



FROM THE EDITOR **GERALD FLURRY**

Remembering the World's Most Important Archaeologist

Our friend Dr. Eilat Mazar left a dazzling legacy.

JERUSALEM ARCHAEOLOGIST EILAT MAZAR DIED ON MAY 25 at age 64. She was a courageous woman of indomitable strength and fierce determination, an inspiration to many thousands of people around the world, and to me personally.

Although she did not regard herself as personally religious, her sense of intellectual and scientific honesty and inquiry led Dr. Mazar to use the Bible as a crucial, historically accurate document. This led her to some of the most powerful and sensational archaeological discoveries ever!

Dr. Mazar's love of archaeology—and our organization's connection with her—began when she was a child. I enrolled in Ambassador College in 1967, the same year the Six-Day War broke out in Israel. God intervened and gave Israel a miraculous victory that awarded the Jews control of East Jerusalem. The following year, Israelis began what they called the "Big Dig," a massive archaeological excavation at the southern part of the Temple Mount. It was directed by Prof. Benjamin Mazar. His work won the 1968 Israel Prize for Jewish studies and the 1968 Worthy Citizen of Jerusalem recognition.



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It also attracted the attention of Ambassador College and its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong met with Professor Mazar, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol and other leaders at the Israeli Knesset at the end of 1968. He formed a partnership with Professor Mazar and Hebrew University to supply half the funding for the excavations and hundreds of enthusiastic Ambassador College student workers until the conclusion of the dig in 1976. I remember fellow Ambassador students being excited to travel to Israel for that project. Professor Mazar and Mr. Armstrong developed a deep friendship that lasted until Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986.

Professor Mazar was often accompanied by his granddaughter. This young girl was fascinated by his work, and she was well acquainted and deeply impressed with Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassador College students. She grew up to be an archaeologist herself and conducted what I believe are the most important archaeological excavations in the world!

After using the Bible to identify the probable location of King David's palace in 1997, Dr. Mazar was finally able to begin digging in that spot in 2005 and soon uncovered the Large Stone Structure: David's palace. This caught our attention, and we asked Dr. Mazar if we could help her. Between 2006 and her last excavation in 2018, we supplied more than 50 laborers and supervisors over seven excavations who helped excavate, catalog and photograph artifacts, research, write and edit reports, and publish and publicize her work, as well as that of her grandfather. Visiting with Dr. Mazar over this time, I found her to be honest, forthright, brilliant and passionate for her city and its unmatched history.

Today, thanks to Dr. Mazar extending the legacy of her grandfather, we are able to walk within the same walls that King David walked!

In 2007, our workers were able to assist Dr. Mazar in excavating a tower where they found Persian-period pottery and artifacts. Dr. Mazar identified the tower as actually having been built during the time described in the biblical book of Nehemiah. The next year she and a handful of our workers returned to the City

of David, where she discovered the Gedaliah bulla. This clay seal impression was originally owned by one of the princes who persecuted the Prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 37-38). We later had the honor of featuring this bulla and the bulla of Jehucal, who was associated with Gedaliah, at an Armstrong Auditorium exhibit on our home campus, visited by thousands of people. Between 2009 and 2018, Dr. Mazar conducted four seasons of excavation on the Ophel, locating a royal complex built by King Solomon, a proto-aeolic column, the first Bes figure found in Jerusalem, a scarab, coins minted during a first-century A.D. Jewish revolt, a plaster-lined cave with shafts and tunnels, and the bullae of King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet.

Many archaeologists use the lack of physical evidence from David's time and Nehemiah's day to justify their lack of faith in the Bible. These discoveries SHOULD put those doubts to rest—if the scholars would only accept the truth.

I BELIEVE WHAT DR. MAZAR HAS DONE WILL ULTIMATELY CAUSE AN EARTHQUAKE IN THE WORLD OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

Dr. Mazar's work was blessed in a special way. I believe it is because she combined the scientific method with her belief that the Bible is accurate history.

Through her work in the City of David and on the Ophel, the name Eilat Mazar will forever be attached to Jerusalem's greatest personalities, including its greatest king. Together with her grandfather, I believe Dr. Mazar conducted the most important archaeology ever undertaken in Jerusalem, the city God has chosen. We will forever cherish the 15 years we had working with Eilat, and we will sorely miss her profound love of Jerusalem archaeology. ■

Dr. Eilat Mazar 1956–2021

BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL

JERUSALEM—

THE DEATH OF DR. EILAT MAZAR IS SAD news to the archaeological community in Israel and for biblical archaeology enthusiasts across the globe.

Dr. Mazar was famous for advocating “letting the stones speak.” This means she would follow where the archaeological evidence led, even if that meant her discoveries proved the accuracy of the biblical narrative.

Surprisingly, this approach is revolutionary in today’s archaeological community in Israel. But this honest approach is why Dr. Mazar’s legacy is so rich. Her significant biblical-period discoveries include King David’s palace, Nehemiah’s wall, the Solomonic gate of Jerusalem and numerous discoveries related to biblical figures.

As a small child, Eilat worked on the Temple Mount excavations in the 1970s alongside a founding father of the Jewish state, of Hebrew University, of the Israel Exploration Society and other institutions: her grandfather, the late Prof. Benjamin Mazar.

As a child, Dr. Mazar visited archaeological digs all over Israel with her grandfather. Together with her sister Tali, young Eilat served tea and coffee at Professor Mazar’s weekly living-room gatherings of Israel’s most important archaeologists, historians, academics and politicians. She watched and learned as her grandfather used the Bible on the coffee table as the instructive text to understand questions about Israel’s history and geography. “He established this vision that biblical geography and biblical archaeology are one thing,” she told the *Trumpet* shortly before her death. “You cannot understand the archaeology of the land of Israel without knowing the biblical narratives which describe the biblical geography of the land of Israel—it is the same thing.”

This is what Eilat learned from her

grandfather and took with her through her entire career.

When Eilat finished her mandated service in the Israel Defense Forces, she literally ran to the admissions office at Hebrew University. She studied archaeology and the history of the Jewish people, earning her degree in 1981.

Eilat participated in the City of David excavations directed by Prof. Yigal Shiloh from 1981 to 1985. Within a few weeks of starting work, she was promoted as one of the area supervisors. For her master’s thesis, mentored by Prof. Nahman Avigad at the university, she studied the First Temple period finds from the prior excavations of the Ophel area just south of the Temple Mount’s southern wall.

In 1986, Eilat convinced her grandfather to return to the field and join her as co-director of a small excavation at the southernmost area of the Ophel. Almost immediately, they discovered remains of the First Temple period gatehouse—the first ever discovered in Jerusalem.

In 1997, Dr. Mazar attained her Ph.D. from Hebrew University for a comprehensive pioneering study about the biblical Phoenicians based on her ongoing excavations (which began in 1984) at the key Phoenician site of Achziv on the northern shore of Israel.

Also in 1997, Dr. Mazar wrote in *Biblical Archaeology Review* that the location of King David’s palace could be ascertained by the description in 2 Samuel 5:17 that King David “went down” into his fortified city, hypothesizing that the ruins of David’s palace must therefore be in the northern City of David. Not until 2005 did she finally receive funding and permission to start an excavation, but within weeks, her team uncovered massive walls, indicating the presence of a large structure. It dated to the period of King David.

Over the course of three phases of excavation in the City of David between 2005 and

2008, she uncovered further evidence of David's palace, the fortification wall rapidly built by Nehemiah (Nehemiah 6:15), and several significant artifacts, including two seal impressions of the princes that Jeremiah 37-38 record as persecuting the Prophet Jeremiah: Gedaliah, son of Pashur, and Jehucal, son of Shelemiah.

During her excavations on the Ophel in 2009, 2012, 2013 and 2018, Dr. Mazar uncovered a massive city wall built during the reign of King Solomon, the Menorah Medallion treasure, dozens of coins relating to the first-century Jewish revolt, and two seal impressions belonging to the Prophet Isaiah and King Hezekiah, the latter of which is the only seal of a biblical king of Judah ever discovered in controlled

scientific excavations.

Over the past 15 years, more than 56 workers from Herbert W. Armstrong College (which is supported by the *Trumpet*'s publisher, the Philadelphia Church of God) have supported Dr. Mazar's work during and between seven seasons of excavation. The PCG fully sponsored her last excavation season in 2018. Dr. Mazar also partnered with Armstrong College to produce all official videos announcing her discoveries since 2013, as well as maintaining her excavation blog keytodavidscity.com. Members of the Church are deeply saddened by her death, but will endeavor to uphold her legacy of letting the stones of Jerusalem continue to speak. ■

Is the Fall of East Jerusalem Imminent?

Hamas is fighting to push Israel out. So is America.

BY BRAD MACDONALD AND BRENT NAGTEGAAL

FOR 11 DAYS IN MAY, IRAN-BACKED TERRORISTS in the Gaza Strip unleashed over 4,000 rockets on Israeli civilians. The skies over Israel lit up with contrails from missiles and antimissile missiles.

Lost in the bombast was the fact that it was precipitated in part by a simple land dispute in East Jerusalem. Arab tenants living in Jewish-owned properties in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah have not paid their rent, and their landlords threatened to evict them.

The enemies of Israel saw this as living proof that Israel was attempting to "ethnically cleanse" Arabs from East Jerusalem. This narrative gained stunning support. Hundreds of thousands of people from New York to London, from Toronto to Johannesburg came together, waving Palestinian flags and brandishing

placards reading "Save Sheikh Jarrah." Celebrities such as *The Avengers* star Mark Ruffalo and *Game of Thrones* actress Lena Headey, along with international organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations, all pledged solidarity with the Palestinians in this one neighborhood.

Recognizing an opportunity, Hamas leaped into action. At 5 p.m. on May 10, the terrorist group demanded that Israel remove its soldiers from both the Temple Mount and Sheikh Jarrah within the hour. If Israel refused, Hamas would attack. Just after 6 p.m., air raid sirens sounded and the thud of dropping missiles was heard in Jerusalem for the first time in seven years.

Of course, Hamas never expected Israel to comply with its demand. Israel's police forces

were on the Temple Mount because Palestinians had been throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at Jews below; they were in Sheikh Jarrah to protect Arab and Jewish residents from rioters. Israel couldn't pick up and leave, not without leaving both Jews and Arabs in danger. Hamas wanted war. And on this occasion, Sheikh Jarrah was the way to get it.

Hamas exploited a routine legal dispute over land rights to justify war. Islamists have done this for years—for example, accusing Israel of attacking the al-Aqsa Mosque, then inciting violence and war. This case was notable for how vehemently much of the international community—and even Israel's strongest ally, America—agreed with Hamas.

These events, unlikely as it may seem, portend the eventual loss of Jewish control over East Jerusalem.

Defending Lawlessness

As a matter of law, the case against the Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah is simple. Legal disputes over other properties in East Jerusalem are far more complicated. In Sheikh Jarrah, both the law and ethics are squarely on Israel's side.

The land was lawfully purchased by Jewish organizations during Ottoman times, decades before Jordan and even Israel were sovereign states, and long before Jerusalem was divided. In 1948, the Jews in Sheikh Jarrah abandoned their properties at the outset of the war of independence. Under Jordanian rule, East Jerusalem was ethnically cleansed of all remaining Jews, leaving the Jewish-owned land and properties to Arab families. Jordan never drew up deeds of ownership for Arabs in Sheikh Jarrah. There was no legal transition of ownership to the Arabs.

In 1967, after Israel won control of East Jerusalem in the Six-Day War, it returned ownership of the land to its original Jewish owners. In some cases, however, where Jordan had provided new titles for the Arab residents, Israel did not remove the tenants but accepted them as the legal owners of the properties.

This did not occur with these properties in Sheikh Jarrah. Rather, the land was returned

to its original Jewish owners. Instead of removing the Arab tenants, Israel's courts ruled that they could remain in the homes as long as they paid rent. The Arabs agreed to this deal—but then never paid the rent.

We are not talking about missing one or two payments. In Sheikh Jarrah, the Arab tenants haven't paid rent for *decades*.

The owners of these homes began legal proceedings to evict their nonpaying tenants *in 1993*—nearly *30 years ago*. The case has moved through the courts extremely slowly, to put it mildly.

In May, the case was *finally* due to be decided by Israel's Supreme Court. This is when the international community, and Hamas, entered the scene—and when the rockets began to fall. The court responded to all the tensions by delaying its decision.

The law is indisputable: The tenants can legally be evicted. However, the “court” that is the international community, led by the new presidential administration in America, made its judgment: The Palestinians must stay!

Enter America

On May 7, United States State Department spokesman Ned Price released a statement about the violence in Jerusalem. “The United States is extremely concerned about ongoing confrontations in Jerusalem, including on the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount and in Sheikh Jarrah, which have reportedly resulted in scores of injured people,” he stated.

“We are also deeply concerned about the potential eviction of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods of Jerusalem, many of whom have lived in their homes for generations,” Price’s statement continued. “As we have consistently said, it is critical to avoid steps that exacerbate tensions or take us farther away from peace. This includes evictions in East Jerusalem, settlement activity, home demolitions, and acts of terrorism.”

Hamas was already agitating for a clash over Sheikh Jarrah. Three days earlier, a top Hamas leader, Mohammed Deif, had declared that his group would “not stand idly by in the face [of] attacks on the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.”

For the terrorist group to then receive such an endorsement from the Biden administration was no doubt reassuring. Was America's May 7 statement the green light Hamas needed to start lobbing missiles into Israel?

Never mind the lawful procedure making its way through the Israeli courts. Concerning East Jerusalem, the Biden administration believes the Palestinians have the right to stay—and the Jews should surrender their ownership and remove their presence.

International-law professors Avi Bell and Eugene Kantorovich addressed the Biden administration's endorsement of lawlessness in the *Wall Street Journal* on May 14. "The laws involved are the same as any landlord would invoke," they wrote. "There is only one objection to this case: The owners are Jews. Western progressives have elevated the desire of some Arabs not to have Jewish neighbors into a human right and a legal entitlement that even the Jewish state must protect."

In other words, Western progressives, including the Biden administration, now believe Jews have no right to exercise legal jurisdiction in East Jerusalem. Arabs living in East Jerusalem are sovereign, even if by law their home or land is owned by Jews.

The ramifications of this precedent are alarming!

It is noteworthy that Ned Price's statement referred to Silwan. This neighborhood, situated south of the Old City, is the location of the 3,000-year-old City of David. Silwan is home to some of Israel's greatest history, including the palace of King David himself. Yet according to the U.S. State Department, Israel has no right to Silwan.

