamonds, as you travel 50 light-years from Earth, you reach **BPM 37093**, a dwarf star. Welcome to the biggest diamond in the universe. Nicknamed “Lucy” after a pop song, this white dwarf has some serious sparkle. When small stars die, they often become white dwarfs, like Lucy. The intense pressure on the carbon center of these dying stars forms diamond. Lots of diamond. Lucy weighs 2.27 thousand trillion tons. That is an estimated 10 billion trillion trillion carats. That’s a whole lot bigger than the largest diamond found on Earth, the Star of Africa, which weighs a mere 530 carats.

If you want a diamond closer in size to Lucy, hang around. Our sun is projected to die in 5 billion years. Two billion years after that, the ember core would crystallize, leaving this solar system with a giant diamond of its own.

HOMELESS PLANET

At 100 light-years from Earth, you meet the neighborhood hermit. **CFBDSIR J214947.2-040308.9** could sure do with some company. Let’s call him CFB. Poor CFB is alone. He has no star to orbit. Instead, CFB drifts quietly through space. Too small to be a star and too big to be a planet, CFB falls into the category of a brown dwarf. What makes CFB unique, though, is that of the hundreds of millions of celestial bodies, CFB is the only homeless guy in our neighborhood. All other planets and dwarfs have stars to orbit.

But cheer up, CFB. The word *planet* comes from the Greek words *planeta* or *planêtês*, meaning “wandering celestial bodies.” So maybe CFB is more of a planet than any!

PULSARS AND NEUTRON STARS

As you cross an expanse of 770 light-years, you come closer and closer to a flashing light. But as you approach **PSR J0108-1431**, you see that it emits a shining beam of light like a lighthouse. As it spins, that beam points toward Earth, giving the illusion of a flashing light. This is called a pulsar. When a star dies and collapses on itself, it becomes a neutron star. If it spins, it becomes known as a pulsar. A neutron star is normally 12 to 15 miles in diameter. But it packs a punch: It can contain up to twice the mass of our sun. A sugar cube-size piece of neutron star would weigh about a billion tons: Mount Everest in the palm of your hand! These stars also have incredible pull. Their gravitational pull ranges from 100 million to 1 *quadrillion* (a million billion) times that of Earth.

J0108 is one of 2,000 known pulsars in the universe. There are likely many more, but they don’t point their beam at us to let us know. J0108 is old—the oldest pulsar we have found. In its old age, it doesn’t spin as fast as other pulsars. The fastest pulsar in the universe rotates at 716 times per second—at an estimated 1 million miles per hour. Scientists believe pulsars must steal energy from nearby stars to go that fast.

But don’t get delayed by J0108’s magnetic personality. There is much more to see.

HIDDEN UNIVERSE POWERS

Something, somewhere 250 million light-years from Earth, is moving galaxies. The only physical force known to man with such power is gravity. But a gravitational pull capable of moving galaxies? *That is incredible power.*

So who or what is doing the pulling?

We can’t tell! Whatever it is, it is hidden directly behind our own galaxy—the one place astronomers can’t see through! There is just too much debris and light in the way. But that doesn’t stop us from feeling the effects of this mysterious force.

While the universe is expanding, our neighborhood is drawing together. Space.com described the mysterious “Great Attractor” as a monster. This beast has immense and unrelenting power to draw in nearby galaxies. Our own galaxy is traveling toward it at 370 miles per hour.

The Milky Way is part of the Local Group, which also includes Andromeda. We are gradually falling together. Meanwhile this group is falling toward the middle of the broader Virgo Cluster. And the Virgo Cluster is falling to the center of the Virgo Supercluster. This is where the Great Attractor waits, in the center of our supercluster.

The means to move a galaxy of more than 100 billion stars at 370 miles per hour from a distance of 250 million light-years is simply mind-boggling.

Yet notice Proverbs 3:19: “By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, *by understanding he set the heavens in place*” (New International Version).

For all its grandiose power, our little universe is subject to the *higher* power of God Almighty! It is He who, as Job 26:7 states, “hangs” the planets, stars and whole universe “on nothing.”

Now *that* is the true power of the universe!

BOOMERANG CLOUD

OGLE-2016-BLG-1190LB

BOOMERANG NEBULA

Deep space is cold at -455 degrees Fahrenheit! But after 5,000 light-years of travel, you reach the coldest place in the cosmos: the **BOOMERANG NEBULA**. It is -458 degrees Fahrenheit, or 1 degree Kelvin. The nebula is a long way from anything. Its only warmth comes from background radiation leftover from the creation of the universe.

This brisk nebula is also the result of a dying star. Many of the wonders we are visiting are the bizarre results of a universe in decay. More on this later.

THE ELDERLY STAR

You wouldn't think it, but the oldest living star in our universe is just up the road. At 6,000 light-years from Earth, you come to **SM0313**. "Smo" was born 13.6 billion years ago—just a few hundred years after the estimated creation of the universe. "Smo" has almost no heavy elements, thus helping scientists determine its age. But this leaves experts with a question: How did it get there? How did the oldest star in the universe arrive on our back porch? One of the literal mysteries of the universe.

LOOKING OUT TO SEE THE PAST

We are now 6,000 light-years from Earth. Try waving to your friends and family on Earth. They won't see your gesture for another 6,000 years! Yes, it takes 6,000 years for light from Smo to reach our home. That means when you see Smo through a telescope, you are seeing the universe from 6,000 years ago: the time when God created mankind on Earth!

To look into outer space is to look back in time. As you peer deeper into space from Earth, you begin to see things as they were

billions of years ago. Many of the wonders we are describing on this voyage actually may not even be there any longer! They could be dust; they could be burned out, crystallized or swallowed up in a black hole! We don't know because the light—the image—of whatever has happened is still traveling toward us.

The size, scope and age of our universe is simply more than we can wrap our minds around. It is no surprise that God implied in Jeremiah 31:37 that the universe cannot be measured.

IPTF14HLS POP

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE STAR

Traveling 500 million light-years from Earth, you come across a survivor. When a star goes supernova, it is *usually* considered fatal. A supernova is a star exploding in an incredible ball of light that can last for months. When scientists saw **IPTF14HLS POP**, they figured that would be the last they saw of the little sun. But two years later, iPTF is still going. It flared five times over the 24-month period.

Looking back in the records, astronomers found an explosion of the star was recorded in 1954.

Checking in on this unstoppable star ought to remind us how little we know of our universe. Of the trillions of stars, this one is the *only* star that has survived at least two supernovae. How many more fascinating, unique planets and stars are out there beyond our gaze?

Let's keep looking.

A WHOLE LOT OF NOTHING

Three billion light-years from Earth, you stand on the brink of the largest structure ever discovered. It is called the **SUPERVOID**. This expanse is 1.8 billion light-years across and is missing some 10,000 galaxies. Again, scientists are left scratching their heads. It doesn't fit into predicted models of the universe. They claim it is simply too big to exist!

SUNNY SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE

Next you can work on your tan by heading 7 billion light-years from Earth to the **EL GORDO GALAXY CLUSTER**, the largest galaxy in the known universe. "El Gordo" is Spanish for "the fat one." Its mass is 3 *quadrillion* suns—so huge, scientists believe, because it collided with another galaxy.

Despite its size, El Gordo represents less than 1 millionth of a percent of all stars in the universe! And even that is likely a gross overestimation.

THE MOST AMAZING PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

You have seen some bizarre, some jaw-dropping and some breath-taking wonders on your little galactic tour. But there is one place that stands out more than the others. One place that is truly worth seeing. Look out your window.

Welcome back to Earth. It sits far from black holes and quasars. It is nowhere near exploding supernovae or clouds of alcohol. It isn't big. It doesn't explode, consume, radiate or wander. Yet there is no place like Earth—your home. And the universe knows it.