Right now, Israel's Supreme Court is considering a case regarding the eviction of an Arab family inhabiting a home in the City of David. Just as in Sheikh Jarrah, the law is on the side of the Jews. But it appears the U.S. and undoubtedly much of the international community have made their decision: Israel cannot enforce its sovereignty, even when that territory holds evidence of the Jews' 3,000-year presence.

America's alignment with Hamas on this

issue is neither a coincidence nor an accident. It is the result of a calculated anti-Israel policy crafted at the highest level of government.

Fruits of Obama

Price's statement on Sheikh Jarrah was more than a signal of America's disapproval of Israel's actions there. Though almost unnoticed by most commentators, it marks a massive policy shift on Jerusalem. However, this far-reaching new position is not surprising, given the fact that the Biden administration is effectively a continuation of Barack Obama's.

One month before President Obama left the White House, the United States infamously broke its historic precedent of supporting Israel at the United Nations, an institution with blatant systemic bias against the Jewish state. On Dec. 23, 2016, applause erupted in the UN hall when U.S. Ambassador Samantha Powers raised her hand to allow passage of Resolution 2334. This resolution considered any Israeli settlement in land occupied by Jordan before 1967 to be illegal. According to Resolution 2334, even Israelis living in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem are criminal squatters.

When this resolution passed, the *Trumpet* described it as Barack Obama's "parting shot" toward Israel.

With the events in Sheikh Jarrah, Mr. Obama's final act became the opening salvo for the Biden administration's war on Israel. It is now clear that Obama's antipathy toward the Jewish state lives on in the Biden administration.

In May 2020, transcripts of phone calls between incoming Trump National Security Adviser Gen. Michael Flynn and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak were declassified by the U.S. government in defense of Flynn. The phone call transcripts were used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its investigation into the Trump campaign for collusion with Russia, an allegation that turned out to be a complete hoax. However, the transcripts reveal that the discussions largely revolved around an attempt by the Obama administration to hurt Israel at the UN.

In the days leading up to the Dec. 23, 2016,

vote, Israel had reached out to the Trump transition team and asked that it shut down the resolution. (The outgoing Obama administration refused to say whether it would use the veto.) General Flynn and others in the Trump transition team made calls to the other members of the Security Council to learn how they would vote.

On December 22, Flynn called Kislyak and inquired about Russia's position. Kislyak told Flynn that Russia intended to support the resolution: "So we will try to help to give additional time for the conversation on this issue. But if it is put on vote, for historical reasons, as I explained to you, we cannot vote other than to support it."

That same day, President-elect Donald Trump called Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi and asked him to withdraw the resolution. Egypt, who then held the rotating Arab seat on the Security Council, did withdraw the resolution. However, the next day, New Zealand and three others put forward a similar resolution that would pass: United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334.

When the resolution passed, President-elect Trump tweeted, "Stay strong Israel." He was comforting Israel, telling it things would change when he took office on Jan. 20, 2017.

But Barack Obama wasn't finished. He still had four weeks left as president, and he used that time to intensify his attack on the Jewish state.

We now know that the Obama administration was planning another, even more forceful action against Israel at the UN. The administration had even begun colluding with other members of the UN Security Council to see whether it had the necessary support.

Although details of this resolution are unknown, a source told the *Jerusalem Post* in June 2020 that it would have forced parameters of a peace agreement upon Israel and the Palestinians, including setting a time frame for creating a Palestinian state based on the 1967 lines, and perhaps declaring a final status on Jerusalem. It was a natural extension of Resolution 2334, which had just called Israel's occupation of that land "illegal."

Immediately, Israel's UN ambassador, Danny Danon, informed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the Obama administration's plan. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, the prime minister called Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as President-elect Trump to lobby against the forthcoming measure.

On Dec. 29, 2016, the Russian ambassador called Flynn to inform him that Russia would not support the new resolution that Obama was "pushing for." "We wanted to convey to you and through you to the president-elect that we had significant reservations about the idea of adopting now the principles for the Middle East that our American colleagues are pushing for. So we are not going to support it too—in the quartet, or in the Security Council. And we have conveyed to our American colleagues. So, in the spirit of full transparency, I was asked to inform you as well. So, it's not something that we—Russia—are going to support."

Russia also informed the Obama administration that it would not support its new resolution, scuttling the resolution. Both the Russian Foreign Ministry and Obama's U.S. ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro, have denied the reports of this secondary measure. However, the details of the Flynn phone call with Kislyak after Resolution 2334 had already passed show that there was a more forceful measure in the offing, and that this new measure was so sinister even Russia would not go for it.

Russia defended the State of Israel against the hostile Obama administration at the United Nations!

Is it any surprise then, that so soon into the Biden administration, the U.S. is applying serious pressure on Israel over its control of East Jerusalem? Will Obama's failed attempt to hurt Israel soon be resurrected by Joe Biden? In spirit, this is already happening.

The Biden administration has not explicitly endorsed an armed uprising to take East Jerusalem by force. Nevertheless, its statements condemning Israel's lawful evictions supply the Arabs justification to continue their violent struggle against the "occupier."

America has a checkered history of targeting

Israel's "settlement building" deep in the West Bank. Now it seems America is targeting Israel's presence in East Jerusalem, the heart of Jewish history and identity.

East Jerusalem and Zechariah

Israel's one-time euphoria over its robust relationship with America during the presidency of Donald Trump has withered with the recognition that Joe Biden essentially represents Barack Obama's third term.

As long as Mr. Biden is president, we can expect America to continue pressuring Israel to reduce its sovereign power over East Jerusalem. The U.S. will likely cloak its endorsement of Palestinian control through UN resolutions and international law. There will be more seemingly innocuous statements asking for both sides to "reduce tensions."

In a feature article he wrote back in April, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned readers that the Biden administration's position would lead to increased violence in Jerusalem. "I am certain we will have more Palestinian terrorist attacks now because of who is in charge," he wrote (theTrumpet.com/23957).

Since this statement, violence in Jerusalem has increased dramatically. The fact that this violence is occurring just months into the Biden presidency is no coincidence.

Meanwhile, a crucial end-time prophecy from Zechariah is coming into focus.

For over two decades, Mr. Flurry has urged readers to watch the rift between Jerusalem's Arab and Jewish populations. He has specifically forecast that Hamas would far outstrip Fatah's power and lead the Palestinians to seek control of East Jerusalem. This forecast is based on a prophecy in Zechariah 14.

The Prophet Zechariah was involved in rebuilding Jerusalem after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity in the sixth century B.C. Yet he warned that the city would be destroyed once again. This was an unpopular message; some believe it got him killed by his own people. However, Zechariah wasn't writing about a takeover to happen in his time, nor was he writing about Jerusalem's fall in A.D. 70. He

was writing about the time we live in right now.

Zechariah 14 contains an astonishing message, one that is sobering but also full of hope and wonder. This chapter gives a remarkably detailed account of the transition from the final days of man's rule on Earth to the moment when Jesus Christ returns and establishes His family government on Earth!

Still, though the chapter ends in peace, it begins in war.

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zechariah 14:1-2). These two verses give the overview of the catastrophic events that lead to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

There are three phases to this crisis revolving around Jerusalem. As Mr. Flurry explains in his book *The Eternal Has Chosen Jerusalem*, Zechariah starts at the coming of the Messiah, the third phase, and works his way backward chronologically. The second phase—all of the city being taken—is elsewhere called "great tribulation," a period when *all* of biblical Israel, not just the nation of Judah called *Israel* today, will be attacked.

But notice how this whole procession of events leading to the Messiah's coming begins.

In the first phase, "half of the city shall go forth into captivity." This suggests a violent takeover of HALF OF JERUSALEM.

Based on this prophecy, Mr. Flurry has forecast that East Jerusalem will fall under Arab control as a direct precursor to Jesus Christ's return.

"Today the Arabs live in roughly one half of Jerusalem. They just don't control it—yet," he wrote in 2005. "Looking at the ongoing violence in Jerusalem today—the absolute inability of the involved parties to solve things by peaceful means—we can easily see how one half of Jerusalem shall be taken captive in the very near future. THE PRESENT VIOLENCE IS AN EMBRYO THAT IS ABOUT TO GROW INTO MUCH

GREATER VIOLENCE” (*Jerusalem in Prophecy*).

With Hamas dominating the Palestinian street, and America and the international community rejecting Israel’s sovereignty over East Jerusalem, will we soon see half of Jerusalem fall?

It would be easy to dismiss this idea, considering Israel’s superior military. But what if the United States continues to support and justify Arab violence aimed at taking over that territory? How long can Israel sustain its defense? Particularly given its own grievous internal political struggles?

We need to watch Jerusalem for the fulfillment of this prophecy. This outburst of violence against Jewish control of East Jerusalem is not just the latest iteration of Arab-Jewish violence. Even Hamas is claiming that, for the first time, Israeli-Arabs are uniting under its

banner to conquer East Jerusalem.

But as you watch conditions in Jerusalem and Israel, remember the full context of Zechariah’s prophecy. These events precede the arrival of a new government, and a wonderful and unprecedented new epoch in human history.

This will be a time when Jesus Christ will rule all mankind, creating a new age of peace between all men, prosperity and eternal joy and contentment. “And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there by one Lord, and his name one” (verse 9).

Imagine it: No longer will Jews and Arabs fight over Jerusalem. Under the control of Jesus Christ, this city will finally live up to its name and be a city of peace, ruled by the Prince of peace! ■

It's a Woman's World

Many believe more women in power will solve society’s problems. But let’s look at the facts. BY JOEL HILLIKER

HERE IS A POLITICALLY INCORRECT LOOK AT why our civilization is the way it is. It reveals how one of our most closely held beliefs is producing some of our most intransigent problems. It applies the principles and the prophecies of the Bible to the politics and everyday life of 21st-century British and American moderns.

You may strongly disagree. Even so, I urge you to seriously consider this perspective.

The principle goes back to the first man and woman—and it explains what’s happening right now in Washington, in London, and even at No. 10 Downing.

‘The First Girlfriend Problem’

The British *Spectator* calls it “the first girlfriend problem.” The wife of the president of the United States is called the first lady. Britain doesn’t have a president or a first lady. It has

a prime minister, and the prime minister’s spouse stays out of politics. Usually. But that convention, like many others, is being ignored.

In the summer of 2019, Carrie Symonds moved into No. 10 Downing Street, the prime minister’s residence, to live with Boris Johnson. She was the first non-married partner in history to do so. The example this set is one thing (the two just recently married), but then there are the reports of what has been happening since. Symonds apparently is exerting startling influence, not just on how she has redecorated their flat, but on how the prime minister actually governs.

“Carrie Symonds herself is a perfectly nice, intelligent person who successfully worked her way through Conservative campaign headquarters,” *Spectator* author Douglas Murray wrote. “But she is having too great an impact on the course of government. There are issues

the prime minister avoids because she does not favor them. And there are others—principally green issues—which he appears to adopt to satisfy her. The feeling is growing that the first girlfriend wants political power without the trouble of having to run for office, and to wield it without any resulting criticism. This is not a sustainable state of affairs. ...

"It is not just policy she seeks to influence. The first girlfriend seems to have a desire to be involved in all personnel issues. Her principal ambition seems to be for her friends to make up all the central control flanks around the prime minister" (April 29).

Here is the point: "In the UK anyone who wishes to have political power should run for elected office. The emergent Office of First Lady is clearly a source of tension in Downing Street, and is already responsible for an unprecedented number of interventions in policy areas that affect our country. We hear nothing from the prime minister on issues he was elected on, and far too much on ones that Carrie happens to favor. The prime minister may have need of a first girlfriend, but the country does not" (*ibid*).

How often is this happening with leaders in our world?

When we think of women in politics, we only consider how many are actually in office. Many insist that we need more women mayors, representatives, senators, heads of government. We are supposed to infer that this will somehow solve many of society's problems. There are powerful points to be made in this debate, but for now let's focus on the issue at hand: women who are not in office but are *actually ruling*.

The Royal Divorce

Surely this is the case far more than people realize. There are few people like Murray willing to even point it out for fear of the flak they will take.

We see a similar situation with the man once known as Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan Markle. They have been married three years, yet they have already divorced themselves very publicly and messily from the British royal

family and have trashed them and their staff as oppressive and racist. Reports suggest this is all *her doing*. After the blockbuster wedding, she quickly decided that royal life was "unbearable."

Angela Levin, a royal biographer, has said that Harry's relationship with this woman changed him completely. She said that before Meghan he was charismatic and sincere, an open book. "Less than a year on, however, I witnessed this warm young prince morph into a nervy, tense man who seems constantly on edge. It is as if the dark side that we had only had glimpses of previously [has] fully enveloped him" (July 26, 2020).

The situation has been compared to the succession crisis of 1936, when Prince Edward VIII abdicated the throne itself to marry another American divorcee named Wallis Simpson.

Harry and his wife are the royal debacle of our era. And once again, the center of the conflict is the influence of an unaccountable woman.

'Women Rule Over Them'

To mark his first 100 days in office, Joe Biden gave a presidential address to both houses of Congress. Much was made about the fact that the two chairs behind him, reserved for the vice president and the speaker of the House, were occupied by two women. The woman on the left, Kamala Harris, has reportedly taken on a far more active political role than is typical for the vice president. This is being hailed as obvious progress. But many have predictably argued, *No—it's not enough until the president speaking in front of them is also a woman. We don't have real equity until at least half the representatives and senators in the audience are women. Women don't rule—not enough!*

Here, though, is God's assessment of the power of women in our society: "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and WOMEN RULE OVER THEM. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:12).

Wow! That is not politically correct. People can say that is not sophisticated or progressive.

They can label it primitive or patriarchal or misogynistic or whatever they want.

But it's true.

The evidence is all around us.

Why Go Deeper Into Debt?

Take, for example, Biden's speech. Part of it was dedicated to promoting what he called the American Families Plan. As you might suspect, it doesn't aim to increase the honor, the significance or the morals of American families. It focuses on *government spending* and *government control* of American families. It would spend \$1.8 trillion to gain greater influence over your children and those who teach them: government-funded preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds, government-funded child care for parents with lower incomes, up to 12 weeks of paid family medical leave, extension of the child tax credit, government-funded community college. This is \$1.8 trillion this country *does not have*, yet which Biden says must urgently be spent—even though the United States is already \$28 trillion in debt.

Why spend such a preposterous sum so urgently on these social and educational programs? It is undeniable that feminist thinking has spread in our government, and decisions like these are directly attributable to that thinking.

These are not the fiscal priorities of a right-thinking, masculine man.

I am referring to general tendencies, but generally, if a man is going to put his family or those he leads into a deep financial hole, he is not going to do it to pay for things like preschool and family medical leave.