RESTORATION

Did you know that El Gordo, Mac, Lucy, Galaxy X and every star, planet, dwarf and comet in the universe is watching Earth, and waiting for you? Read Romans 8:19-23. The creation—all of it—waits in eager longing for the sons of God. So many of the sites on your voyage were in decay or dead: exploding stars, colliding galaxies, drifting planets, consuming black holes. But Romans 8:21 says *you* can deliver the universe from this bondage. Verse 22 says the creation is in pain, waiting to be saved, and its Creator wants *you* to be one of those to do it.

A CLOUD OF ALCOHOL

Don't get too excited. This isn't some galactic libation. It is methyl alcohol, not the ethanol in your evening glass of shiraz. That said, it is something to behold.

This cloud of alcohol drifting through space is 288 billion miles long.

Looking back, you are now 10,000 light-years from Earth.

ONE GINORMOUS PLANET

Sitting 22,000 light-years from Earth is [OGLE-2016-BLG-1190LB](#). Ogle makes Jupiter look like Pluto. The planet is 13.4 times the mass of scrawny Jupiter. Ogle is the largest planet ever discovered. Any larger and it would be classed as a brown dwarf like our homeless friend CFB.

Ogle mingles in the center of the Milky Way. Beside it sits the brown dwarf desert—a place devoid of brown dwarfs. This is partially why scientists believe Ogle could be a planet, not a

dwarf. Either way, it's definitely worth a visit on our galactic getaway.

But don't think this is a great piece of future real estate. The gravitational pull would crush you if you tried to move there. God fashioned our Earth and allows it to spin just fast enough to make life possible—without drifting away or being squashed. God told Job about the time when He marked up the dimensions of our planet! (Job 38:5).

MYSTERIOUS GALAXY X

Jump out of your galaxy to a place 300,000 light-years away from Earth. Meet [GALAXY X](#). This galaxy is chiefly composed of dark matter—the mysterious substance that neither emits nor reflects light. The existence of this is revealed by a cluster of just four young pulsating stars on the edge of our Milky Way. Galaxy X is small. So small, in fact, that it actually orbits the Milky Way.

Scientists believe many such dark-matter galaxies orbit around larger galaxies in the universe.

THE CHIEF OF ALL BLACK HOLES

You are now 12.8 billion light-years from Earth. Here you find [JO100+2802](#), a black hole 12 billion times the size of the sun. As it sucks in surrounding debris, it heats the material up. This creates a quasar that beams light from across the early universe to us here on Earth.

Aside from gamma-ray bursts, quasars are the brightest things in the universe. Some emit more light than 100 galaxies! As impressive as that

is, God promises in Daniel 12:1-3 that the resurrected saints in the Millennium will shine “as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

You are almost out of time on this voyage—literally. You are near the edge of known space and time! There is one place left to visit, located 13.3 billion light-years from Earth.

A LONG WAY FROM HOME

At the edge of the great beyond we meet Galaxy [MACS0647-JD](#). According to current data, “Mac” is the furthest galaxy from us in the observable universe.

Mac is probably older than our Milky Way. As we see him through the Hubble telescope, he looks small and young, but remember: This is how he looked 13.3 billion years ago.

Scientists believe Mac has existed for 97 percent of the history of space and time as we know it.

Sitting here on the edge of the universe, who knows what Mac can see. Astronomers are always finding galaxies further away. They are constantly challenging our perception of when time began.



TAKE A UNIVERSE TOUR.

To learn the wonderful origins and purpose of the universe, request our free booklet [Our Awesome Universe Potential](#).

Isaiah 51:16 says that human beings will plant the heavens! The universe was not made to stay desolate. God created it to be inhabited! This is why Earth is so important. It is the staging ground for universal and eternal expansion! It is the base camp for the greatest expansion ever! And your potential is bound up in that plan.

We at the *Trumpet* often write on the subject of man's potential as outlined in the Holy Bible. Herbert W. Armstrong's book [The Incredible](#)

[Human Potential](#) explains this in vivid detail ([theTrumpet.com/go/ihp](#)). If you look at the universe and wonder about your place in it, then you need this book! And if you enjoyed this tour, request and read [Our Awesome Universe Potential](#). This free booklet is an even grander universe tour. It explains in greater depth the marvelous universe around you—and our role in it.

Out there is a universe created with *purpose*—a universe of wonders and mysteries. And it is a universe waiting for you.

The Turkish Betrayal

Turkey is forming and breaking alliances—and fulfilling Bible prophecy.

BY ANTHONY CHIBARIRWE



TURKEY MAY HAVE LOST ITS OTTOMAN Empire in the early 20th century, but it remains a formidable power in the Middle East and Europe.

The Turkish landmass is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea and eight countries in the Caucasus, the Middle East and Europe. The Bible describes Turkey as standing “in the crossway” (Obadiah 14). It is a crucial land bridge: Whoever controls it will always wield strategic and geopolitical influence.

Turkey’s economy is stronger than any Middle Eastern nation. Its military is the most powerful in the region.

It makes sense for global powers and regional neighbors to befriend the Turks. But Turkey likes making

friends and building alliances almost as much as it likes offending friends and alienating allies.

American leaders who believe the U.S. should trust Turkey should be aware that Bible prophecy shows this nation to be a dubious ally and a betrayer of friends. But even if they do not believe prophecy, Turkey’s recent history reveals this truth. Consider the evidence.

Israel and Jerusalem

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, “father of the Turks,” founded modern Turkey in 1923. He established the nation as a secular state oriented toward the West and Western principles of governance, even though 99.8 percent of the Turkish population is Muslim.

In 1949, Turkey became the first predominantly Muslim country to recognize the State of Israel. In 1996, it became the first predominantly Muslim nation to sign a free-trade agreement with Israel.

This direction changed with the rise of Turkey’s current leader, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, an authoritarian who brazenly espouses Islamist ideology and champions the Palestinian cause.

Over the years of Erdoğan’s reign, from 2003 as prime minister, and from 2014 as president, Turkey’s relationship with Israel has vacillated between friend and foe. Most notably, in 2010, after Israel imposed a naval blockade on the Gaza Strip, where many Palestinians live, Turkey tried to break that blockade by sending an aid flotilla to Gaza. Israeli commandos challenged the Turks at sea, killing nine of them. Turkey cut diplomatic ties with Israel for six years. In June 2016, the two nations signed a reconciliation agreement to restore diplomatic ties.

When the U.S. announced this past December that it recognizes Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, President Erdoğan quickly responded that Israeli bloodshed has “made Jerusalem a dungeon for Muslims and members of other religions With their decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, the United States has become a partner in this bloodshed.” Erdoğan said Jerusalem “is the red line for Muslims” and threatened to go as far as cutting

Turkey’s Strongman Grows Stronger

ON DEC. 24, 2017, RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN BECAME THE first Turkish president to visit the North African nation of Sudan, where he signed \$650 million worth of bilateral agreements on trade, tourism, education, forestry, mining, science, technology and strategic and military cooperation.

Sudan agreed to lease its Suakin Island indefinitely to allow the Turks to rebuild it as a hub for tourists and Muslim pilgrims bound for Mecca, Saudi Arabia. But analysts say Turkey’s interest in Suakin goes beyond tourism and religion.

When the Turks ruled Sudan as a part of the Ottoman Empire, Suakin was Sudan’s most important Red Sea port. But according to President Erdoğan, the West “razed it to the ground” and turned Suakin into a “ghost island.” He vowed to “rebuild and reconstruct it in such a way that, like a shaved beard, it will regrow much more abundant.”

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour told

reporters that Turkey also agreed “to build a dock to maintain civilian and military vessels.” He added that the agreements signed by the two countries “could result in any kind of military cooperation.” His Turkish counterpart, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, said, “[O]ur president has instructed us to give assistance to the army and the police force of Sudan.”