And what are the leaders of our government and our educational system using these mountains of tax dollars to put in the minds of American children? Not hard sciences and advanced math. These subjects are increasingly branded as imperialistic and patriarchal. Anything traditionally associated with men is taboo. No—the push in education is all toward “sensitivity training”—teaching children of certain races and a certain gender to feel offended and angry over tiny or even imagined slights, and teaching children of a

certain other race and the other gender to feel timid and ashamed, that they're inherently villainous and need to apologize for everything.

The *Telegraph*, in an article about what it called “woke weaning,” mentioned how one educator used the recent murder of a woman in London to take the boys in the class aside and urge them to “respect girls and women.” “Of course children should be educated about misogyny and harassment,” the mother of one of the boys said. “But the narrative seemed to be that boys were, by definition, not just ‘bad’ but capable of extreme evil. That's a lot for an 11-year-old to take on” (April 19).

Examples of such extreme, bizarre, malevolent indoctrination abound in our schools and colleges. This is like a toxic, overbearing mom who continually guilt-trips her children.

Right-thinking men would never approve or allow such curricula.

In the same speech to Congress, Biden urged lawmakers to pass a bill called the Violence Against Women Act. No one *supports* violence against women, of course, so you have to look beyond the name to see where this law is coming from and whether it is good. If you do that, you will quickly see that it is a way to advance government restrictions on the right to bear arms and government promotion of transgenderism, all in the name of “protection” and “equality.”

At the same time these leaders are dumping trillions we don't have into indoctrination programs for 3- and 4-year-olds, they are demanding that we strip money from law enforcement and the military. These are two institutions that are still male-dominated and represent what is left of strong male authority in our domestic policy and foreign policy. Some of the most prominent women in politics advancing this agenda say we must dismantle policing itself.

We will never be able to solve this problem if we refuse to trace it back to its source: feminist thinking wielding the power of the educational system and the state.

Bubble-Wrapping Society

This effeminate thinking is plainly visible

in the biggest development of the entire last year: COVID-19 lockdowns. We have a virus that causes varying levels of symptoms in different people: A great many get it with minor or no symptoms, some have more serious effects, and in a few, it's very serious. But rather than taking an even-handed, cautious, lawful approach aimed at protecting the most vulnerable, society's response has been a hysterical overreaction.

We must do *everything we possibly can* to keep everyone safe. Everyone must stand apart from one another, wear one or two masks at a time (even if they are young children playing outside), sit in their homes, forgo gatherings and events, and forsake freedom of assembly. Elevators must have no more than four riders at a time, with each person facing a corner like naughty schoolchildren. You cannot be too cautious. In fact, we are so concerned about this that we must forcibly enclose the entire society in Bubble Wrap and be willing to shut our economies down over it—all in the name of “health and safety.”

The entire government in America, and in other countries, has turned into a domineering, micromanaging, overprotective, guilt-tripping mommy state.

This has been a spectacular demonstration of the feminization of our world.

The major media are eager to stoke fears, encourage overreaction and enforce compliance. Turns out, a whole lot of the major newsrooms in America are run by women: CBS News, ABC News, Reuters, MSNBC, NPR, the *Washington Post*, the *Financial Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Economist* and many others.

Too few real men have stood up and said NO. Too few have said, *Let's use some sense. Let's exercise some logic and have some courage here. Let's not destroy people's God-given rights and turn our lives completely upside-down over the mere fear of a flu bug!*

The way these policies and perspectives are taking over the Democratic Party—and American politics in general—also shows the fulfillment of Isaiah 3.

Men Taken Away

“For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator” (Isaiah 3:1-3).

This prophecy is what precedes Isaiah’s warning that “women rule over them.”

God says that because of our sins, He has removed strong male leadership. And He says the resulting void in strong male leadership is a *curse!*

Look at the results. We are in an effeminate age. Feminized thinking has taken over our education, our politics, our business, our economics, our news, our entertainment, our whole society.

Today it seems most people reject that there are differences between men and women. At least that is what the most powerful people in education, politics and the media clearly want us to think. If you state that men have different bodies than women, and men have different ways of thinking than women, they get upset. Yet so many of these *same people* say we need more *women's perspectives* in politics and other leadership positions. If there are no natural differences in how men and women think, then that makes no sense.

But there *are* differences. Men tend to think differently from women. And more women's perspectives *are* taking control of leadership positions. And the society under that leadership *is* changing.

The perverse bias against boys for *being* boys; the weaponization of “tolerance,” “compassion” and “equality”; the idolization of feelings over facts; the increasingly aggressive “cancel culture”; the systematic shutdown of free speech; the confiscation of rights, freedoms and accountability by the “nanny state”—such policies are not implemented by leaders who are truly masculine. They are implemented by leaders who are feminist and effeminate.

This combination of effeminate fragility, logic in neutral, and emotion in overdrive is *Isaiah's prophecy in action*.

The Author of Male and Female

Men and women are *different*. Their bodies are, undeniably, different. Their minds are, clearly, different. Their strengths and weaknesses are truly different. And yes, their roles in society should be very different.

These different roles trace back to the source of male and female: our Creator. He created men and women completely equal in their spiritual value and potential, yet distinct from each other with complementary strengths that combine to create something far greater. In fact, these differences are so fundamental to human existence that He focuses on them throughout His Word, starting in the very first chapter of the very first book of the Bible.

The Creator of human beings established the godly, self-sacrificing, loving leadership role with the very first man and woman He created. God commands boys and men to respect girls and women far more deeply than primary school counselors with a psychology minor have ever dreamed. But the first man and so many other men since have failed at that role. In our era, women and weak men have said that the solution is not to better keep God's laws and roles for men and women, but to reject them completely.

Feminists think the true feminine role defined in the Bible by the Creator of male and female of submitting, enhancing and raising the next generation of women and men is *inferior*. They think the masculine role is superior. That is why they reject true femininity and pursue masculinity, especially leadership, power and control.

This is one of the worst curses of the effeminization that is affecting all of us: The significance, beauty, glory and, yes, power of the true feminine role is ignored, despised and destroyed.

In fact, *destroying that role is the point*.

Why? Because the people who are pushing this trend are unwittingly inspired by a spirit that *hates the human creation itself and is*

destroying it down to its very foundation. By demolishing the fundamental roles of men and women that have transcended nations, cultures, generations and millennia, that spirit is destroying harmony between male and female, destroying the raising of future generations, and obscuring the potential and purpose of mankind itself. And at this advanced stage, it is working to destroy the very economic, military and personal security of, and even to mutilate the bodies and end the lives of, those whom it has deceived.

Men: Resist feminized thinking. Be men. Be masculine. Honor, protect, sacrifice for and *lead* women. Don't be ashamed of your God-given role. Use your masculine traits and energy—not to serve yourself, as many men over the ages have done, but to serve others.

Women: Embrace your exalted role that so many are working to sabotage. Love it. Use your feminine strengths to support, nurture and educate.

Realizing, fulfilling and clinging to the roles of men and women that God created will lead you, your spouse and your children not only to a meaningful life here and now, but to your brilliant, incredible human potential. ■

Russia, China and a World of Nuclear Weapons

The Cold War ended decades ago, but the nuclear threat is intensifying. You may think thermonuclear bombs couldn't get any more dangerous. But they can—and they are.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

“USELESS AT BEST, DETRIMENTAL AT worst.” That is how the late Charles Krauthammer described an agreement the Obama administration made with Russia in 2009 for the two nations to dismantle equal numbers of nuclear weapons from their stockpiles.

The deal was detrimental for the United States because it obligated it to eliminate state-of-the-art defensive weapons while Russia dismantled Soviet-era weapons that were strictly offensive in nature, archaic weapons that would have done little more than—as Winston Churchill once phrased it—“make the rubble bounce.”

At that point, Russia’s nuclear stockpiles were too primitive to make the deal even close to equal. And it did nothing to truly make the world safer.

But much has changed in the 12 years since.

In his April 21 State of the Nation Address Russian President Vladimir Putin said, “The share of advanced weapons and hardware ... in the nuclear triad ... will exceed 88 percent already this year.”

This means that of all the warheads, intercontinental ballistic missiles, strategic aircraft, submarines and other components of Russia’s nuclear program, almost 90 percent have been modernized. In many cases, Russian versions of this deadly technology are comparable to the U.S. arsenal. Some of these weapons systems, such as hypersonic missiles, are believed to exceed their American counterparts.

Putin went on to say Russia is determined to continue “qualitatively strengthening” all aspects of its armed forces in order to keep

closing the gap with the United States.

Even as Russians have suffered years of serious economic strain—exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and government lockdowns—Putin has always found room in the budget to spend billions annually on the military, especially on nuclear weapons. He is dead set on making them as state-of-the-art, lethal and unstoppable as possible.

China's Fast Breeders

The same day that Putin made his speech about Russia’s nuclear advances, Reuters published a report about China that can only be called a bombshell.

In recent years, China has devoted billions of dollars in resources to building a new generation of advanced nuclear-power facilities. China’s ruling Communist Party has emphasized that these new plants are intended only to generate cleaner power by reducing its prodigious coal consumption. But the April 21 Reuters report states that the fast-breeder reactors at these facilities produce large amounts of the fundamental material used in advanced nuclear weapons.

“With a fast-breeder reactor, you now have a very large source of weapons-grade plutonium available to you,” the report quotes Navy Adm. Charles Richard, the commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, as saying. “That will change the upper bounds of what China could choose to do if they wanted to, in terms of further expansion of their nuclear capabilities.”

China is believed to have only 200 or so nuclear warheads. But whispers out of Beijing indicate that some Communist Party leaders

want their arsenal to compare better to that of the U.S. (an estimated 5,800 warheads) and that of Russia (an estimated 6,375 warheads).

It is hard to imagine that the new Chinese plants won't help fulfill this ambition. The first one is scheduled to open in 2023.

A Nuclear World

In recent months, Iran has also advanced its nuclear weapons program. This fanatical regime could be mere months away from producing its first nuclear bomb. The also-fanatical and even less stable North Korean regime has improved its delivery systems for the nuclear weapons it already possesses. German military personnel have received more training on how to mobilize and drop the nuclear bombs that America has stocked in Germany. And more questions and concerns have emerged over how vulnerable Pakistan's nuclear weapons are to terrorist hijacking, especially as America pulls out of neighboring Afghanistan.

Moreover, discussions have opened about the possibility of other nations—namely Japan, Poland, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Turkey and Ukraine—obtaining nuclear arsenals of their own.

In so many nations, nuclear developments are underway that expose the fragility of the global peace. They show that all of the attempts by the United Nations and other international organizations to reduce the nuclear threat have failed. None of man's various disarmament efforts, peace plans or treaties have been able to secure sure and lasting peace.

All such deals lack a safeguard that can forcibly prevent the use of these unfathomably destructive weapons. And there is no true cause for hope.

But there is hope in the Bible.

In his booklet *Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door,'* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes: "Only God can solve our number one problem: that of human survival."

Mr. Flurry's booklet makes inescapably clear that God's plan spelled out in the Scriptures gives mankind a definite, hope-filled solution. But it shows that the Bible also contains dire

warnings, revealing that tensions around the world will continue to increase until they snap—and nuclear war explodes.

A Forecast for the Modern Era

Matthew 24:21-22 record Jesus Christ 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).

When Christ spoke these alarming words in the year A.D. 31, a global war that could potentially kill every living person was not technologically possible.

During that age of Roman rule, warfare entailed hand-to-hand combat with swords, javelins, bows and slings. The closest thing to a weapon of mass destruction was probably an onager catapult. Even after another millennium had passed, Genghis Khan's soldiers were armed with comparable weaponry: crossbows, sabers, recurved bows and trebuchets. With these, the Mongols killed some 40 million people, one 10th of the total world population. By the 1400s, the arrival of gunpowder had led to widespread use of muskets and cannons. These developments greatly boosted a soldier's killing efficiency. Yet even then, mankind still could not wage a war that "not a single person" could survive.

With the First World War came more major advances in weapons technology. Improved artillery and rifles, machine guns, poison gas, land mines, grenades, flamethrowers, tanks, bomb-dropping aircraft and torpedo-firing submarines made killing people unprecedentedly efficient. Mechanization of weapons in that conflict contributed to the deaths of 18 million people. In World War II, humankind took a quantum leap into the future of killing technology: Some 60 million people were wiped out by vastly improved artillery, proximity fuses, fighter jets, aircraft carriers, rockets, and finally—and most ominously—two atomic bombs.

A decade after World War II's end, a major prophetic milestone was crossed.

The *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*, published by the late educator

Herbert W. Armstrong, explains: “Total annihilation of the human race by warfare was NEVER POSSIBLE—AT ANY TIME IN WORLD HISTORY—until 1955! The *Encyclopedia Britannica* reports, ‘In August 1955 ... there was a general conviction among the governments that both sides in the Cold War had sufficient retaliatory power to make hydrogen bomb war SUICIDAL!’”

So at that time, enough nuclear bombs had been built to blast all human life off the planet. The type of war Christ had warned about 2,000 years earlier had finally become not just possible—but dangerously probable.

This fact helps us see that many key Bible prophecies about World War III, including Mathew 24:21-22, could only be fulfilled in the modern, nuclear era.

‘But It Will Be Shortened’

Today, the nations continue to hold each other at nuclear gunpoint—and the risks of these weapons being used are growing. When a global nuclear war erupts, millions of people will suffer nuclear fire, and millions more will suffer nuclear winter. Jeremiah 2:15 shows that some cities will be entirely scorched by nuclear devastation, without a single survivor. The worldwide carnage will threaten the existence of human life itself.

But the Bible’s prophecies do not end with nuclear war annihilating mankind. Continuing in Matthew 24, just after Jesus said that nuclear war in this age would be so devastating that it could wipe out humanity, He added a crucial detail: “But it will be shortened ...” (verse 22, NLT).

From this it is clear that nuclear World War III will erupt, but God will not allow it to run its course. Before Russia, China and other world powers detonate enough weapons to make man extinct, Jesus Christ will interrupt the carnage.

“The good news is God will shorten the time span and save us alive,” Mr. Flurry writes. “But if He did not intervene, there wouldn’t be anyone alive on this planet. He will let it go a long way so that people learn they can’t rule themselves. Men don’t know the way of peace. God knows—and if you keep His law of love,

it will bring great joy and peace into your life” (op cit).

Just after that time of unprecedented war, Christ will institute an epoch of unprecedented peace. Amos 9:14 shows that the devastated cities will then be rebuilt. They will become bastions of life and prosperity. Jeremiah makes clear that as the massive rebuilding project progresses, each individual will come to know the true God. Every person will learn to keep His law. As a result, the “great joy and peace” that Mr. Flurry discusses will begin to fill the whole world.

“WE ARE NOW AT THE EDGE OF THIS NUCLEAR ABYSS!” Mr. Flurry writes; but as all these “horrible signs come to pass, we know Christ is about to return” (*ibid*).