Zvi Mazel, former Israeli ambassador to Romania, Egypt and Sweden, wrote for the *Jerusalem Post* on January 6: “Suakin Island is most probably going to serve as a strategic observation point overseeing movements in the Red Sea. Turkish naval vessels will be able to drop anchor there as well as in other Sudanese ports.”

Suakin Island could become Turkey’s third foreign military base, along with bases in Qatar and Somalia.

Ever since the botched coup against him in July 2016, Erdoğan has become more authoritarian. He has given

diplomatic ties with Israel—again. He said Israel was a “terrorist state” and that “Palestine has been under occupation since 1947.”

This on-again-off-again relationship is hanging by a thin thread.

Russia and Iran

Now consider Turkey’s relationship with its regional neighbors, Iran and Russia.

The civil war in Syria, now in its seventh year, has dramatically reduced the influence of America among Syrians and boosted the influence of Turkey, Russia and Iran.

During a September conference in Kazakhstan, these three nations allied and agreed to guarantee a ceasefire agreement which established four de-escalation zones in Syria.

Since then, however, this Turk-Russo-Iranian alliance appears to be breaking apart.

“[T]he ‘alliance’ among these three countries was built on a mismatch of interests,” Geopolitical Futures’ Jacob Shapiro wrote on January 11. “It’s a perfect example of the old adage that two’s company, three’s a crowd. ... Turkey’s ideal political solution sees [Syrian President Bashar] Assad removed and the country stitched back together under Sunni aegis. Iran’s ideal political solution sees Assad restored but dependent on Iran and its proxies for survival. Russia’s ideal political solution is any that makes it appear strong and keeps Assad as a somewhat independent actor,

neither dependent on Tehran nor fearful of Ankara’s next move. Something’s got to give.”

The Assad regime unnerved the Turks when it allegedly seized at least 16 villages in Idlib, close to the Turkish border. Turkey already hosts about 3 million Syrian refugees, and with 60,000 residents from Idlib displaced so far, the Turks are understandably concerned about the recent escalation of violence.

On January 9, the Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassadors of Iran and Russia—Assad’s chief supporters—to express anger not only at Russia’s and Iran’s failure to de-escalate the violence in those zones, but also at their probable complicity in the violence.

Three days earlier, alleged Turkish-backed rebels from Idlib attacked Russia’s Hmeimim Air Base in western Syria with a swarm of 13 drones. Russia blamed the United States for coordinating the attacks. But that was after it had accused Turkey of helping the attackers.

According to Geopolitical Futures, these developments essentially amounted to Turkey breaking with Iran and Russia.

America and NATO

The Syrian civil war has hurt Turkey’s relationship with the West, especially with America. But relations have not always been this bad.

In 1951, Turkey joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and became an important ally of the West

in fighting communism and terrorism.

On December 29, Turkey signed a deal to purchase Russia’s advanced S-400 antimissile system, which can fire multiple surface-to-air interceptor missiles with a range of up to 450 miles. Understandably, the purchase upset NATO members. The *National Interest* called it a “game changer in the Middle East.”

The United States said it will not allow Turkey to integrate the Russian system into NATO’s defense architecture because of obvious cybersecurity concerns. According to RT, Erdoğan responded that Turkey will not rely on NATO for protection, dismissing criticisms from other NATO nations by saying, “We take care of ourselves.”

Turkey has already paid a 45 percent down payment for the \$2.5 billion deal. A Russian credit line will finance the remainder. “We will not borrow in dollars in this loan,” Erdoğan told reporters. “[W]e will borrow in [Russian] rubles.”

On January 14, the United States announced plans to support a 30,000-strong “border force” of Kurdish fighters in Syria. President Erdoğan said, “A country we call an ally is insisting on forming a terror army on our borders. What can that terror army target but Turkey?” He then threatened: “Our mission is to strangle it before it’s even born.”

So this is yet another Turkish alliance that’s in trouble.

TURKEY PAGE 36 ►

himself more reason to expand the power of the military as well as his own power over the military.

On the same day that he visited Sudan, Erdoğan issued Emergency Decree 696, which places Turkey’s military procurement process industry directly under him. It also grants immunity to virtually anyone who endeavored to suppress the coup of 2016. And it places the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation directly under Erdoğan’s control.

Geopolitical Futures noted on January 4: “To buffer its core from the chaos in the Middle East, Turkey needs to expand its territory.” The former Ottoman island of Suakin appears to be part of that territory. “To expand its territory,” Geopolitical Futures continued, “it needs a powerful, independent military. Turkey’s Emergency Decree No. 696 is a step toward constructing this military.”

It also is a big step toward a more authoritarian Erdoğan. ■



Enriching Friendships

The Bible gives invaluable advice on relationships.

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

STRONG FRIENDSHIPS ARE ONE OF THE GREATEST joys of life. However, some people are overly self-conscious and shy away from those who could be their friends. Some open themselves up to only a small circle of friends. Some put their friends through a lot of difficulty and pain. And some are outgoing toward everyone, but never cultivate any close relationships.

How can you learn to develop strong, healthy friendships? God's Word has particularly deep insight concerning human relationships. And it is full of advice on building a high-quality social life.

Loving Friendships

1. How early in human history did God recognize the need for companionship? Genesis 2:18.

Our Creator made us to need relationships. God created specific relationships in the family. But He also designed us to need relationships outside of our families. These relationships help us become better human beings, stronger in character and more like the loving God in His thinking. Unlike family connections, which we cannot choose, we can choose our friends.

2. What biblical principle explains how we should treat others? Galatians 5:14; Matthew 22:37-40. Does this include our enemies? Matthew 5:43-47.

Loving another person in the same way that you love yourself is a huge challenge. But this command governs our treatment of all other human beings. If you lack solid friendships, examine yourself. How good are you at putting others' needs ahead of your own?

It is natural to have some friendships that are deeper than others. Though there are levels of friendship, they all must be based on LOVE: unselfish, outgoing concern.

Proverbs 18:24 states, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly" The King James Version contains a mistranslation of this portion of the verse. The Revised Standard Version reads: "There are friends who pretend to be friends" It takes more than just putting on a show of friendship to develop strong relationships. It takes being a person who shows others that their opinions, needs and desires matter to YOU—that you value their companionship. It takes a desire to love them the way you love yourself. This attracts others to you.

3. Did Christ say there was an even greater love in a friendship than loving as you love yourself? John 15:13.

This kind of love goes beyond the love you have for yourself. It means even dying for your friend if necessary. In everyday application, it refers to putting your friend's needs ABOVE your own. Do you have friends like that? Are you a friend like that?

Other Qualities of Good Friendships

1. What else builds friendships? Proverbs 14:20; 19:4.

Superficial things draw people to us. But these proverbs aren't saying we should seek material wealth to draw more friends to us. The word for *wealth* in Proverbs 19:4 can mean anything from material possessions to wealth of mind or character. This Hebrew word is also used in Proverbs 13:7, which states that even those with *nothing* physically can have "riches."

If you are rich in character, your personality will attract others. Proverbs 19:6 states that "every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts." Examine what your personality offers your friends. The richer your character and the more giving your personality, the stronger those friendships will be.

2. What kind of friendships should we seek? Proverbs 27:6, 17.

Rubbing a knife against a sharpening iron makes the edge of the blade razor-sharp—by friction. True friendship goes beyond common interests. Seek friendships that enrich your character and the character of others. Friends should have a positive influence on each other. Showing tough love to help someone through a problem is true friendship.

Not only can your close friends enhance your moral development and character growth, they can also accept you despite your shortcomings.

3. What is a related quality of good friendships? Proverbs 17:17.

The Moffatt version translates this verse, "A friend is always a friend, he is a born brother for adversity." Struggles and tough times reveal what friendships are made of: They even deepen relationships. They distinguish real friends from fair-weather friends. True friends will not desert you when things get rough or when they discover a weakness in you. They will see you through the adversity and help you overcome.

These proverbs say a lot about the kind of friend YOU should be, not just the kind of friends you should seek. Show your friends this UNCONDITIONAL LOVE—"at all times." Be sure you demonstrate "wealthy" character around them, that your influence on them enhances their already strong character.

4. What warnings do the Proverbs give about sure ways to ruin friendships? Proverbs 16:28; 17:9; 18:19.

These verses can refer to gossip that separates other people's friendships. But gossip can also separate our own relationships if we spread rumors about our friends or share something with others that was told to us in confidence.

If you show yourself trustworthy—able perhaps to be blunt with your friends to their face in private, yet stick up for them around others and in the face of rumors—people will value your friendship.

We all make mistakes, though. A selfish act, an instance of stubborn pride, a hurtful comment—these can test the stability of a friendship. We should be able to apologize, and to forgive our friends when they slip up, to be a friend "AT ALL TIMES."

Friendships to Avoid

1. Does the Bible ever encourage two people not to be friends? Amos 3:3. Are there specific people we should not associate with? Proverbs 13:20.

Since we can choose our friends, God tells us to consider those choices carefully.

2. Did Paul exhort Christians to avoid close company with nonbelievers? 2 Corinthians 6:14, 16-17.

These verses do not contradict the biblical law of "love thy neighbour as thyself." Christians should hate the evil that people get involved in, but they should not hate the people. We can and should be friendly, help them if necessary, and even pray for them (Matthew 5:43-44). But do not associate with them or seek out their companionship.

There are also many nonbelievers that true Christians can become acquaintances with: people we work with or go to school with that we would not necessarily associate with beyond those situations. You can probably think of several acquaintances you have whose choices conflict with your values or morals in certain ways, but such a conflict does not typically arise in a work environment.

Use caution, however. Once those acquaintances move outside those boundaries, you could be dragged down by the lifestyle they lead. You may think you can be a good influence on them, but that is not what the Bible says. People who are bad influences will pull you DOWN, you will not pull them up.

Close Friendships

1. Are there some friendships that should be especially close? Proverbs 18:24 (last half).

Most of us have several good friends, maybe a few close friends, and maybe even one special, best friend. As you grow older, you will probably only be able to count your strongest, closest friendships on one hand. This is normal.

2. As a human being, did Jesus Christ connect more with one disciple than the others? John 13:23; 21:20.



The richer your character and the more giving your personality, the stronger your friendships will be.

Instead of referring to himself by name in his own writings, the Apostle John refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Because Jesus was the great God in human form—the one who epitomized perfect love and friendship—His friendship with the other disciples did not suffer from the special bond He had with John. Jesus loved all men to the point of dying for every man. Still, Jesus referred to all of His disciples as His friends (John 15:14-15) and had a best-friend type relationship with John. In fact, Jesus, just before dying, told John to take care of His mother, Mary (John 19:25-27).

3. Did David have a special closeness with a certain friend in his life? 2 Samuel 1:26.

4. To what level did Jonathan love his best friend David? 1 Samuel 18:1, 3; 20:17.

Here is an example of outstanding love on the human level. Jonathan loved David "as his own soul." Jonathan's loyalty went to the point where he told David, "Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee" (1 Samuel 20:4).

This relationship transcended even politics. Jonathan, son of King Saul (who was trying to kill David at this time), was the heir to Israel's throne. But Jonathan had the courage to serve his friend, knowing that God had chosen David to be king, rather than cling selfishly to his position. It was a marvelous example of loyalty, mutual respect and admiration—unselfish love and upbuilding of character in the other.

Treasure your friendships. Take time to learn who your real friends are. Choose your friends wisely. Then work at building those friendships. Examine the kind of friend you are—what you have to offer. If you do these things, your life can be enriched and your character strengthened! ■



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 100,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

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

No more Mr. Nice Germany

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel is paving the way for Germany to more openly pursue its own national interests. "If your focus is solely on values, you won't find success in a world where others are relentlessly pursuing their interests," he told *Der Spiegel* in an interview published January 8. "In a world full of meat-eaters, vegetarians have a tough time."

Other major writers within Germany see the same shift. "The new global situation will also mean a departure from the good Germany," wrote Christiane Hoffmann, deputy director of *Der Spiegel*. "When principles collide with pragmatism, when values clash with interests, Berlin will be forced to make

difficult decisions. But how far should we go? What means are we prepared to employ in order to defend Europe, to bring the Middle East closer to peace, or to stabilize Africa?" (January 5).

Germany has always pursued its own interests, but it has done so in a quiet way in order to avoid reviving memories of its culpability for World War II. But now public figures are making statements preparing the world to accept a more aggressive, "meat-eating" Germany.

On January 12, leading German parties published an outline of policies they aim to pursue if and when they form a government. The outline includes a policy to strip nations of their EU funding if they resist EU decisions (policies that are often controlled by Germany). ■

Austria's new government shows Germany the way

A far-right party was sworn in as Austria's new government on Dec. 18, 2017. Sebastian Kurz, leader of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), took the chancellorship, with the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry going to the far-right Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ); the Foreign Ministry went to an independent with close ties to the FPÖ.

Having FPÖ leaders in Austria's government is big news. The party was originally founded

by a former member of the SS and has been especially criticized for its close ties to Nazi ideologies. Its leader, Heinz-Christian Strache, grew up admiring Nazi ideologies and participated in neo-Nazi rallies in 1989.

Kurz's winning strategy to partner with far-right leaders is significant beyond Austria's borders, because Europe is dealing with the same problems. Kurz has embraced far-right ideas and even brought far-right politicians into the

Pope calls for two-state solution in Israel?

Pope Francis spoke in support of migrants around the world on Dec. 24, 2017, saying Jesus Christ's birth shows that foreigners should be welcomed with open arms. He likened Joseph and Mary to migrants struggling to find a home in a foreign land. The next day, Francis likened the baby Jesus to the children of the Middle East who suffer because of growing tensions between Israelis and Arabs.

This rhetoric sounds loving, but it is based on a skewed interpretation of the circumstances surrounding Christ's birth and perpetuates a perilous double standard.

Joseph and Mary were not migrants seeking a safe place in a foreign land. Since Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to travel to the city of his ancestral family to be counted and taxed by the Roman Empire (Luke 2:4-5). He stopped at an inn because his wife was about to give birth.

Christ spoke about the importance of being kind to the poor. But He never said the Christian faith compels people to welcome foreigners into their land without restrictions.

Catholic leaders often criticize Americans for not accepting more Mexican immigrants, and Jews for not accepting more Jordanian immigrants. But they never criticize Arabs for not accepting Jewish immigrants.

Pope Francis speaks out for migrants—both legal and illegal—around the world, but



INVESTED INTEREST
Pope Francis visits
the Wailing Wall.

he supports Palestinian leaders who call for every Jew to be purged from Israel. This double standard stems from the Vatican's Feb. 15, 2000, agreement with the Palestinian Authority to transform Jerusalem into an international city.

Catholic leaders want Jerusalem to be an international city, controlled by a third party. If that party were composed largely of European nation states, the Roman Catholic Church would see its control of Jerusalem's Christian sites greatly enhanced. ■



SWINGING RIGHT Kurz (left)
joins forces with FPÖ leader
Christian Strache.

Adolf Hitler was born and raised in Austria, and that is where his hatred of Vienna's cosmopolitanism and multinational character developed. A century later, Austrians are again open to extremist views. ■

Germany's 'Panama Canal on railway tracks'

Representatives from Germany and Bolivia signed an agreement in Switzerland on Dec. 14, 2017, to build a coast-to-coast railroad across South America.

The Central Bi-Oceanic Railway Corridor, sometimes called "the Panama Canal on Railway Tracks," will stretch an estimated 2,333 miles from the Pacific coast of Peru through Bolivia and across Brazil to its Atlantic coast. Germany and Switzerland will provide expertise, building materials and maintenance support to the project.