These are vital truths to understand: both the warning of war on the horizon and the good news about the hope just beyond it. But it is possible to understand and to learn how to begin bringing that “great joy and peace” into your life today. ■

Cyberattacks Expose Our Fragile World

We aren't just reading about crippling computer hacks in the news. We are starting to experience them. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE HEARD A LOT about the potential danger of cyberattacks. We have heard scenarios describing what these attacks "could" or "would" do. We have seen headlines about big businesses being hit. But cyberattacks haven't affected many people directly in ways that got their attention. Until now.

A series of recent attacks have shown how cyberattacks can suddenly, powerfully affect your real-world, day-to-day life. This isn't just about keeping your computer safe. Your car, your electricity supply, even your dinner are at risk.

Fuel

One of America's most important energy conduits was shut down by a cyberattack first reported on May 8. Colonial Pipeline links Houston's oil refineries with the eastern United States. It carries about 45 percent of the region's fuel: 3 million barrels a day. Politico called Colonial Pipeline the "jugular" of America's pipeline system.

Rather than risk hackers causing permanent damage to these fuel arteries, Colonial shut down its whole system, the first time it has done so in its 57-year history. The results were soon felt in the real world. Gas prices shot up. Lines snaked out of gas stations. Stations ran out of fuel.

Before the fallout could become disastrous, Colonial Pipeline paid a ransom of \$4.4 million to a cybercrime group called DarkSide. Disaster was averted—but at the cost of informing criminals everywhere that cybercrime can make you very rich, very quickly.

Food

Unsurprisingly, another major attack followed soon after. On May 30, computer networks shut down at JBS, a South American company controlling one fifth of beef and pork slaughtering capacity in the United States. Plants in the U.S., Australia and Canada were immobilized. Tens of thousands of workers stood idle because of an attack launched by a handful of people hundreds of miles away.

Food is not an industry that would seem immediately vulnerable to such an attack. But food production and distribution has become heavily technologized. Due to government COVID-19 restrictions, the world is facing a shortage of microchips. This not only hurts computer and television manufacturers, but also causes shortages in a range of other products from new cars to potato chips.

Trade journal *Hoosier Ag Today* reported, "The biggest factor impacting the ability of United States farmers to produce the food we need has nothing to do with the weather, the markets, trade, regulations or disease. The worldwide shortage of computer chips will impact all aspects of agriculture for the next two years and beyond. As farmers integrate technology into all aspects of the farming process, these highly sophisticated semiconductors have become the backbone of almost every farming operation."

It's not just animal slaughtering that's at risk. The entire agriculture industry is under threat.

Electricity and Water

America's electricity and water infrastructure is also highly dependent on technology that is vulnerable to attack. Success in shutting down

these sectors could quickly have catastrophic effects.

Foreign groups routinely probe the U.S. electricity grid for weakness. The Associated Press warned on Dec. 21, 2014, “[S]o many attackers have stowed away in the largely investor-owned systems that run the U.S. electric grid that experts say they likely have the capability to strike at will.”

Warnings of such attacks have come in the form of incidents in other nations. For example, in April 2020, Iran attacked Israel’s water network. The attacks were unsuccessful, but the fear was that hackers could corrupt chlorine control and potentially poison the water. In 2015 and 2016, Russia-backed hackers shut down the distribution of electricity in Ukraine, leaving hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians without power in the depths of winter.

Experts believe the Ukraine attack could have been much worse. “[W]ith the right exploit, it’s possible that someone could permanently disable power-generation equipment or the massive, difficult-to-replace transformers that serve as the backbone of our transmission system,” Robert Lee, who assisted in investigations of the 2015 Ukraine attack, said (*Wired*, June 20, 2017).

“The people who understand the U.S. power grid know that it can happen here,” he said. If anything, it could be even worse. Ukraine prevented worse damage by switching to manual control. Experts warn that this may not be possible in America.

Meanwhile, more frequent attacks are occurring that target personal data or government agencies. These too do real damage, though they may not hit your wallet so immediately.

Thus far, these attacks have been attributed to criminal organizations, many with links to Russia. Russia gives these attackers safe harbor, and its intelligence agencies may be helping them. With little pushback from the U.S. government, we should only expect these attacks to intensify. Russia will continue harming the United States and probing its civilian systems and its defenses to learn how to better attack in the future.

How Bad Could It Get?

Successful cyberattacks in recent months are only a taste of what is certain to come in the future. All-out cyberwar could cripple the United States, or any other major country.

Imagine the potential fallout. The power goes out. Food productions halts. Gas stations run empty. So do supermarkets. Practically overnight, it would bring the nation to its knees.

This level of attack on the United States seems unthinkable. But no power or empire in world history has been immune to attack. Why should America be any different?

The Bible confirms this prospect is very real. Ezekiel 4:3-5 describe a debilitating attack on “the house of Israel.” The timeline of biblical history makes this forecast intriguing—and very relevant to our day.

The house of Israel refers to 10 tribes of Israel that separated from Judah and set up their own kingdom. They were besieged and taken into captivity in 721 B.C. Ezekiel was writing 100 years later. Why would he prophesy about something that happened a century prior? It would be like a modern writer forecasting a German defeat in World War I. Yet this writing was among the infinitesimal few that have been preserved for millennia all the way to today.

If the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, there is only one explanation: Ezekiel was referring to an event in the future. The attack on ancient Israel was only a forerunner of what would happen to its modern descendants. This is in fact why the Bible records so much about the events surrounding this captivity: That history is *prophecy*.

But who are the descendants of ancient Israel? Elsewhere, the Bible prophesies that they would constitute “many nations” (Genesis 17:5) including “a great and mighty nation” (Genesis 18:18), and eventually “thousands of millions” of people (Genesis 24:60). God said these countries would be among the most powerful on Earth.

As Herbert W. Armstrong proved in his free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, the promises recorded in the Bible could

apply only to Britain and America, along with a handful of other countries—the descendants of ancient Israel. This means the dire prophecies in Ezekiel are for us.

Our Fragile World

Ezekiel 4 describes a yearlong siege against modern Israel. It supplies graphic detail about the barbarity to which men are reduced by starvation.

Ezekiel 5:1-3 foretell this besiegement causing mass causalities. Cut off from the world, social problems will explode, cities will burn, and ultimately, one third of the people will die.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, “These nations of Israel are going to be literally besieged—economically frozen out of world trade! As that happens, domestic rioting and violence will become much more prevalent. Already in America today, instances of rioting and burning are occurring more regularly, often associated with racial hatred.”

But how could this kind of siege cause all this destruction? America, Canada and Australia are all net exporters of food. The U.S. is the world’s largest food exporter.

The recent cyberattacks give a very plausible answer. They expose how fragile our civilization is. A pipeline or powerplant can be shut down without a single bomb being dropped or shot fired. Moreover, infrastructure is so interconnected that the disruption can quickly spread, causing further disruption. No fuel, for example, means no workers, which means no supply chain. No microchips means no potato chips. How many resources from around the world are we dependent on without even knowing it?

The Bible doesn’t say so directly, but cyberattacks could be used in this prophesied siege. In ancient times, armies would lay siege to cities, cutting them off from all external commerce, food and water. They would work to *break the will* of the city’s inhabitants and force their surrender. Any means were used. Diseased carcasses would be launched over the walls to try to spread sickness. Public execution of enemy prisoners would sap morale. Propaganda could convince the city that the

plight was hopeless.

In an upcoming siege, might America’s enemies reach over the walls with cyberattacks to weaken the country more quickly?

After the siege will come an outright military attack. Here again, cyberwarfare could play a role. Ezekiel 7:14 warns, “They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.”

“It seems everybody is expecting our people to go into battle, but the greatest tragedy imaginable occurs!” Mr. Flurry wrote. “Nobody goes to battle—even though the trumpet is blown! Will it be because of a computer terrorist?” (*Trumpet*, January 1995).

“America is the greatest superpower this world has ever known,” he warned. “But we have a very vulnerable point in our military—our own Achilles’ heel. It is so dangerous that I am amazed it hasn’t received more publicity.”

Every army is just as dependent on food, water, electricity and fuel as the average civilian. Take away these supplies, and it cannot fight. On top of that, the U.S. military depends heavily on a high-tech communications and weapons systems.

Cyberwarfare could soon play a devastating role in America’s future. The last few weeks have given us a glimpse of that.

But God says He allows these curses for a wonderful and powerful reason. It is the same reason he has allowed the ancestors of the Americans, British, Jews and other nations to suffer attack and defeat. Amid all this destruction, God says repeatedly that His people “shall know that I am the Lord.” (See Ezekiel 5:13; 6:7, 10, 13, 14; 7:4, 9, 27.) We will realize that we are losing our blessings and suffering this destruction because we have refused to know and obey and be grateful toward God. Without God’s help, we will destroy ourselves. But before God can give us the solution to our problems, we must be willing to listen to Him. The coming devastation will finally bring all mankind to recognize this inescapable reality.

Mankind is made in the image of God (Ezekiel 1:26). God has incredible plans for His creation. “Mankind is truly part of something

so splendid and unique it is hard to even describe,” wrote Mr. Flurry. “Man is something magnificent in potential. We look like God, and

He wants us to develop the very *character* of God also.” ■

When the Harvest Fails

Millions of Americans are going to starve. The Bible reveals why. **BY JOSUÉ MICHELS**

YOU WOULDN’T KNOW IT WHEN LOOKING AT your local supermarket’s shelves of 37 different types of bread, but world food production is in peril. Every year, the world avoids large-scale starvation by using fertilizer, pesticides and genetically modified foods. Many people are coming to realize that modern farming practices are producing foods that are disastrous to our health. But scientists fear the situation could get much worse.

The laws of nature are clearly designed for man to benefit from in order to reap a plenteous, healthy harvest each year. Yet from the beginning, mankind has rejected, ignored and tried to circumvent those laws. Now we face the possibility of some of the worst, deadliest agricultural disasters in human history.

Shockingly, this cataclysm could be triggered by a single, trusted nation.

In his booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “Besides nuclear annihilation, there are at least five other means by which mankind could be destroyed from off the face of the globe: chemical warfare, biological warfare, overpopulation and resulting famine, disease epidemics, and environmental pollution.”

By rejecting the laws of nature and of nature’s God, mankind has made us vulnerable in all these things, right down to the annual harvests and the food you eat.

Struggle of Feeding Mankind

Nearly 8 billion people inhabit Earth. Rather than everyone growing much of their own

food as human beings have done for most of history, most people grow little to no food and rely completely on a small number of farmers using mass-scale, modern agricultural practices. This agricultural revolution has abused the soil, pulling out nutrients and never replenishing them. Over the last 50 years, farmers have continued to grow crops by using synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, enabling them to keep neglecting the soil. Some estimates say that without nitrogen fertilizer, half the people on Earth today would have starved to death.

Today, a single crop fills thousands of acres of farmland. To prevent pests from attacking and spreading from one plant of the same kind to the next, the agriculture industry has created pesticides. Pests adapt to these chemicals, so the industry constantly formulates newer, stronger versions. Yet pests still destroy one third of all crops produced in the U.S. If the chemists fall behind the adapting pests, mankind will face disaster. This is to say nothing of the terrible effects human beings suffer by ingesting traces of these chemicals.

Modern agricultural science has also brought us genetically modified organisms—and another food-related vulnerability. The chemical company Monsanto is famous for creating seeds that resist pesticides and poison, which are a plant’s natural competitors. Some see it as a scientific masterpiece; others, as a major step toward inevitable disaster.

For all history, farmers sowed their seeds, watered and weeded their plants, harvested their crops, and stored their seeds for the

following year. But Monsanto and other companies have caused laws to be passed that prohibit farmers from preserving their own seeds due to companies' patents and exclusive licensing rights to control their genetic modifications. It has sued or threatened lawsuits against roughly 850 farmers.

Meanwhile, farmers often rely on *one company* to provide the seeds that are resilient against pests (and pesticides). Farmers in neighboring fields without pest-resistant crops are at risk of super-pests feeding on their crops instead. They therefore are motivated to also buy from companies like Monsanto. Yet pests still destroy a large amount of engineered seed and crops as farmers watch helplessly.

An additional vulnerability is that many plants have been designed to be seedless or to bear seeds that cannot be used for the next harvest.

When Human Solutions Fail

Failed harvests that affect all of us could occur in several ways.

For all history, cattle have naturally eaten grass. But to maximize their profits, American farmers depend on corn to fatten cattle up. The genetically manipulated corn that is grown through the aid of fertilizers and saved through pesticides is fed to herds of cattle and other livestock. If this corn fails suddenly, American agriculture could face a serious crisis.

This could occur if millions of tons of nitrogen fertilizer are not constantly available. This would render millions of acres barren.

Alternatively, it could occur if pests develop faster than pesticides or if bacteria, mold or other threats spread unchecked.

If the field refuses to yield its increase, the nation's livestock would vanish with it.

What would happen next? Panic. Food would be hoarded. In time, stores would be plundered.

The early weeks of the coronavirus pandemic gave us a glimpse of such a scenario. It was likely the first time that millions of Americans witnessed such empty shelves in

their local stores. At the time, the shortages were caused by irrational fear. But what if the fear becomes a reality? What if the farms fail, the suppliers fail, or the transportation fails? What if, day after day, week after week, supermarket shelves stay empty?

Some households will run out of food within days. Others may hold on for a few weeks. In times of famine, neighbor will turn against neighbor, and families turn against their own. One political class will blame the other.

In famine, the character of a nation is tested to the utmost. Flaws that have been kept under cover emerge. Weaknesses that have been ignored will tear the nation down. One can only imagine what this would mean for our impatient, self-gratifying nation today.

But things could get far worse. Just imagine if a foreign entity knew what crops U.S. farmers use, knew their exact genetic makeup, knew what pests they were resilient to and what could harm them. An entity with such power could easily destroy America's food supply.

Now imagine if this entity also had the power to create biological and chemical weapons to serve its malicious purposes.

This is the power currently held by Bayer AG.

Why Take Over Monsanto?

Following multiple rejected offers, Bayer AG succeeded in 2016 with a \$66 billion takeover of Monsanto. It paid \$128 per share, a 44 percent premium over Monsanto's closing price. Congress and regulatory agencies worldwide granted approval, and in 2018, the biggest takeover by a German company in history was complete.

Bayer knew it was taking a great risk. The World Health Organization had reported in 2015 that Monsanto's glyphosate used in Roundup caused cancer in humans. Yet it pressed ahead.

Now America's food supply—and its fate—is largely in the hands of a single company. The German multinational pharmaceutical and life-sciences company is one of the four largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. It is also the company that, some 80 years ago,

helped orchestrate mass murder under Adolf Hitler.