The *Trumpet* and its forerunner, the *Plain Truth*, have warned for more than 50 years that a German-led European bloc will dominate Latin America, to the detriment of the United States. That warning is based on biblical prophecies in

Deuteronomy 28:52, Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 27, among others.

In October 1957, the *Plain Truth* noted that Europe and South America are religious, commercial and political partners. In May 1962, it declared that "the United States is going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Latin America, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce."

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote that the "connection" between Europe and Latin America "will cement" mainly because of their common religion and language. "But it will not be a union of equals," he writes in *Isaiah's End-Time Vision*. "The Latin American countries will become vassal states to Europe!"



"With a German-led Europe ... possessing great maritime power, North America will be surrounded on the east by Europe and the south by Latin America," he writes. "The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America—and many other prophecies of America being besieged."

Request a free copy of *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* (theTrumpet.com/go/isa) to understand where Europe's deepening inroads into South America are leading. ■

Iran ready to fight for Jerusalem

Iranian leaders have warned that United States President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel would accelerate the destruction of the Jewish state, and that Iran would help cause that destruction.

During a conference of senior Iranian military officials on Dec. 11, 2017, Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Amir Hatami reportedly said President Trump's decision "will hasten the destruction of [Israel] and will double unity among Muslims." He pledged Iran's full support of militant Palestinians, saying that "the freedom-loving people of the world will become more determined than ever to become united and stand up for [the] liberation of Jerusalem and the land of Palestine."

The same day, Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani, commander of Iran's elite Quds Force, pledged "complete support for Palestinian Islamic resistance movements." According to Hamas's leader, Yahya Sinwar, Suleimani said, "All of our capabilities and potential are at your disposal in the battle for the defense of Jerusalem."

On December 27, Iranian lawmakers unanimously agreed to recognize Jerusalem as the "Palestinian capital forever."

In his December 7 *Trumpet Brief* newsletter, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: "Prophecy shows that Jerusalem's eruption into violence will be the trigger for end-time events. ... We need to be watching closely for the fulfillment of these urgent end-time prophecies!" Read Mr. Flurry's booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* (theTrumpet.com/go/jip) for more information. ■



Weather disasters cause record losses in 2017

The planet experienced an onslaught of weather-related disasters in 2017, according to a January 4 report by the world's largest insurance company, Munich Re. Since 1980, "natural" disasters have exceeded 600 events per year only five times, and all five have occurred within the last six years. This trend continued in 2017, with a total of 710 such disasters. According to the report, these disasters will cost insurers a record \$135 billion in claims worldwide, the most annual insured losses in history.

Although Asia sustained the largest number of natural disasters, North America, including the Caribbean and Central America, suffered the most economically. North America incurred 93 percent of insured losses and 83 percent



of overall losses worldwide. This is mostly due to the most devastating hurricane season in American history, which inflicted \$215 billion in damage.

California experienced its wettest winter on record, which ended years of drought but caused floods that inundated hundreds of homes, caused several landslides, and destroyed an estimated \$1.7 billion in property and lost productivity. California then experienced its

worst fire season in state history. By October, the losses had exceeded \$10 billion.

These weather disasters are intended by God to teach us a major lesson. To learn the real cause behind these catastrophes, watch Gerald Flurry's *Key of David* program "The Most Deadly Climate Change Deception" (theTrumpet.com/16635) and request your free copy of *Why 'Natural' Disasters?* (theTrumpet.com/go/wet). ■



MAKING WAVES
**Putin addresses
 the Russian Navy.**

Russia to build naval base in Syria

On Dec. 13, 2017, Russian President Vladimir Putin submitted to the State Duma an agreement for Moscow and Damascus to construct a full-fledged naval base in Syria's Mediterranean coastal city of Tartus.

Adm. Viktor Kravchenko, the former head of the Russian Navy's Main Staff, told Interfax that the move "will strengthen the operational capabilities of our fleet in the Mediterranean and, in general, Russia's position in the Middle East."

Since the Soviet era, Russia has maintained a logistics hub in Tartus, but Kravchenko said it has had considerable limitations. At present, first-rank ships must remain in Tartus's outer roads and can only be refueled and serviced with the assistance of auxiliary vessels. Under the new plan, the channel

will be deepened and widened to bring large ships portside to be serviced directly.

Russia's power projection into the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Ukraine and beyond is causing alarm in many, especially Europeans.

"We need to watch what is happening in Russia and how Europe responds to it," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'* "[S]ome Europeans recognize that Putin's power maneuver on Ukraine was no isolated incident The Ukraine crisis continues, and America is sleeping through it. But Europe is deeply alarmed! The changes this crisis provokes in Germany and Europe will shake the nations!" To understand more, request Mr. Flurry's booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia'* (theTrumpet.com/go/putin). ■

China to construct base for Afghan forces

China will build a military base for Afghan armed forces along the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, according to a January 7 report by EurasiaNet.

China continues to grow its presence in Afghanistan and Central Asia in its efforts to fight terrorism and to develop its Belt and Road Initiative, a modern version of the Silk Road trade route between China and Europe.

The *Trumpet* monitors China's progress on the Belt and Road Initiative because of the project's biblically prophetic significance. Isaiah 23 describes a "mart of nations" that will form in modern times. Leading this massive economic partnership will be a country Isaiah refers to as *Chittim*, an ancient name for modern China. Also at the helm will be *Tyre*, a city that represents the

China: 2017 a 'crossroads of history'

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi issued an end-of-year assessment on December 10, saying 2017 closed with the world now "at a crucial stage of evolving international landscape and shifting balance of power"

In a speech to open the Symposium on International Developments and China's Diplomacy in 2017, Wang painted a revealing picture of how China's leadership sees the end of an era of American global dominance leaving a void that China must fill.

"The world is changing like never before, and China is on the final leg of its march toward national rejuvenation," Wang said. "In a great era that is unfolding before our eyes, let us follow the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, keep our mission firmly in mind, live up to the trust placed on us, and scale new heights in our major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics."

He said, "The human society has once again come to a crossroads of history."

Wang pointed to Chinese Premier Xi Jinping as a man with the rare leadership abilities that the world needs.

The Bible prophesies of an

end-time era called "the times of the Gentiles." Jesus Christ used this term in Luke 21:24, and the context shows that these "times" will occur after a shift in global power: America losing power and two other power blocs gaining it, one led by Germany and the other by Russia and China.

In 2014, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: "These 'times of the Gentiles' are yet to be fully realized. However, we are in the outer edges of this catastrophic storm. ... This is part of the core



of biblical prophecy—right out of your Bible! Yet we don't hear much about the times of the Gentiles today."

To understand more about this major shift that is now underway and this "core" part of biblical prophecy, read Mr. Flurry's article "[What Are the Times of the Gentiles?](http://theTrumpet.com/11783)" (theTrumpet.com/11783). ■



MOBILIZING
**Chinese soldiers participate
 in a military parade.**

commercial center of modern Europe. Isaiah 23 says these two economic powers will become partners and gain control of global commerce for a brief time. Deuteronomy 28:52 makes clear that this trade partnership

will form at America's expense.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains the details of this biblically prophesied "mart of nations" in his booklet *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* (theTrumpet.com/go/isa). ■

California legalizes marijuana

One hundred licensed retail marijuana shops across California swung open their doors on January 1. More shops in more cities will soon obtain their licenses to sell the narcotic. After legalizing “medicinal” marijuana in 1996, California became the sixth state to legalize the sale of “recreational” cannabis, following Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Nevada.

Opponents of legalization point to many dangers of marijuana use. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data

shows that fatal crashes involving drivers under the influence of marijuana more than doubled in Colorado between 2013 and 2016; Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in late 2012. Other trends that have risen since the law was changed are homelessness (homeless substance abusers have migrated to Colorado for easy pot) and marijuana use among teens, now highest in the country.

Other states, however, don't seem interested in taking the lessons from Colorado's experience to heart. ■

UK to offer online divorce

Couples in the United Kingdom will soon be able to apply for a divorce from the comfort of their own computers. Government officials are seeking to roll out a nationwide service that will allow uncontested divorces to be processed online.

A pilot study that concluded in October 2017 indicates the country could potentially save £250 million (US\$336.1 million) with the “Apply for a Divorce” online service, bypassing expensive barristers, paperwork and long processing times.

Currently, would-be divorcees in England and Wales must establish that the

marriage is beyond repair by proving adultery, unreasonable behavior, desertion, or separation for more than two years. The implementation of this new system would also remove the requirement for proof of wrongdoing for those who seek to end their commitments.

While the advent of the online divorce might provide a seemingly tidy conclusion to a situation that both parties have deemed untenable, no-fault divorce isn't without its victims, especially when children are involved. There are reasons God says that He “hates divorce” (Malachi 2:16; New King James Version). ■

UK schools encourage transgender children's books

United Kingdom school trade union administrators are encouraging primary schools to include books about transgender parents and children in their curriculum, the *Times* reported on Dec. 13, 2017. According to a memo from the National Association of Head Teachers, dress codes should also be changed to allow students and teachers to dress according to their preferred gender.

The memo states that “trans people, [their] issues and experiences” should be celebrated. “Primary school leaders may want to ensure books featuring trans parents or celebrating gender identity and difference are included in the curriculum.” This is to ensure that transgender children or children



with transgender parents “feel included in their learning” and teachers “feel positively represented in lesson content.”

In some UK primary schools and nurseries, educators are reading books with a transgender agenda to children as young as 3. These innocuous-appearing books carry a potent message indoctrinating young children with transgender ideas. Increasingly, parents are afraid to speak out because they fear being labeled as bigots.

To learn more about what God thinks about our transgender culture, read Dennis Leap's article “[Encouraging Gender Fluidity Is Child Abuse](https://www.thetrumpet.com/16403)” ([theTrumpet.com/16403](https://www.thetrumpet.com/16403)). ■



Subprime loans are back—for autos

Auto loan debt in the United States is rising fast. According to the Center for Microeconomic Data's latest Quarterly Report on Household Debt and Credit, total auto loan debt amounted to \$1.2 trillion in the third quarter of 2017, equating to more than \$9,500 of auto loan debt per household.

The biggest area of concern is the rising number of borrowers defaulting on subprime auto loans. The New York Fed estimates that 23 million people with credit

scores below 620 have auto loan debt, and that 20 percent of new car loans are being made to subprime borrowers.

In Deuteronomy 28, God specifically warned that debt problems are one of the many curses that come from disobedience to His laws. Specifically, God warned that if His people turned away from Him, their economy would be overwhelmed by debt. To learn more about God's financial laws, request our free booklet [Solve Your Money Troubles!](https://www.thetrumpet.com/go/money) ([theTrumpet.com/go/money](https://www.thetrumpet.com/go/money)). ■

► **NEW MORALITY** FROM PAGE 5

language that would later set slaves free.

Moore was already widely considered a sex offender for trying to date girls half his age as a young man. Now, according to the crude Moral judgment of enlightened America, anyone who voted for Moore is not just an enthusiastic supporter of child molestation and sexual predation, but also a racist who longs to reintroduce slavery. Thankfully he lost his election, so the Senate won't be corrupted by his Immoral influence—or so the thinking goes.

Perhaps some of the allegations were true and Moore didn't deserve office. Yet many current members of Congress openly practice behavior as bad or worse, judging by *biblical* morality—and still, from the New Moralists they enjoy praise rather than condemnation. Moore, however, was guilty of the sin of upholding the Bible and the Ten Commandments, and in so doing painted the target on his own chest.

The Moral mainstream media, the Democrats and even the Republican establishment treated Moore like a convicted pedophile because of allegations from 40 years ago, some of which were proved false. Meanwhile many New Moralists are increasingly normalizing *actual pedophilia*. It is depicted sympathetically in certain Hollywood movies and mainstream news sources. Psychologists and activists are pushing it along the same path toward societal acceptance that they did with homosexuality and transsexuality. And you dare not condemn people for these irrepressible inclinations. That would be Immoral.

Two Forms of Righteousness

The contrast between this New Morality and biblical morality is stark.

The Bible's moral code is strict, consistent and inflexible—its standard is absolute moral *purity* and *perfection* (e.g. Genesis 17:1; Matthew 5:48; Philippians 3:14-15). It recognizes a

whole range of sins beyond those of prejudice and bigotry. In fact, its Author says unequivocally that “*all* have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)—even the New Moralizers.

Yet our being sinners does not make us irredeemable. Though God is perfect and morally superior to others, He is also full of mercy, compassion and patience (e.g. Exodus 34:5-7; Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 6:36-37). In meting out judgment, God examines the heart, intent, attitude, environment and knowledge of the law. He allows for repentance from sin; that is His aim for all people.

The New American Morality is much more selective in its strictness, but against those it considers transgressors, it is merciless.

This approach is akin to *another* biblical example, that of the devil. Called “the accuser,” he criticizes, ridicules and scorns people “day and night” (Revelation 12:10). He is negative, cynical and self-righteous. He has a moral standard of his own devising, and uses it as a blunt weapon. Guilty as he is of lying, lust, bigotry and murder, he sees in others only weakness, stupidity, hypocrisy and flaws.

The devil can look at God Himself and see a hypocrite and a failure. Meanwhile, God can look at a sinner and see the makings of a perfect heart.

The Moralizers have ordained themselves as judge, jury and executioner of America's new Moral law. It is plain to see to whom they look for their inspiration.

The New Morality, with all its inconsistencies, cannot be viewed as a comprehensive, consistent moral code. In practice it operates more as a weapon aimed at one thing: to destroy what is left of biblical morality in America.

Back in 1964, educator Herbert W. Armstrong began decrying the rise of a “new morality” in America. It was a movement “throwing off the restraints ... against prudery, repression and ignorance,” he wrote in a booklet titled *God Speaks Out on ‘The New Morality.’*

In many ways, this more recent development magnifies that movement by adding secular sanctimony. Wherever we turn, we are hearing lectures from today's Moral pharisees.

The Author of biblical morality has strong words for those who establish their own Moral standards.

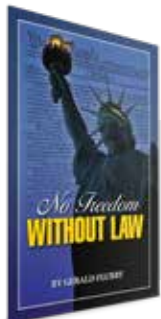
Through the Prophet Isaiah He says, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20-21).

This is a prophecy for the end-time nations of Israel, and the New Morality in America today fulfills it perfectly. All around we see the inversion of the Bible's definitions of good and evil. Everywhere we see people justifying the wicked and condemning the just—a practice God labels an abomination (Proverbs 17:15). We see people filled with self-righteous indignation. God says *WOE* will come on the nation so wholehearted in adhering to a perverse Moral standard.

“And judgement is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey ...” (Isaiah 59:14-15). The margin of the King James Version says he that departs from evil “is accounted mad.” Yes, if you want to depart from evil, to live by biblical standards and distance yourself from immorality, expect to be branded and condemned.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul warned against those who, like the New Moralizers, “being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to *establish their own righteousness*, have not *submitted themselves* unto the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3).

This is really what is happening in this most recent Great Moral Awakening: People are working to establish their *own* righteousness, and are failing to submit themselves to the righteousness of *GOD*—who is the one and only true Lawgiver, who alone determines right from wrong. The more zealous and fanatical they become in this irreligious pursuit, the more unhinged this New Morality will become, and the more society will suffer under its influence. ■



No freedom without law

Tocqueville said that religion secures morality, and morality secures freedom. Society has come to have a much different view of freedom, equating it with license. True freedom comes from operating within law—specifically, within the moral and spiritual law given by the one true Lawgiver. To understand the dangers in society's shift toward lawlessness, request a free copy of Gerald Flurry's booklet **No Freedom Without Law**.