During Hitler's reign, Bayer AG was part of the conglomerate IG Farben, manufacturer of, among other things, the Nazis' death gas, Zyklon B. After the war, the Allied forces divided IG Farben into four separate companies: Bayer, BASF, Hoechst and Cassella. The German *Handelsblatt* called IG Farben "the company that enabled Hitler's world war."

Few people have expressed concern that a company with such roots is now in charge of sustaining the lives of millions of Americans. Most assume that it is international business and politics as usual, with Bayer taking over Monsanto to make money. But the takeover was a financial disaster.

"Bayer, once such a proud company, is now only a shadow of its former self," said Ingo Speich, head of Corporate Governance and Sustainability at Deka Investment. "The year 2020 has impressively shown that the purchase of Monsanto was a wrong decision" (*Trumpet* translation throughout).

Bayer spent roughly 33 years of profits to buy a company plagued by operational problems and, even worse, involved in thousands of lawsuits over Monsanto's allegedly carcinogenic weedkiller glyphosate. In addition to the billions spent in taking over Monsanto, Bayer is now paying billions more to keep the company alive and pay victims of Monsanto's policies.

On the other hand, Bayer has the power to keep Americans from starving.

At the time of the takeover, Monsanto was the world's largest seed company, controlling 23 percent of the global market. In the U.S., Monsanto owned 90 percent of soy, 85 percent of corn, and 95 percent of sugar beets. These ingredients are essential for most processed foods that sustain the average American on a day-to-day basis. In addition, as April Davila noted for *Our World*, everything from cattle to salmon is fed Monsanto corn.

Monsanto was infamous for its unethical, unhealthy approach to altering America's food supply. It has been accused of using wrong practices to stamp out competition,

suppressing small farmers, and endangering the health of millions of people. Monsanto's genetically modified organisms are banned from European markets. Yet Bayer seems to have no problem continuing to sell them in the U.S.

As much damage as Monsanto wrought due to greed, compare it to the damage that Bayer could wreak through malice.

A Glimpse of Future Horrors

A recent Monsanto scandal is instructive. It caused great harm to U.S. farmers and killed some Americans. It also involves another German company that traces back to IG Farben: BASF.

The *Guardian* reported in 2020, "The U.S. agriculture giant Monsanto and the German chemical giant BASF were aware for years that their plan to introduce a new agricultural seed and chemical system would probably lead to damage on many U.S. farms, internal documents seen by the *Guardian* show" (March 30, 2020). Yet these companies unleashed the chemicals anyway. American fields were overrun with weeds that became resistant to Monsanto's glyphosate-based weedkiller, Roundup. Together with BASF, Monsanto produced a different herbicide called dicamba and genetically engineered dicamba-tolerant soybeans and cotton. This was meant to ensure that the weeds, not the crops, would die.

Dicamba has been used since the 1960s, but typically only in small amounts because of how it spread. The two companies promised to create a new dicamba formulation that would not disperse. However, a report prepared for Monsanto in 2009 indicated that the company knew that "off-target movement" was expected and would result in "crop loss," "lawsuits," and "negative press around pesticides."

Pesticides often drift from where they are applied due to wind, water and other factors. As they come into contact with other organisms, they can destroy crops and harm human life. Human exposure to pesticides can cause poisonings and cancer.

Monsanto's negligence, recklessness and greed caused deaths. But it also revealed how a

foreign entity may use food supply as a weapon in future wars.

Chemical Companies, Chemical War

World War II greatly advanced research in the chemical field. Nazi Germany invested large sums to invent weapons of mass destruction. Millions of Jews were gassed by products of chemical companies. By the end of the war, Germany is said to have produced the components for chemical weapons that could have killed millions more on the battlefield.

After the war, many nations pledged not to use biological, herbicidal or chemical warfare. Agrichemical companies turned their industries back toward selling to civilians. Their products were obviously not ideal for the farmers or anyone who eats what they grow, but they found a way to make it profitable.

But just as they changed their modus operandi once, they can change again. With the expertise they have gained since World War II these companies can turn on a dime to develop pesticides or biological agents that, instead of protecting plants, destroy entire crops, leading to large-scale starvation.

Or these agents could be designed to poison food, specifically targeting weaknesses in the immune system. Thus, America's food supply could poison millions. Other bioweapons could target the population directly, like an infectious disease. Just as the weakness of certain plants can be identified and exploited while others are saved alive, the same principal can apply to humans. (For an example, Bayer AG also has access to America's health system; see "No One Fears Germany," page 21.)

In herbicidal warfare, substances are used to destroy plant-based ecosystems. An agricultural company can provide the needed knowledge for this. The chemicals used in pesticides also overlap with those used in chemical warfare.

In addition, as the *Guardian* of Nigeria wrote, "Biological weapons are considerably cheaper than nuclear and chemical weapons and have a large effect-to-quantity ratio. In other words, a relatively small amount of biological

agent can cause a relatively large number of deaths—equivalent, in some assessments, to those resulting from nuclear use. They do not require complex delivery systems, and their ease of manufacture is increasing with advances in science."

Now consider the recent coronavirus outbreak. Massive governmental responses to coronavirus have produced massive amounts of scientific data that genomicists, systems biologists and researchers in artificial intelligence and other fields have used. Some say the information has brought them closer to curing highly infectious diseases like HIV. Vaccines, with largely unknown side effects, were produced at "warp speed." But in addition to the medical unknowns, history shows that major scientific advancements are often, at least partially, advancements in warfare.

A 2019 report from Cambridge University's Center for the Study of Existential Risk stated that futuristic bioweapons powered by artificial intelligence and genetic manipulation would have the power to target specific DNA and kill certain races of people while leaving the rest of the population unharmed. Imagine if Hitler had possessed this power. He could have turned the world into a gas chamber that would have left only "Aryans" alive. Had he owned such a weapon, he certainly would have used it.

Like today's leaders, Hitler used science to strengthen the health of his citizens. In "Nazi Medicine and Research on Human Beings," Prof. Volker Rölecke noted in December 2004: "*Rassenhygiene* (a German equivalent for eugenics) was perceived as an applied science founded on the laws of genetics, and as essential for improving the health of the *volk*, or race."

It was Hitler's goal to strengthen the German people and destroy the Jewish race. In *IBM and the Holocaust*, Edwin Black explains how Hitler worked with the most advanced technology available to destroy every Jewish life, even cooperating with an American company. Imagine how much more devastating the results of such a plot would be today.

In World War II, IG Farben weaponized

its advances in science to provide potency to Hitler's war machine. Today, Bayer and BASF control much of the food production in America—Germany's enemy in World War II. It seems crazy to consider, but is some sinister purpose being worked out behind the scenes? Could Germany already have an advantage in international relations due to its leverage over America's food supply?

Consider this statement by Adolf Hitler on Nov. 9, 1943: "However long this war lasts, we shall never capitulate. We shall not give in at the 11th hour. We shall go on fighting even after 12 o'clock."

Twelve o'clock struck in 1945 when Germany was defeated. But the Nazi underground movement never capitulated. Through various companies, Germany preserved its deadly power. Like many companies of the former Nazi Reich, Bayer settled in Latin America and increased its global reach steadily. Since the war's end, its potential lethality has increased exponentially.

Bayer and Germany controlling American farmland may sound unbelievable. But when you consider historic precedent as well as biblical prophecy, you can see that this is matter is a deadly serious one.

A Nation of Fierce Countenance

The Bible repeatedly warns of a coming famine. God addresses these warnings to the modern descendants of Israel, primarily the Americans, the British and the Jews in the Middle East. (Read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for a detailed explanation of Israel's identity.) The nations that have been given such abundance and prosperity are soon to suffer the most devastating famine this world has ever seen.

Deuteronomy 28 warns, "The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed; which also shall not leave

thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee.

"And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee: So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave: So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates. The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates" (verses 49-57).

The *Interlinear Bible* defines the word *eat* in this passage as "to devour, consume, destroy (inanimate subjects—i.e. pestilence, drought)." In this manner this foreign nation will destroy "the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land" and leave neither "corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep."

Bayer has the power to do all that. But how can we know that this prophecy refers to the schemes of modern Germany?

Notice that this siege and the consequent devastating famine will be caused by a "nation of fierce countenance." Another prophecy in Jeremiah 21:9 specifies the identity of this nation: "He that abideth in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the

pestilence: but he that goeth out, and falleth to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey." Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that "the Chaldeans" refers to modern Germany. (For more information, request *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

Here we see America suffering crop failure and mass starvation. We also now see the nation with power over much of America's food.

Deuteronomy 28 is called the chapter of blessings and curses. Nations and individuals are blessed for obedience to God's law and cursed for disobedience. The modern descendants of Israel are today suffering the curses

of disobedience. They are also being warned that if they continue their rebellious ways, God will use a foreign nation to bring their swift destruction. This has happened throughout history.

But this will not be the end of the story. Though Israel today is held accountable for its rebellion, God does not yet judge their eternal fate—neither does He judge the world. After suffering the devastating consequences of disobeying God, mankind will, in a future resurrection to moral life, learn to obey God's law, reap the blessings of obedience and receive a chance to qualify for eternal life with God.

But the Bible indicates that mankind will have to experience untold suffering before it will learn this vital truth. ■

No One Fears Germany

MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER GERMANY ONE OF America's closest allies. For this reason, Germany is often granted inside information that China seeks illegally. For example, with the coronavirus vaccine rollout, few people would trust China to produce a vaccine that is injected into millions of Americans. But the international community has trusted Germany.

Bill Gates noted that the recent vaccine distribution was made possible by two decades of work by a German scientist: "The first mRNA vaccines, developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna in 2020, are the product of a variety of ideas and discoveries by German scientist Ingmar Hoerr, who spent 20 years conducting experiments with messenger RNA."

Pfizer and the German start-up company BioNTech forged an agreement in 2018 to jointly develop an mRNA-based influenza vaccine. This research prepared them to produce one of the first COVID-19 vaccines. Millions of Israeli, British and U.S. citizens have received the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine under government emergency authorization, before long-term results of the vaccine could be tested.

BioNTech is a small German start-up that has suddenly risen to global importance and

received substantial funding from the U.S. But a giant in the pharmaceutical industry has also been heavily involved: Bayer AG.

Bayer is represented in all strategic business areas in the U.S. and Canada. It had 20,735 employees in North America in 2019 and generated sales of approximately \$18.2 billion. Last year, Bayer helped fund additional testing centers, medical staff support and blood drives for COVID-19 initiatives in the U.S.

China's request to establish testing centers in many U.S. states was refused out of fear that it might use collected DNA against the U.S. But no one feared Bayer's generous offer. Yet it is Bayer that has the scientific understanding and the ability not only to produce bioweapons but to unleash them all over the U.S. Combine the knowledge BioNTech gathered with that of Bayer, and these foreign entities possess a staggering store of information that could be used against Americans.

Since Bayer took over Monsanto, it is not only answerable for the health of millions of U.S. citizens; it is also entrusted with supplying their every meal.

But the medical and agricultural fields are not the only areas in which the U.S. has put its

trust in Germany.

The German and American armies are cooperating in the field of cyberwarfare. According to an Aug. 4, 2020, report in the Bundeswehr's *Newsletter Verteidigung*, "At the end of 2019, Germany and the U.S.A. agreed to intensify their cooperation in the areas of cyber and [information technology]. In the first half of 2020, a bilateral agreement, Cyber-IT Engagement Framework (CITEF), was signed between the two states at ministerial level"

One main task of the U.S.-German cooperation will be "improving interoperability and building trust," the newsletter stated.

America trusts Germany profoundly. On May 8, 2020, German Brig. Gen. Jared Sembratzki became the fourth multinational chief of staff for the United States Army-Europe. The tradition of appointing German generals to this position started in July 2014 with Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal, who was "practically the right hand of the commanding general of the U.S. land forces in Europe, Lt. Gen. Donald Campbell Jr," according to the German edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. U.S. Army-Europe, at the time, was responsible for over 37,000

troops, 90 percent of which are stationed in Germany.

Clearly Germany's geopolitical goals differ from America's. Nevertheless, the U.S. trusts Germany more than ever. Winston Churchill warned of Germany's deceit—and his warnings were proved accurate when World War II erupted. His warning has largely been forgotten today, and an even greater disaster looms.

As we saw in May, a cyberattack can shut down America's gas flow or its financial system (article, page 14). It could also critically damage to America's food production and distribution infrastructure. Germany does not have the world's largest military, but its advances in the agrochemical and medical fields and its insight into America's cyber defense provide clues as to the leverage it possesses over the U.S. Once the giant is on its knees, all that the German-led European superpower would need to do is send an army large enough to finish the job. This army is also in the making (read "Forging a Superpower" in the April 2019 *Trumpet* at theTrumpet.com/18695). All these elements are combining to create a perfect storm, revealing the danger of trusting a foreign nation. ■

Joe Biden's Border Catastrophe

Open-door policies have led to an enormous surge of illegal immigration into the United States. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

AMERICA HAS AN EMERGENCY AT ITS southern border. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris may refuse to acknowledge it, but Border Patrol agents encountered 180,039 migrants at the border in May. Together with the 178,834 migrants encountered in April, that is the highest back-to-back monthly total in more than 20 years. And unlike past migrant surges of Central American families,

this surge consists mostly of single men.

The situation at the southern border has been a crisis for decades. Successive Congresses and presidents have used it in different ways for different purposes. But all have neglected or failed to *solve it* with good laws and good enforcement. Many have intentionally avoided solving it. But those in the Obama-Biden administration and now

Obama's Biden-Harris administration are intentionally breaking the border wide open.

What does this mean for America's immediate future?

Barring Reporters

The illegitimate Biden administration frequently asserts that it is committed to transparency. Yet "transparency" apparently means obscuring facts of how they took power and obscuring facts about how they are using that power. It also apparently means barring reporters from photographing or videoing events at the southern border and even blocking United States senators from documenting conditions in holding facilities.

One of President Biden's first priorities was to undo the immigration policies of President Trump. On his first afternoon in the White House, he reinstated an Obama executive order allowing illegal immigrants to stay if they arrived as children, and he ordered construction on the border wall to halt. The obvious result is that tens of thousands of migrants have started heading toward America. And it appears border agents have been told to let them in.

Detention centers are already over capacity. One Customs and Border Protection facility in Donna, Texas, reached 1,600 percent of its pandemic capacity as more than 4,100 children were packed into a facility designed to hold 250. Yet we do not know the full extent of the overcrowding problem on America's southern border because the Biden administration refuses to let reporters see its detention centers.

Both Republican and Democrat senators have called on the administration to allow journalists access to the facilities, but the Department of Homeland Security continues to deny the media access. When a reporter asked Joe Biden in March if he would commit to transparency at the U.S.-Mexico border, he said, "I will commit to transparency when my plan, very shortly, is underway to let you have access to not just them but to other facilities as well." How long does the world have to wait for that transparency? He would not say.

One might assume he has to clean up the crime scene before he can allow anyone in the media to see it.

Sen. Ted Cruz tried to inspect the detention facilities, but was blocked by a Biden staffer who repeatedly told him, "Please give dignity to the people. Please respect the people, the rules." Senator Cruz responded that he wants to fix a situation where mothers and children are cramped into small outdoor areas with dirt floors during a pandemic. But the Biden administration is worried that Republican solutions will discourage more immigrants from coming, so it bars people like Cruz from entering.

In 2019, when President Donald Trump was dealing with a much less severe migrant crisis and trying to actually solve it with legal and physical walls against illegal migration and orderly methods for legal migration, the propaganda media compared these same detention facilities to Nazi concentration camps. It splashed "children in cages" accusations and photos all over the news. Yet media executives are now shielding Biden from responsibility for a crisis that is undeniably worse and undeniably a result of his radical policy changes. And they brazenly expect you to accept this obvious double standard!

Open Borders

When asked about the escalating border crisis, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki downplayed the situation, saying, "We've dealt with this before. It is often seasonal. It is often cyclical. And [Biden] just wanted to convey that in his effort to communicate and be—provide educational information to the public" (March 26).

Psaki was saying that there is a surge in illegal immigration every spring, so there is nothing to worry about. But this grossly misrepresents reality. Only 34,460 migrants were apprehended at the southern border during March 2020. That means five times as many migrants flooded across the border this spring as compared to last spring. Yet the propaganda media seem to largely accept and repeat Psaki's story line and ignore the undeniable

connection to the Obama-style border *policies* signed by Joe Biden.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, by contrast, knows who is to blame. He says Biden's asylum policies are encouraging illegal immigration and human trafficking along the border with the United States. "They see him as the migrant president, and so many feel they're going to reach the United States," he said. "We need to work together to regulate the flow, because this business can't be tackled from one day to the next."

Sen. James Lankford also knows who is to blame. Even though the media was kept out, Senator Lankford was able to visit a border facility in Arizona. "Ten days ago, I was in Arizona to be able to see the stoppage of the wall at that spot," he said on March 25. "Here is what happened. On January 20, they turned off all the technology installations over there. What my Democrat colleagues have said is that we just need technology, not a wall, not a fence. That day on January 20 they were doing preparation to lay down ground sensors, install cameras, and install lights across the border. All of that stopped on January 20."

So the Biden administration not only stopped building the border wall, they also stopped installing security technology. They basically opened America's doors to illegal immigrants and said, *Welcome to America*. This makes sense when you consider that one migrant camp was spotted flying a Biden presidential campaign flag. To the radical left, the border crisis is a giant voter drive. They know that if they can encourage hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to pour into America, they can create a humanitarian crisis that can only be solved by mass deportations or mass amnesty. And they are betting that the American people will opt for the latter option. The government will be pressured into granting immigrants asylum, and the cycle will repeat, importing the Third World into the United States!

Blame Game

Joe Biden held his first press conference on March 25, shortly after putting his vice

president, Kamala Harris, in charge of dealing with the border. In it, he actually differed from his own press secretary, who tried to deny that there is a border crisis. He said that a crisis does exist, but it is Donald Trump's fault. He said that migrants are surging because President Trump canceled \$700 million in foreign aid to Central American nations. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi made a similar accusation, saying, "The president, then-president, had withdrawn the money that was allocated for the Northern Triangle. That was a mistake, and we have to restore that. They withdrew the money to punish those countries."

Yet President Trump was not offended. In fact, he agreed with Pelosi.

When Fox News host Laura Ingram played Pelosi's statement and asked Mr. Trump if he withdrew the money as a punishment, he said, "Absolutely, that's right. On that, I agree with her. First time in a long time, years, I have agreed with her. We were paying them \$500 million a year. Nobody knew what they were doing with the money, and they were sending criminals to our country. ... They abused us in so many different ways" (March 25).

Even though Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi refuse to admit it, President Trump's punishment strategy actually worked. El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico tightened their border security—until Joe Biden took office.

Now border agents are urging Mr. Trump to visit the border and to do something about the crisis, even though he is not in the White House. "Thousands and thousands of people are coming up right now as we speak, and you're going to have millions of people pouring into our country, and it's going to destroy our country," Trump said in a March 27 interview. "I don't know what they're doing, and they don't know what they're doing. It's a very, very dangerous situation. I'd love not to be involved—somebody else is supposed to be doing it."

The *Trumpet* continues to assert, based on Bible prophecy, that President Trump will return to power ("What Will Happen After Trump Regains Power," theTrumpet.com/23957). We do not know exactly how this

will unfold, but the border crisis may be part of it. A Hill-HarrisX poll of 2,858 registered voters estimated that 76 percent of Americans view the border crisis as something that needs to be addressed immediately. Radical Democrats are not going to do anything about it, and experts are predicting that the border crisis could last several months. So, by the end of this year many Biden-Harris voters may be suffering acute buyers' remorse!

Biblical Identity

Some analysts recognize the dangerous situation playing out not only in the border crisis but also in the government's treacherous response. But a much deeper analysis reveals far more about America's illegal immigration crisis. That analysis comes from the prophecies of the Bible.

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong identified early American immigrants as being descendants of Abraham. Abraham's grandson, Jacob, passed his birthright promises on to the sons of his son Joseph (Genesis 48). Jacob said that the descendants of the one grandson, Ephraim, would become a company of nations, while the other grandson, Manasseh, would become a single great nation.

Genesis 49:22 says, "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall." Joseph's descendants, in other words, were to be a *colonizing* people in the latter days. That is exactly what they did, branching out from the British Isles all over the Earth, including North America.

Mr. Armstrong explained that Ephraim's descendants are Great Britain, and Manasseh's descendants are the United States. Many American immigrants came from nations other than England. "A large part of Manasseh remained with Ephraim until the separation of New England," he wrote. "But our forefathers were to be sifted through many nations, as corn through a sieve, yet not a grain to fall to the earth or be lost (Amos 9:9)" (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

Ephraim and much of Manasseh filtered through many different nations before they

eventually immigrated to England together. Many descendants of Manasseh, however, remained within the nations to which they had scattered. These descendants eventually came to America when people began immigrating to the new colony. Not every European immigrant was a descendant of Manasseh, but a great majority were.

Like modern-day America, ancient Israel was a "melting pot" that accepted Gentile immigrants—though God's law specified that these immigrants had to obey the laws of Israel if they were to be accepted (Exodus 12:49; Leviticus 19:34; Numbers 9:14). So the fact that the descendants of Manasseh have mingled together with Gentile immigrants is actually further proof of who the United States is in biblical prophecy.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Thus we have become known as the 'melting pot' of the world. Instead of refuting our Manasseh ancestry, this fact actually confirms it. The proof that we are Manasseh is overwhelming. Manasseh was to separate from Ephraim and become the greatest, wealthiest single nation of Earth's history" (*ibid*).

But under the Biden administration America has reached a tipping point. The thousands of immigrants currently pouring into the nation are not being vetted or going through the legal immigration process, and most of them are not interested in following America's laws and adopting America's culture.

As Pat Buchanan wrote in 2014, "We no longer speak the same language, worship the same God, honor the same heroes, or share the same holidays. ... Our politics have become poisonous. Our political parties are at each other's throats. Christianity is in decline. Traditional churches are sundering over moral issues like abortion and same-sex marriage. Islam is surging. Our society seems to be disintegrating."

In other words, we are no longer one nation, made up of one melted-together people. Instead, we have become a balkanized nation of feuding ethnicities and cultures on the verge of race war!

Fundamental Transformation

The blessings God bestowed on us because of Abraham's faithful obedience are now being withdrawn because of our many sins. Even well-known commentators who disregard prophecy and reject America's biblical identity can see that we are on a disastrous course. America is splitting apart at the seams.

Look at the border and think about Deuteronomy 28:43, which says, "The sojourner who is among you shall mount above you higher and higher; and you shall come down lower and lower" (Revised Standard Version).

This scripture is an end-time prophecy about the United States and Great Britain.

Simply look around to see that this prophecy and others are being fulfilled today. Sojourners, strangers, immigrants and aliens are taking over the United States. Lax immigration policies and weak borders are helping to fulfill the Bible's prophecies! The flood of illegal immigrants highlights a fundamental disregard for law. It exposes and exacerbates the loss of a common culture. America's inability to protect its borders shows that the very things that define the United States as a nation are eroding.

The Prophet Isaiah says this crisis will intensify until the nation is destroyed: "Your country lies desolate, your cities are burned with fire; in your very presence aliens devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown by aliens" (Isaiah 1:7; RSV). Illegal immigrants are coming up from Central and South America, and drug cartels are exploiting this crisis to smuggle drugs and people into America—including many from other countries who are interested in infiltrating and committing crime and terrorism in this country.

Currently, the aliens flooding across America's southern border are from Central and South America, but Bible prophecy shows that they will soon be joined by hostile invaders from Europe (Isaiah 10:5-7). A future Trump administration will likely try to clamp down on border security, but without God's help, the open-border policies being pushed in America will weaken the nation to where it can no longer resist a military invasion!

To paraphrase Ronald Reagan, once a nation loses control of its borders, it is no longer really a nation. This is happening right now to the United States. And its own government is abetting it, to its own demise! ■

Drug Cartels Are in Control

SUPPOSEDLY, THE BORDER BETWEEN THE United States and Mexico is controlled by the governments of the United States and Mexico. In reality, it is controlled by neither. According to retired U.S. Marshal Robert Almonte, drug cartels control "all of the activity" on the border.

Border Patrol agents say the majority of the single adults they apprehend are men who say they are looking for work such as picking produce, roofing and dishwashing. But an unknown number are also members of or being used by drug cartels.

"It used to be just smuggling drugs, but they're into everything You have what you call gatekeepers there that control everything," Almonte told *Fox & Friends* on April 1. "Cartels

are heavily involved in human smuggling because they're making a lot of money. They've been doing that for a while, and now they've increased their activities there."

Drug cartels make an estimated \$18 billion to \$39 billion from drug sales in the U.S. each year, but a migrant crisis can really boost their smuggling revenue. "It's a boom for them—it's huge," Hidalgo County Sheriff J.E. Guerra told the *New York Post*. "Anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for every single body."

About 20 percent of Mexico's 760,000 square miles of territory are controlled not by the government of Mexico but by criminal cartels. So people should be concerned about Biden administration policies enriching and encouraging human traffickers. Unless

America starts enforcing its immigration laws and sending illegal immigrants back to their home countries, thousands will pay cartels \$1,000 to be smuggled across the border, where, if apprehended, they will be taken to a border facility that does not have enough beds for the people already there.

Stratfor analyst Peter Zeihan noted how the drug trade is a way for U.S. adversaries to attack America without starting a war. “[E]ven if every country in South America were run by anti-American governments, it would not overly concern Washington; these states, alone or en masse, lack the ability to threaten American interests ... in all ways but one,” he wrote in 2008. “The drug trade undermines American society from within, generating massive costs for social stability, law enforcement, the health system and trade.” These “massive costs” to social stability, law enforcement and health care equal about 5 percent of America’s gross domestic product, according to addiction psychiatrist Dr. Indra Cidambi.

Yet the strategic threats of the drug trade go beyond economic losses. As drug cartels turn Mexico into a failed state, they are posing a territorial threat to the United States. “In many regards, Mexico as a failed state would be a worse result for Washington than a hostile, united Mexico,” Zeihan wrote. “A hostile Mexico could be intimidated, sanctioned or even invaded, effectively browbeaten into submission. But a failed Mexico would not restrict the drug trade at all. The border would be chaos, and the implications of that go well beyond drugs. One of the United States’ largest trading partners could well devolve into a seething anarchy that could not help but leak into the U.S. proper” (*ibid*).

America’s southern border is now a seething anarchy. And the most powerful leaders in America are making it worse.

In a sobering prophecy, God likens end-time Israel to a hedged vineyard. It has been protected to the north, south, east and west. But because of the people’s sins, God warns, “... I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof,

and it shall be trodden down” (Isaiah 5:5).

This description of a hedged vineyard fits no nation better than the United States. The U.S. is protected on the west by the world’s largest ocean and the Rocky Mountains. It is protected on the north by the Arctic tundra and the friendly nation of Canada. It is protected on the east by the world’s second-largest ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. It is protected on the south by the Chihuahuan Desert and the largely friendly nation of Mexico. Protected within these natural fortifications is the homeland, including the Mississippi Basin, the world’s largest contiguous expanse of arable land.

But now the hedge on America’s southern border is being taken away, from outside and from within!

ANDREW MIILLER

Are ‘Anglo-Saxon’ Values Really Racist?

Leftists are trying to blot out American values that trace back 4,000 years. **BY ANDREW MILLER**

THE OFFICE OF REP. MARJORIE TAYLOR Greene announced on April 16 that Representative Greene was launching an America First Caucus for Congressional representatives who want to follow the values championed by President Donald Trump. But Greene scrapped these plans after receiving blowback from leaders in her own party. After Punchbowl News leaked a flyer promoting the new caucus, it became public knowledge that Representative Greene believes “America is a nation with a border, and a culture, strengthened by a common respect for uniquely Anglo-Saxon political traditions.”

This sparked immediate condemnation from activists, scholars and even other Republican politicians.

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy responded to Greene’s proposal in an April 16 Twitter post: “America is built on the idea that we are all created equal and success is earned through honest, hard work. It isn’t built on identity, race or religion. The Republican Party is the party of Lincoln and the party of more opportunity for all Americans—not nativist dog whistles.” The Republican conference chair at the time, Rep. Liz Cheney, wrote: “Republicans believe in equal opportunity, freedom and justice for all. We teach our children the values of tolerance, decency and moral courage. Racism, nativism, and anti-Semitism are evil. History teaches we all have an obligation to confront and reject such malicious hate.”

Former House Speaker John Boehner said, “America First Caucus is one of the nuttiest things I’ve ever seen. ... We’ve been the world’s giant melting pot for 250 years. And we ought to celebrate the fact that we are this giant

melting pot.”

Is stating that America’s political traditions are “uniquely Anglo-Saxon,” or that mass immigration threatens “the long-term existential future of America as a unique country with a unique culture and a unique identity,” worthy of condemnation? Is it really “controversial,” “nativist” and “racist” to believe these things?

Anglo-Saxon Political Traditions

The United States grants legal permanent residence to about 1 million immigrants a year. The reason for limiting the quantity is to give time for newcomers to embrace and become part of American culture. Some people think the government should admit fewer immigrants. Some think it should admit more. But it is self-evident that the only people arguing for mass immigration are those who want to change America’s unique political traditions, culture and identity.