The Most Important Meal of Your Day

The benefits are beyond measuring!

SOME DIETITIANS CLAIM BREAKFAST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT meal of your day. Others say the midday meal. But look beyond mere nutritional or metabolic benefits. Let's make the case for dinner—specifically, FAMILY DINNER.

The tradition of eating dinner together as a family is getting rarer and rarer. The modern world has ushered the stay-at-home mother into the work force. It has replaced her home-cooked meals with fast food, frozen dinners and take-out. Parents are working longer hours. Extracurricular activities can pull teens away in the evenings. Kids have grown used to foraging for snacks at all hours in lieu of real meals. Whatever the reasons, studies show that fewer than one third of all children have a sit-down dinner with both parents on any given night.



JOEL HILLIKER

What a loss. Family supplies the most precious relationships we have. Weaving a family into a unified team doesn't happen automatically; it takes time and effort. Perhaps nothing builds that bond like the daily rhythm of coming together at the table. When a family breaks bread, its members are nourished not just by the food but also by the company they share.

Yes, it takes effort. You have to coordinate schedules, forgo competing claims on your time and attention, and, ideally, get ingredients and cook some food. But it is effort worth making.

For starters, a homemade family dinner tends to be healthier than what you would otherwise eat. One Harvard Medical School study didn't even note *what kind* of food was consumed, and still found that people who eat dinner with the family "most days" or "every day" are 15 percent less likely to be overweight. But if you're eating truly *nutritious* food, you're sure to enjoy immeasurable benefits in foregone sickness, increased energy and improved health.

Beyond that, amid the busyness of your day-to-day, your evening meal should be a welcome time together among family members. This creates a sense of connection and belonging, of emotional grounding and balance, that can stabilize the lives of every member, particularly the younger ones.

This value is actually measurable. One Columbia University study found that teens in families that almost never eat together are 72 percent likelier than the average teen to use illegal drugs, cigarettes and alcohol. Those who eat dinner with their parents fewer than three times a week are likelier to smoke and drink than those who eat with their parents six times a week. Clearly



family meals enable parents to get involved with their children and build a strong bond that children can lean on.

Some time ago, I realized that my family wasn't eating together many nights. Because of various after-school and evening activities, our schedules conflicted, and people were just serving themselves at their own opportunity. I decided to change that. We studied the schedule and found at least a 20-minute window each night—it was at a different time each night, but it was there—where we could eat together.

The positive effects were excellent, and immediate. This may have been the single best thing we have ever done to build more cohesion and unity in our family.

Family dinner also provides opportunity to teach your children to eat properly. The need is certainly great. Just watch schoolchildren eat among themselves, or even with adults present: They tend to engage in some pretty unrefined behavior. Manners at the table are a small but significant part of politeness, respectability and civility. Children—and adults—need the reinforcement of good table manners that can occur only when a family eats together regularly.

If family dinners are the day's most important meal, what is the most important ingredient at those dinners? LOVE. As Proverbs 15:17 says, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it" (Revised Standard Version). Even a meager dinner is enjoyable in good company.

When both parents go to work and children go to school, dinnertime is a much-needed opportunity for everyone to gather and converse about the day. It is your chance to connect, share, listen, laugh, and strengthen bonds of unity and love.

It is also a chance to grow in conversational skill, and to learn to *give* and *contribute* to a discussion. Once my family got into the nightly dinner habit, I sought to improve our conversation at the table. I asked every member to come ready with some points of discussion: a joke, a question, a story from their day, a current event, and so on. This *immediately* changed what had been rather stilted mealtime chatting into a robust conversation. Before long I didn't need to *require* prepared topics; everyone got used to thinking of things they could share over dinner.

While this exercise improved our skill at conversing, it did something more wonderful: It helped us learn to ENJOY each other. We began sharing ourselves more, laughing together more—even learning how to poke fun in love and to laugh at ourselves more. We began more freely discussing plans and things to do together. These benefits were unforeseen, yet priceless.

Savor those family dinners. Make them a vital part of your life. Take advantage of the most important meal of the day! ■

I enjoy reading your magazines, *Trumpet* and *Royal Vision*, and I look forward to every issue. Your biblical insights to current events are encouraging to me and open my eyes to what is written in the Bible. It is obvious to any professing believer who studies God's Word that Christ's Second Coming is very soon. I look forward to that day when all needless suffering will be brought to an end and Christ establishes His Kingdom!

Marvin Herron MONTANA

The *Trumpet* provides top-notch information about world affairs. The most shocking thing is, it mostly comes from the most powerful book in the world: the Bible.

Bobby Pedroza TEXAS

In today's world where there is so much confusion with humanity, your magazine gives me peace of mind. It's amazing how much understanding comes to me with the *Trumpet* and the Bible combined.

Keith Liles MICHIGAN

I believe in climate change as much as I believe in humanity change ("The Most Deadly Climate Change Deception,"

theTrumpet.com/16614). However, the people on this planet are the cause of humanity change, due to free will that God has given us. God has ultimate control of the elements; He is the Creator.

Leona Kinney OHIO

The *Trumpet* is one of the most amazing, insightful and revelatory magazines I have ever read. I thank you so much for my subscription! The intelligent, knowledgeable, biblical and, dare I say, prophetic message offered by your Church, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Flurry is sorely needed in this world and sorely needed in my world.







Brett Thompson NEVADA



The *Trumpet* magazine has turned me into a voracious reader! Regarding content, the excellent articles, booklets and books are fascinating reads as well as written at the highest quality. I've reread many of them more than once. Under your new delivery system, items arrived very quickly. Much appreciated! Thank you so much!

Vicki Ruzicka MICHIGAN

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'Breakfast With Dads'

An inspiring incident in a Dallas middle school shows the need for fathers. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

THE FIRST "BREAKFAST WITH DADS" happened at Billy Earl Dade Middle School in December 2017. The school wanted their sons to bond with their fathers. More than 800 of the school's 900 students are from low-income families; many are from broken homes. Hundreds of the 11-to-13-year-old boys simply did not *have* a father to come with them to the breakfast. So sign-up was low. Only 150 boys. And *still* there were not enough dads.

So the school asked men to volunteer. "[T]he reality of a great event like this is a lot of our kids will not have a dad present. But there is nothing like having a male present in the form of a mentor," one organizer posted on social media. "We are in need of at least 50 or more additional male mentors who can devote one hour of their Thursday morning next week to this cause."

Fifty men. One hour. Word spread. The *Dallas Morning News* picked up the story. And when breakfast on Thursday came, an astounding *600 men* showed up.

"The look of awe—even disbelief—in students' eyes as they made their way through the crowd of 'dads' was astonishing," wrote Stephanie Drenka, whose photographs of the event hit several news sources. "It was a miracle any of the pictures came out in focus, because I could barely see clearly through the tears streaming down my face and fogged-up glasses."

Present and accounted for that day was assistant Dallas police chief Jason Rodriguez. He wrote, "Powerful to see a community of fellow men and fathers come together to wrap their arms around [our] young men."

"There was so much inspiration everywhere," Drenka wrote. She said the hope in that room was palpable.

Why is this so moving? Because someone recognized that these boys are struggling. And they saw that what they needed was not funding or social theories but *dads*. And because when dads—and substitute dads—for one morning in December answered the call, the looks on their faces told the whole story.

Our boys need dads!

We don't talk about it much in public, but we *know* our boys need the attention of engaged fathers—or, in their absence, selfless men.