The mainstream media piled on Greene. *Vanity Fair* editors actually titled their reaction “Republicans Are Basically Starting a White Supremacist Caucus.” *Washington Post* bosses published “In the U.S., Praise for Anglo-Saxon Heritage Has Always Been About White Supremacy.” The *Atlantic* went with “‘Anglo-Saxon’ Is What You Say When ‘Whites Only’ Is Too Inclusive.” If you want to attract the wrath of liberals, say something supportive about Anglo-Saxon heritage.

Only about 1 in 5 Americans claim British heritage, and almost none of them believe in Anglo-Saxon racial superiority. So why are politicians and commentators swarming this story about Anglo-Saxon political traditions?

When most conservatives say “Anglo-Saxon political traditions,” they do not mean Anglo-Saxon people. They mean the political traditions the Anglo-Saxon people developed and spread around the world: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of trade, freedom of religion, equality of all men, rule of law and limited government.

“It may come as a surprise to some American readers to learn that, in the eyes of many Continental European commentators, they and the British and the Australians and others form part of a continuous ‘Anglo-Saxon’ civilization, whose chief characteristic is a commitment to free markets,” Daniel Hannan writes in *Inventing Freedom: How the English-Speaking Peoples Made the Modern World*. “Anglo-Saxon values ... had their genesis in the earliest Anglo-Saxon settlements, in the dark years, violent and unchronicled. From that era came three interrelated concepts that were to transform humankind. First, the idea of personal autonomy, including in contract and property rights; second, the notion that collective decisions ought to be made by representatives who are answerable to the community as a whole; third, the conception of the law as something more than a projection of the wishes of a ruler, as a folkright of inherited freedoms that bound the king just as surely as it bound his meanest subjects.”

Do the liberal attack dogs tearing apart Representative Greene’s America First Caucus believe that your personal freedoms, your right to limit your government, and your belief that there is a higher law are nativist and racist? Considering what many of them want to replace Anglo-Saxon political traditions with, the stunning answer is yes.

British Folkways Into America

Today, 55 percent of human beings live in nations that at least claim to follow democratic principles. We take concepts like personal autonomy, property rights, representative government and the rule of law for granted. But four centuries ago, these concepts were almost exclusive to the British Empire. The book *Albion’s Seed: Four British Folkways in*

America, by David Hackett Fischer, documents how these values were first brought to the Western Hemisphere between 1620 and 1640 by more than 20,000 Puritans who migrated from East Anglia to Massachusetts.

It was the original intent of Thomas Jefferson to have an image of the Anglo-Saxon kings Hengist and Horsa on one side of the Great Seal of the United States, and an image of Moses and the Israelites following a pillar of fire out of Egypt on the other side. He recognized the similarities between Anglo-Saxon common law and the laws of ancient Israel, and the U.S. Constitution was based on these common political principles.

But here is what even historians and constitutional conservatives do not understand. They love freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, the free market, freedom of religion, majority rule with minority protection, rule of law, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, governance through elected representatives, equality of all men, and inviolable individual rights granted by a higher power than human government.

But they admit they do not know where these principles ultimately came from.

Contrary to Hannan’s belief, the foundation upon which these principles were established *was not* built in “the dark years, violent and unchronicled.” It *did not* originate in the minds of Anglo-Saxon common people and their leaders.

Records such as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (A.D. 890) and the Ynglinga saga (A.D. 1225), although obviously colored with legend, attest that 22 generations prior to the birth of King Alfred the Great, the Angles, Saxons, Danes, Norse, Swedes and other related peoples lived near the city of Tanais on the north shore of the Black Sea. These people migrated to northwestern Europe during the era when the Roman Empire expanded into the region. These ancient Sakasones spoke the language of the Medes, but their political traditions came directly from the lost 10 tribes of ancient Israel.

Lost Tribes of Israel

In his most popular book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong proved that the Angles and Saxons actually descended from the lost Israelite tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.

“Through the rule of 19 kings and seven successive dynasties, the 10-tribed house of Israel continued in the basic twin sins of Jeroboam: idolatry and Sabbath-breaking. Several of the kings added other evil and sinful practices,” he wrote. “But in 721–718 B.C., God caused the house of Israel to be invaded and conquered by the kingdom of Assyria. These Israelites were removed from their farms and their cities and taken to Assyria on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea as slaves. ... The Assyrians—before 604 B.C.—left their land north of Babylon and migrated northwest—through the lands that are now Georgia, Ukraine, Poland, and into the land that is called Germany today. Today the descendants of those Assyrians are known to us as the German people. The people of 10-tribed Israel also migrated northwest. Though the Assyrians had taken Israel into captivity, the Israelites did not remain as slaves of the Assyrians in Europe. They continued on a little further—into Western Europe, the Scandinavian peninsula, and the British Isles!”

The history of the United States and Britain is the history of the Angles and Saxons and related peoples. And that history traces back to ancient Israel! And far from exalting the Anglo-Saxons, this history *humbles* them. The precious, positive, world-changing values that the Angles and Saxons spread across the globe came not *because* of them but *in spite* of them. The history of America’s forefathers is the history of rebellion, failure and subjugation. The continued *existence* of the Israelites—let alone their positive influence on the world—is attributable not to Israel but to the God of Israel.

God promised great blessings to the Israelites. But in Leviticus 26, He warned them that if they sinned against Him, He would delay those promises for 2,520 years (for proof, read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser III carried the eastern half of the tribe of Manasseh away captive in 732 B.C. Then King Sargon II carried the other half of the tribe away (along with the tribe of Ephraim) in 718 B.C. Count forward 2,520 years from 732 B.C. and you arrive at 1789, the year Congress added the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution. Count forward 2,520 years from 718 B.C. and you arrive at 1803, the year of the history-altering Louisiana Purchase that began America’s rise to becoming the greatest power in world history.

This is not the history of a great or superior people. This is the history of a great and superior God.

When radical leftists try to blot out “Anglo-Saxon political traditions” through vicious political attacks, mass migration and other means, they are not really attacking white supremacy. Nor are they defending equal opportunity, liberty and justice for all. They are attacking the reality of history, and they are attacking the Bible itself!

Worldwatch

Macron: ‘Napoleon is a part of us’

France commemorated the 200th anniversary of the death of Napoleon Bonaparte on May 5, prompting a heated debate over his legacy. French President Emmanuel Macron responded by saying, “Napoleon is a part of us.”

For the past 50 years, French presidents have avoided officially honoring Napoleon. Macron ventured into the culture war, however, by visiting Napoleon’s grave to honor the anniversary. Macron said that Napoleon was both “ogre and eagle, Alexander and Nero ... the soul of the world and the demon of Europe,” trying to appease those who despise Napoleon as an imperialist warmonger, yet also acknowledging those who, like French far-right nationalist leader Marine Le Pen, consider him “an eternal French hero.”

While English-speaking nations in the West are “canceling” their own historical figures, Macron’s cautious commemoration of a man who reintroduced slavery and caused some of the greatest bloodshed in European history is part of a revival of French and European pride.

Adolf Hitler also paid homage to Napoleon in 1940 at the exact same location as Macron. Like Napoleon, Hitler sought an alliance with the Roman Catholic Church, signed a concordat with the Vatican, praised the ancient French-German warlord Charlemagne, and enslaved and murdered many in an effort to dominate Europe and rule the world, only to fail in conquering Britain and suffering disaster after attempting to invade Russia. Hitler is viewed by most today as an evil tyrant, yet Napoleon is considered more complex.

The Bible categorizes both of these men as part of the same system. “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space” (Revelation 17:10). This prophesies seven resurrections throughout history of the Holy Roman Empire. This sixth resurrection of this system has come and gone, and as Europe revives its heritage, the seventh is coming. ■

French retired generals threaten military coup against Islamism

“The hour is grave. France is in jeopardy, threatened by several mortal dangers.” That is the beginning of an open letter addressed to French President Emmanuel Macron and his government (*Trumpet* translation throughout). It was signed on April 21 by 20 former generals and more than 1,500 members of the military, police and gendarmerie, and calls on France’s leaders to “safeguard the nation” from Islamic threats and to preserve France’s history.

“[W]e remain soldiers of France and cannot in the present circumstances remain indifferent to the fate of our beautiful country,” the letter states. It expresses fear that France is “disintegrating with the Islamists of the hordes of the suburbs who are detaching large parts of the nation and turning them into territory subject to dogmas contrary to our constitution.”

The open letter was published in *Valeurs Actuelles*, which is considered a right-wing newsmagazine. Since its publication, it has attracted thousands more signatures from those who fear a military uprising and civil war.

Saying that a military coup might be necessary in a First World nation sounds extreme. It takes a lot of courage to sign an open letter that has gone viral and that your neighbors and acquaintances might read. But more and more Frenchmen see the situation as urgent enough to take this risk.

“[E]nough procrastination. The hour is serious; the work is colossal,” the letter further states. “Do not waste time and know that we are ready to support the policies that will take into consideration the safeguarding of the nation. ... We can see that there is no more time to procrastinate, otherwise imminent civil war will put an end to this growing chaos, and the deaths, for which you will be responsible, will amount to thousands.”

Geopolitical Futures noted: “That so many current members of the defense and security establishment were willing to sign the letter

suggests they do not fear punishment. This is especially notable in a country like France, with a history of the military getting involved in domestic politics.” ■

Islamic terror strikes France yet again

A terrorist fatally stabbed a woman in a police station on April 23 in the French town of Rambouillet, near Paris. Jamel Gorchene, a Tunisian man in his mid-30s, is known to have adopted strict Islamic practices, to have premeditated the attack by surveying the station beforehand, and to have watched videos of pro-jihad songs immediately before the attack. Stéphanie Monfermé, a 49-year-old administrative assistant at the station and mother of two put money in a parking meter. Gorchene then followed her inside, shouted “Allahu Akbar,” and began stabbing. A police officer shot Gorchene dead.

Gorchene entered France illegally in 2009 and obtained a residence permit in 2019. He has the same Tunisian hometown as Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, the terrorist who used a truck to murder 86 people in Nice in 2016.

In September, a Pakistani immigrant attacked two people with a meat cleaver outside the former offices of a French satirical magazine. On Oct. 16, 2020, an 18-year-old Chechyan refugee beheaded teacher Samuel Paty. Two weeks later, a Tunisian migrant, who had been in France for about a month, killed three people in a church in Nice.

“For years, France has refused to confront radical Islam as it grew within its borders,” we wrote in the January 2021 *Trumpet*. “Now the government is strengthening itself to confront that problem. But aspects of the new approach point to a new authoritarian direction for the country.” ■

Iran advances uranium enrichment

The Iranian regime announced on April 16 that it has enriched uranium to 60 percent purity, the highest level ever publicly acknowledged by the regime. The work necessary to enrich from 60 percent to 90 percent (weapons-grade) is minimal by comparison.

Iran continues to advance and advertise its nuclear program despite ongoing negotiations with American and European diplomats. What explains its relentless, aggressive, seemingly self-destructive behavior? The regime espouses Twelver Shiism and therefore welcomes world chaos as the catalyst for the emergence of its mahdi to establish Islamic governance over the entire planet. Iran’s nuclear ambitions are unconstrained by pragmatism: They are motivated by radical ideology.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40). *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has consistently identified the “king of the south” in this prophecy as radical Islam, led by Iran, and the “king of the north” as Europe, led by Germany. The conflict described here begins with repeated acts of provocation by the former, and overwhelming destruction wrought by the latter, sparking a global war. ■

Russia completes ‘peacekeeping’ bases in former Soviet Union

Russian military workers finished building 30 “peacekeeper” bases in Nagorno-Karabakh on May 8. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the bases took four months to complete and will provide accommodation for nearly 2,000 Russian troops keeping the peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The bases are part of an agreement Russia made last November to end a war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over who controls the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Early in his reign, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the collapse of the Soviet Union was “the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century.” He has spent a great deal of his 20 years as Russia’s leader trying to reverse that “catastrophe.” In 2008, his forces invaded the former Soviet nation of Georgia and brought a fifth of the nation’s territory under Russian control. Six years later, he invaded the former

Soviet state of Ukraine and annexed Crimea. Now he is positioned to do the same in the South Caucasus.

■ people's thinking.

"We hope that the majority of Internet users will actively play their part in supervising society ... and enthusiastically report harmful information."

France pressures Lebanese politicians
The French government will penalize Lebanese politicians it deems to be impeding the formation of a new government, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves le Drian said in an April 29 press release. This may include barring entry to France or economic sanctions for any politician it deems to be "obstructing a way out of the crisis." The mere threat of this constitutes a serious intervention in the political process of a foreign nation.

On May 6, le Drian held a little-publicized meeting with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, parliament speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri. *Arab Weekly* reported him as telling reporters that if Lebanon, which is a former French colony, does not "act now in a responsible surge of effort," the country "will face the consequences of this failure."

Psalm 83 prophesies an alliance between Europe and certain Middle Eastern nations—an alliance that has never formed in history but is forming right now. Assur (Assyria) refers to Germany and Gebal refers to Lebanon. France's increasing involvement in Lebanon is helping form this alliance and leading to war between Catholic Europe and the radical Islamist Middle East.

■ In February, Chinese lawmakers amended China's constitution to stipulate that individuals who "insult, slander or infringe upon" the memory of Communist Party heroes may be imprisoned for up to three years. Chinese law also imposes prison time for those convicted of publishing criticism of government policies or questioning the Communist Party's account of past events. The conviction rate in Chinese courts is 99.97 percent.

The Chinese government, led by dictator Xi Jinping, is increasing its power over the Chinese nation, which itself is increasing in economic, political and military power. Bible prophecy reveals that China will continue growing more powerful and that it and other authoritarian governments will soon dominate the world. For more information, read "What Are the Times of the Gentiles?" at theTrumpet.com/11783.

App lets Chinese report others for 'mistaken opinions'

The Chinese Communist Party has launched a new app for citizens to report each other to authorities for expressing "mistaken opinions" about the government.

An April 9 statement by the Cyberspace Administration of China said that the app gives users an "active role" in identifying "malicious people distorting facts and confusing [others]. For a while now, some people with ulterior motives ... have spread historically nihilistic false statements online, maliciously distorting, slandering and denying party, national and military history in an attempt to confuse

Putin and Xi could create a 'nightmare scenario' for the U.S. military

In April, Russia amassed more than 110,000 troops near Ukraine, and China simultaneously committed record numbers of incursions into Taiwan's airspace. The concurrent developments raised fears about how the United States military could respond to two simultaneous invasions.