Look at the photos of those boys, looking up at the policeman, the civil servant, the auctioneer, the preacher, the

soldier, the professional, the 30-, 40-, 50-, 60-year-old men who, just by being there, showed them: *You have a future. You have something to give. You can grow up to be a good man.*

We *know* how valuable this is. Look at those boys, and you sense what a difference this sort of involved masculine mentorship can make in a young man's life. You see this building future men, men with a better shot at responsibly raising sons of their own and contributing to society.

This story struck a nerve. Reports of the event appeared on ABC, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, the *Washington Post*, the *Daily Mail* and elsewhere. Organizers created a Facebook community to turn "Breakfast With Dads" into a movement.

It is moving to see reporters and readers celebrating something so unabashedly *pro-man*.

In the backs of our minds, we *know* our society is suffering a crisis of manhood. Dads and men are not engaging in young people's lives. And lost boys are growing up to become absent fathers themselves. Whether real dads or substitute dads, *we need dads*.

We need grown men who sacrifice their time for boys, who invest in the future of growing young men. We need men who will hear a call for help, inconvenience themselves, and *be there* when it really counts.

Yes, in fact, we need **MEN**. The argument that men are unnecessary as leaders, as providers, as protectors, as fathers is *false*.

Last December, when 600 men saw yet another newspaper article or news clip or social media post and had the option to ignore it and move on with their lives, they stopped. When someone said *these young men you've never even met need you*, they dropped what they were doing and stood up for these boys.

Look what happened when men were told, *You are needed*. For every man the school sought, *12 men answered!* TWELVE MEN leaped into action. This is moving.

What these men did was genuinely *manly*, and we are moved by manliness. It is especially uplifting when all we have been hearing for months is how men are monsters and predators. It is refreshing to see men exhibiting truly masculine compassion and strength.

News outlets may use it as a short feel-good story and move on. But we should all consider *why* it makes us feel good. We should also be honest about how many of the assumptions modern society is making about men, marriage, family, parenting, sex roles, and the needs of our children it undermines. Though most of the time we simply look the other way, the needs that these men rose to fill are real. And the need for such men has never been greater.

If you are a man and want to better understand your God-given role—as a leader, a provider, a protector, a husband, a father and a builder—if you want to heed the call and fill the needs in your family and in society, start by reading our free e-book *Biblical Manhood* (theTrumpet.com/go/manhood). ■



Germany and Europe

Turkey's relationship with Germany and Europe has also been in flux. Ever since 1987, Turkey has wanted to join the European Union. It has not succeeded, and Bible prophecy indicates that it will not succeed but that it will form a temporary alliance.

Germany's ties with Turkey in recent months have been severely strained by Erdoğan's turn toward authoritarianism and a spat between him and European leaders, particularly German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Despite these strained relations, the two countries are still interdependent. There are more Turks in Germany than any other immigrant group, and Germany is Turkey's most important trading partner. Jan Techau, a director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, said, "There is no other economic option for Erdoğan, so he really needs Europe."

During a meeting with Erdoğan in January, French President Emmanuel Macron said, "We should ... see if we cannot rethink this relationship, not in the framework of the [EU] integration process, but perhaps a cooperation, a partnership." He added that Europe's goal should be to keep Turkey "anchored" in Europe and ensure that its "future will be built looking toward Europe and with Europe."

Turkey's Future

Bible prophecy indicates that, indeed, there might be no other economic option for Erdoğan and Turkey. It also indicates that there might be no other *political* option for Erdoğan and Turkey—after whatever might remain from Turkey's alliances with the United States, Russia and Iran.

We can expect Turkey to betray some of its alliances and align itself more with its western neighbors in Europe.

The *Trumpet's* November 2011 article "East, West or Neither?" shows that the Turks descended from Esau, the grandson of the biblical patriarch Abraham. Esau was the grandfather of Teman, from whom the Turks derived the name of their Ottoman Empire.

The biblical book of Obadiah describes the Turkey of our time as being "as one of them," allied with Germany, which leads a European power. In Psalm 83, the Bible describes an alliance of nations which "have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against" the United States, Britain and the Jewish nation of Israel, primarily. This Psalm 83 alliance says, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance." In this prophecy (and in all other Bible prophecies), "Israel" doesn't primarily refer to the Jews in the Middle East; it refers primarily to the Anglo-American nations. Request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to understand more about these names and these prophecies.

The nation of Turkey is located in such a strategic region that it has to balance and counterbalance its relations with its neighbors and allies. The recent history of its relationships with friend and foe alike shows how these prophecies are nearing complete fulfillment. ■

THE KEY OF DAVID



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

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- Montgomery-Salem** WBMM-DT/WNCF-DT 8:30, Sun
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- California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
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- Eureka** KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun
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KRCR 9:00, Sun
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- San Francisco** KKPX 6:00, Fri
- Santa Barbara-Santa Maria** KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun
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- Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;
8:30, Wed
- Kauai Ho'Ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue
- Mauai/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku**
Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon
- Oahu** Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am, Sat
Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXO
- Idaho, Boise** KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Idaho Falls** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Pocatello** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Twin Falls** KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Illinois, Bloomington** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
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- Rockford** WREX-DT 8:30, Sun; WREX 10:30, Sun
- Quincy** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
- Indiana, Fort Wayne** WISE-DT 21.29:30, Sun
- Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri
- Terre Haute** WBI 9:30, Sun
- Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri
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Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KALB-DT 8:30, Sun
Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun
Lafayette KADN 6:30, Sun; KATC-DT 8:30, Sun; KLAJ 6:30
Lake Charles KVHP-DT 8:30, Sun
New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
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Springfield WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun
Cadillac WBVC 9:30, Sun
Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun
Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun
Marquette WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun
Traverse City WBVC 9:30, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth KDLH-DT 8:30, Sun
Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri
Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun
Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun
Mississippi, Biloxi WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun
Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun
Hattiesburg WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun
Laurel WHPM-DT 8:30, Sun
Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun
Joplin KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri
Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
Springfield KRBK 7:30, Sun
St. Joseph KBJO/KNPN-DT 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KSVI 7:00, S
 KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun
Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun
Glendive KWZB 8:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun
Helena KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings
 KWBL 8:30, Sun
Kearney KWBL 8:30, Sun
North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun
Scottsbluff KGWN-DT/KCHW 8:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun
Elmira (Corning) WENY-DT 9:30, Sun
New York City WPXN 6:00, Fri; WWOR, 8:00, Sun
Plattsburgh WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Asheville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charlotte WAXN 10:00, Sun
Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun

North Dakota
Bismarck KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Dickinson KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Fargo KXJB 8:30, Sun
Minot KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun
Valley City KXJB 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
CincinnatiWSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WBOH 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Toledo WMNT 8:00, Sun
Youngstown WYTV 11:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri; KQCW 9:30 Sun
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KEVU-TV 10:00, Sun; KLSR 10:00, Sun; KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun
Medford-Klamath Falls
 KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WSEE-DT/WICU-DT 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WACP 9:00, Sun; WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence
 WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Anderson WYCW 9:00, Sun
Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Greenville WYCW 9:00, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Spartanburg WYCW 9:00, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KEVN 6:30, Sun
KWBH/KNBN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Chattanooga WFL110:30, Sun
Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXX 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30
Texas, Abilene KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Dallas KDAF 7:00, Sun
Harlingen KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KYLX 8:30, Sun
Longview KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KJTV 8:00, Sun
 KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun
Midland KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWES-DT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KDXE 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun
Temple-Bryan KYLE 9:00, Sun
Tyler KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:30, Sun; WPTZ-DT 9:30
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Richmond WUPV 8:00, Sun

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

CANADA

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

CARIBBEAN

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

LATIN AMERICA

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

AUSTRALASIA

Australia
Nationwide 9GEM 8:00, Sun
Adelaide TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed
Perth WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat
New Zealand TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun
Philippines TV47:30 PHT, Sun

CBS United Kingdom

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



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