"Let's face it: Regional war in Europe is again thought of as a possibility on both sides, and this should not make anyone happy," the Moscow Carnegie Center's Dmitri Trenin said on April 14. "Even in the U.S., because such a war will not be limited to the Old Continent. Fasten your seat belts."

A Chinese government spokesman said: "The signal given by the military drills is that we are determined to stop Taiwan independence and stop Taiwan from working with the U.S."

The United States still operates the world's largest and most powerful military. But a landmark report by the Heritage Foundation

in 2019 forecast that if two major conflicts were to erupt simultaneously, the U.S. may be unable to muster an adequate response.

Former U.S. Army Lt. Col. Daniel Davis said a two-front war with Russia and China over Ukraine and Taiwan would be the “absolute worst-case scenario for U.S. security.” He wrote that the “nightmare scenario,” which has been only a remote possibility for more than 75 years, is now much more likely, leaving the U.S. with a “horrifying dilemma: choose to engage in a battle that could leave our armed forces fatally gouged or face humiliation by refusing to fight in the face of aggressive forces.” ■

The true inflation rate would crash the market

Many economists, investors and everyday people are getting nervous about inflation. The United States government has already spent more than \$5.3 trillion to supposedly mitigate the economic burden of its own COVID-19 lockdowns. And the Federal Reserve has pumped more than \$4 trillion into circulation.

That means \$1 out of every \$5 of all the easily spendable dollars in existence has been created during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell warned investors on April 28 that inflation could rise in the coming months. But the situation is actually a lot worse than Powell is willing to admit.

In April, the consumer price index was up 4.2 percent over the previous year, the fastest year-over-year increase in more than 12 years. Yet anyone who keeps detailed records of their expenses has probably noticed that the cost of goods and services in the United States has gone up by more than 4.2 percent over the course of the past 12 months.

This is because the government manipulates the statistics. In the past 30 years, it has changed the way it calculates inflation more than 20 times, always resulting in a lower inflation rate. According to shadowstats.com, if inflation were still calculated the way it was in 1980, today’s rate would be roughly 12 percent. ■

Second Steele dossier exposes FBI doubling down on its own corruption

The *Telegraph* revealed on May 3 that Christopher Steele wrote a second dossier while Donald Trump was president. Steele is the infamous former British spy hired by those connected to Hilary Clinton’s presidential campaign to write a dossier of accusations against Trump. He filled the dossier with unsubstantiated accusations of sexual perversion in Moscow and collusion with the Russian government. Sources, including Central Intelligence Agency analysts, dismissed the dossier as “Internet rumor.”

Nonetheless, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigations used Steele’s accusations to spy on the Trump campaign and ultimately to conduct a two-year investigation that produced zero evidence of Russian collusion.

Now it has emerged that the FBI continued to use Steele, even after President Trump was inaugurated and the first dossier came under scrutiny. The second dossier also made accusations that Trump had engaged in sexual misconduct, that Russians had proof of it, and that Russia interfered with the 2016 presidential elections. The FBI’s acceptance of a second Steele dossier reveals deep corruption inside the United States government.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in “America Has No Helper” that 2 Kings 14:26-27 prophesied this corruption: “For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel. And the Lord said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.”

“Israel” refers prophetically to America and Britain, and these verses shows there are people working to “blot out the name of Israel from under heaven,” and many of them are within the American government. ■

SOCIETYWATCH

Hollywood Is Getting Schooled in Wokeness

Children at Hollywood's Harvard-Westlake high school are being indoctrinated in "left-wing nonsense" that has been described as "wokeness gone mad," according to an April 18 *Daily Mail* exposé. The students at the \$43,000-a-year school are the children of Hollywood's elite. But the new report shows that even the leftist parents of Hollywood are frustrated by the radicalism of the school's curriculum.

"There is a growing group of parents who are desperately unhappy with how things are going," one mother said on the condition of anonymity. "But we talk in secret."

Harvard-Westlake's new Diversity, Equality and Inclusion program mandates that teachers attend a training course taught by Bettina Love, a critical race theorist who believes "[r]acism runs deep in America and blacks alone know who America really is." She also believes that schools intrinsically perpetuate anti-blackness and are guilty of the "spirit murder" of black students. Instead of learning about the Treaty of Versailles and the Columbian Epoch, students are learning about the women's liberation movement and the Black Lives Matter movement. Several schools have banned "white" literary texts, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Little Women*, replacing them with texts such as *Stamped and Racism, Anti-Racism and You*.

Hollywood parents, unwilling to commit career suicide, are afraid to question it. Many outside Hollywood are similarly timid. Many who are confused and worried about what is going on in this country scoff at the mere mention of the Bible, yet it specifically prophesies what is occurring in our nation today. The Prophet Isaiah warned, "And judgment 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: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him

that there was no judgment" (Isaiah 59:14-15). Many are concerned that truth has fallen in the streets, but few are willing to help it up. ■

Internet Censorship Comes to Canada

Canadian Heritage Minister Stephen Guilbeault tabled Bill C-10 in November 2020, a proposed law that supporters say would protect Canadians from "online harms" but that many leading and ordinary Canadian citizens fear is a massive violation of their liberties.

The law would mandate that content deemed as dangerous or harmful be taken down within 24 hours. Failure to comply on the part of the media platform or the individual could result in a fine of up to \$15 million.

Law professor Michael Geist labeled the current Liberal government as "the most anti-Internet government in Canadian history" and "one of the most comprehensive peace-time attempts to redefine free expression in Canada."

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11). This describes a time when God's warning message will no longer be available. Why? There will come a point where "the land is not able to bear all his words" and God's people will be expelled (Amos 7:10). The *Trumpet* warning message you are reading now will not last forever. ■

Retired Generals Warn of the End of America

More than 120 retired American generals and admirals published an open letter to the Biden administration on May 10. It warned: "Our nation is in deep peril. We are in a fight for our survival as a constitutional republic like no other time since our founding in 1776. The conflict is between supporters of socialism and Marxism versus supporters of constitutional freedom and liberty." It also warned that Democrats in Congress and in the Biden

administration are turning America “toward socialism and a Marxist form of tyrannical government which must be countered now by electing congressional and presidential candidates who will always *act* to defend our constitutional republic. The survival of our nation and its cherished freedoms, liberty and historic values are at stake.”

In “What Will Happen After Trump Regains Power,” editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained that President Donald Trump was

the legitimate winner of the 2020 election and that the Bible prophesies he will return to power, but “the indication is that regaining office may take considerable work. Donald Trump will have to fight for it. It doesn’t have to be military action, but it certainly could.” So many top retired military leaders sounding the alarm could be an early indicator that the fight between Marxism and supporters of constitutional freedom is about to intensify. ■

PRINCIPLES OF LIVING JOEL HILLIKER

The Right Way to Obey God

It's a matter of the heart.

DID YOU KNOW THAT SATAN OBEYS GOD? Maybe you've never thought about this. But God is more powerful than the devil—so when God commands, Satan complies.

When God wanted to free the Israelites from Egypt, Pharaoh repeatedly refused. But God hit him with so many terrible curses that he finally gave in (Exodus 12:29-32). Pharaoh was a type of the devil.

In the book of Job, Satan appeared before God to accuse this righteous man (Job 1:6-8). He said, “Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?” (verse 10). The devil wanted to bring Job down, but he couldn't cross the boundary God had placed.

God told Satan, *Do what you will, but don't harm Job himself* (verse 12). God chose to *redraw that boundary* to test and develop Job's character. Satan charged up to the borderline, destroying almost everything Job possessed. But he didn't cross it (verses 13-22). Then he pressed God, hungry to attack even harder. God responded, “Behold, he is in thine hand; but *save his life*” (Job 2:6). So again God commanded: *This far and no farther*. Satan struck the poor man with boils from foot to crown (verse 7)—but

obeyed. He did not kill Job.

Satan has zero mercy. He's full of hate; he's eager to unleash misery; he has no self-restraint. *The only thing that restrains him is God.* He is unable to defy his Maker.

In Matthew 4:10-11, Jesus Christ commanded, “Be gone, Satan,” and the devil left. In Revelation 12:9-12, God cast Satan and his demons out of heaven. He confined them to Earth, and they complied.

The *devil obeys God—and he completely hates God!* That tells you something important: Obedience to God is not enough.

Many people are perfectly willing to do things they shouldn't if nobody is watching. They will work when the boss is around and loaf when he's gone. They obey grudgingly, because they might get thumped if they don't. Many people would commit crimes if they knew they wouldn't get caught. But from His children, God wants a *different kind* of obedience!

Yes, at times God does *demand submission*, as He did with Satan. Within the family, God commands parents to punish children for disobedience as a means of establishing obedience as a habit (e.g. Proverbs 22:15; 29:15, 17). But that is only a *starting point* for the right

kind of obedience to God.

Psalm 111:10 says, “The *fear* of the Lord is the *beginning* of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that *do his commandments* [or *obeyrespect and reverence* for the Lawmaker. This proper fear leads to maturity and wisdom. Obedience to righteous laws produces understanding, which reinforces respect for the Lawgiver.

The more you obey God’s law, the more you will understand it. And the more you understand God’s law, the more you come to *love* it. That love inspires the kind of obedience God is looking for.

In Ephesians 6:5-6, the Apostle Paul tells workers to obey their bosses—but not in just any old way. He specifically says, “Not with eyerservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, *doing the will of God from the heart*.” Obey your boss as if he were Christ Himself—sincerely, *wholeheartedly*. That is the obedience God wants.

Mere obedience doesn’t necessarily make you any better than the devil! The question is, what is happening in your heart? Romans 6:17 praises those who obey “*from the heart*.” God wants you to practice such obedience toward the authorities in your life as a means of developing it *toward Him*.

Do you obey God out of obligation or out of love? Examine your motives and train your heart to want to obey—to *please* God.

Deuteronomy 10:12 says, “And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to *fear* the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways [or *obey*], and to *love him*, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.” Note the progression: Godly fear leads to obedience, which leads to *love*—which inspires you to commit to a life of eternal service in God’s Family!

God doesn’t want grudging, satanic obedience. He wants joyful, heartfelt obedience. He wants His children to *love* His way of life just as He does.

“O how love I thy law!” (Psalm 119:97). Learn to *love* the Sabbath, the holy days, tithing and all God’s laws! Get to the point where if someone said, “You don’t *have to* keep the Sabbath

anymore,” that would sound just as ridiculous as, “You don’t *have to* enjoy your favorite food anymore.”

That love is what motivated Jesus Christ to obey His Father, even to the point of torture and death.

This depth of love and obedience is not something you can work up yourself. You have to pray that God will help you by the power of His Holy Spirit working with you.

But the more you love God and His way, the harder you’ll strive to obey Him—because you *want* to. And soon, you’ll be able to work together with God to teach the *whole world* to keep that beautiful God Family law of love.

The Truth Shall Make You Free

But how do you find it?

HERE IS A QUESTION YOU PROBABLY NEVER stop and think about. But it affects everyone around you, and it affects you—all day, every day. The question is this: Why do we have so much information, yet so many problems?

Now more than ever in human history, human beings have enormous amounts of information. We celebrate that. We marvel at it. We wonder at the things we can build and invent based on all that knowledge.

Yet more than ever in human history, we have enormous problems: failures, inadequacies, confusion, self-destruction of all kinds, unspeakable evils we do to others and to ourselves.

How is this possible? Doesn't information solve problems? Doesn't knowledge make things better? Doesn't knowledge make *us* better?

Knowledge is multiplying and multiplying. Yet finding the truth has never been more elusive. It has never been so easy to acquire knowledge, yet also so easy to acquire *wrong knowledge*.

As Herbert W. Armstrong pointed out in *Mystery of the Ages*, this is a *paradox*. It doesn't seem like both of these things could be true. But look at the news. Human beings have vast amounts of knowledge—and towering problems.

We must realize that we human beings are producing a gigantic amount of knowledge that is *wrong*. We assume we generally can tell the difference between true knowledge and false. But the truth is, this assumption is false!

This reality is staring us in the face. We live in a post-truth age in which objective fact and truth rarely determine which stories spread or how rapidly they spread. The fastest-spreading, farthest-reaching knowledge is often *false* knowledge. As Cordell Hull said, "A lie will

gallop halfway round the world before the truth has time to get its breeches on."

And now it has come to this. We are living through a pandemic—a pandemic of confusion, disinformation and outright lies. People are taken seriously who say that truth is relative, that "absolute truth"—*which is redundant*—does not exist, that everyone has his own individual truth.

The actual truth, the absolute truth, is virtually impossible to find.

This final, silly stage of our societal decline was prophesied in the Bible. In fact, the Bible shows that our relationship with the truth is *what is causing* these other problems that we view as more serious. It warns us that in this advanced state of untruth, people "will not endure sound doctrine," "will turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables," will love lies, will *resent* those who speak the truth (Isaiah 30:9-10; 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

There is a *source* of wrong knowledge and of lies. There is a *source* for all the resulting evil and the suffering—a mind from which it originates. That source, as Jesus Christ said, was and is Satan the devil.

John 8:44 says, "[T]here is no truth in him." When the devil speaks, he speaks of his own, and he speaks a lie. He is a liar and the father of it! And your own Bible says this wicked, deceitful being is the god of this world and has deceived the entire world! (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9).

Does that explain what you are seeing around you?

The lesson of our age and of all history is that people actually *don't like* the truth. That's why their leaders lie. They know that if they tell the truth, they will never get power. So the reason politicians lie actually traces back to all of us. We don't like the truth because it

is often embarrassing and hurtful. Fantasy is much more pleasant than truth, so people prefer fantasy.

This is why human knowledge is such a hopelessly intermixed blend of true knowledge, errant knowledge and outright deception.

So how can we be free from deception and disinformation? We need *the truth!* And the truth comes from God!

Notice what 1 John 4:4-6 reveals about the truth. This passage shows us that if we are of God, then we know the *spirit* of truth and the *spirit* of error. This gets down to the very origins and sources of truth and error. Human minds will *always* believe something different from reality (the truth) without God and His Word.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” Thy word is truth,” and “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 14:6; 17:17; 8:31-32).

Today’s world is powerful testimony to the *slavery* that comes from indulging in and embracing lies. Don’t you crave the *freedom* of knowing the truth? Aren’t you sickened by a world in which every man does that which is right in his own eyes? (Judges 17:6; 21:25).

Finding and understanding the truth and solving our evils is not a matter of producing more human knowledge. It’s a matter of submitting our minds and attitudes to the *Creator* of human minds and the *source* of right knowledge—knowledge that *solves* problems and *prevents* evils!

It is not enough to only receive knowledge. In fact, it is not enough to even receive God’s knowledge. You have to love it. Seek the truth. Know the truth. Submit to the truth. Use the truth. *Love the truth.* And you will be free. ■